

• AUBURN UNIVERSITY'S OUTREACH SCHOLARSHIP MAGAZINE •

beyond AUBURN

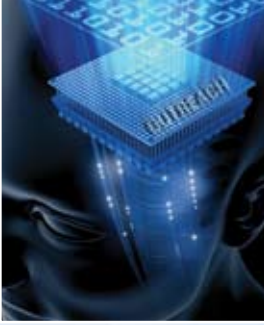
SPRING 2008

DISTANCE EDUCATION: A Key Strategy for Auburn's Future



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

OUTREACH



ON THE COVER

Online course development is a key element of Auburn's distance education strategy for the future.

Beyond Auburn is published by Auburn University twice per year as a joint project of the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach and the Office of Communications and Marketing.

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President's message

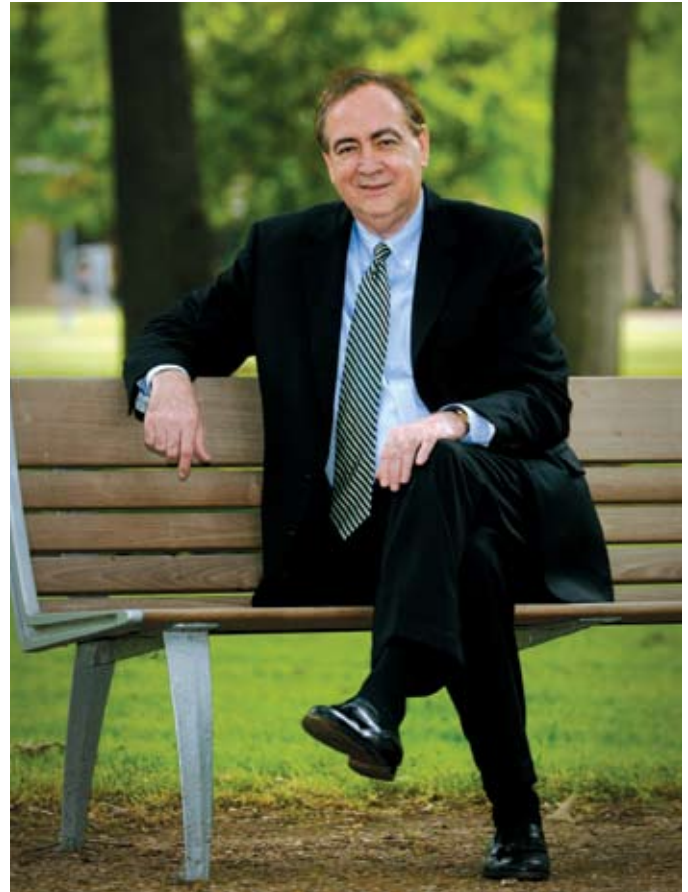
I trust many of you already know that Auburn is in the process of developing a strategic plan that will set our goals in 10 major categories for the next five to 10 years. The categories are: undergraduate education; research and graduate education; faculty retention and development; employee retention and development; infrastructure and facilities; alumni engagement; development; image and reputation; international engagement; and miscellaneous.

As we near the end of the planning stage and begin with the implementation, I continue to be boldly optimistic about the future of Auburn University, because the strategic plan will further enhance the outstanding programs, policies, faculty, and student body here on “the loveliest village.”

Others are also noticing Auburn's assets. For the second year in a row, a Harvard-based educational collaborative rated Auburn University among the best workplaces in America for tenure-track junior faculty. In a survey of workplace conditions for faculty working toward tenure, the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education at Harvard's Graduate School of Education rated AU as “exemplary” in three categories: tenure practices overall, tenure reasonableness, and policy effectiveness overall.

The outstanding faculty and dedicated staff in University Outreach have always played a prominent role in making Auburn University a leading educational institution. Outreach is central to our land-grant mission at Auburn University. But more importantly, outreach adds value to our community, state and beyond, as well as to the university itself.

Last year, Auburn's outreach received more than \$19 million in grants to the university and generated several million dollars more in continuing education fees and other service revenues. This enables the university to sustain its important outreach initiatives and seed other new and innovative programs to meet key needs in the state. University Outreach has provided start up assistance to launch some 38 new initiatives through competitive grants to faculty and other program support.



I am pleased with the significant efforts coming from Assistant Vice President Royrickers Cook and the Office of University Outreach that contribute to Auburn University's image as a first-class academic and research institution.

War Eagle,

JAY GOGUE
PRESIDENT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

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AU ALERT
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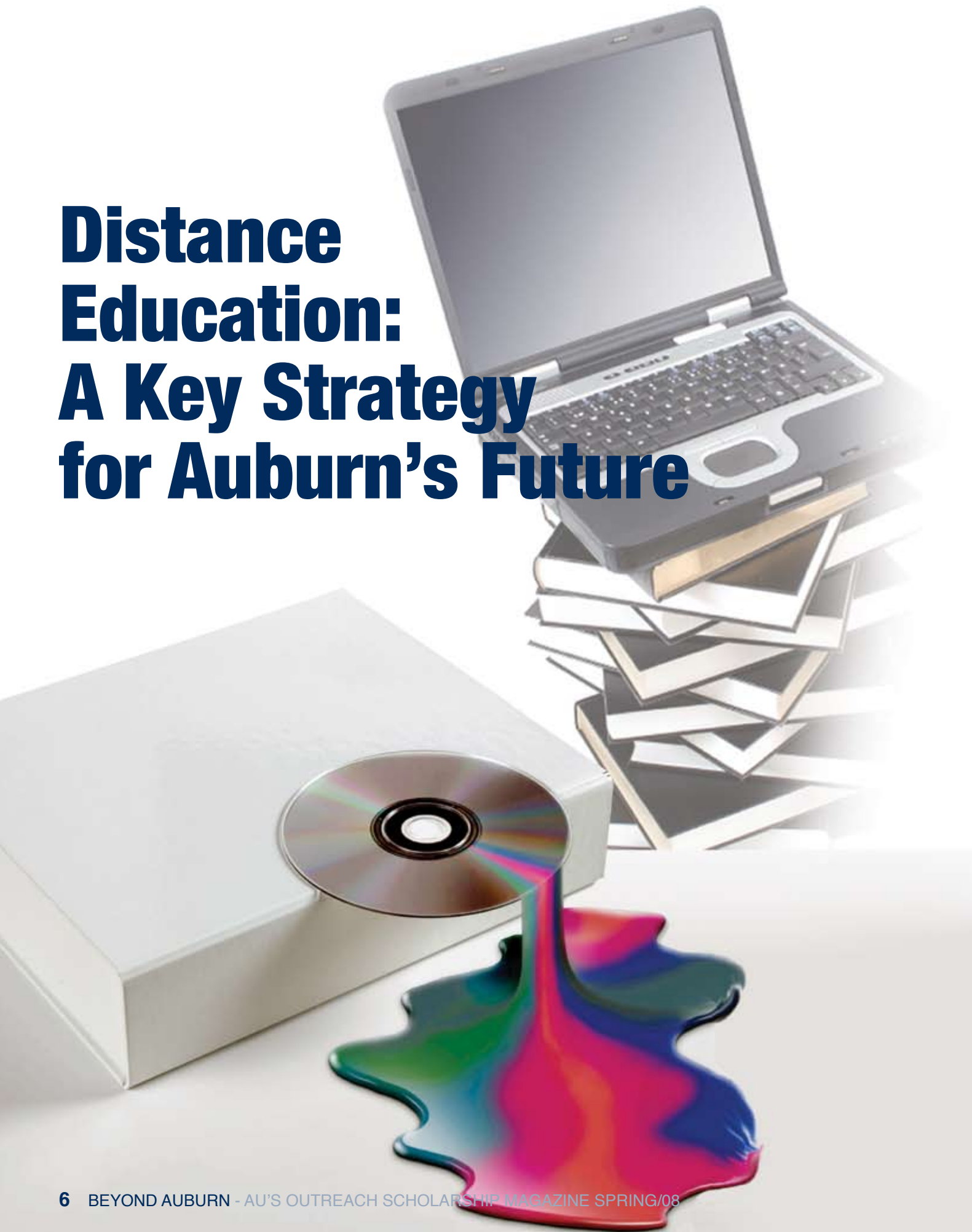
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Distance Education: A Key Strategy for Auburn's Future



Auburn's Future Includes Distance Programs

With distance education already surfacing as a key element in Auburn's strategic planning initiative, Outreach's new director of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology is hitting the ground running.

"This is a very exciting time to come in as director of Distance Learning," said Monica DeTure, who joined the University Outreach team in November 2007. DeTure oversees the office's base of non-credit certificate programs, the university's Independent Learning Program credit courses, and joint programs with Auburn's schools and colleges. One of her primary goals will be to collaborate with academic units on campus to build new online distance degree programs.

DeTure earned her M.Ed. and Ph.D. degrees in instruction and curriculum, educational technology, and instructional design from the College of Education at the University of Florida. Before coming to Auburn, she served as assistant vice president of instruction with responsibilities for distance learning at Cape Fear Community College in North Carolina. Additionally, she has taught at the K-8, undergraduate, and graduate levels in both face-to-face and online formats.

"I've been impressed with the commitment and enthusiasm DeTure exhibits in approaching her work," said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach. "Her qualifications and experience will be great assets as we enter into this cycle of university planning and program development for distance programs."

During the university's recent strategic planning initiative, increasing online and other distance education offerings was emphasized as a priority for serving current students, new students, and even employees' educational needs. While a new strategic plan will shape the university's vision for distance education at Auburn, DeTure said some important questions need to be answered in the implementation of a strategy to fulfill that vision.

"AU currently offers some great distance degree programs, but there is a real need to unify and strengthen our infrastructure so that we are poised to expand our distance offerings strategically and soundly," said DeTure. "Is our motivation for distance education growth to increase access and affordability? If so, we need to look at fee structure. Is it to facilitate students fulfilling core requirements? Then we need to prioritize the development of those courses."

DeTure is no stranger to institutional strategic planning. While at Cape Fear, she conducted a successful SACS substantive change submission for the distance education program and launched a series of new initiatives including two new early college high school programs. She also oversaw implementation of new software systems for the division.

DeTure expects to address these and other key issues both within DLOT and in collaboration with her faculty partners in the schools and colleges in a university-wide distance education task force.

"Besides prioritizing goals for distance learning at the university, there is a need to look at operational efficiency in customer service, security, financial management, and sustainability," said DeTure. "Also, we can't overlook program evaluation and assessment of student satisfaction and learning outcomes." The latter is of specific interest for DeTure, whose research has focused on the study of determinants of student success in distance courses. "Ultimately, it's all about delivering a quality learning experience for the Auburn student."

What is "distance education"?

The National Center for Educational Statistics, the Southern Association for Colleges and Schools, and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education

all define "distance education" very similarly as: a formal educational process in which the students and instructors are not in the same place.

Instruction may be synchronous or asynchronous. A distance education course may employ correspondence study, or audio, video, or computer technologies.



Q&A with Monica DeTure



Beyond Auburn: Distance education has been discussed recently during the university strategic planning process, but haven't distance programs been offered by Auburn for some years now?

DeTure: You're correct. Auburn has a long history in offering distance education starting decades ago with correspondence courses to today's very successful distance graduate degrees in business, engineering, and education. However, compared to our peer institutions, Auburn offers relatively few distance undergraduate courses and no distance undergraduate degrees.

BA: What is the potential for distance education here?

DeTure: The potential of distance education is great, but remains largely untapped here. There are real opportunities in the area of online programming. We live in an online society globally. The Internet has become the primary vehicle for personal communication, business, entertainment, and education. As our strategic planning sessions have recognized, online programming could serve both residential students as well as distance students, and for continuing education purposes as well.

BA: What are some of the issues facing distance education?

DeTure: Historically, Auburn has prioritized its support for residential undergraduate and graduate programs. But the university realizes there are limits to its physical plant in supporting the demand for an Auburn degree. Perhaps the primary issue is support. For the most part, Auburn's colleges have had to bear the financial risk of developing and supporting their distance programs. Not all the academic departments have had the resources to do so.

University Outreach has provided key start up support for a number distance projects over the years, and it has offered ongoing assistance for course development and management through the Distance Learning office. However, any strategy for distance education, online or otherwise, has got to address the financial sustainability of the program.

BA: Why is the timing right now for distance education?

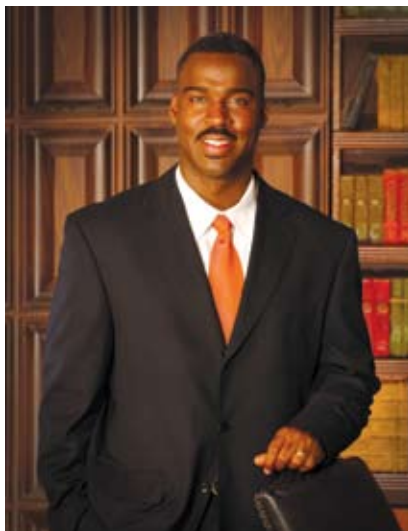
DeTure: This is really a critical moment in the development of distance education at Auburn University and I am delighted to be a part of it. First, the support for online programming is clear in the emerging strategic plan. But mostly, I feel the Auburn community has embraced distance education as an effective academic strategy, rather than something that can or should be avoided. We know distance education is a valuable and necessary component of University Outreach and a key strategy for increasing access, affordability, and educational attainment across our state and beyond. We're recognizing that it can also support academic goals for our residential students and employees, and even contribute to our research enterprise.

BA: What next?

DeTure: Now we have to take that knowledge and act upon it by providing support for faculty in course development and teaching strategies, by providing strong technical, academic, and student services support for distance students, and by ensuring that appropriate funding streams are in place to strengthen the supporting units like the Office of Information Technology, Instructional Media Group, the Biggio Center, AU Libraries, the Program for Students with Disabilities, and, of course, DLOT.



Auburn University Outreach



Hello Reader-

I begin this message with great enthusiasm regarding the development of Auburn University's strategic plan. Dr. Gogue has commenced a process that encourages suggestions and feedback from all stakeholders, and I am excited about the creation of this map

that will guide this great institution for the next decade.

It is clear that outreach will play a significant role in a number of important objectives. To that end, I am pleased to report that University Outreach continues to make progress toward several initiatives which promise to greatly enhance Auburn's capacity to serve the state of Alabama and the world.

Distance education has grown significantly at Auburn over the years. However, there is an ever increasing demand for new and additional on-line course offerings. Our new director of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology, Monica DeTure, has made huge strides towards organizing the office and creating new programs in conjunction with our faculty colleagues in academic departments. It is our goal to develop a comprehensive curriculum of on-line course work that will establish Auburn as a leader and model for distance education offerings.

In May 2008, University Outreach will be hosting the second annual Faculty Outreach Scholarship Symposium. Our keynote speaker will be Art Dunning, vice president for Public Service and Outreach at the University of Georgia. Dr. Dunning is a national leader in engagement and we are honored by his presence at this important activity. The symposium is part of our ongoing efforts to promote and encourage faculty engagement in outreach while advancing this base of scholarship at the university. During the symposium, we will also announce the recipients of this year's Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grants. These scholarship grants continue to help our faculty launch new and exciting outreach projects, programs and/or initiatives.

Continuing professional education is an important aspect of outreach's lifelong learning initiative. Our Outreach Program Office is taking a leadership role in developing programs supporting advance placement teacher training, which is a key goal of Governor Riley's administration. OPO's advanced placement orientation sessions for high school teachers will be offered for the second year this summer. We anticipate approximately 450 teachers from Alabama and surrounding states will be participating.

Outreach is also involved in developing new international and service programs. Current international projects underway will afford Auburn faculty and students wonderful opportunities for research and study abroad, as well as, extending the university's global presence through collaboration with institutions in Latin America and Africa. We are also involved, along with colleagues in the Office of Undergraduate Studies, with developing engagement programs that benefit the community while enriching Auburn University students' learning through meaningful service activities. I will report more about these initiatives in future issues of ***Beyond Auburn***.

Clearly, Outreach is the heart of the land grant mission. It is how the university engages itself in the community beyond campus; in exchange, that service assures our relevance as a public institution. It is how we extend access to our instructional expertise and apply our research innovations to solve problems within governmental agencies, non-profits, business and industry and civic organizations. Most importantly, Outreach is how we take the university to the people to make a difference in their lives.

As always, I hope you enjoy this edition of ***Beyond Auburn***. But more importantly, I hope it will inspire you to be a part of Auburn's commitment to outreach. Until next time, ***join us in making a difference!***

War Eagle,

ROYRICKERS COOK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Alabama 4-H Seizes Golden Opportunity with LEED Environmental Center

More than 250 people gathered in Columbiana last fall as Alabama 4-H opened the first planned gold-certified Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design environmental education building in the eastern United States. The facility sets a new standard in teaching Alabama's children about being environmentally responsible and energy efficient.

U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby joined in the dedication for the \$5 million Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center. The 17,500-square-foot facility offers school children, 4-H youth, business leaders, and others the opportunity to learn about the environment in a way not currently offered in Alabama.



Ethan Parker, a St. Clair 4-Her, speaks with U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby, who was the guest speaker at the dedication of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center.

Shelby congratulated 4-H on the new facility. "This is tax dollars well spent, this is individual personal dollars well spent," Shelby told the crowd. "This facility will instill in our youth the challenge of the future, and that is energy. How we meet this challenge will be something future generations will solve, and a facility like this will cultivate the minds of our youth. This facility will make a difference."

"This is a special day in the life of Alabama 4-H," said Jack Odle, chairman of the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation, the fund-raising arm of Alabama 4-H. "Through our educational programs and with this new facility, 4-H is making a significant commitment to the youth of our state. We would not be able to achieve this without the support of the donors – corporations, foundations, and individuals who have joined with us to build this learning center and to endow 4-H programs. We thank them."

Sharon Anderson, special consultant with the National 4-H Council, said that nationally, 4-H involves 6.5 million youth focusing on three main areas: science, engineering and technology, healthy lifestyles, and citizenship and leadership. "This facility is right on target in all three program areas and by far, Alabama is leading the nation."

A highlight of the day was the release of four red-tailed hawks by the Southeastern Raptor Center, part of Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine. The release is a symbol of 4-H's commitment to the environment.

The LEED Green Building rating system is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings established by the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

The building was designed by Davis Architects of Birmingham and constructed by B.L. Harbert International, also of Birmingham.



2007 4-H Environmental Dedication -- this is a picture of the building from the observation deck looking at the rear of the building.



Candace Harvey, a Pike County 4-Her, releases one of four red-tail hawks at the dedication ceremony of the Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center. The hawks were released into the wild as 4-H's commitment to nature, symbolizing the opening of the first planned gold-certified LEED building in Alabama.

Auburn University Assists in Governor's Education Initiative

Auburn University's Outreach Program Office, a unit within University Outreach, held Auburn's first Advanced Placement Summer Institute last year. The workshops, a partnership between OPO, the College of Education's Truman Pierce Institute, and College Board, provided teachers and administrators with training related to development of an AP curriculum, implementing teaching strategies, and preparing for the AP exam.

"AP classes prepare students for college level work and our rapidly changing workforce needs," said Chris Groccia, grants coordinator for AU's Truman Pierce Institute. "Having Auburn host the APSI provides additional opportunities for teachers and school systems throughout Alabama to offer more AP classes."

In Alabama, there are 168 high schools that offer AP courses; however, approximately 200 high schools do not. Last year, Gov. Bob Riley and the State Department of Education implemented the Alabama Advanced Placement Initiative to upgrade AP courses and instruction. The state's education budget received \$1 million in funding to encourage districts to establish new AP courses and support existing courses. The funding went toward training teachers, administrators, and counselors; buying instructional materials; and offsetting the cost of the AP exam for students. Next year's budget includes an additional \$1.6 million to further support these programs.

AU established the APSI as a result of this initiative. Four workshops were held for instructors preparing to teach biology, English language & composition, English literature & composition, and U.S. history. A workshop was also offered for high school administrators and guidance counselors with less than one to three years experience planning an AP curriculum.

"The university as a whole really rallied around and supported the initiative," said Sam Burney, director of the Outreach Program Office. "These are the teachers who have direct contact with the most

outstanding students in our state and this was viewed as an opportunity for Auburn to impact instructors who teach these elite-level classes."

Bill Pell, a 36-year veteran teacher from Spartanburg, S.C., taught the English literature & composition workshop and plans to return next year. "I loved the institute and Auburn," said Pell. "From the first, the university went out of its way to make us welcome."

AP courses are the property of College Board, an association whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity. Among its best-known programs are the SAT, the PSAT/NMSQT and the Advanced Placement Program. All instructors for the AP Summer Institute were College Board endorsed consultants, fully certified by College Board. In accordance with College Board guidelines, each workshop was limited to 30 participants.

"I had a large group of enthusiastic participants," said Pell. "I never know what to expect from a large, diverse group, but when it works, it works well. In Auburn, it worked and I have rarely, if ever, taught in a better environment."

The next AP Summer Institute is scheduled for June 23-27, 2008. For more information, visit www.auburn.edu/apsi or contact Claire Twardy at cst0003@auburn.edu or (334) 844-3127.



Gilbert Awarded Fellowship by AU Center for Governmental Services



The Center for Governmental Services has named Juan E. Gilbert as its 2007-08 Fellow. The CGS Fellows program recognizes experienced practitioners, academicians, and researchers for their significant contributions to excellence in government.

Requirements for fellow status include extensive experience, prominence, and recognized contributions in public affairs. Gilbert is the TSYS Distinguished Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. He also directs the Human-Centered Computing Lab. As CGS Fellow, Gilbert will focus on implementing voting technologies such as the “Everyone Counts” on-line system, and other technology-based methods for improving participation in the election process.

“CGS Fellows utilize their expertise to engage in research while increasing funding opportunities that will improve the quality of public policy for the State of Alabama,” said CGS Director Don-Terry Veal. “Dr. Gilbert will utilize his cutting-edge scholarship

in technology to advance the IT component of CGS to improve the use of technologies in government. His research will also complement the efforts of CGS designed to increase transparency in government.”

Gilbert has received national attention for his ground-breaking research in Spoken Language Systems, Advanced Learning Technologies, User Interfaces (Usability), and Ethnocomputing (Culturally Relevant Computing). He has published more than 50 articles and obtained more than \$2 million dollars in research funding while at Auburn. He serves on the IEEE Computer Society Board of Governors and is the column editor for the society’s “Broadening Participation in Computing Series.” In addition to his many recognitions, Gilbert recently was named a national role model by Minority Access Inc.

As fellow, Gilbert will continue his work on voting technologies and focus on obtaining grants for projects in the state. He will also concentrate on developing information technology programs for municipalities and counties which will be implemented through CGS as part of its client support services. Gilbert will be provided with office space in CGS in which to utilize the center as a resource specific to research associated with fellowship endeavors.

Gilbert’s Prime III Interview with Dan Rather

Juan Gilbert, left, TSYS distinguished associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, shares some time with television journalist Dan Rather, who was on campus to file a report on Gilbert’s electronic voting system, Prime III. Rather spent several hours with Gilbert and his students, some of whom can be seen in the background; the report aired in December on HD Net.



Arts and Humanities Programming Back in School

For all of its twenty plus years, the Carolyn Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts has worked to provide programs on the arts and humanities to communities around the state. For most of its second decade, it has focused a significant portion of its efforts on school programming. Why? First, because so many schools in Alabama lack well-developed arts and humanities opportunities. Second, because the youth of the state become the adults who participate in and support the arts and humanities. Investing in their education improves the future for everyone.

As a result, schools from Mobile to Aliceville, and many points in between, have hosted artists and humanities scholars from many disciplines. Last year alone, approximately 10,000 Alabama school children met and learned from the presentations of writers, dancers, visual artists, and scholars.

Thanks to the support of the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach, this year the center is making programming available to 12 special schools. These schools, all located in the Black Belt region of the state, have been selected to participate in a five-year arts curriculum and capacity building program through the Alabama State Department of Education. ALSDE arts specialist Sara Wright, who manages the program, notes that the project is a comprehensive, interdisciplinary, and cross-curriculum program to enhance student achievement and learning in all subject areas through the arts.

CAH will offer participating schools opportunities to host visiting artists, visit campus for in-service training, and attend AU Theater Department performances and other arts events. Discussions are underway to involve faculty and students in all university fine arts

departments, including theater, art, and music. According to Jay Lamar, director of the center, the five-year commitment of the participating schools, along with the support and management of the State Department of Education, creates a well-designed, comprehensive plan to which AU's contribution can have a profound impact for years to come.

For more information contact the Center for the Arts & Humanities at 334-844-4946 or go to www.auburn.edu/cah.



Camden School of Arts and Technology students had a chance to learn about Hispanic art and culture thanks to a visit by the Hispanic Ballet in Greensboro, Ga., at the Performing Arts Center. CAH will collaborate with CSAT and other participating schools to offer even more arts experiences to students and faculty over the next five years.



CSAT is one of the 12 schools participating in the Arts Education Initiative. Here, students take what they learned from artist Charlie Lucas, also known as The Tin Man, and make their own wire sculptures.

Outdoor U Draws “Wild” Life to Auburn

Eagles, hawks, owls, snakes, and fish were all on the AU campus—along with more than 700 human visitors—last fall when Auburn University’s College of Agriculture and School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences hosted the first-ever Outdoor U open house.

The day-long event celebrated outdoor-related degree programs at Auburn University and educated everyone—from small children to high school students to adults—about the many outdoor-related opportunities for jobs and fun that exist in Alabama.

Cosponsored by *Outdoor Life* magazine, Outdoor U featured displays from 20 AU departments and clubs and additional exhibits from several state and local nature and conservation groups. In addition, it featured visits from B.A.S.S (Bass Anglers Sportsman Society) founder Ray Scott Jr. and several of the Southeastern Raptor Center’s fine-feathered residents.



Ray Scott Jr.
BASS founder

What’s more, Outdoor U showcased the latest in fishing, hunting, and camping gadgets available on the market from such vendors as Cabelas and BowTech.

Deborah Solie, student recruitment officer for the College of Agriculture and Outdoor U’s organizer, noted that some 350 high school students from across the state attended the event to learn about outdoor-related majors available at Auburn. Another 350-400 people from across campus and the local community also attended.

“This event began because *Outdoor Life* magazine picked Auburn as one of the top 10 schools to attend for an outdoor-related degree,” said Solie.

“The magazine put together a road tour to visit some of these schools, and Auburn was picked to be on the tour,” she said. “The College of Agriculture and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences agreed to host

the event and decided it was the perfect chance to spread the word about outdoor-related opportunities at Auburn.”

Those attending were able to hold snakes, see a presentation by the Raptor Center, shoot a bow and arrow, cast a fishing line, and learn about Alabama’s abundant natural resources and wildlife.

“It was great for everyone—whether they liked to fish, hunt, camp, ski, bird watch, or just enjoy a stroll in the woods,” said Solie.

The displays were set up on the lawn just outside Jordan-Hare Stadium and high school students who attended were treated to guest speakers, such as Scott, and tours of the stadium, the AU fish ponds at North Auburn, and the AU Forestry and Wildlife Sciences facilities.

“Outdoor U’s success has prompted us to make this an annual event,” said Solie. “There are incredible career opportunities for students interested in the outdoors and we want everyone to know about them.”





Rudisill Introduces Motor Development Discipline to Chinese Physical Educators

Mary Rudisill, head of the Department of Kinesiology in the College of Education, traveled with other international motor development scholars to China last fall to promote motor development as an academic discipline.

Rudisill, who is also a Wayne T. Smith distinguished professor, has focused much of her research on motivating people of all ages—especially children from birth to age 8—to learn to move and engage in physical activity. This emphasis on motor development at all levels of education is a staple in American schools, but is not a discipline widely taught in Chinese schools.

“Quality physical education programs in the U.S. engage students by allowing them to make choices about what type of physical activities they participate in,” said Rudisill. “Learning outcomes are defined by the teacher, but students have some involvement into the educational process. The climate for Chinese physical education is vastly teacher-driven and structured, which can result in students being disinterested and less engaged in physical activities.”

Along with promoting the academic discipline of human motor development, Rudisill and her colleagues introduced the textbook, *An Introduction to Human Motor Development*, to current and future teachers and higher education faculty. The textbook is the first academic textbook on human motor development in China.

Expertise among the team of textbook authors, which includes Rudisill, involves motor development applications from the prenatal through elderly stages of life. The textbook focuses on what influences human development, how our environments affect development, and the effects of health concerns on development.

“It is important that we promote the motor development discipline globally in attending to the concerns we all share about children’s health and physical development,” Rudisill noted. “Issues like childhood obesity are becoming worldwide epidemics. The same health concerns we have for the future of our children in Alabama are the same shared by parents and educators worldwide.”

During her two-week visit, Rudisill made presentations at Beijing Normal University, Beijing Institute of Education, the University of Hong Kong and Shenyang

Institute of Physical Education, as well as at the People’s Education Press National Motor Development Workshop. She also presented to more than 4,000 Chinese physical educators at the Eighth China National Sport Science Convention at Beijing Sport University.

For more than three years, Rudisill has researched Chinese culture and early childhood education in China—including work in developing a bilingual

preschool curriculum in concert with other College of Education faculty members and their Chinese partners. She is a researcher in AU’s



Motor Behavior Center and serves as director of a research program designed to create and investigate model physical play programs for infants and young children. She and her

colleagues are developing motivational climate physical play curricular materials for implementation in early childhood settings. Her research goal is to transform physical education and play programs for young children into highly motivating experiences that promote lifelong physical engagement and healthy lifestyles.

University Outreach Hosts Second Annual Scholarship Symposium

– UGA’s Art Dunning to Keynote Session

The second annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium will be held in May focusing on faculty engagement and dynamic outreach project development. Art Dunning, Vice President for Public Service & Outreach at the University of Georgia, is scheduled to be keynote speaker for the program.



“We’re excited about this year’s program,” said Kimberly King-Jupiter, director of Faculty Engagement and Outreach Planning at Auburn. “We’re particularly honored to have a national leader in outreach scholarship of the caliber of Dr. Dunning to speak to our faculty.”

Appointed vice president at UGA in 2000, Dunning provides leadership to the broad array of public service and outreach programs and activities at the University and to the seven units on campus that report directly to him.

Prior to coming to the University of Georgia, Dunning spent a total of nine years with the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia in three capacities: vice chancellor for services, acting executive vice chancellor and finally as the senior vice chancellor for Human and External Resources. Dunning also served as the chief executive officer of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education, Inc. He led efforts to create a strategic plan to ensure quality public education in Georgia at all levels: K-12, technical and adult education, and the University System of Georgia.

Dunning’s experience also includes an international perspective. He worked for the United States Department of Defense’s Office of Civilian Personnel in Bangkok, Thailand, responsible for providing post secondary educational for 2,400 Department of Defense in Thailand. His international work also includes associations with the Carter Presidential Center and the United Nations with projects in Africa and Austria. He has participated in various other international activities in such countries as China, Ghana, Czechoslovakia, England, France and Brazil.

“Dr. Dunning’s strategic outreach initiatives have greatly expanded the scope of the mission at UGA,” notes King-Jupiter. “His leadership as one of the hosts of the national Outreach Scholarship Conference has helped to promote engagement as a worthy scholarly pursuit throughout the academy.”

In addition to Dunning’s presentation, the Symposium will feature panel presentations from faculty involved in collaborative team projects. These concurrent sessions will highlight sustained programs from which faculty have produced outreach scholarship. The schedule also includes workshops on tenure and promotion and academic administrative issues related to outreach. King-Jupiter notes that the sessions last year received much favorable feedback. “How outreach scholarship will be recognized for tenure and promotion is of great interest for faculty; these sessions help illumine that process.”

The tenure and promotion session will address how outreach differs from service, how faculty document outreach, evaluation issues, departmental outreach assignments, and the overall relationship of outreach to teaching and research as part of balanced scholarly activity. Another concurrent session will examine funding issues related to sustainable outreach programming including how outreach activities can be leveraged to secure extramural support.



The morning program will conclude with a luncheon and address by David Bransby, professor of Agronomy and Soils in the College of Agriculture. Recipient of the university's Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach in 2006, Bransby will speak on the role of outreach in his scholarly career. At the luncheon, Assistant Vice President for University Outreach Royrickers Cook will present the recipients of the 2008 outreach scholarship grants.

Earlier this year, the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach issued a call for proposals for more than \$100,000 in grants to support meritorious faculty projects in 2008-2009. The office received 18 proposals from faculty across campus for the competitive scholarship grants. These proposals are reviewed by a peer committee which will present a recommendation for funding to the assistant vice president.

Assistant Vice President Cook said the primary goal of the program is to provide AU faculty members with resources to match their research with pressing needs of the state. "The proposals we receive each year show enormous

potential," said Cook. "The resulting outreach projects will strengthen Auburn University's efforts toward improving the quality of lives and services for individuals, organizations, counties, and towns throughout the state of Alabama."



2007 Symposium

Architecture, Design and Construction to Begin High School Mentoring Program

The College of Architecture, Design and Construction and the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach have announced the creation of the Academic Success Action Program which will provide academic strategies and mentoring to high school minority students beginning in the summer of 2008.

The program is designed to bridge the gap between high school and college by providing high school students interested in the fields of architecture, design, or construction with the guidance needed to be successful during their collegiate careers. The students will be selected based on need and their interest in fields from schools in Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia.

The Academic Success Action Program uses four elements—academics, student focus groups/special events, analysis, and practice—which engage mentoring and coaching strategies toward academic success.

University Outreach contributed \$15,000 that will go toward the first three-week program in 2008. Beginning in the ninth grade, high school students will spend three weeks each summer on the Auburn campus with two weeks dedicated to calculus, physics, and AutoCAD lab work, and one week as part of an architecture, design, or construction camp.

Once students are enrolled at Auburn they will begin their mentorship with architecture, design, or construction professionals. During this process, students will work as interns with area companies and have an assigned mentor to guide them through scenarios which will ultimately prepare them for the professional licensure.

For more information contact Carla Jackson Bell, director of multicultural affairs for the college, at cjj0001@auburn.edu or 844-4549.

“Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life” Board Chair Speaks on Public Arts, Humanities and the Engaged University

David Scobey, chairman of the National Advisory Board of Imagining America: Artists and Scholars in Public Life, visited campus in February for a lecture sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities and the Dean’s office in the College of Liberal Arts.



Speaking on “The Arts of Citizenship in a Diverse Democracy: The Public Work of the Arts and Humanities,” Scobey discussed two crises facing higher education: the public’s understanding of universities as “ivory towers” and the lack of civic participation and education

of college students. He addressed the emphasis on civic engagement in higher education and what universities are doing to bring themselves back into the community.

David Scobey is the Donald W. and Ann M. Harvard Professor of Community Partnerships and the inaugural director of the Harvard Center for Community Partnerships at Bates College in Lewiston, Maine. A graduate of Yale, he is a Rhodes Scholar, author, and has held a senior research fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History.

Imagining America is a national consortium of colleges and universities committed to public scholarship in the arts, humanities, and design. With a mission to make public scholarship an important and legitimate enterprise in higher education, the consortium includes more than 70 universities across the nation, including Auburn University.

Urban Studio Helps Revitalize Alabama Communities



Looking beyond the confines of four walls and considering the overall design of place is an important facet of Auburn University's Urban Studio. Located in downtown Birmingham, the Urban Studio is an outreach program of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction that gives fourth-year and thesis students the opportunity to pursue design in an urban setting and engage in community projects.

The Studio was founded by the late Franklin Setzer, associate professor of architecture, in 1991. Setzer, along with CADC Dean Daniel Bennett conceived a place for students of architecture to be immersed in an urban environment, in direct and engaged contact with practicing professionals and in active pursuit of the design of great places.

"It is unusual for architectural students to work beyond the scale of a building and think about how their architectural work is part of the larger ensemble of a place," said Cheryl Morgan, the Studio's director. "One of the things that we think is important is the potential for students to not only understand how to make great buildings, but how to make great places."

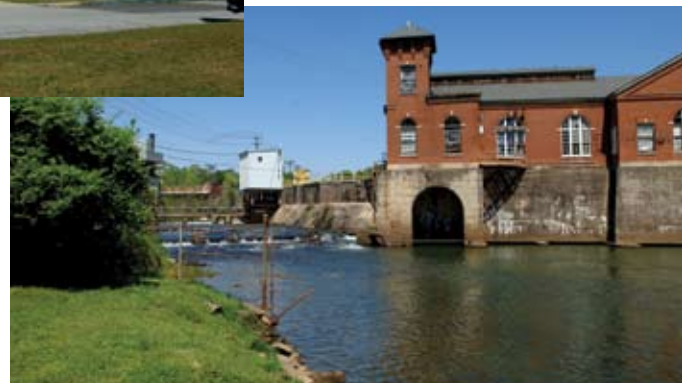
Urban Studio students have worked on several projects around Birmingham including in the Ensley, Woodlawn, and Rosedale communities as well as the Birmingham Historical Society's Buddy-Up Program.

In addition to its work with the City of Birmingham, the Urban Studio has partnered with more than 40 small towns and communities across the state to help them recognize their potential and establish a vision for the future. Through his work with Design Alabama, a consortium dedicated to effective community design, Setzer was instrumental in forging the Urban Studio's sense of responsibility and possibility in working with these communities. He founded the Small Town Design Initiative in 1998 to assist civic leaders and citizens in small towns in preserving those things that made their towns special while preparing for revitalization, growth and improved quality of life.

For city officials in Valley, Ala., a town once centered around the booming textile industry, an asset-based plan means capitalizing on the Chattahoochee River to increase eco-tourism. The city is developing two of the town's abandoned textiles mills, located on the river, into commercial and residential space. "They didn't think of the river as an asset and an economic tool," said Morgan. "After our visit they began to recognize things that they could build on in their community that were inherent. And unlike the textile mills that were part of the economy for years, the river can't be outsourced."

Valley's civic leaders purchased the Langdale Mill in 2004 and plans are underway to convert the mill to a hotel and conference center and other commercial space.

For more on the Urban Studio's work in Valley, visit the Web site at www.auburn.edu/urbanstudio.



CGS Hosts Roundtable on Immigration Issues

University Outreach's Center for Governmental Services hosted a blue ribbon panel of experts for a round table discussion on immigration issues facing the State of Alabama. The program included 16 government, health, education, and civic officials, and was moderated by veteran television news anchor, Bob Howell.

The program's goal was to examine the impact of immigration on the state's economy, work force, healthcare systems, education, government, social welfare and on the community in general.

"Regardless of your politics, religion, principles, etc., the fact is that immigration is alive and well in the state of Alabama," said Don-Terry Veal, CGS director. "This round table is the first of a series we plan to hold at various locations throughout Alabama."



Over the course of the two hour session, participants presented their viewpoints on how the public and private sector should respond to immigration issues, and more importantly to immigrants themselves. Among the most spirited exchanges included discussion on immigrant access to healthcare, governmental and public safety policies, enrollment of undocumented students, and the rights afforded to documented versus undocumented immigrants.

City of Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright was one of several participants who saw inaction by the U. S. government as part of the problem for local agencies struggling to cope with immigration status issues. "This is fast becoming an urgent issue across the nation," Bright said. "Our federal government needs to get a game plan and correct some problems out there." Bright stated that in lieu of federal action, city government must fill the policy void in dealing with undocumented immigrants and especially the businesses who employ them illegally.

For a number of the roundtable participants who represented social and health services and faith based services for immigrants, the key issue is one of basic human rights to quality of life. "We can't deny access to health services" to undocumented immigrants, noted Julia Sosa, assistant director of the Office of Minority Health in the Alabama Department of Public Health.

Other discussion focused on the economic impact of the immigrant workforce and strategies for better incorporating immigrant communities into the mainstream of society.

Organizers of the round table noted that while they did not expect to solve the problems surrounding immigration, they hoped such dialog would better define the issue. The session revealed that each facet of society has its own perspective and unique set of problems related to immigration. Businesses, for instance, want to tap into the immigrant workforce, but face complying to conflicting documentation and discrimination policies. Government must deal with complex law enforcement and welfare issues, and the increased costs associated with them. Service providers struggle to reach an immigrant community, documented and undocumented, which is generally distrustful of any public authority.

"Officials in Alabama face many immigration problems, but lack information on how to cope," noted Veal. "Bringing together experts to discuss these issues helps address tough questions."



COMPUTERS 101



It's a computerized world, and Auburn Engineering is making sure that even the youngest students are prepared for a technological future.

Focusing specifically on children with disabilities, Daniela Marghitu, Comp 1000 coordinator in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, launched the Computer Literacy Academy for Children in summer 2005. This free,

multidimensional computer literacy pilot program is designed to enhance computer knowledge for special needs children.

"Computers are conducive to learning for all children, particularly children with special needs, because the pace can be adapted to the children's response level," said Marghitu.

The program adds more advanced concepts each year and this year's curriculum was specifically chosen to focus on increasing computer and communication skills such as grammar, following directions, sequencing, and reasoning. Funding for the program was provided by the Auburn University Breeden Endowment and the International Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology Center.

Another of Marghitu's K-12 outreach projects is ROBO CAMP, an advanced version of the Computer Literacy Academy. Launched in 2007 and taught by graduate students from the Department of Computer





Alabama Engineering Academy

Summer camps and other on-campus programs aren't the only way Auburn Engineering is getting involved with high school students. The Alabama Engineering Academy Initiative will encompass 16 Alabama schools in an effort to increase the number of graduates selecting engineering careers by preparing them to study advanced mathematics and sciences.

The program is the partnership between the high schools and Alabama's seven engineering undergraduate programs. Funding has been provided by the University of Alabama System, Auburn University, and the Alabama State Department of Education.

Science and Software Engineering, the curriculum reinforces children's computer literacy knowledge while introducing them to more advanced concepts and hands-on applications of computer programming and robotics.

"I simply love to see the children having so much fun that they don't realize how much they are learning," said Marghitu. "If these children can carry that excitement and skills into their regular classroom, then we have been successful."

No Campus Required

Today's engineers are hard-pressed to stay abreast of rapidly changing technologies. Auburn Engineering recognizes the challenge of juggling hectic family lives and jobs that require long hours and lots of travel. That's why the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering is taking its outreach programs to engineers, letting them learn on their own time, in their own way.

This has made the college's outreach program one of the most highly acclaimed in the nation – and has helped Auburn gain visibility and a reputation among thousands of engineers, including many who have never set foot on the Auburn campus.

"Once people take one of the college's 80 professional development courses via the Web or DVD, they're hooked," says Wanda Lambert, outreach marketing

director. "Our clients like the convenience, moderate cost, quality content, and level of expertise of the instructors. They consider it time well-spent to advance their knowledge of the profession."

In fact, all 35 states that require professional development to retain engineering and surveying licenses highly recommend Auburn's courses because they are research-based and include tests to ensure professionals fully understand program content.

Auburn Engineering educates 6,000 professional engineers in real-world classrooms through its' flagship Technology Transfer (T2) Program which has helped cement Auburn's reputation as a national leader in educational outreach for the transportation industry. Each year, T2 conducts nearly 80 seminars in counties across Alabama to educate the state's highway engineers and surveyors, rural transit providers, and DOT employees on the latest technologies. This cutting-edge content brought to their neighborhood helps to ensure that Alabama's road and bridges remain safe and sound.

OLLI at Auburn is Helpful Partner in University's Mission

Auburn's land grant mission includes instruction, research, and outreach. The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University—OLLI at Auburn for short—effectively shares and mirrors this mission.

From its inception in 1990, OLLI was an outreach program with an instruction objective. Originally known as the AU Academy for Lifelong Learners, OLLI at Auburn provides non-credit learning opportunities for mature adults, through a variety of classes, lectures, field trips, and participatory experiences.

OLLI is a peer-led, membership-based organization. Members oversee the operations and committees which plan the curriculum, study-travel, social activities, and finances. All teachers are volunteers, and are most often members of OLLI themselves.

OLLI supports the research enterprise of the university as well. For example, members are working with Juan Gilbert, associate professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering, in his research and development of electronic voting and voter-verifiable audit trails for voting. For the past two years, OLLI members have served as research subjects, testing electronic voting systems and voter-verifiable audit trails.

Gilbert credits OLLI members' input as critical to the development of an innovative electronic voting system called Prime III that allows every citizen to vote on the same machine using touch and/or voice independent of age, ability, or disability.

"OLLI members have served as first class participants in helping us study Prime III," said Gilbert. "They inform our research through experimentation and they may have a direct impact on our nation's election systems." Gilbert also sees potential for members to play a role in other projects on campus. "Collaboration between research entities and OLLI is a perfect example of how Auburn's Outreach mission is realized."

Faculty members benefit from access to a subject population more diverse in age and experience than that most commonly available, the young adults who are undergraduate students at Auburn University. Through

the years, OLLI members have served as subjects in psychology, nursing, health promotion, and speech and hearing research projects.

OLLI at Auburn is, of course, first and foremost an outreach program. Administered through the Outreach Program Office since its inception, OLLI at Auburn

serves older learners in the east Alabama region through the non-credit classes offered each term, study-travel programs, lectures, and social events. OLLI members are given Auburn University library privileges as part of their membership in the organization.

Now OLLI members have begun to produce outreach of their own. Plans are being made to take learning experiences to older participants unable to come to the classroom. Beginning next fall, OLLI classes will be offered at Auburn/Opelika area congregate living communities.

Additionally, thanks to the recent \$100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, OLLI at Auburn is able to offer scholarships to low income area residents, so that there is not a financial barrier to participation in the program.

Members will also reach out to the larger community. Each year, a charity is chosen to receive a donation from members. This year the Lee County Foster Parents organization was given money to help provide Christmas gifts to the children in their care.

OLLI at Auburn embodies the great land grant tradition of the university, providing innovative opportunities for members to learn, participate in groundbreaking research, and to serve their community.

For more information, visit the OLLI at Auburn Web site at www.olliauburn.org, or the University Outreach site at www.auburn.edu/outreach.



ATAC Outreach “Reaches To Space” Through National Conference

What would it be like to shop or do business on other planets or through a network of space stations? Why can't we take a vacation trip to the Moon or to some orbiting resort? How could space exploration be capitalized on from a commercial perspective? What can space offer in the way of new economic growth opportunities?

These ideas and many others were explored when the Auburn Technical Assistance Center represented AU's College of Business in collaboration with George Washington University as hosts of the Reach to Space Conference in Washington, D.C.

Sponsoring a conference such as the Reach to Space event is a bit outside the norm of ATAC's usual activities. Most who are familiar with ATAC and its work through the College of Business think about its nationally recognized training programs for business and industry, or, its workshops on best practices for community festivals and various program improvement initiatives.

Since 1976, ATAC has served as a unit of the College of Business to provide technical assistance, customized training, and consultation in such areas as growth and business management, efficiency, and quality improvement to manufacturers and other businesses, not-for-profit organizations, and government agencies throughout Alabama and the Southeast. ATAC Director Henry Burdug, however, saw the conference as a unique opportunity for promoting Auburn University as well as fulfilling ATAC's mission to promote economic growth.

“We are always searching for new ways to promote and develop economic growth,” Burdug said. “Working with Auburn's Department of Aviation and Supply Chain Management in the College of Business and officials with George Washington University, we involved Ohio State University, industry leaders such as Boeing, AStar Air Cargo, Aerospace, Intel, Orbital Sciences Access Intelligence, and government agencies including NASA



and the FAA, to conduct a seminar focused solely on the commercialization potential of space.”

AU Business Dean Paul Bobrowski called the conference an ideal vehicle for engaging Auburn faculty with business and government leaders in exploring a new frontier in economic development.

“It is my vision for Auburn’s College of Business to be recognized globally for its management and innovative business education,” Bobrowski said. “This conference presented an excellent opportunity to promote Auburn outside the state of Alabama, and what better place than in our nation’s capitol?”

In planning the conference which commemorated the 50th anniversary of space exploration, ATAC drew on the expertise of Aviation and Supply Chain Management Professors Ray Hamilton and Randy Johnson. Johnson also represented the Society of Satellite Professionals International, a non-profit association serving the commercial satellite industry, and a group on which Bobrowski serves as member of the directors’ board. AU’s collaborating partner, George Washington University, also enlisted the expertise of national conference management organizer Hannover Fairs USA Inc., to help ensure that the event and its broad logistical issues were properly handled.

“Space industries have grown from multi-million-dollar enterprises to global industries producing hundreds

of billions of dollars in revenues,” said David Bross of Hannover Fairs.

Participants talked about the event as being an extremely positive one.

“This conference brought together some of the best minds in the field,” said Ted Mallory, vice president of AStar Air Cargo and a retired Air Force general and AU alumnus, who serves as chief security officer and chair of AU’s Aviation Management Advisory Board.

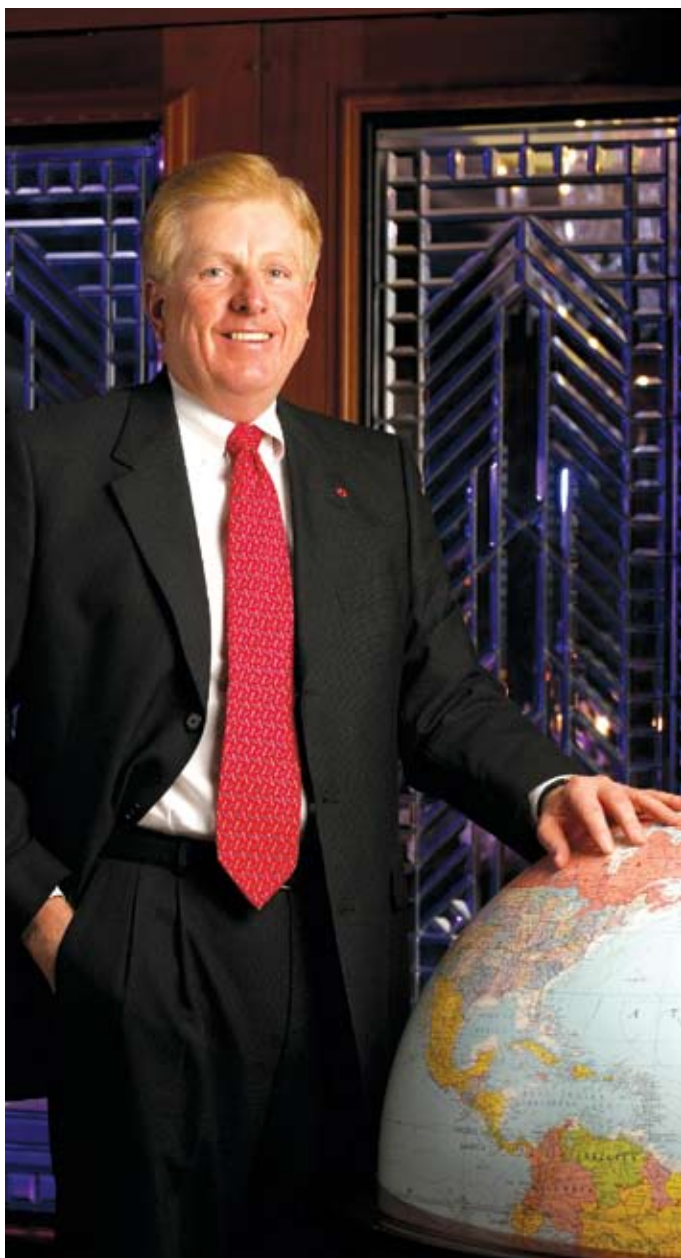
Panelists discussed a variety of issues including space tourism, satellite communications, and the economic risks of space commercialization. This sharing of business and technological expertise allowed for an enhanced analysis of past efforts and enabled participants to better assess the direction for the future of commercial space and



their role in it. It also provided an opportunity to explore new ways to upgrade and transform more traditional industries, especially communications, medicine, agriculture, and national security.



Women's Philanthropy Board Hosts Spring Symposium



David G. Bronner, chief executive for the Office of Retirement Systems of Alabama, and John Manley, managing director and equity strategist for Smith Barney's Private Client Division, were the keynote speakers at the Women's Philanthropy Board's Sixth Annual Spring Symposium held on April 7, 2008.

The symposium was the culminating event of the WPB's year-long joint effort with Alabama's State Treasurer Kay Ivey entitled "Today's Decisions for Tomorrow's Money." The collaborative effort was designed to empower Alabama citizens to make sound financial decisions in the present that will have a positive impact on their financial futures.

Bronner has served as CEO of RSA since 1973. Under his direction, RSA funds have increased from more than \$500 million to more than \$29 billion, making RSA the largest financial organization in Alabama. It is also the 14th largest internally managed pension fund in America and the 42nd largest public pension fund in the world. In addition to his career with the RSA, he served as chairman of the US Airways board of directors from 2003-05.



Manley is a seven-time member of the Institutional Investor All-American team, a supervisory analyst, and a chartered financial analyst. He is a frequent commentator on CNN, CNBC, and PBS. He has appeared on *Wall Street Week* and been quoted in the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Chicago Tribune*, *Newsweek*, *USA Today*, *Barron's*, *Business Week*, and *Time*.

Other speakers at the symposium included Ivey; Lauren Bush and Ellen Gustafson, co-founders, Feed Projects, LLC; Jera Stribling, executive director of the Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation; Maru Pichardo, managing director of Pichardo Management in Moreles, Mexico; Katye Deleshaw, financial advisor with Smith Barney, Montgomery; and Dave Dennis, CEO of Specialty Contractors, Inc. and two-term member of the New Orleans Federal Reserve Board.

The WPB was launched in the spring of 2002 under the College of Human Sciences. Its mission includes enabling women to develop their full leadership potential, achieve independence as financial donors and decision-makers, serve as mentors for future generations of philanthropists, and broaden the base of financial support for the college.



Alabama State Treasurer Kay Ivey



Ellen Gustafson and Lauren Bush

Starting with a 25-member core of strong professional and civic leaders, the WPB has grown in size and stature during its five-year history. The current WPB roster boasts more than 150 members, more than 240 CHS@AU students who have affiliated with the board as WPB mentees, and six corporate partners. Sally Jones Hill, a 1963 AU graduate, is the current WPB president. Women's Philanthropy Board's corporate partners

Alabama Power, Moore Wealth Management, AU Office of Outreach, The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center, Citi Smith Barney, and the Flower Store helped underwrite the event.

For more information about the College of Human Sciences' Women's Philanthropy Board, please contact 334-844-9199 or visit the Web at www.humsci.auburn.edu/wpb.

DiPofi President of Greater Peace Community Development Corporation



Jackie Alexander DiPofi has been elected president of the Greater Peace Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization committed to improving the lives of citizens within the Opelika, Auburn, and Lee County communities.

Founded in May 2000, the organization currently heads up the Youth Leadership Academy, the Child Development Center in Opelika, and the Affordable Housing Project.

at home



Summer Experience 2008 on Target

People all around the campus are busy making plans for Summer Experience 2008. Each summer, the AU campus is host to over 10,000 high school students who come here for resident summer camps. Openings are available and program listings are accessible on www.auburn.edu/summercamps.

AU's Summer Experience program is an outstanding way for high school students to gain some college campus perspective and 'take Auburn for a test drive' by living in the dorms, eating in the dining halls, and using AU facilities for an academic or athletic training. Campers meet and make friends with other campers from all over the country, interact with AU students, and learn from current AU faculty, staff, and coaches.

For the athlete, there are lots of choices including baseball, basketball, cheerleading, dance, equestrian, football, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, swimming, and volleyball. For the student seeking academic enrichment, the offerings include architecture, design, engineering, journalism, life in science, Summer YES, yearbook, and world affairs. Band camp, half-time camp, musical theatre, and civil air patrol are some of the exciting extracurricular opportunities.

Those looking for an experience to share with a grandchild this summer should consider the AU intergenerational elderhostel programs. The I/G offerings for 2008 include programs at Callaway Gardens (where circus classes taught by members of the Florida State University Flying High Circus are a highlight) and an aviation program at AU in which students and grandparents take flying lessons from the university's flight instructors in Cessna 172 aircraft. All of these are 5 day/6 night programs.

Each summer, many future tigers experience campus life through participation in AU Summer Experience. For more information, visit the Web site or contact the Outreach Program Office by email at opo@auburn.edu or by phone at 334-844-5100. Fees and registration deadlines vary by camp.



Capstone Development CEO Roy Brewer will teach the courses. His resume includes a long career with the U.S. Air Force, during which he received a bachelor's degree in accounting/business, a master's degree in management and extensive experience in project management.

According to *U.S. News and World Report*, Auburn's engineering program ranks 34th in the nation among public universities offering doctoral degrees and is among the top schools in the Southeastern Conference. Its continuing education programs are nationally recognized, and in 2006 served more than 4,500 customers. To learn more about Auburn's upcoming project management classes and other engineering continuing education offerings, visit www.engce.auburn.edu.

Marghitsu publishes second book

Daniela Marghitsu, Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, recently completed her second book, *Exploring with Microsoft SharePoint Designer 2007 Brief, 7/E*, published by Pearson Prentice Hall in the award-winning Information Technology Exploring Series.

This 448-page book is part of the new custom textbook of all Auburn University personal computer applications courses. Marghitsu's royalties will be donated to the new AU Educational and Assistive Technologies lab and AU Computer Literacy Academy for Children (dealing with disabilities). She previously published a 560-page book, *Microsoft FrontPage 2003 Exploring*, in the same Pearson Prentice Hall series.

Sumners Elected ACE President

Joe Sumners, director of the Auburn University Economic and Community Development Institute, has been elected as the new president of the Alabama Communities of Excellence Board of Directors. ACE is a non-profit, public-private, partnership that provides community and economic development assistance to cities with populations under 12,000.



Sumners is a founder member of the ACE Board of Directors. He also serves on the Alabama Rural Action Commission, the Center for Rural Alabama Committee of 100, and the Black Belt Action Commission. He is the author of many publications on Alabama rural development. As ECDI director, Sumners leads the economic and community development programs for both Auburn University Outreach and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Since its creation in 2003, ACE partners have worked with 19 Alabama communities. ACE communities are guided through three stages of assistance, including an inventory of community assets (phase I); creation of a leadership development program and strategic plan (phase II); and help with infrastructure planning, economic development, education, health care, and other quality of life improvements (phase III). Upon completion of the third phase, the community is declared an Alabama Community of Excellence. Thirteen cities have been designated ACE communities: Atmore, Brewton, Demopolis, Fayette, Guin, Gulf Shores, Guntersville, Haleyville, Heflin, Millbrook, Monroeville, Thomasville, and Valley. Six cities are currently working to attain that designation: Evergreen, Graysville, Headland, Jackson, Jacksonville, and York.

Other new officers are: vice president Phil Scharre (Tennessee Valley Authority), secretary Bob Howard (Alabama Power Company), and treasurer Lamar Smith (Alabama Gas Corporation). Selected to the ACE executive council are Nisa Miranda (University of Alabama), Linda Swann (Alabama Development Office), Bill Johnson (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs), and Perry Roquemore (Alabama League of Municipalities).

For more information, you may visit the web site at www.alabamacommunitiesofexcellence.org.

AU Math-a-thon inspires fun and learning

The Auburn University Mathematics and Statistics Department in the College of Sciences and Mathematics has teamed with the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering to establish a new tradition, the AU Math-a-thon, intended to inspire high school students to achieve greater success in mathematics. Standardized math scores for Alabama students, and for students across the U.S., are continuing to decline, which has many experts concerned about the implications for the United States' future in a rapidly expanding global economy. In response, COSAM will host an annual mathematics tournament, inviting the best and brightest students from Alabama and Georgia to test their individual mathematics skills and their ability to problem solve as a team.

The Math-a-thon concept was piloted in January 2008 and included schools from north and central Alabama and west Georgia. Tests for the competition were constructed by faculty members in the Mathematics and Statistics Department and included a written exam of 30 comprehensive multiple choice questions, a team-based problem solving activity called the "School Bowl," a fast-paced ciphering quiz, and an interschool puzzle-type test called the "Aubie Bowl."

Top finishers at the competition included Grissom High School in Huntsville, Northside High School in Columbus, Ga., and Handley High School in Roanoke. Aubie, who assisted in giving out the trophies at the awards ceremony, was a huge hit with the students.

COSAM will host another Math-a-thon on April 12 and will expand the tournament to include more schools from across the state. Future plans are to host the tournament on the third Saturday in January each year. For more information, go to www.auburn.edu/cosam/outreach, or contact Mary Lou Ewald, director of Outreach, at ewaldml@auburn.edu.

AU Develops Remote Monitoring System for Detector Dogs

Technology developed at the College of Veterinary Medicine could help law enforcement officers and first responders find explosives or trapped victims sooner and in a safe manner. Using a specially designed harness to hold a microphone next to a dog's nose, Vitaly Vodyanoy, a professor of physiology, monitors audio-wave signals through a laptop computer, which receives a signal from a transmitter on the dog's back.



"When the dog finds the target, his sniffing rate becomes much faster and the signal has a higher amplitude," said Vodyanoy. "This will allow the monitoring of search dogs without the presence of a handler and will be useful in dark, isolated, remote, or dangerous places."

Detector dogs are currently trained to sit when they find a target, but the method works only when the handler can see the dog. Instead, using Vodyanoy's patented, non-invasive harness and recording method, the handler would not need to see the dog to know when it finds a target, which could be explosives, drugs, or humans. Once the audio-wave pattern indicates a found target, the handler can determine the location with a separate GPS device on the dog or by audio-signal triangulation in which two computers are used to calculate the distance to the target.

Forest Ecology Preserve

- Summer Ecology Camps

Excitement and wonder, fun and pleasurable memories are what the Louise Kreher Forest Ecology Preserve provides for children entering grades one through six at its Summer Ecology Camps. The preserve's camps are an outreach program of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and are rapidly becoming a favorite summer activity of many children in the Auburn-Opelika area. Students too old for ecology camp can experience its adventures as counselors-in-training.

The one-week sessions revolve each year around a different theme, such as water, nocturnal creatures, the web of life, or "unhuggables," for example. Operating on the principle of "no child left inside," campers are involved in active learning and discovery of the natural world through hikes, games, crafts, and other exploratory activities. The theme of the 2008 summer camps will be "Go Native!" Campers will explore and learn about native plant and animal species and about Native American Indian life.

For more information about these camps, call Jennifer Lolley, preserve administrator, at (334) 707-6512 or go to www.auburn.edu/preserve.



LaPreard First Recipient of OPO's Catherine Payne Award

Danell LaPreard of the Outreach Program Office was awarded the 2007 Catherine Payne Award. This award was established as a memorial of long time outreach staff member, Catherine Payne, who was known for her outstanding customer service. OPO director, Sam Burney established the award to encourage others to emulate what Catherine represented as a person and an employee. A resident of Auburn since childhood, Danell was employed for 20 years by a local manufacturer where her work was principally in the field of human resources. She joined the Outreach Program Office in 2002, and provides support for the unit's popular Elderhostel, OLLI, and Community Course programs.

Groccia Applies AU Teaching Techniques Internationally



Through his work as director of Auburn University's Biggio Center, James Groccia has supported the university's goals of excellent teaching and enhanced learning. In his recent efforts, however, Groccia has taken this charge to a global degree by working to enhance the teaching effectiveness of an entire country.

Groccia, who also serves as an associate professor of educational leadership in the College of Education, has formed higher education partnerships within Saudi Arabia, which promise to enhance the country's advanced learning system through some of the same tactics he employs with AU instructional faculty and campus administrators.

Last year Groccia, who was then president of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education, attended an international conference in Sheffield, England, on behalf of the organization. At the conference, Groccia made several presentations on academic training, which later led to an invitation by King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, to host a series of workshops for the campus' faculty and administrators.

"The higher education system in Saudi Arabia and in the Arab world is growing exponentially," said Groccia. "Officials recognize that they cannot rely on current methods that they have been successful with in the past. Critical thinking and problem solving skills gained through active and engaged learning and innovative teaching are being seen as essential outcomes for future educational and economic development."

Groccia gave presentations to department heads and academic leaders from Saudi Arabian institutions on the importance of staff development, active learning, building



academic portfolios, and enhancing educational productivity and quality. Subsequent to these presentations, he has been asked to

put together a series of training programs across Saudi Arabia. Groccia has also been invited back to King Fahd University as well as to King Saud University in Riyadh—Saudi Arabia's oldest and premier university—and King Khalid University in Abha—the newest public university in Saudi Arabia—to offer similar presentations.

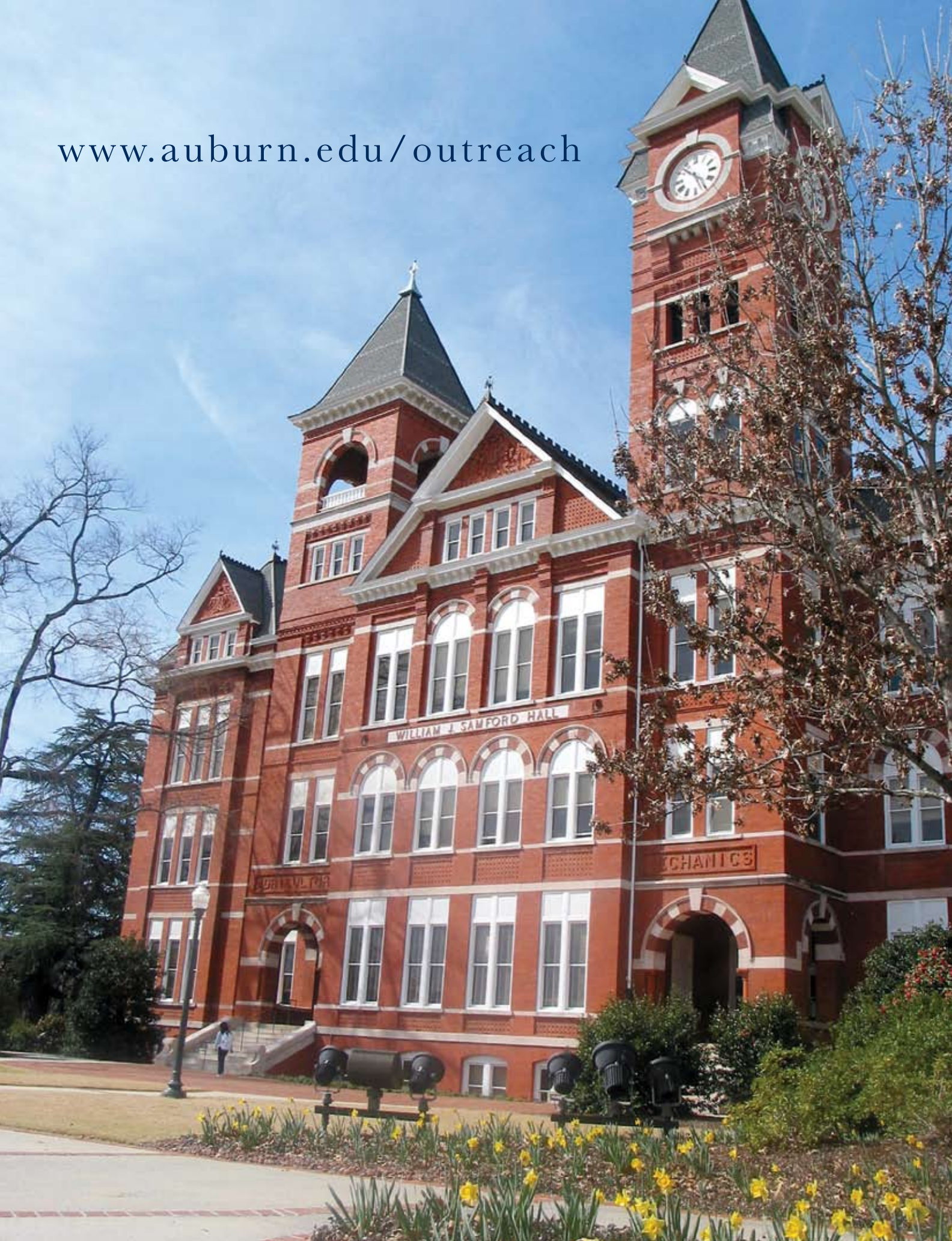
He noted surprise during one of his early trips to discover that his book, *On Becoming a Productive University: Strategies for Reducing Cost and Increasing Quality in Higher Education*, which he co-edited for publication in 2005, had been translated into Arabic and was known by Saudi Arabian education officials.

Groccia's work will help aid Saudi Arabia's transition from importing foreign workers for health, banking, and communication to developing their own people for these careers. He noted that education policies in Saudi Arabia are changing and officials recognize the need to expand higher education so more disciplines and training can be offered to more people—including more broadly to women, which represents a cultural as well as educational shift in thinking.

His long range goal is to assist institutions in developing more effective higher education systems and teaching methods. There are only 14 state-supported universities and eight to 10 private universities in Saudi Arabia. The country has shown its commitment to higher education by planning to build 11 additional universities in the next five years.

"An interesting challenge is going to be how Saudis maintain their religious and social traditions while liberalizing their thinking in academics," said Groccia.

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