

beyond AUBURN



THE BIG EVENT





“The Big Event” ON THE COVER

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.

Royrickers Cook

Assistant Vice President for University Outreach

Publication team:

Ralph S. Foster, director, Office of Public Service
Neali Vann, writer, editor,
Office of Communications and Marketing (OCM)
Mike Clardy, editor
Kevin Loden, editor
Joyce Thomas-Vinson, writer, editor
Janie Echols-Brown, graphic design

Contributors and sources:

Katelyn Ahern and Bradley Smith, Student Government Association
Auburn Daily Reports, Office of Communications and Marketing
John Freeze, Office of Professional and Continuing Education
Mary Catherine Gaston, College of Agriculture
Elizabeth Harbin, Office of Public Service
Constance Hendricks, School of Nursing
Charlotte Hendrix, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art
Jason Hill, Auburn Libraries
Laura Hill, Encyclopedia of Alabama
David Hinson, College of Architecture
Sidney James and Kimberly Walker, College of Human Sciences
Joe McAduy, Harbert College of Business
Joe Summers, Economic and Community Development Institute
Linda Shook, director, OLLI at Auburn
Chippewa Thomas, Faculty Engagement
Mark Wilson, College of Liberal Arts

Additional photography:

AU Photographic Services
Tanisha Stephens, www.intownimagery.com
Katey Nelson
Talia Arevalo
istockphoto.com
morguefile.com
Student Government Association (SGA)/The Big Event

Submit news items and story ideas to Joyce Thomas-Vinson, Office of Public Service, (334) 844-5117, thomaj5@auburn.edu. For more information regarding Outreach, contact Ralph S. Foster, Office of Public Service, (334) 844-4730, fosters@auburn.edu or visit www.auburn.edu/outreach.

**Auburn University
Office of the Vice President for University Outreach
213 Samford Hall
Auburn, Alabama 36849
(334) 844-5700**

All rights reserved by Auburn University © 2015.
Auburn University is an equal opportunity educational institution/employer.



Carnegie Foundation Classification for
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
Curricular Engagement and Outreach and Partnerships



President's message

As you will notice in this issue of *Beyond Auburn*, our students and faculty have found many innovative ways to assist others on a local, regional, and even international level.

On March 14, some 3,000 Auburn students spent a collective 12,000 hours in some 200 locations to help elderly citizens in our community with yard work, painting, window washing, and other jobs that needed doing. It's called the Big Event, and it is now in its thirteenth year. Auburn students coordinate this volunteer program as a way to say "thank you" to the vibrant community that serves as their home and the academic environment where they learn.

The Campus Kitchens Project is a student-led initiative to fight hunger on campus and within the community. Student volunteers recover food from campus dining facilities and deliver meals to community members who are in need.

Since its beginning in 1993, the Rural Studio, with the help of more than 700 Auburn students from the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, has completed more than 160 projects in Hale County and the surrounding area. Last December, the board of directors of the American Institute of Architects presented the 2015 Whitney M. Young, Jr. Award to the Rural Studio. The award was granted in recognition of the student-led design/build projects that Rural Studio established to address the critical needs of one of the South's poorest and most underserved regions.

The recently established Student Philanthropy Board is providing opportunities for our students to explore areas in which they can make a difference: philanthropic engagement, nonprofit leadership, financial sustainability, community involvement, and professional development. The experience they gain through SPB participation will prepare them for future service as nonprofit professionals, nonprofit volunteers, or philanthropists.

Auburn Nursing has launched a new program with the purpose of increasing awareness to healthy practices by empowering people to become more active and

cognizant in their own healthcare. Auburn University: Taking "It" to the People Southern Style, or AU: TIPSS, is funded by a University Outreach grant and employs digital signage to provide state-of-the-science, evidenced-based health promotion self-care messages in a culturally relevant manner.

It provides tailored health messages to be streamed continuously so that persons frequenting the selected site might have the opportunity to gain information about keeping themselves and their family healthy. AU: TIPSS can now be found at 12 sites in 10 Alabama counties as well as in Kentucky and Louisiana.

While one of the core principles of Auburn's land-grant mission is to serve the citizens of the state, it is inspiring to see that it doesn't take Auburn men and women much time to find their roles in the Outreach mission.

War Eagle,



JAY GOGUE
PRESIDENT
AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Auburn University Outreach

New Paths for Opportunity

We recently completed our mid-year update on the University's strategic plan priorities. Overall, program delivery and participation is increasing in each of the priority areas of economic development, health and wellness, and faculty engagement. The number of university partnerships with schools, civic agencies and non-profit organizations is growing. And there are significant new program initiatives that greatly expand Auburn's public engagement across the state and beyond.

For example, a new statewide training and leadership program developed by the Economic and Community Development Institute has been certified by the Economic Development Association of Alabama for launch this year. ECEDI's long-standing Intensive Economic Development Training program has recently been approved as an accredited course by the International Economic Development Council.

Funded by Auburn University Outreach and the School of Nursing, the new AUTIPSS, or AU Taking It to the People Southern Style, electronic health info service was launched at six sites in five underserved counties. To date, there have been 80,000 users, and the program is now expanding to include Wilcox, Jefferson and Madison counties. The ALProHealth obesity health program received a three year, \$2 million CDC grant; a collaborative team of Extension, Nursing, Human Sciences, Forestry and community partners is leading this important statewide initiative.

In another great leap forward, Auburn's K-12 Outreach college access initiatives received a \$4.45 million federal Department of Education grant in conjunction with the Birmingham City Schools and other partners. At our 2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium, we announced 11 new faculty-led engagement initiatives funded by this year's Competitive Outreach Scholarship grants program. More than \$200,000 was made available to fund these internal grants. This is one of the largest groups of outreach initiatives ever launched in a single year.

These are just a few examples of many strategic initiatives being developed at Auburn University that are helping improve Alabama's quality of life. But we

can't rest on these great successes; there are always new opportunities around the corner, and new paths for service. In February, I visited Cuba along with other university faculty and interested parties. It was an informative and fascinating trip. There are many historic ties between Alabama and Cuba, particularly in agriculture. The possibility of improved U.S.-Cuban relations holds a great deal of promise for future educational exchanges between Auburn and institutions on the island. We must be ready to act upon these opportunities as we strive to better Alabama's economy and quality of life for our residents.

Partnership and collaboration are the keys to the progress we are experiencing in our current initiatives. These will be the keys to success for creating new endeavors as we move ahead. As always, I invite you all to join us in ***making a difference!***

War Eagle,



ROYRICKERS COOK
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
FOR UNIVERSITY OUTREACH
AUBURN UNIVERSITY





beyond AUBURN

SPRING/SUMMER 2015

FEATURES

**One Big Family, One Big Difference,
One BIG Event** 6
Annual Big Event - a student-run volunteer day
sponsored by the Student Government Association



25th Anniversary - OLLI at Auburn

OLLI at Auburn 25th Anniversary Celebration 27

OLLI at Auburn and AUM Partner for Branch Campus
for Older Adult Learning 28

OLLI at Auburn Partners with the Area Agency
on Aging: Stress Busters Course 29

CAMPUS TO COMMUNITY

Making a Difference

Auburn Accounting Students Plant Seeds of Financial
Literacy 11

Addressing Issues

Campus Kitchens Project at Auburn University Reduces
Waste While Feeding the Hungry 13

Cultivating a New Cash Crop 22

ECDI Helps to Facilitate "Extension Reconsidered"
Discussions in Alabama 24

More Than 100 Years of Information Outreach 26

K-12 Outreach

Auburn Second Graders Meet the Artist Behind
'TRUCKS' 14

Community Engagement

ECDI Partners to Provide Training to Black Belt
Residents 15

Joyce Thomas-Vinson Receives National Honor for
Work in Public Service 31

Faculty Engagement

2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium Showcases
Auburn Faculty Engagement 16

Recognizing Engagement - a Perspective 36

Auburn University Named to President's Higher
Education Service Honor Roll 37

Service Learning

Rural Studio Receives Prestigious Whitney M. Young
Jr. Award from American Institute of Architects 30

Training and Development

OPCE Continues to Expand Training and Development
Markets 32

Student Engagement

The Women's Philanthropy Board Launches Student
Philanthropy Board 33

Partnerships

Encyclopedia of Alabama Sports a New Design ... 25

Auburn Nursing Uses Digital Signage with Self Care
Health Promotion Outreach 34

IN EVERY ISSUE

AUBURN UNIVERSITY OUTREACH

Message from the Office of the Vice President 4

FACES OF SERVICE

Lauren Chastain 22

OUT AND ABOUT

Outreach News 38

BEYOND AUBURN

Helping Horses Around the Globe 42

THE BIG EVENT

AUBURN UNIVERSITY®



One Big Family, One Big Difference, One BIG Event

As a land grant institution, one of the core principals of Auburn University’s mission is to serve the citizens of the state. One very tangible way that Auburn accomplishes this goal is through the annual Big Event. Sponsored by the Student Government Association, the BIG Event is a student-run volunteer day that encourages college students and faculty to thank the community for providing a thriving environment in which to live and learn. Each year, thousands of Auburn University students come together to give back to the Auburn/ Opelika community.

Auburn held its 13th Big Event on March 14, 2015 when more than 2,000 students spent four hours helping individuals and organizations in the community. The day started with a kick-off in the Student Center green space. Ron Anders, city councilman and Auburn Mayor Pro-Tem, was on hand to read a resolution declaring the date as “The Big Event Day.”

“We cannot tell (the students) as a city and as a community how much we appreciate them investing their Saturday mornings – when there’s a lot of other things they could have done like sleep – to get out and help Auburn,” Anders said.



After the opening ceremony, students dispersed to 200 different job sites. Participants helped with painting, yard work, window washing, and even dusting furniture for some elderly citizens.

The concept for establishing a day of service open to all students started at Texas A&M University in 1982 as a way of saying thanks to the community for their support. Since then, the concept has spread to 110 colleges and universities. Auburn developed its version of the program in 2002.

Katelyn Ahern, a senior from Jacksonville, Florida, served as an assistant director for this year's event. Ahern says the Big Event has always been a part of her Auburn experience.

"I volunteered as a freshman, and every year I got more involved working on different committees. Now I am directing all of the publicity," Ahern said. "I feel like this is my niche on campus. I wish more Auburn students would get involved and see that helping others is a really rewarding experience."

Auburn has gone beyond the template created by Texas A&M. The SGA developed the Big Event 365. This newest branch of service was inspired by the BIG Event's continued relationship with 2011 homeowner Rex Barrington, which taught them that the impact that the BIG Event provides does not have to be confined to the four hours of the event in March, but can serve as an opportunity to truly make a difference in the lives of those in the Auburn community 365 days of the year.

The BIG Event 365 sends representatives to the home of a person who has been reached by the BIG Event in past years, in an effort to continue the relationships established.

After Auburn students did a presentation at a national conference, the roles have been reversed. Inspired by Auburn's success, Texas A&M is now looking to establish its version of the Big Event 365.

Bradley Smith, advisor for Student Government, was a volunteer and assistant director for the Big Event while in school. Smith says his fondest memories of participating in the program were his interactions with the homeowners.

"At the end of the day, it's all about the smiles on their faces," said Smith. "The coolest thing about the SGA programs is that they are student led, run and organized. It is good to see them give back to the community."

Smith adds that in giving back the students also reap benefits such as developing leadership skills that will help them in the future.

"For a year leading up to the big day, students are preparing for the event and in so doing are preparing for jobs they'll have in the future. "

Although more than 2,000 students participated in this year's event, the Student Government is still looking to increase the number of students and to include faculty and staff as well. They hope to fully embody their slogan: "One Big Family, One Big Difference, One BIG Event."



Big Event 2015





*Parkerson Mill Creek clean up event.
Between McWhorter Center & softball field on Biggio Drive.
Big Event 2013*



*Parkerson Mill Creek clean up event.
Between McWhorter Center & softball field on Biggio Drive.
Big Event 2013*

Auburn Accounting Students Plant Seeds of Financial Literacy

How do you write a check? How do you balance a check book? How does the stock market work? What is an internal audit? Why should I begin saving money at a young age? How can I spend wisely?

These questions, and more, were answered for J.F. Drake Middle School sixth-graders Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at the fourth annual Financial Literacy Fair under the direction of Sarah Stanwick and students in Auburn University's School of Accountancy's graduate and undergraduate programs.

"We want to plant the seed for young students to learn about financial literacy so they can manage their money when they grow older," said Stanwick, Raymond J. Harbert College of Business associate professor in accounting and diversity officer who helped orchestrate and promote the event.

"It's a great service-oriented project for our accountancy students. They are learning how to give back to the community once they are employed. The students are learning about community service, but also how to take that accounting knowledge and adapt it into the environment."

Brad Cooper, a Master of Accountancy (MAcc) student from Montgomery, beamed about the opportunity to make a positive impact on others.

"The fact that you're able to do that with youth who have so much life ahead of them – you're setting them up for success," he said. "And that's worth much more than a grade. That's what outreach is."

The event was laid out in three sessions: morning, afternoon and evening, where parents were invited to take an active role.

Accounting students developed ideas for and manned 20 interactive stations with games, questions and prizes.

Some stations taught sixth-graders the intricacies of risk and reward, gross income vs. discretionary income, how taxes impact paychecks, investments, credit scores, etc.

"For example, one station showed children how to calculate the sales tax based on a meal they purchased," Cooper said. "Then they had to calculate a 15 percent tip on that meal. It's something that everybody can identify with and the students can talk about it when they go out to eat with their parents – what constitutes a total bill."



Inspired by the continued success at J.F. Drake Middle School, the School of Accountancy sponsored the first "Benjamin Bash" (named after \$100 bills) as a financial literacy fair for seventh- through ninth-graders on Oct. 28, 2014, in the Loachapoka (Ala.) High School Gymnasium. Students and parents had the opportunity to take part in this event as well.

"As for the big picture, we're giving them an opportunity to be exposed to reality. You can never start too early to prepare for these things," Cooper added. "Financial illiteracy sets you up for problems later in life. If no one has taught you – then you learn the hard way."



Campus Kitchens Project at Auburn University Reduces Waste While Feeding the Hungry

The Campus Kitchens Project is a national organization encouraging community service for students by engaging them in community hunger relief efforts. The Campus Kitchens at Auburn University is a student-led initiative fighting hunger on campus and within the Auburn community by promoting sustainable redistribution of food. Led by highly motivated and dedicated students, Campus Kitchens recovers food from campus dining and delivers meals to graduate students and community members facing food insecurity.

The Kitchen's leaders and volunteers also develop partnerships, organize fundraisers, plan meal menus, operate cooking shifts, arrange deliveries, and complete proper paperwork to ensure safety of all tasks. To illustrate the significance of safety that this organization holds responsible, each officer of Campus Kitchens is required to complete food and health safety courses to become certified to coordinate volunteers and distribute meals.

Hallie Nelson is an Auburn University student who started working with the Campus Kitchens Project in fall of 2014 when she began volunteering for pick-up shifts. Nelson goes to different dining halls around campus and collects food that has not been served.

Nelson says, "This organization does so much good for the university and Auburn's surrounding community. I want to make sure that this organization continues on Auburn's campus because there is no reason to throw away extra food when it can be given to people who need the food." Nelson adds, "I love working with The Campus Kitchens Project because I can see the direct good that comes from our work."

Kasey Shepp is another student volunteer who discovered the Campus Kitchens Project through a Hunger Studies class. She started volunteering weekly with the cooking shift, where she and other student volunteers take the leftover food from the dining halls and repack it into small boxes that go to various food distribution sites around Auburn.



**THE
CAMPUS
KITCHENS
PROJECT
AT AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

"Before I started volunteering, it did not even phase my mind about how much food dining venues have and that would otherwise go to waste if it wasn't for Campus Kitchens," says Shepp. She hopes that the organization continues to succeed in the fight against hunger and that more people will become passionate and involved in this world-changing work.

The impact of Campus Kitchens extends beyond the campus and into the community where meals are delivered weekly to food distribution centers, like Auburn United Methodist Church Food Pantry. When the Campus Kitchens was a pilot project, they served leftover food to AUMC visitors at the Food Pantry using a serving line.

AUMC Food Pantry Director, Reeder Delaney said, "These CKP students were kind, compassionate and fit right in with the ministry at AUMC to 'love one another.' Not only did the students share food, they shared love to our visitors."

In addition to supporting its core food distribution program, the Kitchen has promoted other outreach efforts by supporting allied initiatives such as the campus food pantry, Blessings in a Backpack Program and assisting in the launching of Campus Kitchens Projects at two other universities. As a result of the collective efforts and collaboration of these students, the Kitchen's leaders have been recipients of a national award at the 2014 Food Waste and Hunger Summit and the 2014 President William Jefferson Clinton Hunger Leadership Award.

Auburn Second Graders Meet the Artist Behind ‘TRUCKS’

Long before they can drive, many children zoom toy trucks across the carpeted highways of their imaginations. Chicago-based artist John Himmelfarb recalls this fondness for trucks as a child, but his survey of work, on view in “TRUCKS” at Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art through May 10, 2015, goes the distance.

“I’ve always found them visually interesting, especially the colors and textures you can find,” he said, noting a garbage truck as a good example with colored cans and boxes piled high. “After I had been working with them as an image for a while, I realized there was a larger hook to the idea. Trucks are a good metaphor for us – for our challenges in life and ambitions.”

This was the lesson learned by 180 second-grade students from Auburn Early Education Center during the exhibition’s opening week. Himmelfarb spent seven days working on “Grace,” an unresolved 11-foot by 35-foot painting displayed in the Bill L. Harbert Gallery of the museum. Over the course of two days, the children toured the exhibition with museum docents in small groups and had opportunities to engage in conversations with Himmelfarb and watch his process.

“I didn’t start out with an idea of a message for them, much as I don’t start out my paintings with a specific idea of what it’s going to look like when I’m done or a message I’m trying to convey,” Himmelfarb said. “In talking with kids, I try to get them to ask questions and then respond honestly to those.” Himmelfarb said one of the things they were most interested in was what happened when he made a mistake or didn’t like what he painted. “I saw an opportunity to talk about making mistakes and the necessity of making mistakes if you want to learn something. It’s a good thing to make mistakes.”

“Sometimes I think that when we talk about artists and poets and authors, children think that that’s something that’s unattainable to them, so I hope that this allows them to see that painters are real people, and this is something that they could strive for and accomplish in their lifetime as well,” said Shelley Aistrup, principal of Auburn Early Education Center.

“Painting pictures and making sculptures is essentially about sharing,” Himmelfarb said. “Sharing my experience about becoming an artist or what it is like or my day-to-day is really an extension of art.”

Himmelfarb’s artwork is found in the permanent collections of the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia, the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Smithsonian Museum of American Art in Washington, DC, and Auburn’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Other outreach programs associated with “TRUCKS” include the Thursday series “FILM@JCSM: American Transport,” where interdisciplinary scholars from Auburn and other institutions moderate a post-film discussion; “A Little Art Talks” on Wednesdays at noon, featuring conversations with Auburn students about works on display; and, a K-12 Art Club called “Keep on Truckin,” for younger students to explore Himmelfarb’s artwork and hands-on activities. The programs are free and open to the public. Museum admission is free courtesy of JCSM Business Partners. For more information, visit www.jcsm.auburn.edu or call (334) 844-1484.



ECDI Partners to Provide Training to Black Belt Residents

As part of the Value Added Leadership for Strengthening Extension Personnel and Citizens (VASEPC) Program, the Auburn University Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI) has conducted workshops to help build the capacity of 250 residents of the Alabama Black Belt. While ECDI and its partners have planned workshops for additional Black Belt audiences, VASEPC's recent events already have established a strong track record in engaging and training residents from the Alabama Black Belt region by providing workshops on grant writing, leadership, teambuilding, strategic planning, asset mapping, administrative training, facilitation, computer software literacy, and fundraising.

VASEPC is a partnership between Tuskegee University, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, and ECDI. The program, funded through a grant from the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, seeks to build the capacity of Extension personnel and other residents in Alabama Black Belt counties by providing educational workshops to enhance the overall community, leadership, and civic development of the Black Belt.

ECDI Leadership Specialist, Dr. Arturo Menefee, emphasizes the value of this partnership, stating, "We are excited to work with Tuskegee University to provide training opportunities for citizens in west Alabama."

ECDI workshops have been conducted in partnership with Alabama Cooperative Extension staff, Auburn University Outreach personnel, and other community partners. According to ECDI Outreach Specialist James Manasco, who is helping to coordinate the VASEPC program, "This program has allowed ECDI to reach out and provide valuable development to residents of the Alabama Black Belt from multiple sectors." Previous attendees have represented: nonprofits, community leaders, business leaders, youth, senior citizens, elected officials, educators, museum curators, Alabama Department of Public Health staff, representatives from multiple Chambers of Commerce, and other community organizations.



Dallas County Extension Coordinator Callie Nelson conducts a community development training session.

2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium Showcases Auburn Faculty Engagement



Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grants awarded

The recipients of the 2015 Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grants were announced at the annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium. Twenty-one faculty representing eight colleges on campus received the 11 project grants. The purpose of the Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grants Program is to encourage and support faculty engagement addressing critical societal needs in Alabama and beyond. The program is a collaboration of the Office of University Outreach and Auburn University faculty, and is intended to enhance public engagement as part of the university strategic plan and vigorously promote outreach scholarship among the faculty.

“Advancing Transformative Engagement” was the theme of this year’s Outreach Scholarship Symposium held Feb. 23-25. The program, hosted by the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach, included two days of peer presentations and poster sessions highlighting the engaged scholarly work of Auburn faculty and students.

Sharon Shields, professor and associate dean in the Peabody College of Education at Vanderbilt University, was the keynote speaker. Shields’ presentation focused on co-developing reciprocal partnerships with the community. Her career has focused on teaching,

clinical research and practice in the health and disease prevention fields. Her scholarly engagement focuses on community development and action projects for health promotion in urban and rural settings.

The purpose of the symposium is to showcase faculty public engagement, to inform and offer best practice guidance for outreach and engagement practice, and promote engaged scholarship through a professional conference. The symposium also seeks to promote, recognize, support, and appreciate faculty, students and community partners who are addressing critical needs in the state of Alabama and beyond.



The projects and faculty receiving grants include:

**Increasing Access to Autism Evaluations in Alabama:
Training Professionals on Diagnostic Procedures**

**Chris Correia and Polly Dunn
College of Liberal Arts (Psychology)**

Abstract: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a chronic neurodevelopmental condition that significantly impairs social and communication abilities. The prevalence of ASD has reached a zenith— affecting approximately 1 in 68 children. While ASD is a lifelong condition, early diagnosis and subsequent intervention efforts improve prognosis. Therefore, there is a critical need for accurate and timely evaluation. Unfortunately, the number of providers in Alabama who are eligible to perform Autism evaluations is limited. Currently, a family seeking an ASD evaluation could wait an entire year before even beginning the evaluation process, which further delays the onset of treatment, academic accommodations, and other essential supports for the child in need. Through our outreach initiative, we aim to increase access to ASD evaluation services by training Auburn University clinical psychology graduate students and faculty supervisors to administer the gold standard in Autism evaluation: the Autism Diagnostic Observation Schedule, Second Edition (ADOS-2). After completing a two-day ADOS-2 workshop with a licensed trainer, practitioners will be prepared to conduct high-quality ASD evaluations and meet the rising need in our community. Moreover, by training students and faculty on the ADOS-2, we are promoting the future of our field— training current and emerging professionals who will serve the people of Alabama and beyond for years to come. Similarly, the Auburn University Psychological Services Center (AUPSC) will acquire the necessary ADOS-2 educational materials to facilitate future training endeavors and provide AUPSC with the opportunity to sustain its provision of affordable, evidence-based psychological evaluations in the future. Thus, by receiving training on the ADOS-2, Auburn students and faculty will acquire a new skill set which they can carry into their current and future psychological practice by helping them improve the lives of children and families in the community who are struggling with this severe but all too common condition.

**Pilot of an Evaluation Protocol to Assess the Uptake
of Treatment Innovations within Juvenile Corrections**
**Christine M. Wienke Totura and Jan Newman
College of Liberal Arts (Psychology)**

Abstract: Given the limited research and clinical focus on implementing innovative treatments for adjudicated adolescents with illegal sexual behavior (AISB) in Alabama, outreach activities are focused on measuring the quality of implementation for a trauma-informed treatment approach that meets the unique needs of this targeted population in the Alabama Department of Youth Services (DYS) operated Mt. Meigs juvenile correctional facility. The goals of this study are two-fold, 1) to develop and administer an implementation evaluation protocol for the adoption of an evidence-based, trauma-informed treatment model with AISB, and 2) to understand the association between implementation effectiveness and evidence-based treatment effectiveness. The anticipated outcomes include a fuller appreciation of contextual factors necessary to support programming in juvenile justice settings that contributes to positive behavioral outcomes and reduced recidivism for adjudicated AISB in Alabama.

**Science in Our Own Backyard:
Investigating the Wetumpka Impact Crater**
**David T. King, Jr., Lucille W. Beardsley,
and Beth Hickman
College of Sciences and Mathematics (Geology
and Geography) and AMSTI**

Abstract: About 85 million years ago, an asteroid (or “star”) fell on what is now the state of Alabama. In 2002, the Wetumpka Impact Crater was officially recognized as a marine impact crater due to the work of Dr. David King and his research group in the Department of Geology and Geography at Auburn University. Since 1999, the city of Wetumpka and the Wetumpka Impact Crater Commission have worked to bring attention to this scientifically significant natural heritage site in our own back yard. They have done this through the sponsorship of public lectures, the organization of annual crater tours and have made provisions for scientists to have property access in order to do research work and organize crater-related meetings in the city. Alabama’s sixth grade students study factors that change the Earth’s surface, which includes impact craters. Students from the Auburn region have an untapped opportunity for involvement in outreach education that is less than 100 miles from their schools. Next year the Alabama State Department of Education will adopt new standards for the state’s science course of study. The state’s science

teachers will need additional professional development to ensure they are prepared to implement these new, more rigorous standards and thus provide all students with a high quality education. This pilot project would provide professional development for 30 sixth grade teachers and focus on the Wetumpka Impact Crater. Teaching modules about the Wetumpka impact crater and its origin will be developed for use in sixth grade science classrooms. Modules will be developed to stand-alone or work in conjunction with AMSTI kits. Participating teachers will be expected to implement the new modules in their classrooms. The effectiveness of the modules will be evaluated and improvements made so that this project could then be provided for all Alabama sixth grade teachers.

Registered Dietitian Services and the Impact on Patient Outcomes in the Management of Diabetes Mellitus in Alabama

Patricia Z. Marincic, Amie Hardin and Susan Scott

College of Human Sciences (Nutrition, Dietetics and Hospitality Management)

Abstract: Alabama has one of the highest obesity and diabetes rates in the U.S. with unremitting increases in disease prevalence, morbidity, and mortality. Diabetes accounts for greater than 25% of all deaths in Alabama; health disparity is evinced in the markedly higher death rate of 33% for blacks compared to 24% for whites. Despite the established benefits of services provided by registered dietitians (RDs) to patients with diabetes, reimbursement for these services has been variable between insurers limiting patient access to medical nutrition therapy (MNT). Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) of Alabama is the major insurance provider to all state employees including Auburn University. Coverage for nutrition services varies between group policies and lags behind other states. In response to a request from the Alabama Dietetic Association (ALDA) to BCBS of Alabama to gain preferred provider status for registered dietitians (RDs) to bill for MNT and diabetes self-management education and training (DSME/T), BCBS is requesting data regarding patient outcomes subsequent to nutrition interventions provided by RDs. This project is a collaborative effort between Auburn University, ALDA, and regional diabetes centers located throughout Alabama. The study is designed to: 1) develop standardized criteria and an instrument for tracking RD services and subsequent patient outcomes; 2) document patient outcomes to delineate the impact of RD services in the management of diabetes mellitus, and 3) provide outcome data to BCBS of Alabama to support the designation of preferred provider status for registered

dietitians. The ultimate goal, in keeping with the role and mission of Auburn University and the Strategic Initiatives, is to improve the overall health status of Alabamians, address the ongoing diabetes epidemic, and provide increased access to MNT and DSME/T for the treatment of diabetes mellitus and its comorbidities.

Auburn University Brain Imaging Visiting Fellowship (AU Brain Camp)

Jennifer L. Robinson and Jeffery S. Katz
College of Liberal Arts (Psychology)

Abstract: Over the last decade, the National Science Foundation has emphasized and encouraged the growth of STEM disciplines, education, and outreach. Higher education has almost universally adopted STEM-related priorities into their missions and visions, with Auburn University (AU) being no exception. Specifically, AU's mission states that we "will serve the citizens...through (our) instructional, research and outreach programs and prepare Alabamians to respond successfully to the challenges of a global economy. (We) will provide traditional and non-traditional students broad access to (our) educational resources. In the delivery of educational programs on campus and beyond, (we) will draw heavily upon the new instructional and outreach technologies available in the emerging information age." Our proposal seeks to fulfill this mission by hosting a weeklong summer camp in which high-school students will be exposed to cognitive neuroscience via a multidisciplinary approach leveraging existing collaborations between the Departments of Psychology and Electrical and Computer Engineering, utilizing the unique state-of-the-art Auburn University MRI Research Center (AUMRIRC). In partnership with local and regional high schools, AU will invite juniors and seniors to apply for the camp, prioritizing diverse and underrepresented applicants. The program will be designed to expose high school students to STEM concepts and advancements which have enhanced the methods used in cognitive neuroscience that have ultimately led to discoveries about the brain. This outreach initiative is important because we are in an era of new discovery with large federal incentives, such as the BRAIN Initiative. For such an initiative to be successful, three focus areas have been identified in training the next generation, and overcoming the existent underrepresentation in STEM disciplines: 1) create programs that will encourage the study of technology, 2) rework the K-12 curriculum, and 3) combat stereotypes. AU Brain Camp holds tremendous promise in facilitating transformative change along these dimensions.

Reach Out to Assist Medicare Beneficiaries

Salisa C. Westrick

School of Pharmacy

(Health Outcomes Research and Policy)

Abstract: Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people 65 and older and for some young adults with permanent disabilities and medical conditions. The majority of Medicare beneficiaries obtain prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D. Two primary issues facing many of these beneficiaries include difficulty with the Part D plan selection process and affordability of Part D plans. These two issues are highly prevalent among underserved and limited income individuals. Despite the availability of low-income assistance programs, many eligible individuals are not enrolled in these programs due to limited awareness. This proposal requests funding to implement the expansion of the current Medicare Outreach Program by a) offering plan selection assistance in additional areas and b) marketing and educating beneficiaries on availability of services and programs to improve their access to care. The expansion will be carried out through the utilization of 4th year pharmacy students and the existing partnership between Auburn University and Alabama Department of Senior Services.

Community Health Investment Program

E. Jean Dubois and Margaret Williamson

School of Nursing and School of Pharmacy

Abstract: Access to quality and affordable health care for all Americans is not only a national problem, but a local one as well. Our community, like many others around the nation, has been designated as a shortage area for primary care. One opportunity to address disparities in health care is to offer free or reduced cost services to the uninsured or underinsured. Additionally, another opportunity to address the issue of disparities is to develop interprofessional collaborative relationships within the community. In order to provide high-quality, safe, and efficient care that meets the increasingly complex needs of all American citizens, there must be a shift in the education of future practitioners to a more collaborative, team-based approach. The mission of the Community Health Investment Program (CHIP) is to increase access to and enhance health care services to the underserved residents in our community through interprofessional collaboration. The objectives of project are to: 1) develop the infrastructure for an interprofessional team that consists of nursing, pharmacy, and medicine to enhance health care to underserved populations, 2) pilot an interprofessional

mobile approach that builds on the current initiatives of nursing and pharmacy and, 3) determine the impact of an interprofessional model as a means to educate future practitioners and its ability to provide sustainable outreach services.

Opelika Grows: Planting Seeds for Sustained Localism

Sean A. Forbes, Carey E. Andrzejewski, Brian

Parr and James D. Spiers

College of Education

Abstract: Failure to complete high school stands as a most significant barrier to students' future well-being. Students who fail to finish high school earn nearly \$700,000 less in their lifetime compared to those who complete high school. Moreover, these students add over \$250,000/ person more in costs to the national economy in their lifetime than students who complete high school due to lower tax contributions, higher reliance on Medicaid and other assistance programs, and greater involvement in the criminal justice system (NCES, 2013). For K-12 students whose needs cannot be met in traditional environments, alternative schools become a last option. At risk prevention research consistently demonstrates that providing personally relevant curricula increases attendance and lessens behavioral challenges in the immediacy while developing career ready skills provides a long-term buffer against dropout risk (Croninger, 2001; Doll et al, 2013; Freeman & Simonsen, 2014).

Students in alternative schools, such as the Opelika Learning Center, largely come from low-income families (Porowski et al., 2014) and food insecurity regularly threatens the well-being of those in poverty. Recognizing the history of Alabama agriculture to sustain its citizens, the local challenge of food security provides opportunity to increase the human capital of local students at risk for dropping out. As such, we propose a comprehensive internship to be offered through Opelika Grows (a non-profit partnership among AU, the Food Bank of East Alabama, Opelika City Schools and Keep Opelika Beautiful) for interested and eligible students at the Opelika Learning Center. Opelika Learning Center students interested in work-ready training will be employed as interns at the community and school gardens of Opelika Grows. Interns will receive training in vegetable production, warehouse management and food preparation; their teachers will receive professional development to incorporate agriscience into regular class curricula. The fruits of intern labor will be donated to the Community Market and sold to cooperating local businesses.

Edamame in Alabama: Farmer Market Links for the Introduction and Evaluation of a Nutritious and Valuable Specialty Crop
Beth Guertal and David B. Weaver
College of Agriculture (Crop, Soil, and Environmental Sciences)

Abstract: Edamame is a healthy, snack-food specialty crop with the potential to have a significant financial impact for Alabama vegetable and soybean producers. Although it is a soybean, it is a specialty crop because it is harvested green and eaten fresh, similarly to a vegetable crop. Edamame has very high nutritional benefits, and is especially high in isoflavones. Additionally, the steamed or boiled soybeans are tasty and easy to eat, and the pods lend themselves well to commercial packaging. This combination of a fresh, easy to prepare (and store) and nutritious vegetable makes edamame an excellent choice for introduction as a vegetable crop for children. Our edamame trials have identified several excellent cultivars, and with seed increases we can produce sufficient seed that we can include edamame in taste trials and preparation demonstrations. Ultimately, the objective of the project is threefold: 1) demonstrate the utility of edamame as a nutritional fresh vegetable for inclusion in school lunches and home snacks, 2) evaluate edamame cultivars via taste panels at farmers markets to select best cultivars for use in Alabama, and, 3) show Alabama growers and gardeners that edamame can be a profitable enterprise as a part of their production systems.

Effect of Discount Coupons and Healthy Food Awareness Education on Healthy Food Purchase and Obesity
Tannista Bannerjee
College of Liberal Arts (Economics)

Abstract: Higher taxes on unhealthy food is a fiscal tool that has been proposed in the literature as a solution to control obesity and promote healthy food purchase. However, these taxes on unhealthy foods need to be abnormally high to be effective in tackling the obesity problem. In a state like Alabama, which is one of the poorest states in nation, and where obesity rate is eighth highest in the nation, a rising tax on unhealthy food is not a practical solution to alleviate the obesity problem. Alternative interventions like education about healthy food consumption and discount coupons for healthy food items are more effective for low income families because such families are more price sensitive and are expected to respond to reward based fiscal incentives. In addition, healthy food purchase will help reduce obesity among adult and children. In collaboration with Sylacauga Alliance for Family Enhancement (“SAFE”) and two grocery stores serving low income families in Alabama, this project will study the effect of healthy food consumption education on healthy food purchase among low income families in Talladega County of Alabama. In addition, this project will design and test the effectiveness of targeted intervention in the form of targeted discount food coupons for healthy food. In doing so, this project will benefit 100 low income rural families, including minority groups by improving their awareness on the benefits of healthy food consumption in the long run. Results of this project will help design appropriate fiscal tools to reduce obesity in Alabama. This project will serve as a seed project that enables the investigator to seek extramural funding to pursue larger-scale outreach-healthcare intervention projects for low income families.



Poster Session Abstracts - LADIES - Leading Auburn in Developing Interest in Experimental Science: An Auburn Partnership with Drake Middle School - with Emily Hardy, a graduate student, presenting. Contributors: Anne E. V. Gordon, Emily Hardy, and Sara Emily McCarty.

Identifying and Celebrating Diversity in Alabama
- A Community Partner Initiative
Tessa W. Carr
College of Liberal Arts (Theater)

Abstract: Auburn University's Mosaic Theatre Company is one of the few diversity-focused student theatre companies in the United States. As such, this company is uniquely positioned to foster and facilitate dialogue in Alabama schools, communities, and universities about creating an inclusive and collaborative society. Mosaic Theatre Company is comprised of students of different economic backgrounds, racial and ethnic identifications, and sexual orientations. This project proposes a series of two-day community residencies that will include a school performance, a community performance, and a three-hour workshop that includes multi-generational participants recruited from the performance events prior to the workshop. Mosaic Theatre Company will perform a one-hour piece that addresses either a historical or cultural example of grappling with diversity. The Integration of Tuskegee High School, an original work that I adapted

and directed will serve as the foundational performance for communities that identify a historical question within the heart of their diversity issues. Since this model may not best facilitate conversation in all communities, a performance of literature that is based on the work of Southeastern authors will form the foundational performance for communities that prefer a more wide-ranging discussion of diversity. Each community partner will assess and identify which performance would best serve its needs. Using a variety of techniques from visual art, community-based theatre practice, performance art, and story circle gathering, workshop participants will stage a poetic conversation and create a visual representation of their understanding of community diversity by the end of the gathering. Survey tools with both qualitative and quantitative measures will gather feedback from participants as to the value of the work in broadening conceptions of diversity. The workshop process will be made available as a tool for future conversations and a website, based on an easily accessed content management platform, will be created for further dialogue and interaction.



Participants of the 2015 Outreach Scholarship Symposium enjoyed a wide variety of presentations, demonstrations, and networking sessions with colleagues.

Cultivating a New Cash Crop

What do the U.S. Department of Defense, arts and crafts tycoon Martha Stewart and College of Agriculture researcher David Blersch have in common? All three are embracing a new technology known as 3D printing to advance their respective fields. For Blersch, an ecological engineer and assistant professor in the Department of Biosystems Engineering, that means using the cutting-edge process to determine the optimal conditions for growing one of the planet's most basic life forms, algae.

You might wonder why anyone would want to grow algae. The slimy stuff can be the bane of pond and pool owners' existence and can wreak havoc on farm and municipal water supplies. However, like many other unsung organismal heroes, algae play a vital role in the planet's ecosystem—like



GOING GREEN—David Blersch, ecological engineer and faculty member in the biosystems engineering department, shows off one of the plastic gyroids he and his team printed using 3D printing technology. The team is studying how surface materials and textures influence the growth of algal communities.

Faces of Service



LAUREN CHASTAIN

Auburn University senior Lauren Chastain is a pillar of community service and civic engagement. Her passion for service guided her to take on leadership positions in the Honor's Congress, Beat

Bama Food Drive, Committee of 19, and The Campus Kitchens Project.

At the forefront of launching the new Auburn University chapter of The Campus Kitchens Project in

September of 2012, Chastain has sustained the student-run Campus Kitchens Project and has supported its growth and expansion through her four years at Auburn University. The leadership of the Campus Kitchens officers and volunteers has led to the organization's success in hunger relief and service engagement. In the 2013-2014 year, Campus Kitchens had 802 student volunteers who served total of 1,236 volunteer hours preparing 5,494 meals.

Under Chastain's leadership, Campus Kitchens recovered 7,952 lbs. of food, adding \$52,287 in economic value. Her work with Campus Kitchens led to her being named the Clinton Hunger Leadership Award Finalist in fall 2014.

producing half of all oxygen and forming the foundation of the aquatic food chain—and can be quite useful under the right circumstances.

Though out-of-control algal blooms can shut down entire water systems, as was the case summer 2014 in Toledo, Ohio, scientists have long known that their potential uses far outweigh the tiny organisms' less becoming behaviors. For instance, algae can be used to make fertilizer, fuel, animal feed and human food and, as voracious consumers of CO₂ and nutrients, can be efficient water purifiers. This last use is the one Blersch and team are studying in his lab in the Center for Advanced Science, Innovation and Commerce, or CASIC, in the Auburn Research Park.

How does all of this relate to 3D printing? Scientists and entrepreneurs alike are looking for ways to harness the potential of algae for pollution control and to produce profitable products. Multiple efforts are underway to farm algae, and in those cases, it is important to understand what characteristics influence growth of the cash crop. Just as soil plays a significant role in the success or failure of a traditional crop like cotton or corn, the surfaces to which algal communities attach can contribute to their growth rates.

That's where Blersch's 3D printing comes in. He and his team, including Andres Carrano, associate professor in Auburn's Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, are printing tiles—similar to the ones on your bathroom floor, but plastic—with various surface

textures and degrees of roughness. They then cultivate algae on those tiles and check back to see which textures support greater growth.

A better understanding of how surface texture affects algae growth will be helpful to companies like Algae Systems that are developing new ways to farm algae. Based in Nevada, Algae Systems is currently cultivating native algae species in Mobile Bay with a goal of producing diesel fuel. In the meantime, their crop is also helping clean the bay and generating valuable carbon offset credits that can be purchased by fossil fuel companies. In fact, Auburn biosystems engineering researchers are working with Algae Systems to perfect the process of converting one of the farm's byproducts—a thick, dark, crude oil-like liquid—into diesel fuel.

Asked how his research could impact the average Alabamian, Blersch points to the state's abundant water resources and mild climate as ideal for algal growth and emphasizes that there are possibilities in both the public and private sectors.

"There is the potential for Alabama to reap benefits from algae cultivation, both in pollution recovery, but even more so in developing products from algae," says Blersch, mentioning biofuels and nutraceuticals—nutritional products that are derived from food—as two of the specialty products that could be made right here at home. "There is the potential for Alabama to be a leader in algae cultivation, at least in the United States."

Chastain extended her service beyond the campus with Auburn University's Alternative Student Breaks in 2013. She traveled to Atlanta and worked with "Project Open Hand," packaging and delivering food to those suffering from food insecurity. Her interest in hunger relief extended into the Committee of 19 where her leadership contributed to the success of the Beat Hunger Bash in 2013, which raised approximately \$2,000 for the Food Bank of East Alabama.

Chastain served over 120 hours outside of her personal academic studies shadowing various hospital divisions including ENT, dermatology, and hematology. Her experience with medical services and patient interaction was exceedingly beneficial when she accepted the Atlantis Project Fellowship and an undergraduate research fellowship. The Atlantis Project granted

Chastain a unique opportunity to travel to the Spanish Canary Island of Tenerife where she was immersed in Spanish language and culture while experiencing universal healthcare.

Now concluding her senior year at Auburn University, Chastain will graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Interdisciplinary University Studies with emphases in biology and human development and family studies. Chastain plans to continue her service to others as she enters medical school at the University of South Alabama in Mobile where she will pursue an M.D. degree.



www.auburnserves.com

ECDI Helps to Facilitate “Extension Reconsidered” Discussions in Alabama

President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act, the law creating the Cooperative Extension Service, in 1914. A century after it was established, Cooperative Extension continues to be a significant resource for people, businesses, and communities. Extension shares scientific research aimed at making farms and ranches more profitable, and works to protect the environment, ensure a safe food supply, respond to natural disasters, foster greater energy independence, help youth and adults be healthier and enhance workforce skills.

In Alabama, deliberative forums were conducted for Extension program and administrative leadership (July), county Extension coordinators (October), and regional Extension specialists (November). The Economic & Community Development Institute (ECDI) developed an Extension Reconsidered discussion guide that was used for the deliberative forums in Alabama and several other states. This “issue framework” presented an overview of the issue, and three possible approaches to address the issue, along with the potential costs, consequences, and tradeoffs that would likely result from following any of the choices. The forums examined the question: “How Should Cooperative Extension Help Us Address Our Problems and Pursue Our Goals?”

Commemorating the 100-year anniversary of Cooperative Extension, Imagining America, the Charles F. Kettering Foundation, and the Engagement Scholarship Consortium partnered to create the Extension Reconsidered Initiative. This national project aimed to assess the legacy and impact of Extension programs and envision future direction for Extension in its second century. Deliberative discussions were planned and conducted in 13 states - Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oregon, and Wisconsin. Each state’s forums and events addressed key questions about Extension’s future and its roles in civic life. For example: What can and should Extension do to address the critical economic, ecological, and social problems that citizens are facing in the 21st century? How might Extension realize its larger potential as a force for renewing and



strengthening our communities, our democracy, and our civic culture? How might it help people claim their places in public life by coming together to consider and act on the things that matter to them and their families and communities?

The Alabama forums generated candid conversations about the role and future of Extension. Dr. Gary Lemme, Extension director, expressed his commitment to this type of conversation about the impact and future of Cooperative Extension in Alabama. “This is a great start to a strategic planning process within Alabama Extension as we continue to work to meet the current and future needs of Alabama’s citizens, business, and communities.”



Encyclopedia of Alabama Sports a New Design

It's the same outstanding content but with a brand new look. The online Encyclopedia of Alabama is sporting a new design that makes it even more useful to people looking for information on the state's history, culture, and natural environment.

The most notable enhancements are found on EOA's home page. The new design highlights the content categories with larger images and brighter colors. The new "Spotlight" section showcases content related to a current event or historical topic. And, the new "Alabama Bookshelf" element provides visitors with a selection of additional resources related to topics covered in EOA.

Also, the special pages that EOA created in partnership with statewide programs "Becoming Alabama" and "The Federal Road Initiative" are given greater prominence. These two pages are the first of such joint ventures; EOA's editors are currently working with the Alabama Bicentennial Commission to develop another as part of the state's 200th birthday celebration.

A click on EOA's "Quick Facts" section offers a vivid example of the types of improvements made to the site. The page, which provides basic information about Alabama that students need for their projects and papers, has bigger photos and an easier to use format.

Another area that has benefited from the revamping is the "Features" page, where the new design encourages visitors to explore the highlighted content. This section of EOA focuses on specific topics, for instance baseball in Alabama, and aggregates articles related to the topic in one place. The baseball feature includes links to a selection of EOA articles on famous players from Alabama, including Satchel Paige, Willie Mays, and Hank Aaron. Topics currently highlighted in the "Features" section include governors, medicine, state parks, and animals found in the state.

The Encyclopedia of Alabama ([www. EncyclopediaofAlabama.org](http://www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org)) is a free, online reference resource with more than 1,700 articles on the state's history, culture, and environment. New content is added monthly. The site has recorded more than 4.7 million

visits from across the globe. Its most recent national recognition came from Family Tree Magazine, a national genealogy publication. The magazine recognized EOA in its 2014 "101 Best Web Sites" list.

EOA is provided as a service to the state by Auburn University Outreach in partnership with The University of Alabama and the Alabama State Department of Education.



More Than 100 Years of Information Outreach

Most members of the Auburn University Family know about the Auburn University Libraries' mission as a research and study destination for students, faculty and staff. What many don't know is that AUL also has a wider mission that dates back 108 years: that of a Federal depository library.

The groundwork for the modern Federal Depository Library Program, or FDLP, dates back to an 1813 Congressional Joint Resolution that mandated certain publications of the government be distributed to libraries and made available to the public. Today, the law the libraries operate under is the Depository Library Act of 1962.

As a designated depository library, AUL receives government documents on a wide variety of subjects from the U.S. Government Publishing Office (GPO) – the world's biggest publisher – at no charge. In exchange, AUL agrees to maintain the documents for public use – one of the reasons why AUL does not require any type of library card or fee for the public to enter the library and do research on the premises.

Since its designation as a depository library in 1907, AUL has garnered a positive reputation in the FDLP system. As part of a collaboration with other member libraries of the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries, or ASERL, it is a "Center of Excellence" in the fields of agriculture and aviation history. As such, it holds the most comprehensive collection of government documents in the region on these subjects – both current and historical.

AUL's Government Documents Department has been headed by Liza Weisbrod for the last nine years. She is proud not only of AUL's designation as a center of excellence but also of having a wide selection of government documents readily available for anyone doing research at the library.

"It has been fun over the years to see what comes out of the GPO," said Weisbrod. "Sometimes the titles, especially of the historical documents, make you wonder 'Why did they print that?', but the information contained in the publications, both historical and current, always is in response to a perceived need at the time."

As a Federal depository library, AUL must periodically submit to a Public Access Assessment by the GPO to ensure it is fulfilling its mission to make government documents available to the public. In its most recent evaluation conducted in January of 2015, the GPO team found AUL in full compliance with its responsibilities as a Federal depository library, and in its report wrote, "The library has a strong Federal depository operation and multiple services that support free, public access to the depository collection. Led by knowledgeable depository coordinator and staff, several library staff work regularly with Federal depository resources and contribute to its success."

The AUL government documents collection is open during all regular library hours and more than 90 percent of new government documents are available directly online. What you'll find in the collection ranges from Congressional Acts to census data and from extension manuals to maps. All of it free to use by all members of the public and cataloged for ease of use and maintained by one of the many departments of Auburn University Libraries dedicated to supporting the tradition of excellence in research that Auburn is famous for. To search the AUL government documents collection, visit the main library page at: <http://www.lib.auburn.edu/>. To get a glimpse into the world of government documents at AUL, visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/AuburnUniversityLibrariesGovDocs>.

OLLI at Auburn 25th Anniversary Celebration



OLLI leaders receive official proclamation from Auburn Mayor Bill Ham. Seated, left to right, Linda Shook, OLLI; Erlene Lingle, OLLI charter member and member of the 25th Anniversary Committee; Mary Burkhart, Founding Director and Honorary Chair of the 25th Anniversary Committee; Standing, left to right, Dennis Drake, OLLI 25th Anniversary Committee member; Susan Stanley, Chair of the 25th Anniversary Committee; Emily Kling, president of OLLI at Auburn; Barbara Daron, OLLI at Auburn coordinator; Terry Ley, OLLI faculty and 25th Anniversary Committee Member; and Mayor Bill Ham.

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University celebrated its 25th anniversary with an event commemorating the group's achievements and members. OLLI at Auburn has been a part of the Auburn family for the past 25 years, making lasting impacts on the Auburn-Opelika community.

The 25th anniversary celebration took place Tuesday, March 31, at the Auburn University Alumni Center. Debbie Shaw, recently retired vice president of Alumni

Affairs and member of OLLI at Auburn, greeted OLLI members and guests for the organization's silver anniversary program.

Auburn University administrators, including Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach, addressed the audience of over 200 OLLI members and friends, community leaders, and Auburn University staff and faculty. Terry Ley, retired Auburn University faculty member and now OLLI faculty

member, presented “OLLI at Auburn By the Numbers,” an overview of lifelong learning at Auburn University.

Proclamations from Mary Bitterman, president of the Bernard Osher Foundation, Alabama Governor Robert Bentley, Auburn University President Jay Gogue, and City of Auburn Mayor Bill Ham, followed. Each proclamation expressed praise for Mary Burkhart, founding director of AUall/OLLI at Auburn, and for the excellence in older adult education that Auburn University has sustained for 25 years.

Ley also presented “Voices of AUall and OLLI at Auburn,” a compilation of oral histories. The oral histories were narrated by Burkhart, who prepared the histories, and Andrew Oudenaarden, an Auburn University student intern majoring in broadcast journalism in the School of Communication and Journalism, who produced and directed the oral history project.

Participating in the oral histories were Auburn University administrators President Jay Gogue, Royrickers Cook, Ralph Foster, director of the Office of Public Service, Gene Bramlett, retired Public Service and Outreach Administrator, and Mary Burkhart.

AUall charter members interviewed included Henry Henderson, Sylvia Goldmann, Gordon Johnson, Erlene Lingle, Evie Pouncey, and Helen Brown. Two OLLI members, Terry Ley and Richard Robinson, who were involved in AUall’s transition to becoming the Osher Institute, also participated

The celebration also included a special performance by AU Cappella, Auburn University’s student-led all-male a cappella group, an appearance by Aubie, and refreshments by Ursula Huggins, retired catering legend and OLLI member.

OLLI members and friends are demonstrating their appreciation for and support of lifelong learning by contributing to a special anniversary campaign, \$25 for the Next 25. These donations of gratitude for OLLI at Auburn will help secure the future of the organization and help it to continue to grow. Any amounts, especially those involving the number “25,” will be accepted and the donors will be recognized later in the anniversary year. Details about the \$25 for 25 Campaign are also available at the OLLI at Auburn website, www.olliauburn.org.



OLLI at Auburn and AUM Partner for Branch Campus for Older Adult Learning

Since 2010, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University, OLLI at Auburn, has worked with Auburn University Montgomery’s Lifelong Learning Institute, AUM LLI, in support of AUM’s initiative to provide not-for-credit learning to adults 50 years and older in the Montgomery community. During the past five years, OLLI at Auburn staff and members have enjoyed a positive relationship with the older adult program hosted by AUM Outreach.

The mission of the AUM LLI is compatible with that of OLLI at Auburn – to provide opportunities for adults 50 years and over who want to learn for the sheer love of learning without grades, homework or exams. It seemed obvious to both the Auburn University and Auburn University Montgomery administrators that a partnership between the two campuses would be a positive step for both programs.

In the summer of 2014, Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for Auburn University Outreach and Katherine Jackson, vice chancellor of AUM Outreach,

along with Kathy Gunter, senior director of AUM’s Continuing Education, created a partnership between AUM Lifelong Learning Institute and OLLI at Auburn. The Osher Foundation was in agreement with this arrangement, so Rebecca Bloodworth, program manager for Auburn University Montgomery Outreach, and Linda Shook, director of OLLI at Auburn, began plans to implement the partnership.

During Spring semester 2015, the program in Montgomery was renamed “OLLI at Auburn - Auburn Montgomery campus.” OLLI at Auburn’s 600 members are now joined by the over 100 members at the Auburn Montgomery campus. With the inclusion of the AUM branch campus, both programs will partner together to provide excellence in older adult learning for individuals in the Auburn and Montgomery communities. For more information about OLLI at Auburn, visit the OLLI at Auburn website at www.olliauburn.org.

OLLI at Auburn Partners with the Area Agency on Aging: Stress Busters Course

Many older adults find themselves in the role of caregiver for a family member, usually a spouse or life partner, who has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or dementia. With that knowledge, Leisa Askew, with Lee Russell Council of Governments Area Agency on Aging, approached Linda Shook, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University, or OLLI at Auburn, to invite OLLI members to participate in a new course designed for caregivers.

Askew and Maria Davis, long-term care ombudsman for the Area Agency on Aging, had received special training and certification to teach a course for caregivers and were eager to bring their knowledge to the older adult community in Lee County. Having partnered with OLLI at Auburn in the past to offer programs and courses for senior adults, they knew OLLI at Auburn members would be interested in this type of course.

Shook was receptive to the proposal and the first course was offered in 2014. The course was intended to help improve the quality of life of family caregivers, to assist caregivers in the management of stress, and to teach coping techniques and relaxation strategies.

The response to the course was overwhelmingly positive.

"Who could have predicted a diverse group of women, who hardly knew or did not know each other, would end up forming of a strong bond of support and friendship? That is exactly what happened with the OLLI Stress Buster class," said Susan Stanley, an OLLI member who participated in the inaugural offering of Stress Busters for Care Givers. "The class was directed by two gifted women who each have such a talent for listening and directing people to avenues of help if needed. This was a life changing experience for me. It is an experience for which I am most thankful. We all continue the support and friendship by having lunch together monthly."



OLLI at Auburn members are pictured with Leisa Askew (standing far left) and Maria Davis (standing far right) who taught the course Stress Buster for Caregivers.

"Maria and Leisa were wonderfully knowledgeable facilitators of this class," said OLLI member Linda Wade, who also participated in the course. "The group felt a warm bond from the first meeting. We used a workbook but were encouraged to share our individual experiences with the group. This has been a great partnership for OLLI!"

This spring, another group of OLLI members will participate in the Stress Busting for Family Caregivers course. According to Askew, the course is being continued because of the participation by OLLI at Auburn members.

"I just wanted to thank you (OLLI) for giving Maria and me the opportunity to include OLLI in the Stress Busters class. I cannot tell you how wonderful the class was and how wonderful the group bonded. I'm also looking forward to offering this course again in the spring."

Rural Studio Receives Prestigious Whitney M. Young Jr. Award from American Institute of Architects

In December, the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects bestowed the 2015 Whitney M. Young Jr. Award on Auburn University's Rural Studio. The award was granted in recognition of the student-led design/build projects that Rural Studio established to address the dire needs of one of the South's poorest and most underserved regions.

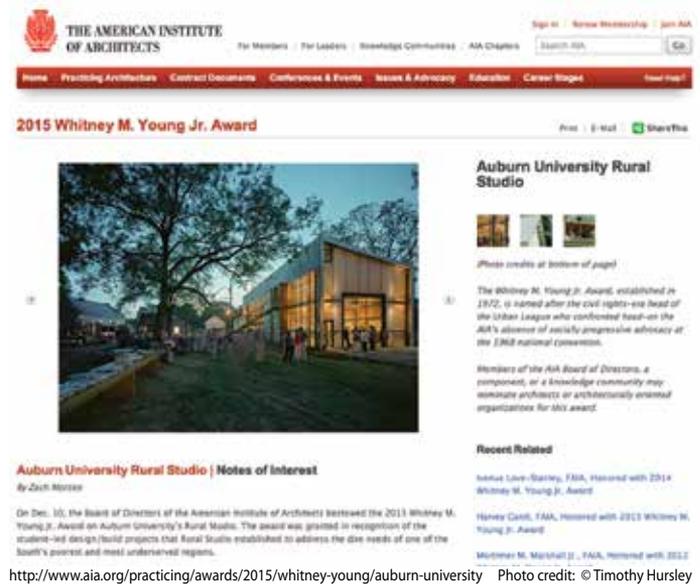
Established in 1972, the Whitney M. Young Jr. Award has honored architects and organizations that embody the profession's proactive social mandate through a range of commitments, including affordable housing, inclusiveness, and universal access.

The Rural Studio, based in Newbern, Alabama, is a design/build program within Auburn's School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape Architecture founded in 1993 by D.K. Ruth and Samuel Mockbee. Rural Studio students build homes and community buildings for the residents of western Alabama, where nearly 40 percent of residents subsist below the poverty line.

Current director Andrew Freear has built upon the co-founder's legacy by building more and larger community buildings, and creating new ways to replicate the studio's affordable housing. The need for these public buildings is just as dire as the need for affordable housing in Hale County. The 2004 Newbern Fire Station was the town's first new public building in 110 years. Students in the program have completed museums, park spaces, Boys and Girls Clubs, and chapels.

Another successful Rural Studio project is the 20K House initiative, through which the studio created easily reproducible templates for one- and two-bedroom homes that are affordable for someone on a Social Security fixed income. Some 16 of these houses have been completed to date.

Overall, the Rural Studio has completed 160 projects in Hale County and surrounding areas, engaging more than 700 students. In addition to a whole generation of



"The Rural Studio is not merely a resume of wonderful projects," wrote AIA Vice President Don Brown, FAIA, in a recommendation letter. "It is a living idea of service that has thankfully become the vocabulary of the next generation of architects." The Whitney M. Young Jr. Award is named after the civil rights-era head of the Urban League who confronted head-on the AIA's absence of socially progressive advocacy at the 1968 national convention. Members of the AIA Board of Directors, a component, or a knowledge community may nominate architects or architecturally oriented organizations for this award.

architects produced by the program, the Rural Studio has inspired the creation of other university-based design/build programs such as the University of Kansas' Studio 804 and Virginia Tech's design/buildLAB.

"The Rural Studio is not merely a resume of wonderful projects," wrote American Institute of Architects vice president Don Brown in a recommendation letter. "It is a living idea of service that has thankfully become the vocabulary of the next generation of architects."

Joyce Thomas-Vinson Receives National Honor for Work in Public Service

Joyce Thomas-Vinson received the Gulf-South Summit Outstanding Practitioner Contributions to Service-Learning in Higher Education at the March Summit conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. She was recognized for her exemplary work in developing and coordinating some of Auburn's most successful civic engagement programs, as well as playing a key role in the institutionalization of service-learning as a curricular priority.

The Gulf-South Summit on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, a collaboration of 15 universities and colleges nationwide, holds one of the largest annual conferences on higher education engagement in America. The Outstanding Practitioner award recognizes a faculty or staff member who has demonstrated excellence in creating, providing and sustaining opportunities for engaging college/university students in service-learning.

"Few people match Joyce's experience from both the institutional and community perspective; no one exceeds her zeal, dedication and effectiveness in promoting faculty and student engagement," said Ralph Foster, director of Public Service.

Joyce Thomas-Vinson is the Program Coordinator for Student Engagement and Service-Learning in the Office of Public Service at Auburn. Joyce was instrumental in the development of the AuburnServes network, which supports curricular engagement as well as civic collaborations. The program connects more than 170 agencies statewide to Auburn students and faculty, providing volunteer fairs, service learning colloquia, and community partner training sessions throughout the year. She advises Campus Kitchens, Auburn's successful student-led food sustainability project which weekly serves hundreds of meals through multiple local food outlets. Prior to joining the Office of Public Service, Joyce served 10 years as a coordinator for Project Uplift. The program



provides mentors, most of which are Auburn University students, for at-risk youth in the local community. Joyce also teaches English at Southern Union State Community College in Opelika, Alabama, and serves on the board of several non-profit agencies.

OPCE Continues to Expand Training and Development Markets

Over the last several years, the Office of Professional and Continuing Education, OPCE, has experienced significant growth in several program areas. The potential for growth continues as two new markets for training emerge; one in the North Alabama region, through OPCE's Huntsville Initiative, and one locally along the I-85 Corridor. Both market areas present opportunities for OPCE to continue to grow and serve the citizens of Alabama.

In Huntsville, an area of the state experiencing significant growth, there are emerging opportunities to provide management and leadership programs to the community at large, as well as technical training to the advanced manufacturing and defense industries located in the North Alabama region. In January 2015, OPCE launched its Huntsville Initiative with a leadership series program on the topic of Employee Engagement. The inaugural program attracted more than 100 participants from a variety of industry sectors.

"We received a very favorable response from our first offering of this type in the Huntsville market," said John Freeze, associate director of OPCE. "We are building great relationships in the North Alabama area and we are already hearing from folks who are eagerly giving us suggestions for future offerings."

Subsequent leadership training programs are being scheduled in Huntsville for the coming year, as well as a variety of classes to address needs in human resources management and technical training in the region.

Closer to home, OPCE continues to offer custom-designed training programs for businesses and industries located in the Auburn-Opelika area. One such program, a 12-week supervisory skills training class, is currently being offered to 24 supervisors at Hanwha L&C Alabama, a Korean auto supplier located in Opelika. Participants in this class cover a broad range of topics, from conflict resolution and communication strategies



to team building and problem solving. OPCE has been contracted to facilitate a similar program later this year at RAPA, a division of Rausch and Pausch L.P., a German company that manufactures high-precision automotive parts in Auburn.

"These opportunities position OPCE, and Auburn University, to play an integral role in employee development for these industries," said Hope Stockton, director of OPCE. "As more industries relocate to this area, OPCE stands ready to partner with them to provide the skills training their employees need to be successful."

The growth in these two important program areas allows OPCE to enhance its mission of providing quality educational programs and also address the University's strategic plan goal of extending service to communities and workers across the state.

To learn more about OPCE's Huntsville Initiative, please visit www.auburn.edu/opce-hsv, or contact John Freeze at john.freeze@auburn.edu. To learn more about OPCE's custom training capabilities, please contact Hope Stockton, director of OPCE, at hope.stockton@auburn.edu.

The Women's Philanthropy Board Launches Student Philanthropy Board



The Women's Philanthropy Board, WPB, recently launched the Student Philanthropy Board, SPB, a student organization designed to support students who are seeking a minor in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies. This program of study is one of Auburn University's newest minors and is available to all university students through the College of Human Sciences.

As part of its education and outreach mission, the Women's Philanthropy Board seeks to mentor future generations of philanthropists and nonprofit professionals, especially at the collegiate level. WPB is striving to fulfill this mission by providing leadership and funding toward initiatives that support students who desire to work in or serve as volunteers within the nonprofit sector.

Participation in the Student Philanthropy Board provides avenues for students to explore philanthropic engagement, nonprofit leadership, financial sustainability, community involvement, and professional development. The knowledge and skills gained through SPB participation will prepare students for future service as nonprofit professionals, nonprofit volunteers, or philanthropists.

Throughout the academic year, SPB members learn from guest speakers and by participating in outreach activities. During Fall semester 2014, SPB hosted guest speaker Rene Richard, an attorney and co-founder of the By Our Love Foundation, a nonprofit organization which operates an afterschool program for children living in a local housing authority complex. In addition, SPB participated in a fall community service project by adopting two local children from the Salvation Army Angel Tree program. New clothing, shoes, games, books, and toys for the children were collected and donated by SPB and Cary Center staff.

During Spring semester 2015, SPB will participate in a community service and educational project in which they will learn about the philanthropic cycle including fundraising; researching and writing grants; presenting grant proposals; and evaluating and awarding grant funds. Each SPB member will prepare a grant

proposal that represents a program or project on the Auburn University campus that could benefit from a philanthropic donation from SPB. Grant proposals will be presented during an SPB meeting and members will serve as grantors, voting on the proposal that the group will fund.

Through quality interactions with professional nonprofit leaders and hands-on educational projects, SPB members will be better prepared to enter the nonprofit work force. SPB provides an opportunity for its members to put into practice the skills and theories that they have learned in the classroom.

The Women's Philanthropy Board, the flagship division of the Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies, is an educational outreach program in the College of Human Sciences. The organization's mission is to inspire, educate, and enable individuals to develop their full leadership potential; achieve independence as financial donors and decision makers; mentor future generations of philanthropists and assist in broadening the base of financial support for the College.

For more information about the Women's Philanthropy Board, the Student Philanthropy Board, or other WPB educational or mentoring programs, please contact the WPB office at (334) 844-9156 or wpbchs1@auburn.edu.



Auburn Nursing Uses Digital Signage with Self Care Health Promotion Outreach

Promoting healthy personal lifestyle choices made in a social context can have a powerful influence over one's health status. Auburn University: Taking "It" to the People Southern Style (AU: TIPSS), an Auburn Nursing project funded by a University Outreach grant, uses digital signage to provide state-of-the-science evidenced-based health promotion self-care messages in a culturally relevant manner. It has been launched at 12 sites in 10 Alabama counties (Lee, Macon, Chambers, Bullock, Tallapoosa, Dallas, Wilcox, Russell, Madison, and Jefferson) and two out-of-state sites (Kentucky and Louisiana). The ultimate goal is to increase awareness

of healthy practices and empower people to become more engaged in self-care. Project staff includes Dr. Constance Hendricks, Auburn University Charles W. Barkley Endowed Professor and Nursing Outreach Coordinator, along with two Auburn doctoral graduate research assistants, Sola Popoola and Christopher Wilburn).

AU:TIPSS provides tailored health messages to be streamed continuously so that persons frequenting the selected site might have the opportunity to gain information about keeping themselves and their family healthy. Monthly, the staff designs an average of 16-20 messages based on Healthy People 2020 national goals, Centers for Disease Control evidenced based strategies, and incorporates relevant national monthly health emphasis topics. The project's efficacy and effectiveness



is assessed quarterly in collaboration with the community site staff. In the first nine months of implementation, with only six (6) sites, AU:TIPSS provided health promotion messages to more than 80,000 persons. Topics covered in the messages address illnesses such as cancer, the flu, AIDS, stroke, and heart attack, as well as other health and wellness subjects such as healthy eating, safe driving and poison prevention.

Community sites are identified and invited to partner with the project. Their commitment includes identification of a dedicated space for the equipment to be mounted in their facility for the sole purpose of project use. The project commits to monthly updating with relevant information to promote self-care. With funding from Auburn University Outreach, each site receives a large television monitor and digital messaging equipment and mounting brackets for implementation of the project

in their facility. Each month, participating sites receive updated information to be uploaded for viewing by those entering their establishments. Host sites include churches, city recreation centers, libraries and the Salvation Army. Evaluation responses from the sites have provided valuable feedback that has been integrated into the next set of health of information to promptly demonstrate responsiveness to their feedback.

As more persons come in contact with the digital messages, more requests for partnership are received. Most recently, AU:TIPSS partnered with the ALProHealth Project, an Extension CDC funded community-based, obesity reduction and prevention effort that involves 14 Alabama counties. In searching for new sites, the AU:TIPSS project team identifies “health promotion deserts”--those places where persons frequent often and could certainly benefit from an AU -TIPSS partnership. For more information on AU:TIPSS, contact Dr. Constance Hendricks at (334)-844-6749 or csh0006@auburn.edu.



Recognizing Engagement

- a Perspective

What is “engagement?” Simply defined, it is a commitment to an activity. In the higher education context, engagement is certainly not that easy to define, and as a result, can be difficult to recognize.

In 2006 the Carnegie Foundation created an elective institutional designation to recognize university engagement in outreach and extension. In this designation, Carnegie defined engagement as “collaboration between institutions of higher education (faculty, staff and students) and their larger communities (local, regional/state, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.”

Auburn applied for and received the Carnegie designation in 2010 largely on the merits of the university’s already very well established culture of engagement. A significant aspect specified in the Carnegie application is institutional support for faculty engagement. At Auburn, this key component is addressed in the university’s Faculty Handbook. Adopted in 2002, the Handbook guidelines define outreach as a scholarly pursuit and provide criteria for recognizing faculty engagement for tenure and promotion considerations. Like the Carnegie definition, Auburn’s Handbook defines outreach engagement as the exchange of knowledge for the reciprocal “common good.” However, there is not a lot of specificity in those definitions as to what activities constitute real engagement.

During the SACS reaffirmation process, an Auburn committee undertook a comprehensive analysis of engagement work at the university. The goal of this effort was to better categorize how outreach and extension work is generally performed, and thus enhance the recognition of faculty engagement. This committee identified three primary areas of engaged activities common across the university, including:

- Lifelong learning activities, generally non-credit instructional programs, promoting learning over a range of ages, particularly addressing continuing individual development and improvement of knowledge and skills needed for educational advancement, employment and personal enrichment.

- Expert assistance, providing information and consultative services utilizing university expertise and

knowledge to external constituents (individuals and organizations) on request in order to advise, solve problems and improve conditions.

- Civic engagement, encouraging collaboration between the institution and its larger community (local, state, regional, national, global) for the mutually beneficial exchange of knowledge and resources in a context of partnership and reciprocity.

Understanding both the function and form of engagement serves to illumine a host of faculty activities that exists at Auburn. There are more than 70 faculty-led extension and outreach initiatives centered in Auburn’s academic departments. Through these initiatives, faculty design and present more than 800 outreach activities to the public every year. Faculty contribute to hundreds more educational programs and services are offered across the state through the Extension System. Faculty teach some 250 courses across the curriculum that have community outreach components, thus engaging students in meaningful service-learning experiences. Literally hundreds of community partners are engaged in these diverse activities. Thus, in the totality of this activity, one can see the institutional mission of engagement at work, the Auburn family in concert with the community, exchanging beneficial information for the common good.

Auburn’s Strategic Plan – both in Priority 2 “Support Faculty Excellence and Strengthen Auburn’s Reputation,” and in Priority 4 “Enhancing Public Engagement” – includes objectives that will increase recognition of faculty engagement. Contributing to those objectives, a university engagement council has been formed, representative of the academic schools and colleges, outreach units and the Extension System. The annual Outreach Scholarship Symposium has been expanded to two days to include a wider range of presentations on faculty engaged initiatives. Additionally, the Competitive Outreach Scholarship Grants Program has been increased, with some 11 new faculty initiatives to be funded this year. These initiatives help better recognize Auburn’s faculty engagement, illustrate best practices, and promote engaged scholarship.

As a result of these initiatives and increasing support for engagement in the schools and colleges, faculty commitment to outreach activity is growing. There is

documented more faculty participation in engagement grants and collaborative projects, and also an increase in the number of faculty applications for tenure and promotion with documented engaged scholarship.

Generally speaking, if engagement is defined as commitment to an activity, at Auburn, engagement truly must be defined by the commitment of its faculty to serving the public good. Recognizing that engagement in all the many forms it occurs is the key to increasing that commitment, and by extension, improving the quality of life for all of us.

Chippewa M. Thomas, Ph.D., LPC, NCC is director of Faculty Engagement, University Outreach, and associate professor in the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, and Counseling, College of Education. Ralph S. Foster, MS is director of Public Service, University Outreach.

faculty engagement

Auburn University Named to President's Higher Education Service Honor Roll

For the fourth consecutive year, Auburn University was named to the President's Higher Education Service Honor Roll with Distinction, a recognition of the nation's leading colleges and universities for their dedication to civic engagement, service-learning and volunteering.

Auburn is one of five universities from the state of Alabama to be named to the Honor Roll in general, and one of only two to have received the Honor Roll with Distinction designation.

"Being named to the honor roll with distinction is so significant because of the scope of the award," said Ralph Foster, director of Public Service.

The Office of Public Service coordinates Auburn's annual application for the honor roll designation. The honor is administered by a federal agency, the Corporation for National and Community Service, on behalf of the President of the United States.

The Corporation for National and Community Service considered the scope and innovation of the university's outreach program; the extent to which



service-learning is embedded in the curriculum; the school's commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships; and measurable community outcomes as a result of engagement.

"Recognition on the President's Honor Roll shows that Auburn is among the leading institutions nationally for public service and outreach," said Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president of University Outreach.

Outreach News



Auburn Nursing Professor Assists Kentucky State with First Doctoral Program

Constance Hendricks, Auburn's Charles W. Barkley Endowed professor in the School of Nursing, helped Kentucky State University launch its first doctoral program in nursing during her recent

presidential fellowship at KSU. The new DNP degree will offer a focus in gerontology. Hendricks also helped KSU faculty develop a pre-licensure bachelor's degree program. Implementation of the new programs will be handled by KSU nursing faculty. Hendricks oversaw the writing of proposals to the KSU curriculum committee, the Kentucky Board of Nursing, state Board of Regents, and Kentucky Council of Post-secondary Education. She also completed the writing for the courses for two of the three-year programs, as well as recruited 12 adjunct faculty members to help with the new degree.



Harbin Joins Office of Public Service as VISTA

Elizabeth Harbin will spend a year working in the Office of Public Service as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA). A native of Cullman, Alabama, Harbin earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Promotion in May of 2014. As a student, Harbin

collected food for the Cullman food bank following the devastating April 2011 tornadoes. She also volunteered with the Boys and Girls Clubs and a local retirement home. These experiences led her to seek out the more intensive volunteer program, VISTA, in which she serves with the Office of Public Service organizing volunteer fairs and community partner training programs. Additionally, Harbin serves as an advisor to the student led Campus Kitchens Project at Auburn University.

Auburn Family Added Content to Encyclopedia of Alabama in 2014

In 2014, Auburn University faculty, staff and students continued the tradition of writing articles for the Encyclopedia of Alabama. Several of the entries were produced as part of an assignment in a public history class offered by the Department of History.

The new entries cover a range of Alabama subjects including native plants, historic sites, political figures, poets and writers, and Civil War events. Among the articles is the intriguing story of the S.S. Selma, a World War I-era experimental oil tanker ship made from concrete in Mobile. A list of all the Auburn faculty and staff articles, with links to their EOA site, is available at: www.auburn.edu/outreach/news/auburnauthorsEOA-2014.htm

EOA's content covers Alabama's history, culture, geography, and natural environment. The free online resource, which recorded more than 1.5 million page views from across the globe last year, is a project of University Outreach.



Foster Selected as Chair of Alabama Possible

Ralph Foster, director of Public Service in Auburn's University Outreach division, has been elected chair of the Board of Directors for Alabama Possible, a statewide non-profit organization.

Based in Birmingham, Alabama Possible's mission is to mobilize Alabamians to eliminate poverty through strategic partnerships, community engagement and education. The organization hosts a number of highly successful projects including "BluePrints," a K-12 college access program, and the Community Action Poverty Simulation, an innovative and interactive demonstration and discussion forum. Alabama Possible also coordinates the Alabama Higher Education Alliance which brings together administrators, faculty and students from more than 20 colleges and universities around the state to promote active citizenship through classroom teaching, service-learning, and civic engagement.



Ryan Joins ECDI Staff

Jennifer Ryan recently joined the staff of the Economic and Community Development Institute as communication and training specialist. Ryan holds a both a bachelor's and a master's degree in communication and public relations from Auburn University and has worked in

communication, training and program management for 25 years. Ryan began working with non-profit education organizations in 1992 and served as the manager of marketing and occupational safety training at the National Safety Council in Orlando, Florida, for seven years and as the executive director of the East Alabama Chapter of the American Red Cross for nearly 12 years.

"It has been one of my lifelong goals to return to Auburn and work for the University I love. I feel that I have truly come full circle and I am honored to use my talents and skills, many of them learned at this very institution, for the good and the betterment of Auburn and the people of Alabama. I feel this position is a perfect fit for me and I am excited and proud to join the ECDI team," Ryan said.

Ryan joined ECDI on Feb. 9. Her duties and responsibilities include planning, developing, and managing educational events and courses and developing and maintaining ECDI's online educational content.



Summers Named to Economic Development Advisory Boards

Joe A. Summers, director of the Economic and Community Development Institute, ECDI, was selected to serve as an economic development advisor on a Southern Governors

Association, SGA, initiative. The association and the Kettering Foundation are partnering on a joint "Economic Vitality Project" to encourage public deliberation about how to improve the Southern economy. Summers will serve on the project team as they conduct interviews with Southern governors and economic development and business leaders, develop an issue guide and facilitate state-levels public forums, and share findings with policy leaders. Summers is one

of 11 members of the Economic Vitality Project Team, comprised of SGA staff, Kettering Foundation staff, and economic development and government leaders from throughout the South.

Summers was also recently selected to serve on the board of directors for the Japan-America Society of Alabama, JASA. The society is a private, not-for-profit association that cultivates social, economic, and cultural relationships between Japan and the United States. JASA members include business organizations and individuals that have an interest in expanding U.S. business projects in Japan or wish to promote a hospitable climate for Japanese business in Alabama. Board members include many of the state's leaders from business, education, and economic development.

Keenan Grenell Featured Speaker

The Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGPSA) hosted the Dr. Juan Gilbert Lecturer Series featuring Keenan Grenell in February. Grenell is CEO of Global Capital Group, LLC, a global business consulting firm. His areas of expertise include economic development and entrepreneurship. According to Grenell, "*Education and Entrepreneurship are the great equalizers in a democratic society*".



Appalachian Teaching Project Introduces Students to Community Assets

During the fall 2014 semester, five undergraduate students assisted the Tuskegee History Center and the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities with six free, public programs on topics related to Macon County history and culture. The students, all enrolled in CCEN 200: Introduction to Community and Civic Engagement, participated as part of the Appalachian Teaching Project, a program of the Appalachian Regional Commission. Mark Wilson, director of the Draughon Center and an Appalachian Teaching Fellow in the program, taught the course.

Scholars and writers from the region presented on local topics, including the Tuskegee National Forest, Dr. John A. Kenny, the role of black churches in antebellum Alabama, Tuskegee Airmen, and Booker T. Washington. As part of their coursework, students interviewed presenters to develop publicity materials, assisted the local library with a display on the series, provided hands-on support at the programs, and reviewed audience evaluations.

The Appalachian Teaching Project provides an opportunity for students to work with citizens and community organizations on projects within the Appalachian Regional Commission region, which encompasses 37 Alabama counties. The project introduces Auburn students to a number of important community assets just down the road in Tuskegee.



“I grew up 30 minutes from Tuskegee and did not truly understand its significance until my involvement with the Appalachian Teaching Project,” says Mark Price, a senior in the interdisciplinary studies program. “Like me, many Americans have seen Tuskegee from afar – in movies or through history books. And today, it’s not uncommon for Macon County to be seen on a map for having high poverty, decreasing population, or little economic opportunity. But there is one thing that is overlooked and cannot be seen on a map – the residents’ bonds that are keeping the community alive.”

Citizens in Tuskegee are proud of their unique history, and they know the value of their story for economic and community development. “This series gave an insightful, inspirational look at several key historic icons and events

in our yesteryears,” says Shirley Rogers, volunteer at the Tuskegee History Center. “There was tremendous benefit to adults, university students, and area youth alike. It is so valuable to know history, apply the lessons today, and most importantly carefully navigate our future journey.”

At the end of the semester, students traveled to Washington, D.C., to present on the series as part of the Appalachian Teaching Project annual symposium.

Additional co-sponsors for the series included the Tuskegee History and Political Science Department and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Auburn University Outreach leads educational and cultural tours of Cuba

A delegation of Auburn University officials from University Outreach and Extension visited the nation of Cuba February 9-13 for a special educational and cultural tour. The delegation, led by University Outreach assistant vice president Royrickers Cook, included director of Faculty Engagement Chippewa Thomas, Center for Governmental Services director Don-Terry Veal, Extension state leader for program evaluation Jennifer Marshall, and outreach special assistant Ralph Elliott. The tour was developed in response to the recent U.S.-Cuba discussions on reestablishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations. Subsequent tours in June and October tentatively, coordinated by Outreach’s Center for Governmental Services, will focus on new and evolving opportunities for educational, business and other cooperative exchanges in Cuba. For more information contact Sheree Wilson at 334-844-4781 or visit www.auburn.edu/outreach/cgs/cuba_explorations/index.html for more information.





Helping Horses Around the Globe



INTERNET SENSATION—Equine scientist and associate professor Betsy Wagner created a decision-making tool for horse owners that has gone viral on the internet.

Each year about this time, Betsy Wagner starts fielding the same troublesome question from horse owners around Alabama: “When do I need to blanket my horse?”

An equine scientist and associate professor in the Department of Animal Sciences, Wagner is Auburn University’s go-to expert on all things horse related. She loves studying the science behind everyday challenges like this one, then using that science to help the average horse owner. She’s also a native of Wisconsin and grew up on a farm with horses of her own – horses that, coincidentally, never wore winter clothing, no matter how low the temperature dropped.

“I’ll be driving around [Alabama] and see horses wearing blankets when the temperature is in the 60s,” says Wagner. “Yes, there are situations where a horse does need a blanket, but the majority of horses don’t need one if they are managed properly. A healthy horse adapted to its environment and with adequate shelter rarely needs the extra protection afforded by a blanket.”

Wagner says that horses, like humans, have what’s known as a thermoneutral zone, or a temperature range within which they are most comfortable. While that range is 80-90 degrees Fahrenheit for humans, it’s much lower, 40-70 degrees, for Southern horses with summer, short-hair coats. As daylight hours decrease each fall, horses

begin to grow new, thicker coats in preparation for winter, and these are the animals’ first line of defense against the cold. In other words, horses are naturally equipped to handle winter weather and are more comfortable than we are when temperatures drop. But while it seems this would provide an easy answer to the blanketing question, there are numerous other factors to consider.

For instance, horses’ ability to regulate body temperature is affected by age, access to shelter, coat condition and the availability of extra feed. Making matters worse, the issue is muddled when rare weather events occur. That was the case last January when an Arctic blast brought a freak snowstorm to the Southeast. Awaiting the impending storm with a blizzard of inquiries on the topic, Wagner set to work sketching a flowchart to help Southern horse owners answer the question once and for all.

From the sketch, she created a digital image to share online through social networking sites so horse owners could access it easily. Just two days after she posted the chart on the equine science program’s Facebook page, it had been viewed by 112,000 users and shared 1,500 times from that page alone. Almost a year after the chart was originally posted, it’s been viewed by more than 290,000 users and shared more than 9,000 times, including by multiple national media outlets. In short, the chart has gone viral. Wagner has received numerous requests for a printed version – even from equine enthusiasts in Europe who requested that she translate it first. She’s now working on creating a printed version, in English only, that she can sell online.

While the science behind equine management is a love of Wagner’s, working with and getting to know her students is the best part of her job.

“They have a genuine interest and passion for horses, which means they are excited to be in class and learn more,” says Wagner. “They come from a variety of backgrounds and experiences, and they will go off to a wide range of careers, but their love of horses is their commonality.”





*Learn more about Auburn University
Outreach and read additional
issues of Beyond Auburn Magazine.*



AUBURN

UNIVERSITY OUTREACH