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SOMETHING FISHY—OR IS THAT HAMMY—ABOUT THESE TWO—Dave Williams, left, interim associate dean for instruction at AU's College of Agriculture, took a little time out during the 2008 Sunbelt Expo to ham it up with Captain Catfish, who happened to be one of the many thousands of visitors to the college's display hall. See more on page 10.



FOUR FELLOWS—Four Norman E. Borlaug fellows from Africa who were in Auburn fall semester to study with and train under College of Ag faculty members learn about peanut production during a field trip to the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center in Fairhope. See more on page 6.



Change, Change, Change
Ag Illustrated is changing . . . and we think you'll approve! Effective this issue, it's shifting from a 20-page quarterly publication to a 12-page bi-monthly, from four times a year to six. The change

allows us to give you timelier news from the College of Agriculture and Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and get it to you more often. All that, with virtually no increase in production and mailing costs. As always, we welcome your news, ideas and comments, so let us hear them, at AgComm@auburn.edu, 334-844-5887 or 3 Comer Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. We love hearing from you!

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"Mr. Mayor"

Hort Major Voted Hometown's Head Honcho

By Jamie Creamer



Matt Hurst

Bright and early last July 2, Matt Hurst walked into LaFayette* City Hall, turned in his qualifying papers and became the first of what would wind up being six candidates vying to be mayor of the small east-central Alabama city.

In the Aug. 26 city election, Hurst made it into a runoff by a single vote, but six weeks later, in a clean but hard-fought race against the two-term incumbent, Hurst came out on top, defeating Robert Finley by a 114-vote margin.

Hurst won't ever have trouble remembering the exact date of the runoff, the exact day he was elected mayor of his hometown. It was Oct. 7, which also happened to be the Auburn University horticulture major's birthday—his 21st birthday.

"I think I'm right that I'm now the youngest mayor in Alabama,"** says Hurst, who for certain is the only mayor enrolled in the College of Agriculture and likely is the only one campuswide. "It's an exciting time, for me and for the city."

When Hurst threw his hat into the ring, the deck was stacked against him. He attributes his success to intense campaigning—"I went to just about every house in LaFayette when I was running," he says—and to his platform.

"I ran saying I'd work to bring additional resources to LaFayette, that I'd get proactive in working with the Industrial Development Authority (of Chambers County), and we've already got some

(continued on page 4)

Kelley Terry:

Ag Hill's Go-To Woman

By Leigh Hinton

Ask most folks around the College of Agriculture a question about the College, and if they don't know the answer they'll probably respond, "Call Kelley."

Kelley Terry, that is.

Terry's official title is executive support specialist, but she describes her job as "making sure the right people are talking to the right people."

Maybe it's because she's been around the College of Agriculture for 12 years (earning an undergraduate degree in agricultural economics in 1995 and returning to work for the College in 2000) or maybe it's because she's got great people sense. Whatever the reason, Terry has a reputation as the go-to woman for the College.

Several factors influenced Terry's decision to attend Auburn University in the first place. Both of her parents, an uncle and numerous cousins had attended Auburn, and Terry had a scholarship in engineering. But her move from engineering to the College of Agriculture didn't take too long.

"One course in the programming language COBOL and a visit with a career counselor in Mary Martin Hall, and I switched to ag econ," says Terry.

For 10 consecutive years, minus two semesters, a member of Terry's immediate family was enrolled at Auburn: Terry from 1992 to 1995, her brother from 1996 to 2000 and her father from 2001 to 2002.

(continued on page 11)



Kelley Terry

Roosevelt Street *diary*



Richard Guthrie

I've got good news and bad news for 2009, but luckily the good news far outshines the bad.

First, the bad news: Our Fiscal Year 2009 appropriation from the Alabama legislature has been prorated (reduced) by 9 percent, with the prospect of additional cuts before the year ends.

While this large reduction in funding may prevent us from achieving some of our goals this year, I am optimistic about our future. My optimism is based on the abundant good news we have to share.

For starters, we are proud to announce that, for the fifth year in a row, our undergraduate enrollment has increased. We have 949 students enrolled in our college for this academic year (2008-2009), up from 935 last year. And those students will be well served by our faculty. Every department in our college has added at least one new faculty member since summer semester of 2008, which means our students have access not only to our many exceptional long-time professors, but also to a new generation of young, bright faculty minds.

Another cause for my optimism is the progress that continues to be made at Ag Heritage Park. Students from AU's Design-Build Master's Program have helped us repair and restore the basic façade and framework of the old Dairy Barn's west pavilion. Work can now begin on the interior, and once the west pavilion is complete, we'll tackle the east side of the structure. If we can continue to find donors and funding for the project, we may soon have a new "old" Dairy Barn as a showcase for the AU campus and agriculture.

Yet another reason to be optimistic is that the College of Agriculture is now managing the AU Challenge Course, an outdoor course that uses games, initiatives and low and high "rope" elements to help groups build teamwork and confidence. It has been open for a couple of years now and is already popular among student groups as well as corporations looking for team-building opportunities, but having it in our college will be a plus for our students and also offers us a new way to serve students here on campus and citizens throughout the state.

These are just three of many grounds for optimism in 2009. More examples are found throughout the pages of this issue of Ag Illustrated and are developing throughout the offices and classrooms of Ag Hill. We invite each of you to join us as we work toward a bright future in 2009 and beyond.

Richard Guthrie

Dean, College of Agriculture
Director, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station

Making Contact

Want to get in contact with the College of Agriculture, Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station or Alabama Cooperative Extension System? See below!

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334-844-8727
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Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology
334-844-4800
www.ag.auburn.edu/agec

Director of Outlying Units
334-844-5611

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334-844-4100
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AAES-affiliated Schools and Colleges:
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Animal Sciences
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www.ag.auburn.edu/ansc

College of Sciences and Mathematics
334-844-5737
www.auburn.edu/cosam

Biosystems Engineering
334-844-4180
www.eng.auburn.edu/programs/bsen

College of Veterinary Medicine
334-844-4546
www.vetmed.auburn.edu

Entomology and Plant Pathology
334-844-5006
www.ag.auburn.edu/enpl

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences
334-844-1007
www.sfw.s.auburn.edu

Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures
334-844-4786
www.ag.auburn.edu/dept/fish

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Director's Office
334-844-4444
www.aces.edu

Horticulture
334-844-4862
www.ag.auburn.edu/hort

Poultry Science
334-844-4133
www.ag.auburn.edu/poul

Social Networking Comes to Ag Hill

The College of Agriculture is joining the social networking world with its new Media page located on www.ag.auburn.edu/goplaces. This page features links to the college's new Facebook page, the student services Go Places blog and Auburn University's youtube.com page featuring agriculture videos and videos on all aspects of college life.

Check out the Web site to learn all about upcoming events, where the college is headed and what student life on Ag Hill is really like.

Ag Illustrated Subscriptions

Ag Alumni Association members automatically receive a copy of Ag Illustrated. To become a member, go to www.ag.auburn.edu/adm/alumni/. However, if you're not a member and want a copy of the publication or have a friend or relative who would like to receive a free subscription, fill out the form below and mail it to:

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Remembering the Smalley

Navy Destroyer Veterans Create Ag Scholarship Endowment

By Jamie Creamer

A close-knit group of U.S. Navy veterans who served aboard the USS Smalley DD-565 in World War II and the Korean War has established an endowment in the Auburn University College of Agriculture in honor of a plant pathologist who was on the faculty at Auburn from 1966 to '77 as a specialist



ON BOARD—Luther Farrar was on the *Smalley* for its 1944 commissioning.

with what was then the Alabama Co-operative Extension Service.

The honoree is the late Luther Farrar, a Louisiana native who was awarded his doctorate in plant pathology from Louisiana State University in 1956 and worked at the University of Georgia and Georgia's Extension service before joining the AU faculty and making the loveliest village on the plains his family's permanent home.

Farrar, who died in 2007, is credited with establishing the first plant pathology lab at Auburn. His research focused on developing herbicides, pesticides and management strategies that Alabama farmers could use to control or prevent crop-damaging diseases and, in turn, realize higher yields.

But it is not for Farrar's distinguished career in agricultural science that the new endowment bears his name. That honor is in recognition both of his service aboard the USS Smalley in WWII and, in particular, of the lead role he played 40 years later in establishing an association for—and an annual reunion of—all who served on the Smalley from the time she was commissioned in 1944 to her final decommissioning in 1957.

All total, that comes to 1,850 men, says George Bauersfeld, long-time secretary and executive director of the USS Smalley DD-565 Association. The Peekskill, N.Y., native is retired from a long career as a telephone installation professional, but in his early 20s, during the outbreak of the Korean conflict, he was a Navy sailor assigned duty aboard the Smalley.

"You had 300 shipmates aboard the Smalley at all times, with 710 serving from the time she was commissioned (for World War II) in 1944 till her decommissioning in 1946," says Bauersfeld, who has kept meticulous records on the Smalley. "When she was recommissioned, '51 to '57, 1,140 shipmates served."

Searching for Shipmates

Bauersfeld learned about and joined the Smalley group in 1992, jumping in with both feet. Putting his telephone connections and know-how to work, he spearheaded an all-out campaign to locate as many of those 1,850 shipmates as possible. Ultimately, they tracked down 923. (In fact, as a tribute to Bauersfeld and his tireless dedication to the organization, the association has named the endowment the USS Smalley DD-565 Luther L. Farrar-George D. Bauersfeld Endowment in the Auburn University College of Agriculture.)

Association member Sid Gilbreath of Cookeville, Tenn., and Korean War veteran can't speak for other branches of the military, but he says the camaraderie that develops among shipmates aboard U.S. naval vessels is intense.

"As a destroyer, the Smalley wasn't a big ship," he says. "There were 300 guys aboard, and four living compartments, with rows of bunks that were stacked three deep, with a two-and-a-half-foot aisle between the rows. You had to get close."

As Gilbreath notes, the USS Smalley DD-565 was a Navy destroyer. Destroyers were smaller but fast and powerful warships that were "the greyhounds of the fleet," he says. Their mission was to escort larger vessels in a fleet, such as the battleships and aircraft carriers, and protect them from enemy attack. Their arsenal included anti-aircraft guns, radar, sonar and forward-launched anti-submarine weapons as well as light guns, depth charges and torpedoes.

War Stories

During his term aboard the Smalley, Farrar was among the ship's fire controllers, the shipmates charged with pinpointing targets for the destroyer's weaponry. Though Farrar is deceased, he left fellow members of the Smalley association with many a war story.

Frank Morris of Opelika was a Smalley shipmate during the Korean War and came to know Farrar through the association. Of all the Farrar anecdotes he heard, one in particular stands out.

It was the morning of Sept. 2, 1945. The USS Missouri, escorted by the Smalley and other destroyers, sailed into Tokyo Bay and dropped anchor.

The destroyers, as the battleship's protectors, anchored a short distance away. And from his post in the ship's elevated fire controller box, Farrar witnessed through binoculars the ceremony aboard the Missouri in which Japan's top officials signed the surrender agreement that officially ended World War II.

Such are the tales told at the annual reunion.

Attendance at the Smalley reunion fluctuates, but in recent years, the event has drawn as many as 130 shipmates and many spouses. Each reunion is held in a different city—the 2009 reunion will be in Boston, Mass., in May—but whatever the location, the reunion provides the veterans four days of fellowship, reminiscing and just generally having a spectacular time together.

The reunions always include a memorial service to pay tribute to Smalley shipmates who have passed on since the last reunion.

A Lasting Memorial

Members of the association realize all too well that inevitably with each passing year, their number will decline. That was the impetus for creating the College of Agriculture endowment.

"She (the Smalley) isn't around anymore (the Navy sold her in 1967 to a Norfolk, Va., shipbuilding corporation for scrap metal), and now our membership is dwindling," Gilbreath says. "We wanted to do something lasting, something to memorialize the ship and all the men who served aboard her."



THE DESTROYER—U.S.S. Smalley Korean War veteran Frank Moore shows off a prized lithograph of the *Smalley* that hangs in his Opelika home.

Shortly after Farrar's death, the association decided to keep the Smalley's memory alive and to honor Farrar and Bauersfeld as the organization's primary advocates and leaders by establishing a scholarship endowment at a university. Opelika's Morris, an Auburn alumnus with a business degree, proposed that the endowment be instituted in the AU College of Agriculture because that would have delighted Farrar.

The association created the endowment with an initial gift of \$5,000; additional contributions have brought that up to \$7,000. When the endowment reaches \$25,000, Smalley scholarships will begin being awarded to deserving graduate students in the College of Ag.

To contribute to the USS Smalley DD-565 Luther L. Farrar-George D. Bauersfeld Endowment in the Auburn University College of Agriculture, contact Mark Wilton (wiltomt@auburn.edu) or Wes Cumbie (cumbijw@auburn.edu) in the college's Office of Development.

Are you ready for a challenge?

Auburn Challenge Course joins the College of Agriculture

The Auburn University Challenge Course, an outdoor adventure experience that implements games, initiatives and low and high elements is open to groups on the Auburn Campus and beyond, including Auburn University students, faculty and staff, middle and high school students, community leadership organizations, corporations, small businesses and church groups. The Challenge Course provides opportunities for group members to positively impact their personal and professional lives through experiential learning. Participants can benefit in multiple ways from the challenge course experience.



Benefits

- Strengthening communication skills
- Developing trust and support within a group
- Confronting challenges while exploring solutions and working as a team
- Having an enjoyable, physical and emotional experience

Programs are available for half- or full-day experiences and even multi-day events. To learn more about the Challenge Course, contact Laura Herring at 334-321-1603 or herrilm@auburn.edu or visit www.auburn.edu/ropes/.

(HURST, from page 1)

pretty promising prospects for new industries,” says Hurst, who was sworn in as mayor Nov. 5. “People here were ready for something to change, something to bring growth to LaFayette. They’re ready for us to look at the big picture and start doing something for ourselves.”

Mulling It Over

His decision to enter the mayor’s race wasn’t a spur-of-the-moment kind of thing. Hurst had been mulling over the idea since 2004, when he covered LaFayette’s municipal election for the West Point, Ga., radio station where he worked.

“I got real interested in what was going on, and I’d go to city council meetings, and one day I said, ‘Ya know, I honestly believe I could do something for this town,’” he says, and his fellow citizens obviously agreed.

Hurst graduated from Chambers Academy in 2005 and for a couple of years attended Southern Union Community College in nearby Wadley, all the while dabbling in real estate—he took a class online and wound up actually selling three houses—and working at the Chambers County Courthouse in LaFayette as the drug court coordinator.

Last summer, he transferred to Auburn, planning to major in public relations. “I’ve got a sister who got her degree in PR at Auburn a few years back, and she kind of kept on at me about that’s what I needed to be in,” Hurst says.

He’s an outgoing, upbeat guy who no doubt would have done well in that line of work, but not long into his first semester, he realized it just didn’t feel right.

“I just couldn’t see myself sitting through two more years of classes in that and then being cooped up somewhere in an office behind a desk the rest of my life,” he says.

What he realized was that he wanted a career doing something in the great outdoors, and that got him thinking about landscaping, and that led him to Ag Hill.

“The difference between where I’d been and the College of Ag blew my mind,” he says. “Everybody I talked to and met here was so...so nice. I just wanted to grab ’em all and hug ’em.”

He changed his major to horticulture with a landscape design emphasis and knows he’s where he belongs.

“Man, I love the College of Ag,” he says.

Easy Commute

Seeing as how he’s LaFayette’s mayor, he still lives there with his folks, Larry and Cindy, and makes the 60-mile round-trip commute to and from Auburn every weekday. He doesn’t mind the drive at all, but don’t get him started about what a pain it is to park on campus.

“If I’ve got an 8 o’clock class, I have to get here by 7, or I can forget finding a space,” he says.

Usually, being both a mayor and a college student hasn’t been a problem, but a conflict between city business and class schedule is bound to happen.

“Unless I’m having a test I can’t make up, my first priority will be my responsibilities as mayor,” he says.

At Hurst’s first couple of city council meetings as mayor, a couple of the returning council members were a huge help walking him through the procedural how-tos, and now he’s comfortable in his presiding role. So far, it’s just been routine business, mainly hearing reports from the police, fire, street, water and utilities departments. A handful of regulars always show up for meetings, but otherwise, attendance is sparse.

Since his election, Hurst says it seems like folks are treating him a little differently.

“I don’t require people to call me ‘Mayor Hurst’ or anything like that, but I think a lot of people are showing me more respect,” he says.

It’s rare in LaFayette for young people who go off to college to return to the community, but when he gets his horticulture degree in a couple of years or so, Hurst has every intention of launching a landscaping business headquartered in LaFayette.

“I love LaFayette,” he says, “and when we get the word out to people in Auburn and around that they’re just 30 minutes away from a small rural city where the crime rate’s low, and everybody knows everybody, where you can walk to city hall from just about anywhere in LaFayette, and you can buy a lot to build on for \$10,000, I think we’ll see some growth.”

It isn’t big bucks, but mayor of LaFayette is a paid part-time position. Hurst says it’s enough for him to live on while he’s going to school.

Though things have gone smoothly thus far, Hurst says it’s far too early to say whether he’ll run again in four years.

“I’ll have to see how things go this time around,” he says. “When you’re 12, or 16, or 21, four years is a mighty long time. Right now, I’m focusing on bringing in new industries and making LaFayette a progressive town.”

**Other LaFayettes (or Lafayettes) around the country are pronounced in three distinct syllables, usually with the accent on the third (la-fay-ET), but Alabama’s LaFayette, is pronounced as two syllables—le-FET.*

***The Alabama League of Municipalities doesn’t keep records on mayors’ ages, but the association’s Tracy Roberts says Hurst very likely is the state’s youngest mayor now, but not by much. Good Hope’s mayor is 22. Roberts says that, to his knowledge, the youngest person ever elected mayor of an Alabama town was an 18-year-old who won the mayor’s race in DeKalb County’s Lakeview community in the late ’80s or early ’90s.*

Students Unveil New Chicken Products

Poultry science professor Shelly McKee issued a daunting challenge to the students in her advanced poultry further processing and products class fall semester.

The task, due by semester’s end, was to dream up, develop and prepare a food product—an original food product—that featured chicken and potentially could be marketed.

The three four-member teams unveiled their products in December, and the results were impressive and definitely innovative.

First up: Buffalo Chicken Wontons, developed by Matt Masters, Clint Shumate, Sam Rochelle and Trae Martin. Made with ground thigh meat, buffalo sauce, mozzarella cheese and cayenne pepper and wrapped in wonton skins, the product would be a frozen convenience food that consumers would thaw, fry and serve as appetizers, snacks or entrées.

Product two—the brainchild of Jessica Chesnut, Bradley Johnson, Margaret Jordan and Amrita Pathania—was Keema Kroissant, an India-inspired item that was a ground chicken, vegetable and spice mixture wrapped in puff pastry dough. Shoppers would buy the product frozen, then thaw and bake them to serve as appetizers, entrées or snacks.



YOU FIRST—Poultry science senior Caleb Palmer, left, waits to see the reaction classmate Clint Shumate, center, has to a bite of a Kickin’ Chicken Biscuit, while Brad Johnson, foreground, evaluates the texture and flavor of a Keema Kroissant.



A POTENTIAL HIT—According to taste panelists, Buffalo Chicken Wontons just might have what it takes to make it big.

And last but not least, the Kickin’ Chicken Biscuit, a chicken patty injected with enough caffeine to replace that morning cup of coffee and still let you start the day with “pep in your step.” The patties, created by Caleb Palmer, Zane Troxtel, Matthew Parkinson and Jill Vest, would be marketed to fast-food restaurants to rev up their breakfast menus.

After the presentations came the real test: the taste test. About 30 students, faculty and staff sampled and evaluated each product. The evaluations were non-competitive and were not factored into grades.

Tops in flavor, by a razor-thin margin, was Keema Kroissant. Highest marks overall, however, went to Buffalo Chicken Wontons. And if the products were to hit the market, 16 evaluators said they would purchase the wontons and 16 would take home a package of the croissants. Thirteen would buy the Kickin’ Chicken Biscuit, but if the patty could be a bit juicier, that number would increase.

News about the College of Agriculture's alumni, friends, donors and events at Ag Heritage Park.



A Perfect Homecoming

...for Alabama Agriculture, That Is

Perfect weather and a perfectly wonderful array of foods helped make the 29th annual Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag Roundup a perfect success this past November. Held each year the morning prior to the AU Homecoming game, the 2008 Roundup and Taste featured foods from 17 commodity groups and private vendors and drew a crowd of at least 2,000. Gate receipts, which fund Ag Alumni Association operations, topped \$8,000, and sales during live and silent auctions netted \$8,300-plus, every penny of which, along with a \$10,000 donation from co-sponsor John Deere, will provide scholarships for College of Ag students. The college, the Ag Alumni Association, John Deere and Milo's Tea co-sponsored this year's Roundup. Don't miss the 2009 Roundup/Taste event, which will be held Nov. 7 prior to the Auburn-Furman Homecoming game.

Honoring the Best

Five outstanding individuals in Alabama agriculture will be honored on Feb. 24 when the Auburn University Agricultural Alumni Association holds its 2009 Annual Meeting and Hall of Honor Banquet at The Hotel and Dixon Conference Center in Auburn.

This year's inductees into the Hall of Honor, which pays tribute to living Alabamians for their contributions to Alabama agriculture, are W.H. (Chuck) Speir Jr. of Daphne, Richard L. Guthrie of Auburn and Ronnie B. Holladay of Trickem. The late Samuel H. Booker of Pinson and Ralph W. Martin Jr. of Catherine will be added to the list of Pioneer Award winners, who are honored posthumously for their contributions to the state's agriculture.

Registration for the banquet begins at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet begins at 6:30 p.m. Earlier that day, the Ag Alumni Association board of directors will meet in 109 Comer Hall beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets to the banquet and awards ceremony are \$50 per person and should be purchased by mid-February.

The association also is offering corporate sponsorships that help fund the banquet. Platinum Corporate sponsorships are available for \$2,000. Platinum sponsors receive eight complimentary tickets, a commemorative plaque and recognition in the banquet program and sponsor board. Gold Corporate sponsorships are \$1,000. Gold sponsors receive four complimentary tickets, a commemorative plaque and recognition in the banquet program and sponsor board. Silver Corporate sponsorships are available for \$500. Silver sponsors receive two complimentary tickets, a commemorative plaque and recognition in the banquet program. Bronze Corporate sponsors at the \$250 level will receive one complimentary ticket and recognition in the banquet program.

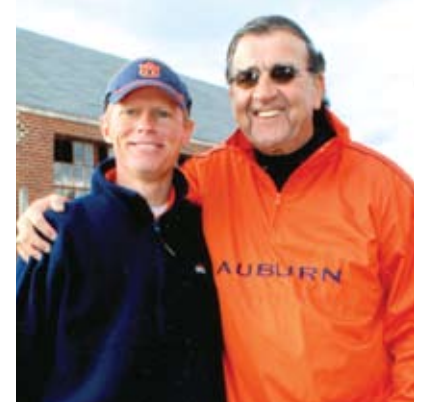
For more information on banquet tickets and sponsorships, contact Elaine Rollo at 334-844-3204 or rollome@auburn.edu.

Alumni Updates

News from our College of Ag alums

Lisa Ann Kelley McKinley, a 1987 poultry science graduate, was recently promoted and given exceptional marks on her performance review as an employee of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. McKinley is an environmental scientist in EPA's Region 4 Water Management Division (Enforcement Branch) in Atlanta, Ga. She joined EPA in 2006 working on agricultural issues focusing particularly on concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). She and her husband, Stephen McKinley, have five-year-old twins, Juliette and Nicholas, and live in the Vinings area of Atlanta.

James L. Fenn III, a 1996 (bachelor's degree) and 1998 (master's degree) graduate of agronomy and soils, pictured with Tom Beaty, founder of Universal Blanchers, was named chief operating officer for Universal Blanchers, LLC/Seabrook Ingredients. In this position, Fenn is responsible for all the company's sales, marketing and operating programs within the United States. He has been with Universal since 1998, serving as vice president of Georgia Operations prior to this promotion.



Jim Fenn and Tom Beaty

Larry Morris, a 1971 Auburn ag economics alumnus and district conservationist with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Bay Minette, was awarded the Alabama Association of Conservation Districts' Jerry L. Johnson Award for excellence in public service through family, employment, profession and community. Morris was selected for his contributions to community through volunteer work and church activities and for his leadership in soil and water conservation activities in Alabama.

Lorraine Dee Hunt, a 2008 graduate in biosystems engineering, was recently honored by the Council of Organizations Serving Deaf Alabamians with the 2008 COSDA Achievement Award. COSDA is a group of organizations that work together to improve the lives of hearing impaired or deaf individuals in Alabama. The award is presented annually by COSDA to a deaf or hearing impaired individual who has demonstrated significant achievements in their educational, vocational or personal life. Hunt received the award in recognition of her completion of a bachelor's degree in biosystems engineering and the beginning of a successful career with Bailey, Bishop, and Lane, Inc., a consulting engineering firm in Lake City, Fla. Hunt lost hearing in one ear as an infant and was able to function relatively well as a hearing impaired person until she lost the hearing in her other ear at the age of 40. Unable to continue her previous work in retailing, hunt decided to go back to school and pursue a degree in biosystems engineering.



Chatakondi

Nagaraj Chatakondi, who earned his Ph.D. in fisheries from Auburn in 1995, has been presented a special Performance Award from Auburn University for achieving world-record production of the fast-growing, disease-resistant hybrid catfish developed at Auburn. Chatakondi is director of hatchery operations for Eagle Aquaculture, an AU-affiliated company established in 2005 specifically to produce and commercialize AU Hybrid fingerlings. In the first three years of hybrid production, Chatakondi has surpassed Eagle's goals. For 2008, the goal was 20 million hybrid catfish in the 10-week spawning season; Chatakondi produced 26.3 million fish in five weeks. Auburn President Jay Gogue and Rex Dunham, an AU fisheries professor who developed the hybrid and who was Chatakondi's major professor, presented the award.

Ag Ambassadors Return for 25th Anniversary

Once an Ambassador, always an ambassador is more than a saying for past and present representatives of the College of Agriculture Ambassador program. For a quarter of a century these students have been dedicated to enhancing the image of Alabama agriculture, the College of Agriculture and Auburn University.

As part of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the AU Ag Ambassadors, current Ag Ambassadors are planning a reunion on A-Day, April 18, in the Ag Pavilion at Ag Heritage Park. Ambassador alumni, current ambassadors, past advisors and friends of ambassadors are invited. To learn more contact Deborah Solie at 334-844-8900 or das0002@auburn.edu or visit www.ag.auburn.edu/goplaces and click on Ambassadors.

AU Faculty Mentor Borlaug Fellows

Four women from Africa spent eight weeks in Auburn last fall working closely with College of Agriculture faculty mentors to learn new scientific and agricultural technologies they could take back to their home countries to improve the quality of life in their countries.

The women were here as fellows of the Norman E. Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. Established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2003, the program brings promising young scientists, faculty and policymakers from developing countries to land-grant universities and other venues here and abroad for one-on-one scientific training they can implement in their countries to improve food production, food security and economic growth.

At Auburn, the fellows were paired with mentors who specialize in their career fields.

For Sera Gondwe, an agriculture faculty member at a Malawi university, the economic tools and methods she learned under the guidance of her mentor, ag economics associate professor Valentina Hartarska, will be beneficial in her analyses of Malawi's rural financial sector. In a similar vein, the data analysis skills Angela Faria acquired working with ag economics and rural sociology professor and department chair Curtis Jolly will be indispensable in her responsibilities with the ministry of agriculture in Mozambique.

The research on sesame production and training in survey techniques that Fellow Na-oume Habouibraham of Niger completed under mentor and agronomy and soils professor Edzard van Santen will be invaluable in her



FELLOWS AND MENTORS—The fellows and their College of Ag mentors are, from left, Na-oume Habouibraham, Edzard van Santen, Sera Gondwe, Valentina Hartarska, Angela Faria, Curtis Jolly, Felicidad Massingue and Jim Hairston.

work through a non-governmental organization to teach Niger sesame farmers how to produce and market the crop more efficiently and effectively.

And in her time at AU, Felicidad Massingue, who is on the agronomy and forestry engineering faculty at a Mozambique university, studied and gained experience in cutting-edge soil testing and soil and water conservation techniques under the direction of Jim Hairston, agronomy and soils professor and water quality specialist.

Faculty Accomplishments

Horticulture professor **Jeff Sibley** took on an additional role beginning the fall semester 2008 when he was appointed acting associate dean of the AU Graduate School. In the new position, which is half-time for one year, Sibley is working to boost graduate school enrollment.

E.V. Smith Research Center director **Greg Pate** was in West Africa for six days recently as Auburn's representative in the U.S. Agency for International Development's West Africa Cotton Improvement Program that trains producers and ginners in everything from cotton production and maintenance to the economics of ginning.

Patricia Curtis, poultry science professor and director of both the AU Poultry Product Safety and Quality Program and the new, Auburn-based National Egg Processing Center, is serving her first term as chair of the National Alliance for Food Safety and Security Board of Directors. The alliance is a network of three USDA agencies and 20 universities, Auburn included, that are recognized globally for excellence in food safety research and education.

Jacob Dane, who was awarded professor emeritus status after retiring Sept. 1, 2008, from 32 years on the faculty in the agronomy and soils department, received special recognition during the Soil Science Society of America's annual meeting last fall in Houston when a full-day symposium was dedicated to him and his many contributions in the field of soil physics



Fenny Dane

Auburn horticulture professor **Fenny Dane**, whose research focuses on molecular genetics of fruit and vegetable crops, presented a talk on comparative phylogeography of *Castanea* species—i.e., chestnuts and chinkapins—at the Fourth International Chestnut Symposium recently in Mi-yun (Beijing), China. She also chaired a session during the symposium.

The October 2008 issue of *Nature Biotechnology* included a letter to the editor in which AU entomology professor and globally recognized Bt cotton researcher **Bill Moar** vigorously challenged an article the journal had published citing research indicating the widespread use of Bt cotton in the U.S. has created resistance in bollworms.

Animal sciences professor and reproductive biologist **Skip Bartol** will speak on the maternal programming of female reproductive tract development at the Second Polish-French International Symposium on Endocrinology of Reproduction, set for April 23-25, 2009, in Cracow, Poland. That presentation will mark the sixth international conference in less than a year at which Bartol has been part of the program.



Kyung Yoo

AU biosystems engineering professor **Kyung Yoo** displays items the Korean Society of Agricultural Engineers presented him in awarding Yoo a meritorious service award in recognition of the support, guidance and assistance he provides the Korean organization. Yoo, a native of Korea and an honorary member of KSAE, was cited for his collaborations with Korean researchers on projects in various areas including soil erosion, water quality and rainwater harvesting.

The Southern section of the American Dairy Science Association has presented its Award of Honor to animal sciences professor **Keith Cummins**. The award recognizes Cummins' lifetime service and achievement in his dairy research, particularly in the areas of production and nutrition.

Information to help poultry producers and companies lower production costs and survive today's challenging economic times was the key focus of the fourth annual poultry housing technology short course conducted by the newly formed National Poultry Technology Center in the College of Agriculture and hosted by biosystems engineering. The three-day event in Auburn covered such issues as poultry house structure and energy audits and use of solar power and alternative fuel sources for heating. More than 100 people from the U.S., Italy, Mexico and the Philippines attended to learn the most current technologies and practices for poultry house construction, building retrofitting and energy conservation. Auburn faculty/staff members who organized and taught the seminar include **Jim Donald**, Extension engineer-poultry housing and professor of biosystems engineering; **Jesse Campbell**, program manager for NPTC; and **Gene Simpson**, Extension economist and professor of agricultural economics.



News to You

A Message from the Student Services Office

It's a new year in the College of Agriculture and the Student Services office is excited to tackle new challenges. To help us in this endeavor we have developed a philosophy of service that will guide us as we work with prospective and current students, faculty, staff and alumni.

We call this philosophy our Guiding Star of Service and it has five main points that also serve as our goals—to be affirming, available, affable, accountable and approachable. Developed by our entire team, we have integrated this star into our daily activities to provide the best service possible to all our students.

Here's how we define these words in our star and what we hope each "point" will mean for those we serve:

Affirming (to validate or state positively)—The goal of our office is to serve in a positive manner and be encouraging to students.

Available (to have a beneficial effect)—Members of the Student Services team serve as advocates for a variety of groups and we want to make sure we are always available and providing the most beneficial services.

Affable (characterized by ease and friendliness)—This is a trademark Student Services strives to be known for when interacting with students, faculty and staff.

Accountable (answerable)—We, as an office, are answerable to all of our clientele for the quality of help they receive and the type of experience they have with us.

Approachable (accessible)—This is key to our student services strategy. We want to make sure we are available and easily accessible for students, parents and other groups to approach for help and receive a positive experience.

With these five main points guiding us in 2009 we know we will provide a quality of service unequalled on campus. We believe our students, faculty, staff and alumni deserve the best and we are determined to give our best.

Your Student Services Team



PICKING OUT PECANS—Chuck Browne, Lee County Cooperative Extension System coordinator, shows area elementary school students the different varieties of pecans available in Alabama during a Children's Field Day at the Auburn University beef teaching unit.

Children's Field Days Held

As consumers become further and further removed from the farm, the need to educate children about the sources of their food becomes increasingly important. Members of the College of Agriculture student services staff decided to take advantage of the 2008 holiday season and educate area second- and third-grade children about where their holiday food comes from.

"We often have inquiries from elementary teachers about on-campus activities, so we decided to add some children's field days this fall revolving around harvest and Thanksgiving," says Megan Ross, student services administrative support associate. "The response was overwhelming. We had to cap the two days at 260 students each."

In all, more than 550 students learned about agriculture, whether it was through a children's field day hosted on campus or from student services staff visiting their local school.

"Since we had to cap the attendance on our children's field days, Deborah Solie and I went to the local schools and did some Ag in the Classroom activities with the students," says Ross.

Due to the popularity of the events, student services staff members plan to offer more events in the spring. For more information go to www.ag.auburn.edu/goplaces and click on Future Student Events.

Student Accomplishments

Megan Karl, who just graduated (December 2008) in biosystems engineering, was selected as the 2009 Outstanding Biosystems Engineering Student. Karl, who is from Henderson, Nev., had a stellar career here at Auburn, receiving the William R. Gill and H.K. Porter scholarships, making the College of Engineering dean's list several times and becoming a member of several professional and academic honor organizations. In addition, she tutored fellow students in calculus and physics, was a member of three Auburn University track teams and volunteered for local community groups that assist children. She began work at the engineering firm CH2M Hill in January working on air and water quality issues.

Sumit Sen, a Ph.D. student in biosystems engineering, received second place for his poster on results of his water runoff studies at the annual conference of the Soil and Water Conservation Society-Alabama Chapter student poster competition held last year in Auburn. The topic of the conference was Our Changing Landscapes.

Agronomy and soils master's student **Kim Starr** was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship from Legacy, Partners in Environmental Education. Starr, who is working under the guidance of soil science associate professor Yucheng Feng, holds a bachelor's degree in microbiology from Auburn. Her master's research is on the impact iron nanoparticles have on microbes that inhabit soil and water. Once she is awarded her master's, probably in December 2009, she will pursue a Ph.D. in microbiology. Legacy awards scholarships to graduate and undergraduate students working toward environmentally related careers.

Aubie Bradley of Centre, **Timothy Hunter Camp** of Ardmore, **Cory Shadden** of Falkville and **Amie Osterhout** of Hernando, Fla., represented Auburn in the National Poultry Judging Contest held in Fayetteville, Ark., last November competing against 10 other teams from across the nation and coming in seventh overall in the competition. The team also placed second in the egg production and quality division of the contest and Bradley had the second highest individual score in that division of the contest. The team is coached by Jessica Butler, a graduate student in poultry science who teaches the collegiate poultry and egg evaluation course here at Auburn, and assistant coach is Ashley Shaw, also a poultry science grad student. Bradley, Camp and Shadden are all majoring in poultry production and Osterhout is majoring in animal sciences/poultry science.

PAWS Coming to an FFA Club Near You

Auburn Collegiate FFA is offering a unique opportunity to Alabama FFA students this year through PAWS—short for Premier Agriculture Workshop.

Presented by the Auburn University Collegiate FFA Chapter, this conference will be offered throughout the state in an effort to bring alive the FFA mission statement for high school students by "developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education."

Through the conference, students can engage outside the classroom, learn more about leadership and meet FFA members from across Alabama during four workshops focusing on leadership development, personal growth, career success and agricultural education.

In addition to activities for students, advisors are given the opportunity to participate in several workshop training sessions focusing on curriculum writing, developing opportunities for students and recruiting agriculture educators.

PAWS will be presented in each FFA district in Alabama in 2009, and the registration fee of \$20 per person includes lunch and a PAWS T-shirt. Registration is limited to 100 participants and is on a first-come, first-serve basis. For questions concerning the workshop, contact the Auburn Collegiate FFA Chapter at lzl0001@auburn.edu.



GOOD EGGS—Six Auburn University students were in Arkansas last November for the National Poultry Judging Contest coming home with a seventh-place finish and some team and individual honors. Pictured, from left, are team members Cory Shadden, Jessica Butler (coach), Timothy Camp, Amie Osterhout, Aubie Bradley and Ashley Shaw (assistant coach).

College of Human Sciences



Teresa Heinz



Emmylou Harris

Humanitarian, Musician Win Quality of Life Honors

One of the nation's leading philanthropists and a legendary singer/songwriter and musician received top honors when Auburn University and the College of Human Sciences hosted the 15th Annual International Quality of Life Awards ceremony in late January at the United Nations in New York City.

The 2008 International Quality of Life Award went to Teresa Heinz, chair of the Heinz Endowments and Heinz Family Philanthropies, one of the largest private foundations in the U.S. Widely known as a strategic innovator, Heinz is recognized for her vision and achievement in the areas of environmental sustainability, public policy, the economy, the arts and human rights.

Winner of the CHS Lifetime Achievement Award was Birmingham native Emmylou Harris. Harris began her career in music in the late 1960s and in the almost four decades since has traversed genres that include country, folk, country-rock, bluegrass, pop and alternative. In addition to her music career, she is a social activist for animal rights and landmine eradication.

The International Quality of Life Awards are sponsored by the College of Human Sciences to honor individuals who have achieved at the highest levels professionally and have demonstrated a strong commitment to empowerment through public policy and educational initiatives to enhance quality of life.

School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

New Center a Longleaf Pine Info Source

Southeastern landowners who want to convert their land into longleaf pine forests now have an important resource for information and services: the recently created Center for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems in Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.



A REBOUND—Longleaf pine acreage is up in Alabama.

Alabama landowners increasingly are recognizing the economic, ecological and recreational returns from longleaf pine forests. In the last 10 years, longleaf pine acreage in Alabama has increased by 60 percent.

Auburn University is recognized as the leading university in the nation in longleaf pine study, research and management. The new center is the only one of its kind in the country. Lisa Samuel-

son, professor in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, is the director.

The center provides information about longleaf pine ecosystem management, research and restoration and management activities and offers a variety of ecological, social and economic services for people in the Southeast. It also will serve as an umbrella under which faculty can pursue research and outreach efforts in longleaf pine and enhance interdisciplinary collaboration with the SFWS and other departments on campus.

The longleaf pine ecosystem once stretched southward through nine states, from Virginia to east Texas, and covered more than 140,000 square miles and 90 million acres. Today, longleaf pine occupies about three million acres across the Southeast. Of the 18.2 million acres existing in Alabama in 1880, only 860,000 acres remain.

For landowners, the incentives to replant or better manage existing longleaf pine stands are many. The trees thrive better on poor sites than other Southern pines, produce a variety of products, yield quality lumber, protect rare plants and animals and provide investment security. Other benefits of having longleaf pine forests include aesthetics, hunting habitat, water purification, soil stabilization and carbon sequestration.

College of Sciences and Mathematics



A GUTS-Y PROGRAM—Richard Weiss helps his son, Isaac, dissect a pitcher plant during a recent College of Sciences and Mathematics GUTS of Venus Fly Traps workshop. GUTS, an acronym for Getting Under the Surface, is a once-a-month science program COSAM offers first- through eighth-graders and their parents or grandparents. The one-and-a-half-hour science class uses common objects, such as radios or batteries, or techniques, such as DNA fingerprinting, to teach participants simple scientific concepts. In the class the Weisses attended, participants learned how carnivorous plants catch their food and then dissected pitchers of the yellow pitcher plant to see what kinds of bugs they had eaten. Learn more about GUTS at www.auburn.edu/cosam/outreach or by contacting COSAM's Outreach Office at 844-7449 or cosam_outreach@auburn.edu.

College of Veterinary Medicine

USDA Offers Vet Students Training

Second-year College of Veterinary Medicine students who took associate professor Stuart Price's infectious disease course fall semester 2008 got hands-on training in emergency biosecurity measures, courtesy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The agency is offering the training to vet schools around the U.S. in an effort to increase student awareness about the growing need for veterinarians to be prepared to respond to the challenges posed by new and diverse animal disease threats they could one day encounter.

Mississippi State University is partnering with USDA-APHIS in the training program. Linda Detwiler, clinical professor at Mississippi State's College of Veterinary Medicine, coordinates the program. Assisting her in the AU training were Fred Hoerr, Thompson-Bishop-Sparks State Diagnostic Laboratory director; Auburn faculty member and foreign animal disease diagnostician Jim Wenzel; and Dana Bennett and Ray Hilburn, senior poultry technologists with the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

During the lab, students learned avian necropsy techniques, the procedure for collecting tissue samples to test for scrapie in goats and how to use personal protective equipment.

"The protection of our food supply may be a primary duty of food animal practitioners," Kenneth Nusbaum, pathobiology professor at Auburn, said, "but in the event of an outbreak of foreign animal disease, many small animal practitioners may be called upon as second responders, and these techniques will be crucial to food chain security."

The college hopes to make the USDA-sponsored exercise an annual event for its second-year students.



GEARING UP—College of Veterinary Medicine professor Jim Wenzel assists a student in donning personal protective equipment during a training session on emergency biosecurity measures. The USDA sponsors the workshop at vet colleges nationwide.



PITCHING GOLDEN KIWI—Brian Wilkins, horticulture research associate and kiwifruit research team member, assists horticulture graduate student Zoe Williamson in selling a 2008 Ag Roundup visitor on trying a sweet, glistening slice of golden kiwifruit. Auburn and Chinese scientists have developed two new varieties of smooth-skinned, yellow-fleshed kiwifruit.

New Kiwifruit Smooth and Yellow

Auburn University and Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences' Institute of Fruit and Tea in China have signed an agreement designating them as co-developers and co-owners of two new varieties of kiwifruit.

The new varieties aren't the kiwifruit most Americans know—that fuzzy brown egg-shaped fruit with bright-green, seed-studded flesh and a distinctive sweet-tart taste.

The new ones, called Golden Dragon and Golden Sunshine, are, as the names imply, gold-fleshed kiwifruit. The goldens feature smooth, "hairless" skin and a much sweeter taste than the green-fleshed varieties.

Department of Horticulture professor and fruit crops specialist Billy Dozier obtained cuttings of the goldens in the late 1980s from the Hubei institute, where the two varieties were developed.

In the early '90s, when those cuttings had been rooted and grown, the two golden varieties were planted at the Chilton Research and Extension Center in Clanton, where, in 1985, Dozier and CREC director Jim Pitts had launched a research project to determine the feasibility of green-fleshed kiwifruit production in Alabama.

In the 24 years since the project began, Dozier and CREC director Jim Pitts have adapted green and yellow kiwifruit varieties to Alabama's climate, soil and other growing conditions, particularly in terms of the vines' chilling requirements, or number of hours 45 degrees or under they need to produce fruit. As a result of the research, Dozier and Pitts have harvested bumper crops from the one-acre trial vineyard every year for more than a decade.



GOLDEN—AU researchers see the fruits of their labors.

low or green Alabama-grown kiwifruit is packed with minerals and vitamins, including more than enough Vitamin C to meet the recommended daily requirement, and that between the two kiwifruit, the golden-fleshed is significantly higher in antioxidants than the green.

And AAES ag economists at Auburn say that, though getting into kiwifruit production is costly—perhaps up to \$25,000 per acre due to extensive site preparation, trellis construction and initial plantings—yields of six to seven tons per acre soon would make kiwifruit a highly profitable alternative crop for growers in central and south-central Alabama.

The agreement between AU and the Hubei institute gives the Chinese university rights to patent, license and receive royalties from the fruit in China. Auburn has those rights in the U.S. and all countries other than China.

More Ponds Could Be Income Sources

Most of the 100,000 or more private ponds in Alabama are there for fishing. But a study AAES fisheries researchers Rusty Wright and Dennis DeVries are heading at Auburn shows almost half the state's pond owners don't practice even the basic management techniques—fertilizing, liming and keeping the population balanced—known to give you bigger fish, and more of them.

The researchers now are investigating whether other practices, such as providing supplemental feed and adding more prey fish, are cost effective and how soil type impacts pond production. Findings could help all owners better the fishing quality in their ponds and could prompt some to build theirs into moneymakers.

Mission Accomplished: Cross-Country Tour Touts Bioenergy

By Jamie Creamer

On Sept. 29, 2008, a bright-green 1991 Dodge Dakota V8 headed out from Charleston, S.C. Behind the wheel was truck owner Wayne Keith from just north of Birmingham. Carla Shoemaker, an Auburn University agronomy and soils research associate, was riding shotgun. A long, long journey lay ahead, a journey officially named the AU Coast-to-Coast Renewable Energy Tour.

In an all-out, nationwide effort to promote bioenergy and sustainable alternatives to petroleum, they were traveling to California and back, in Keith's "Bio-Truck," so named because it was running, not on gasoline, but on a gas produced by feeding wood, crop residue, broiler litter and such into a gasifier Keith had designed, built and mounted behind the cab.

As the Bio-Truck cruised along the nation's highways and byways, its four-person support crew—traveling in two vehicles, one of which pulled a supply-laden trailer—followed in its wake. Crew chief was AU energy crops and bioenergy professor David Bransby, a scientist recognized nationally for bioenergy research that spans three decades. A strong, long-time advocate of sustainable alternative energy, Bransby wouldn't have missed this trip for the world.

Along the tour's cross-country-and-back route—a route that included an 800-mile road race from Berkeley, Calif., to Las Vegas, Nev., for vehicles powered by non-petroleum means—the Bio-Truck caravan was a guaranteed head-turner and attention-grabber.

It could have been the sight of a pickup sporting orange and blue AU car flags and plastered with enough good-sized decals of sponsors' logos to all but hide its vivid lime paint job that sparked folks' interest, but it was why the truck was in their city that got them hooked.

The AU renewal energy tour was especially a hit with the media. Over the course of the tour, 17 local television news crews covered and aired segments about the Bio-Truck. Print-wise, "Bio-Truck" stories ran in newspapers from Charleston to San Francisco, including two in *The New York Times*. What's more, Bransby says, the tour generated so much awareness that media inquiries and articles about the Bio-Truck's expedition and, most important, about bioenergy, continue still.

Oct. 16, 2008, 19 days after embarking from the East Coast, Keith, Shoemaker and the reliable support team saw a beautiful sight: a big green sign that simply said "Alabama State Line." They didn't actually get out and kiss the ground, but you can bet it crossed their minds.

When all was said and done, Bio-Truck's trip odometer read 7,388 miles. And just over three tons of wood had powered the truck every mile of the way.

Mission accomplished.

Funding from Auburn and a dozen corporate and other sponsors made the tour possible.

**COAST
to
COAST**



HORSE POWER—Renewable energy innovator Wayne Keith adds dry horse manure he found on the roadside in California's Death Valley National Park to the gasifier that fuels his Bio-Truck (inset).

Extension Gives Consumers Money-Saving Ideas

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System has launched a statewide educational program aimed at helping Alabamians survive today's dismal economy.

The outreach program, "Thriving in Challenging Times," offers consumers practical money-saving how-to's in key areas including shopping on a limited budget, managing and overcoming debt and saving on energy costs.



"While we're not set up to help people rebuild and manage their stock portfolios, we are exceptionally well equipped to provide them with the practical knowledge and skills they need to cope with the day-to-day challenges that may follow this downturn," says Gaines Smith, state Extension director.

Educational personnel at all levels also are targeting the state's row-crop and livestock producers and small-scale forestland owners with information on how to save costs and reduce their debt burdens. Smith says Extension professionals throughout the state are identifying ways to address the specific needs in their counties and regions.

"Extension educators will work across county and multidisciplinary lines, also partnering with other agencies to reach our clients more effectively," Smith says.

The home page of Extension's Web site (www.aces.edu) features a Thriving in Challenging Times blog that provides readily accessible, frequently updated information about topics associated with this issue. A resources page listing online publications and other materials is being developed to complement the Web log.

Throughout its long history, Extension has rallied to help Americans endure difficult times. In World War I, Extension farm agents helped producers deal with the acute problems associated with farm labor shortages, while home agents encouraged homemakers to plant war gardens and "can all you can." Extension educators also worked to provide the same sort of practical knowledge to meet basic needs during other critical periods in American history, including the Great Depression, World War II, the recession and energy crises of the 1970s and the farm crisis of the 1980s.



A SWEET FUTURE?—Sugarcane is a money-maker for farmers in other parts of the South, and it might have potential as a biofuel crop in Alabama. Robert Goodman, an Extension economist and Auburn University associate professor, says growing sugarcane could help farmers through tough times, especially when oil prices drive up operating costs, because when oil, fertilizer and diesel fuel prices rise, so does the value of sugarcane. At agricultural research centers across the state, researchers have been growing the energy crop successfully for more than a decade in research to determine how far north sugarcane can be planted and the best production practices for Alabama growers.

Nightmare Weed Threatens Crops

A relentless herbicide-resistant weed that already infests about one million acres of cropland in Georgia will cross the border into Alabama soon unless researchers find a weapon to fight it.

Mike Patterson, Extension weed scientist and AU agronomy professor, says the villain is Palmer amaranth, commonly known as pigweed. It spreads quickly via seeds and pollen, and Roundup, the broad-spectrum herbicide farmers have relied on for more than a decade to control weeds, doesn't faze it.

Desperate to contain its spread, Georgia's farmers already have hand-pulled pigweed off some 15,000 acres of cropland, because if you don't get the roots, new plants will sprout from them overnight and invade a cotton field.

Without Roundup, Patterson says, farmers only have a couple of options in battling pigweed. One is to use a soil-applied herbicide to try to kill the pigweed before it emerges. But these herbicides don't work until it rains, and if it doesn't rain, the pigweed ultimately emerges and trumps the cotton.

Growers also can consider rotating cotton with corn, he says, because corn can tolerate pigweed-killing herbicides, such as atrazine, that cotton doesn't.

Patterson says chemical companies could one day come up with another weed control system similar to the Roundup approach.

"But don't hold your breath on that one," he says, "because Roundup represented a once-in-a-lifetime discovery that is not likely to be repeated."

High-Energy Hijinks College of Ag Sunbelt Expo Display Focuses on the Power of Energy

Thousands of visitors poured into Moultrie, Ga., last October for the three-day Sunbelt Ag Expo event. Of the hundreds of exhibitors there, Auburn University's College of Agriculture proved to be one of the hottest attractions, perhaps because of the college's hot-topic theme—Energy in Agriculture.

"Our theme reflected the challenges we are facing with energy and how agriculture can meet those challenges," says Dave Williams, interim associate dean for instruction for the AU College of Agriculture. "Whether it's through development of biofuels, conserving water by using rain barrels or finding better ways to heat poultry houses, the College of Agriculture is making a difference."

Throughout the Auburn exhibit hall, booths from the various College of Ag departments focused on conservation and energy. Visitors and local media were particularly interested in the mobile gasification power generation unit brought by the Department of Biosystems Engineering. The mobile unit has a gasifier that turns biomass into synthetic gas, which can be used to generate power and heat for remote operations such as poultry houses, green houses or other comparable business operations.

"The gasifier is an outstanding educational tool and proved to be the biggest draw to visitors of all ages, children to adults," says Williams. "The 2008 Sunbelt Ag Expo was a great success and we're looking forward to 2009."

The next Expo is planned for Oct. 20-22, 2009. Plan to come see what hot topic will be featured.



INDOORS AND OUT—Whether the visitors were indoors or out, the College of Ag Sunbelt Expo exhibit managed to show off practically all the energy options under the sun and demonstrate how agriculture can help meet our nation's energy needs.

And the Winners Are...

College/AAES Awards Presented

Several College of Agriculture faculty and staff members, some of whom are pictured here, recently won awards for their contributions and accomplishments in 2008. The awards, which include cash prizes, are given annually by the College of Ag dean and AAES director.

David Weaver, professor of agronomy and soils, was given the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence while Bill Hardy, professor of ag economics and rural sociology and former associate dean for the College, won the Dean's Award for Advising.

Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station Director's Research Awards were given to Jacek Wower, professor of animal sciences, who won the senior researcher award and Puneet Srivastava, assistant professor of biosystems engineering, who won the junior researcher award.

Four other faculty members won first-ever Grantsmanship Awards. These include Bill Daniels and Allen Davis from fisheries and allied aquacultures, Bill Moar from entomology and plant pathology and David Bransby from agronomy and soils.

In addition to these awards, staff members were recognized as Employees of the Year for the College of Ag and Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station. They include John Olive from the AAES Ornamental Horticulture Research Center in Mobile, Mary Hahn from entomology and plant pathology, Karl Hayden from fisheries and allied aquacultures, Bobby Epling from biosystems engineering and Glen Davis from the Agricultural Land and Resource Management office.



David Weaver



David Bransby



Bill Moar



Mary Hahn



Bill Daniels



Jacek Wower



Karl Hayden



Puneet Srivastava

(TERRY, from page 1)

After graduating from Auburn, Terry was employed at AGCO Corporation, one of the world's largest manufacturers and distributors of agricultural equipment. During her three years there, she moved up the corporate ladder from communications through sales and then to distribution coordinator. As distribution coordinator, she worked with sales staff in the corporate offices in Atlanta and with the manufacturing facility staff in Hesston, Kan., to distribute agricultural equipment from the facility to AGCO's dealer network.

While working at AGCO, the then-single Kelley Limbaugh met and married Keenan Terry, who was also a distribution coordinator for AGCO. After their son, Luke, was born, they decided to leave Atlanta and move to Auburn to be closer to family in Millbrook.

Soon after, Terry was back at AU, but this time as an employee. And since returning to the university as an employee, Terry has worked for four deans/experiment station directors, and each has tapped into her organizational talents asking her to manage a broad range of projects.

Never a Dull Moment

Over the years Terry has handled everything from planning receptions at the Red Barn for hundreds of donors to scheduling delivery and pickup of Satsuma oranges from the Gulf Coast Research and Extension Center in Fairhope, and from representing the College of Agriculture at National Farm-City meetings to preparing the dean's daily schedule. No matter the size of the project, if Terry is involved, the result is the same: job done.

Some of those projects she has found especially gratifying.

"I really liked the building dedications at the outlying units like Sand Mountain and Wiregrass," says Terry. "They (the employees at the outlying units) are like a family, just like us here on campus. They took a lot of pride in their new facilities."

Of the many projects that have been part of her job, Terry's favorite has been helping furnish the Herdsman's House, located in Ag Heritage Park, with antiques from the 1930s. During this project, Terry worked with antique dealers and donors to outfit the house with vintage furnishings.

The highlight of the Herdsman's House redo was its being featured on the Auburn Preservation League's Christmas Tour of Homes in December 2007.

But another highlight came one day last fall when Terry visited the Herdsman's House with several of her friends who were in Auburn for a football weekend. To these friends, the Herdsman's House and Ag Heritage Park really illustrated the story of agriculture in Alabama. For Terry, that was extra reason to be proud of what she has accomplished.

Beyond the Workplace

And her accomplishments go beyond the workplace as well. Despite her busy work schedule and family life—the Terry's second son, Jack, was born in 2001—Terry found time to go back to school. In 2005 Terry enrolled in classes to prepare for the CPA exam, which she passed in June of 2008.

She credits Richard Guthrie, current dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Experiment Station, with giving her not only the time but the confidence to return to school.

"If it was not for Dr. Guthrie, I could not have completed my CPA," she says. "He's been very encouraging and kind. He's treated me like a daughter."

The challenge for Terry now is that, since she no longer has to study in her free time, she thinks she needs a hobby.

During the summer of 2008, Terry read C.S. Lewis's Chronicles of Narnia. She was inspired to complete the series of seven novels by her oldest son, 9-year-old Luke, whose teacher had read the books to his second-grade class. Like their mother, Luke and Jack (who's 7) are avid readers. So the three are always looking for a book they can read together.

Terry also advises a social sorority on campus—the same sorority that she served as president when she was a student at Auburn. Her goal is to help young women find balance among their academic, social and spiritual lives.

But those who know Terry know that reading with her boys and working with her sorority will probably soon be joined by other hobbies and projects. After all, among the many reasons Terry is Ag Hill's go-to woman is her boundless reserve of energy and ideas. Those traits, combined with her many other talents, ensure that this College of Ag alumnae is not just an alum to be proud of but also a true member of the College of Agriculture team. ☞

calendar of events

February 12 Ag Open House Auburn

This day-long event features information about careers in the growing, fast-paced natural resources and agricultural industries as well as admission requirements and scholarship opportunities in the AU College of Agriculture. Students also have the opportunity to meet with faculty and tour facilities.

Contact: Deborah Solie at 334-844-8900 or das0002@auburn.edu

February 24 AU Agricultural Alumni Association Annual Meeting and Hall of Honor Banquet The Hotel and Dixon Conference Center - Auburn

This event includes a board meeting, a membership meeting and the Hall of Honor awards banquet.

Contact: Elaine Rollo at 334-844-3204 or at rollome@auburn.edu

February 28 Arbor Day at the Arboretum Donald Davis Arboretum - Auburn

Contact: Patrick Thompson at 334-844-5770 or thomppg@auburn.edu

March 2 Ag Transfer Open House Auburn

This event informs students interested in transferring to Auburn from other colleges and schools about transfer requirements, scholarship opportunities and careers in agriculture and natural resources. Students also have the opportunity to meet with faculty and tour our facilities.

Contact: Deborah Solie at 334-844-8900 or das0002@auburn.edu

March 16-21 AU's Spring Break

March 28 Equine Science Institute Ham Wilson Arena - Auburn 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

This event is a back-to-basics program featuring information on horse nutri-

tion, health and facilities management, with valuable information for the first-time owner as well as the seasoned horse professional. Pre-registration is \$50 or \$60 after Mar. 20 (including the day of the institute) and includes program materials and lunch.

Contact: Betsy Wagner at 334-844-7503 or elw0001@auburn.edu

March 27-28 Boda Getta BBQ Ag Heritage Park - Auburn

Boda Getta BBQ is a Kansas City BBQ Society-sanctioned event featuring professional barbeque teams from all over the Southeast competing for \$10,000 in cash prizes. Tailgaters and other amateur barbequers will also compete to be crowned the king of the backyard grill. A schedule of events for both days will be announced soon. Applications for professional teams, amateur teams and vendors can be found at www.bodagettabbq.com.

Contact: Jennifer Dodson at 334-887-7011 or www.auburnchamber.com

April 7 Ag Open House Auburn

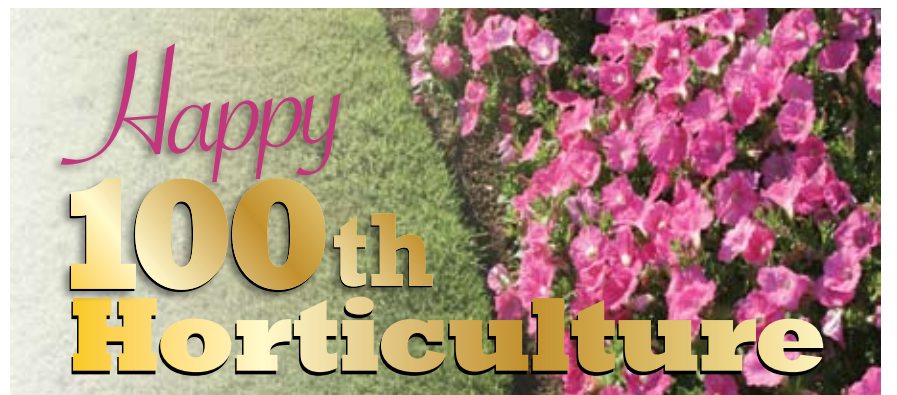
This day-long event features information about careers in the growing, fast-paced natural resources and agricultural industries as well as admission requirements and scholarship opportunities in the AU College of Agriculture. Students also have the opportunity to meet with faculty and tour facilities.

Contact: Deborah Solie at 334-844-8900 or das0002@auburn.edu

April 18 Ag Ambassadors Reunion Alfa Pavilion Ag Heritage Park - Auburn

This event celebrates the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the AU Ag Ambassadors.

Contact: Deborah Solie at 334-844-8900 or das0002@auburn.edu



AU Horticulture Celebrates 100th Anniversary

By Michael Owen

They didn't blow out candles and eat birthday cake every day of the year, but horticulture faculty members quietly celebrated 2008 as the 100th anniversary of the College of Agriculture's Department of Horticulture.

Auburn has offered horticulture courses since the 1870s, but it wasn't until 1908 that the Department of Horticulture was officially recognized as one of eight departments in agriculture.

In the decades since, the department has built a reputation as one of the nation's premier programs. For 25 years, 100 percent of its graduates have had their choice of jobs waiting for them straight out of school.

"Landscape and ornamental horticulture became significant around the 1940s, and as it grew into its own as an industry, our curriculum kept pace," says Harry Ponder, horticulture professor and coordinator of the department's undergraduate and job-placement and intern programs.

The most significant growth in AU horticulture has come in the last quarter century, Ponder says. Since 2000, the department's enrollment has averaged 225 students a year, making it one of the three largest horticulture programs in the country, perhaps number one.

"Our faculty, staff and administration work together as a cohesive unit and help each other, and that's helped bring us to where we are," says Ponder.

"And, we place an emphasis on our students and try to take care of them, as evidenced by our curriculum development and our internship program and job-placement services," he says. "Our students aren't an afterthought. We understand why we're here and that's one of the major reasons we're here is to serve our students and take care of them."

Times are tough all over right now, but horticulture professor Jeff Sibley says the "green" industry remains a strong component of Alabama's economy.

"We are probably second in the state behind poultry in terms of farm-gate value for horticultural products," says Sibley. "Our climate, our water supply, our land taxes, our work ethic—all of the things that make Alabama so rich—put Alabama in a unique position to continue growth in horticulture operations."

And Auburn will continue its tradition of turning out students who are prepared to enter the job force, start their own businesses and advance to leadership positions in horticulture and in life. Auburn University horticulture alumni include Auburn University President Jay Gogue, retired Southern Living editor-in-chief John Floyd and Tanya Peak Smith, manager for Disney's horticulture and pest management at Epcot.

As the college's horticulture department begins its second century, faculty and alumni recognize that the department's success is built on a strong foundation laid by outstanding faculty in the earlier decades. In honor of those individuals, the department has commemorated its 100th anniversary by establishing the Department of Horticulture Memorial Scholarship Endowment.

The first two scholarships will be awarded in memory of Joseph C. Moore, an assistant professor of fruit science from 1938 to 1971, and Sam T. Jones, associate professor of vegetable science from 1954 until his death in 1970.

For information on contributing to the endowment, contact College of Ag development officer Mark Wilton at wiltomt@auburn.edu or 334-844-1198.



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