Medical college to open campus in research park

The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in Blacksburg, Va., will open a branch campus in the Auburn Research Park, officials announced this week.

The chairman and president of both the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine, or VCOM, and the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation, or ARTF, signed an agreement establishing a branch campus and collaboration on biomedical research and healthcare projects. VCOM will build a new facility featuring classrooms, small-group learning rooms, laboratories and a technology center. The first class of 150 students is proposed for fall 2015.

“Our goals for a new branch campus are to provide state-of-the-art medical education and research and train students to practice medicine in areas with the most need,” said VCOM Chairman John Rocovich.

The Alabama Department of Public Health reports 60 of Alabama’s 67 counties do not have enough primary care providers, such as general practitioners, family doctors or pediatricians, and that rural parts of the state are the most medically underserved. Alabama ranks 43rd out of 50 states in the U.S. for physicians per 100,000 population, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

“We’re excited to welcome the college to the Auburn Research Park,” said Jimmy Sanford, chair of ARTF. “VCOM is a well-respected institution that will provide opportunities for students to receive a medical education, support economic development and open the door for more health science advancements by Auburn University faculty.”

The Auburn Research Park is operated by ARTF as a partnership among the state of Alabama, Auburn University and the city of Auburn.

“The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine was established in 2003 as a private, nonprofit college affiliated with Virginia Tech University. In 2011, it opened a campus near Wofford College in Spartanburg, S.C., a state also with a shortage of primary care physicians.

The campus in Auburn will be VCOM’s third. In addition to serving as a pipeline of primary care physicians for rural and medically underserved areas, VCOM supports programs that result in a large number of graduates commissioned as officers to serve in the U.S. military.

See Osteopathic medicine, Page 3

Promoting fitness, Auburn launches three new walking trails on campus

Auburn University President Jay Gogue used to wear a pedometer in his attempt to walk 10,000 steps, or approximately five miles, a day.

He did it to be active and healthy, but then he figured out how he could reach the goal without a step counter. He would need to walk around his driveway a number of times, walk to different locations on campus throughout the day, and even spend time on the treadmill at home.

It’s an idea Gogue and other university officials hope university employees and students will be willing to emulate now that the campus has three new walking routes, marked with Auburn orange tiger paws.

“We want our people to be healthy, but we really want them to lead by example for our students,” said Gogue to a crowd gathered to officially open the new routes.

Tammy Hollis, coordinator of the Healthy Tigers Wellness Initiative, Auburn’s employee wellness program, said the idea for marked trails came from the campus Health and Wellness Committee, where members wanted to encourage everyone who visits Auburn University to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

“Our campus is so beautiful and has become more pedestrian-friendly in recent years; it just seemed logical to provide everyone with an opportunity to be healthy while they’re here,” she said.

The university had similar walking paths throughout campus years ago, but many of the painted paws have faded or worn off completely, making it difficult to follow a route.

This summer, the university’s Facilities Management Division painted new Auburn orange tiger paw prints around campus to designate the three new trails – two 1-mile loops and one 3-mile loop. They also painted paws on off-road walkways (along Wire Road to the College of Veterinary Medicine, Samford Avenue and Donahue Drive) with each quarter mile increment marked with a large paw.

Karla McCormick, executive director of Payroll and

See Healthy Tiger walking trails, Page 2

Walking-trail ribbon cutting

With a ribbon cutting on Thach Concourse on Aug. 16, Auburn’s mascot, Aubie, helped inaugurate the first of three new walking trails on campus to help faculty, staff and students maintain healthy habits. Shown taking part in the activity are, from left, Aubie; Penny Williams and Katherine Harper of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama; Eva Jean Dubois of the campus Health and Wellness Committee; Karla McCormick of Payroll and Employee Benefits; Pharmacy Dean Lee Evans; Pharmacy Assistant Dean Kimberly Braxton Lloyd, director of the Pharmaceutical Care Center; President Jay Gogue; and Tammy Hollis, Healthy Tigers Coordinator.
Awards for publications, projects

Extension System honored by national association

The Association for Communication Excellence has presented a Gold Award to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s 2010 annual report, “Sustainability Plus: Living and Working Better — and Greener.” Awards were presented at the international organization’s recent conference in Annapolis, Md.

“Congratulations on a very successful marriage of print and web,” the judge noted, referring to the annual report. “The print part was very well done. The short introduction on each page served to ensure that a reader would go to the web and the videos which fleshed out the print. In the videos, we could see and hear people talking about the effect of what ACES had done for them.”

A Silver Award went to “Tree Selection, Planting, and Care,” produced as a flyer and enclosed in two municipalities’ utility bills in 2011, in response to the tornadoes that ripped through the state. “Very good job at presenting the problem (lost trees) and the solutions (plant now) in an easy-to-read, step-by-step approach. ... A+ for great use of art and design [that] draws the reader in.”

The tree selection publication also won a Southeastern Regional Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents.

A second ACE Silver Award was given to an exhibit, “Some Things Are Best Seen from a Canoe” about which the judge said, “Perspective of the canoe is dynamic and engages the viewer immediately. The color, typography, and use of photography are compelling.”

The exhibit’s companion brochure, “Coosa County Creeks Guide/Map,” won both regional and national awards in the NACAA competition.

An ACE Bronze Award in the educational package class went to “Body Quest: Food of the Warrior.” The judge commented, “As a parent of a 10-year-old who struggles with weight issues, this really touched my heart. I want to get a copy of this campaign! I love the layout and design . . . good reading level for the demographic.”

Brown named to key Alumni Affairs post

Dwayne Brown has been named the university’s assistant vice president for alumni affairs. Debbie Shaw, vice president for alumni affairs and executive director of the Auburn Alumni Association, said Brown brings to the position extensive experience in strategic planning as well as training, development and team building.

“We are fortunate to have someone on our staff with such strong executive management experience as Dwayne Brown,” said Shaw. “He will be overseeing most of our departments and providing leadership in strategic planning and financial management, as well as working with the board of directors of the Auburn Alumni Association.”

Brown is a 1990 graduate of Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. Prior to returning to Auburn, he served as an officer in the United States Navy for eight years, owned a financial planning business and worked in retail store management for 11 years.

For the past three years, he has served as a volunteer with the Office of Alumni Affairs assisting with graduation, activities at the Alumni Hospitality Tent and other administrative and service projects.

“I am extremely honored, privileged and ecstatic about the opportunity to work for the Office of Alumni Affairs and Auburn University,” Brown said. “First and foremost, I am here to take care of our alumni. I look forward to meeting the wide variety of people I will encounter in this position. I am genuinely thrilled and grateful to be here.”

— Carol Nelson

Healthy Tigers walking trails

Continued from Page 1

Employee Benefits, said the walking trails are another resource “for employees and students of Auburn to live healthier lifestyles.”

Auburn University is bound for a new era in wellness as the new smoking policy, which prohibits smoking within 25 feet of university buildings, went into effect with the start of the fall semester and the new recreation and wellness center is slated to be completed next spring. Hollis said she hopes there will be an opportunity to incorporate the Healthy Tigers program into the new center.

“We will continue to grow and see what else we can come up with to encourage people to lead a healthy lifestyle and use the resources here on campus,” she said. “It’s about more than getting the screenings; it’s also about changing your lifestyle and incorporating exercise into it.”

To learn more about the Auburn University Healthy Tigers Wellness Initiative and view maps of all paths, visit the Healthy Tigers website at www.auburn.edu/healthytigers.

— Amy Weaver
Contest offers chance for fans seeking special ‘War Eagle Experience’

A newly launched “War Eagle Experience” contest this fall offers Auburn football fans the chance to earn a special gameday weekend for two on the town.

Look for clues in Auburn’s 2012 NCAA commercial, which is being aired during broadcast games of the Tigers as well as on local cable and online. When viewing, pay close attention to each scene, then enter online at www.auburn.edu/commercial, which will lead you to a site that asks five questions about Auburn. The winning entry will be selected in a drawing from among contestants who answer all five questions correctly.

The winner and a guest will be treated to a weekend experience package Nov. 16-17, the weekend of the Alabama A&M game. The package includes two nights free accommodation at The Hotel at Auburn University and a Friday night dinner at Ariccia. On Saturday morning, they will get a chauffeured drive in a 1940 Packard convertible through campus to the Southeastern Raptor Center for a personal tour.

Gameday perks include two tickets to the game, plus two field passes to watch the pre-game flight of Nova, War Eagle VII, at Jordan-Hare Stadium and a visit and photo with Nova on Pat Dye Field.

Each individual is allowed one submission, and the deadline for entries is 5 p.m. Nov. 1. Rules for entries and other information about the contest are available at the website listed above.

National council honors recent Ph.D. grad in Human Sciences

The National Council on Family Relations has selected Mallory Lucier-Greer, a recent Ph.D. graduate in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn University’s College of Human Sciences, to receive the council’s 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

This is the second consecutive year a student from the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Auburn has been recognized by the NCFR, the premier professional association for the multidisciplinary understanding of families. Graduate student Cassandra Kirkland received the honor in 2011.

The award is issued annually to one graduate student member of NCFR who has demonstrated excellence as a student with high potential for contribution to the discipline of family studies. The organization has more than 3,400 members, representing all 50 states and 35 countries, including 1,400 student members.

Lucier-Greer, now a postdoctoral research associate in the Department of Human Development and Family Science at the University of Georgia, will be recognized at the NCFR Annual Conference in November in Phoenix, Ariz.

Osteopathic medicine

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military and to work in Veterans Administration hospitals around the country.

The Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine will cover costs for construction and operation of the Auburn branch. In addition to the VCOM campus, the faculty will have access to Auburn facilities such as the MRI Research Center that houses a 7 Tesla, or 7T, research scanner, which is one of fewer than 35 in the world, and a 3T scanner, the most powerful certified for clinical use.

The VCOM faculty will have opportunities to collaborate with Auburn scientists and researchers in pharmacy, nursing, veterinary medicine, rural medicine, kinesiology, chemistry, biochemistry and other health-related fields. Students will also have access to university facilities and activities.

“Our collaboration with Auburn and other universities is important because of their outstanding commitment to science, research and education,” said Rocovich. “Having opened two other campuses, VCOM brings with it the experience to build and operate a successful medical school.”

There are 26 colleges of osteopathic medicine and four branch campuses in the U.S. that produce approximately 4,600 graduates each year. Some are affiliated with universities, such as Virginia Tech, Michigan State and Oklahoma State.

Graduates earn the Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine, or D.O., degree rather than the Doctor of Medicine degree, or M.D. The basic curriculum for both degrees is essentially the same, however osteopathic medicine focuses more on a whole patient approach through therapeutic techniques, emphasizes the prevention of illness through healthier lifestyles and adds osteopathic manipulation to standard medical care.

Osteopathic manipulation involves hands-on techniques to alleviate pain and restore function associated with muscle and skeletal injuries.

“We’re pleased to have the chance to work with VCOM and other universities to advance healthcare in Alabama and the Southeast,” said Auburn University President Jay Gogue.

Natural approaches to health care for pets to be discussed

Barbara Fougere, a veterinary integrative medicine practitioner in Sydney, Australia, will be the Joy Goodwin Lecturer at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine on Sept. 4.

In a public lecture, she will talk about “How to Help Your Pet Live Better, Longer Using Natural Approaches to Health Care,” at 4 p.m. in Overton Auditorium. Fougere is one of the first veterinarians to be certified in veterinary botanical medicine worldwide. Her practice in Sydney combines conventional veterinary medicine with natural medicine and therapies to ensure pets receive the best treatment.

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Institute awards $1.5 million to support graduate programs in Engineering

Jerry Davis, Rich Sesek and Sean Gallagher, faculty members in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, have been awarded two grants totaling $1.5 million from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health to support occupatio nal safety and ergonomics and occupational injury prevention graduate programs.

Davis is the principal investigator for Auburn’s occupational safety and ergonomics training program, which received $1 million from NIOSH.

A second grant from the organization will provide $500,000 for an additional five years for the occupational injury prevention training program, which is led by Gallagher. The funding will allow a cadre of doctoral students to study scientific principles of injury control and will help support student engineers learning the public health model of injury control.

Chaudhury appointed to Phi Beta Kappa’s Committee on Qualifications

S. Raj Chaudhury, associate director of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, has been appointed to a three-year term as one of 13 members of Phi Beta Kappa’s Committee on Qualifications.

Chaudhury is a 1985 Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vassar College. The committee is charged with reviewing applications from Phi Beta Kappa faculty at colleges or universities who, with the support of the leadership at those institutions, seek to bring a chapter to their campuses.

Hincy appointed to new position as director of governmental affairs

C.J. Hincy has been named to fill the new position of director of governmental affairs, in which he will work under the direction of Executive Director Sherri Fulford to support and implement Auburn University’s governmental affairs programs and efforts.

Hincy assumed his new position Aug. 1. He holds a bachelor’s degree in political science and an MBA, both from Auburn University at Montgomery.

Following more than five years of military service as a U.S. Marine, he worked for House Education Appropriations Chairman Richard Lindsey, assisting in the development of committee materials and budget requests related to universities and selected state agencies. His background also includes experience in representing clients to the Alabama Legislature as well as strategic communications.

Coneva receives award from National Association of County Agriculture Agents

Elina Coneva, Extension specialist and associate professor in the Department of Horticulture, received the Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agriculture Agents during the 2012 Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference in Charleston, S.C.

Coneva was one of several honorees representing the top 1 percent of the membership selected by their peers and the director of Extension. Coneva’s research and extension programs focus on fruit crops and address the feasibility of growing alternative high-value specialty crops while exploring innovative production systems for improved productivity and stress resistance.

Coneva is a leader in a USDA specialty crop research initiative to develop credible web-based information on blueberry production and consumption, using innovative technologies and interactive educational features.

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