Students providing sales help for coffee producers in Haiti

Three Auburn University College of Agriculture students have teamed up with Alltech, an international agriculture company, to sell Haitian coffee to help the people of that country rebuild sustainable economic growth, jobs, agriculture and education in the aftermath of the January 2010 earthquake.

Katie Brennan, Casey Randle and Alexandra Hawkins began selling bags of coffee at the beginning of fall semester as part of the SEC Alltech Challenge, with the goal of 1,500 bags sold before the competition deadline in April. They are competing with students from the University of Georgia, University of Florida, Mississippi State University and Abraham Baldwin Agriculture College for the opportunity to travel to Haiti and help restore the devastated area.

Sixty-five percent of the proceeds goes into a registered 501(c) (3) non-profit fund; the other 35 percent goes to the College of Agriculture’s Ag Council, which works with agricultural organizations on campus.

Brennan, an animal sciences major, is spearheading the campaign after a previous visit to Haiti, where she toured some of the project sites that the coffee sales benefit. “I spent a week in Northern Haiti and the people I met changed my life. In Ouanaminthe, the group I was with helped paint an elementary school, helped build chicken coops, sat in on classes and interacted with the local children,” said Brennan.

The specific brand of Haitian coffee being sold, Cafe Citadelle, was established to help develop a sales and marketing channel for Haitian coffee. Cafe Citadelle is a fair trade, shade-grown and handpicked 100 percent Arabica coffee that serves as a sustainable source of income for thousands of Haitian families. Each bag is 12 ounces and is being sold for $12.

The funds raised through the campaign help support two Haitian primary schools as well as economic development projects as part of the Alltech Sustainable Haiti Project. Each project is organic and sustainable or directly provides enhanced learning experiences for students in schools.

“Proceeds from each bag go directly into the education and enrichment of the families who either attend one of the schools Alltech sponsors or are part of the coffee co-op,” Brennan said.

The goal of the Sustainable Haiti Project is to rehabilitate the country by focusing on education by improving and upgrading schools, strengthening local Haitian enterprises and leading various economic development projects through the country.

To purchase a bag of Cafe Citadelle coffee, contact Katie Brennan at kib0001@auburn.edu.

— Rebecca Orr

United Way appeal

Auburn University President Jay Gogue met recently with leaders of the campus and Lee County United Way campaigns to discuss progress of the 2012 campaign, which will conclude in December. Campaign leaders and volunteers are making a pre-Christmas appeal for faculty and staff to donate or increase their gifts for the support of local relief and nonprofit social service agencies such as the Salvation Army and the Food Bank of East Alabama. Shown from left are Honorary Campus Campaign Chair John Mason, Auburn’s vice president for research; Becky Benton, executive director of United Way of Lee County; Campus Campaign Chair Lynne Hammond, Auburn’s assistant vice president for human resources; and Gogue. To donate or increase your donation, contact your unit’s United Way volunteer or email Hammond.

Three named to committee to assist search for new head football coach

Auburn University Athletics Director Jay Jacobs is leading a committee of legendary former athletes and successful business leaders in the search for a new head football coach for the Auburn Tigers.

The new coach will succeed Gene Chizik, who was dismissed Sunday after a 3-9 season including an 0-8 record in the Southeastern Conference. Chizik led Auburn to a perfect 14-0 season in 2010 and the BCS National Championship. But the team’s fortunes turned in 2011, with an 8-5 season, and the losses accelerated this season.

The search committee includes Heisman Trophy winners Pat Sullivan and Bo Jackson and Mac Crawford, a fullback for the Tigers in the late 1960s. Sullivan and Crawford played at Auburn under Shug Jordan, and Jackson played during the Pat Dye era. Sullivan remains in football as coach at Samford University; Jackson maintains numerous business interests from his Chicago home base; and Crawford is a leader in the health services industry, where he is widely known as a business turnaround artist.

“Awareful consideration and a thorough evaluation of our football program, I have recommended that Coach Chizik not be retained,” Jacobs said Sunday. “President Gogue has accepted my recommendation. Earlier this morning, I informed Gene that he will not return as head coach.”

Jacobs noted that Coach Chizik has served Auburn with class and dignity.

Gogue said, “I sincerely appreciate Coach Chizik and his staff for their commitment, hard work and leadership. Athletics Director Jay Jacobs is now devoting his time and energy to search for a new coach who will lead Auburn football to excellence. I look forward to receiving a recommendation from his committee.”
Alumnus donates funds for health services administration program

Lee Spruiell, an Auburn alumnus and healthcare professional, has donated $500,000 to establish the Lee Spruiell Annual Fund for Excellence within Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts’ Health Services Administration Program.

The annual fund will be used to expand international internship opportunities for students in the Health Services Administration Program. It will also provide support for research and for faculty and student travel to professional meetings, as well as necessary programming for the advancement of the Health Services Administration Program. Students will also receive support from the annual fund to attend and participate in the Spruiell Smart Training Lab at Baptist Medical Center in Montgomery.

Spruiell graduated from Auburn with a bachelor’s degree in health services administration in 1983 and an M.B.A. in 1987.

Spruiell recently retired as the senior vice president of field operations for XLHealth in San Antonio, Texas. He also worked as general manager and senior project manager for Aetna and as senior vice president for Coordinated Care Solutions.

“Auburn University and the Health Services Administration Program provided me with an excellent foundation for my success,” Spruiell said. “I hope that my gift enhances the educational and experiential base for current and future graduates allowing them the opportunity to pursue their own excellence in a dynamic, global economy.”

The new Fund for Excellence will also be used to establish a Health Administration certificate program.

“Mr. Spruiell’s gift is transformational for this program,” said Rene McEldowney, director of the Health Services Administration Program. “His remarkable generosity is going to enable us to move healthcare administration education in a totally new direction and offer our students the opportunity to gain a true firsthand perspective in global health care management.”

Since 1971, more than 2,000 students have earned the Health Services Administration degree from Auburn University. More than 80 percent of those students are employed within three months after graduation. According to U.S. News and World Report, the healthcare industry is one of the few career fields that, despite economic woes, is consistently hiring.

— Vicky Santos

Bryan Chin receives national award for career leadership in reactor materials research

Bryan Chin, a professor in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s materials engineering program, has received the George E. Willis Award from the American Welding Society at its FABTECH 2012 conference, held Nov. 12-14 in Las Vegas.

Chin was honored for his years of cooperative participation with scientists and engineers from around the world, as well as his contributions to the research, development and international acceptance of the welded pressurized tube as a standard for reactor materials research.

FABTECH is the country’s largest metal forming, fabricating, welding and finishing event that features the latest industry products and developments. The award recognizes an individual for promoting the advancement of welding internationally, as well as fostering collaboration in areas such as technology transfer and standards rationalization.
DesignIntelligence again ranks Auburn program in top five

For its annual survey, “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools 2013,” DesignIntelligence magazine has once again ranked Auburn University’s undergraduate interior design program in the College of Human Sciences among the top five in the nation. The program was also deemed strongest in educating students in communication and cross-disciplinary teamwork.

“In a world of global business and rapidly changing technologies, Auburn’s interior design program is committed to educating and mentoring students to become practitioners who are professionally and technologically competent, globally aware and socially engaged,” said June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences.

Graduates of Auburn’s interior design program, which is in the Department of Consumer and Design Sciences in the College of Human Sciences, consistently earn placement with the top 100 architecture and design firms each year.

DesignIntelligence named the Auburn program the best in the nation for 2012.

“Our strong reputation as one of the best design programs in the country goes hand-in-hand with our continued commitment to giving Auburn students the best value for their design education,” said Carol Warfield, head of the Department of Consumer and Design Sciences.

The annual ranking from DesignIntelligence for interior design programs accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation is based on input from the nation’s architecture, design and engineering employers, as well as deans and chairs of design programs.

— Amy Weaver

Auburn school receives award from national architecture board

The School of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture, APLA, is one of three architecture programs in the United States to receive a 2012 Award from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

The NCARB Award supports initiatives that will have a long-term impact on students, faculty and curriculum. The $20,000 award for “Studio: Urban Healthcare,” developed by professors Christian Dagg and Kevin Moore, will support APLA faculty collaborations with practicing architects and design professionals with specialized expertise in healthcare architecture aimed at providing critique and direction to fourth year architecture students as they design a small urban hospital.

Barth named senior fellow at Auburn’s Center for Governmental Services

Auburn University’s Center for Governmental Services, a unit within University Outreach, has named James Barth as a senior fellow. The CGS Fellows program recognizes experienced practitioners, academicians and researchers for their significant contributions to excellence in government.

Barth is the Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance at Auburn University and a senior fellow at the Milken Institute. His research focuses on financial institutions and capital markets, both domestic and global, with special emphasis on regulatory issues. Recently, he served as leader of an international team advising the People’s Bank of China on banking reform. Barth was an appointee of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush as chief economist of the Office of Thrift Supervision and previously the Federal Home Loan Bank Board.

Barth also participated in the U.S. Speaker and Specialist Program of the U.S. Department of State in China in 2007, India in 2008, Russia in 2009 and Egypt in 2010. Also in 2008, Barth spoke on “Competition in the Financial Sector: Challenges for Regulation” at the G-20 Workshop on Competition in the Financial Sector, Bali, Indonesia. He has been a visiting scholar at the U.S. Congressional Budget Office, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the World Bank. More recently he participated as the luncheon keynote speaker for the Forum on Restoring the Global Economy, held by CGS at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta.

Requirements for Fellow status include extensive experience, prominence, and recognized contributions in public affairs. Additional factors considered include academic qualifications, reputation and contributions and achievements to public affairs nationally or internationally, and demonstrated characteristics as a public affairs thinker, author, and/or entrepreneur.

As a primary component of the Senior Fellow recognition, Barth will work with CGS to develop state-of-the-state concepts for the State of Alabama, and will focus research efforts within the state as well as for international initiatives.

In announcing the award, CGS director Don-Terry Veal stressed the role and importance of the fellowship.

“CGS Fellows utilize their expertise to engage in research or funding opportunities that will enhance the quality of public policy for the State of Alabama,” said Veal. “Requirements for CGS Fellow status include experience, prominence, and recognized contributions in public affairs.”
Event celebrates anniversary of CHS international program

Auburn University recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn Abroad in Italy program.

The College of Human Sciences established the program in the summer of 2002 to offer its students an integrated course of study that examines quality of life issues affecting individuals and families from a global perspective.

Students, who earn 16 semester credit hours and an international minor, become deeply immersed in Italian history and culture, as well as subjects more closely related to human sciences majors. Studies include a balance of lectures, field trips and other hands-on experiences designed to enrich the students’ knowledge base, ultimately producing better employees and world citizens.

University officials, including Provost Timothy Boosinger, Associate Dean of Libraries Marcia Boosinger, and June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences, attended the celebration at the Palazzo Chigi in Ariccia, Italy. Other participants included Linda Ruth, executive director of the study abroad program and Joseph S. Bruno Chair; Marilyn Bradbard, director of international programming for the College of Human Sciences; Jera Stribling, executive director of the Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation, and several Auburn faculty, friends and students enrolled in the Auburn Abroad program in Italy.

The celebration began with the unveiling of a donor board to recognize those whose generous support has made the program possible, including the multi-million dollar endowment from the Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation. The donor board, which is located in the area of the Chigi Palace that serves as the campus for the study abroad program, is designed to resemble six mountains and a star, symbolic of the Chigi coat of arms commissioned by Pope Alexander VII, a member of the Chigi family.

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