Grad students to go into schools, assist math and science teachers

AU and Tuskegee University will send 13 graduate students into classrooms in five Lee and Macon county schools this fall to assist science and mathematics teachers.

The two universities will send the students into East Alabama schools through a partnership with Lee County Schools and Macon County Schools with support from a three-year, $2 million grant by the National Science Foundation.

Working with grades 9-12, the GK-12 Fellows in Science and Mathematics for Schools in East Alabama program will focus on Beauregard, Beulah and Loachapoka schools in Lee County and Booker T. Washington and Notasulga schools in Macon County.

The letters “GK-12” refer to graduate students, called “Fellows,” on the NSF fellowships and participating teachers in K-12 (kindergarten through 12th grade) school systems. GK-12 Fellows will take a course in pedagogy in the AU College of Education the summer before entering the classroom, and GK-12 Teachers will attend a two-week professional development workshop.

Jack Feminella and Anotida Madzvamuse at Auburn and Mohammed Qazi and Roberta Troy at Tuskegee University are co-principal investigators on the project. In AU’s College of Sciences and Mathematics, Feminella is an associate professor of biological sciences, and Madzvamuse is an assistant professor of mathematics and statistics.
Engineering faculty, DoD grants to provide research instrumentation

A program of the U.S. Department of Defense has awarded grants to two faculty members in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering to provide vital instruments for research. Hansous Tippar, assistant professor of aerospace engineering, received grants from the Defense Department’s Defense University Research Instrumentation Program. The grant for Tippar’s laboratory supports high-strain testing to identify failure rates of materials. The award provides for instruments such as a high-speed camera capable of capturing failure events at up to 2 million frames per second and supports a speed camera capable of capturing failure events at up to 1 million pulses per second. When used with a high-speed camera, this system can measure pulses up to that amount.

The award will provide Thurov’s lab with a high-speed imaging system capable of framing rates up to 250,000 frames per second. This will enable the development of new aeroelastic measurement techniques that take advantage of these high-speed characteristics, a project that he says would be impossible without the proper equipment.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 25

SEMINAR “Telephone from the Past — Lessons for the Future Internet,” policy consultant Michael Roberts, discussing new uses for Internet in education, 1 p.m., Tichenor 201; call IMG Office at 904-388-1861 for seating availability.

PUBLIC LECTURE “American Scene Works on Paper from the Jason Schoen Collection,” Marilyn Laufer of Department of Art, 4 p.m., auditorium, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Wednesday, April 26

LUNCHEON Administrative Professionals Day, “Stress: It Must Just Be a Laughing Matter,” Frank Tortorella, Virginia Commonwealth University, 11:30 a.m., AU Hotel; seating limited, contact Human Resources, 844-4145.

Saturday, April 29

CONCERT Auburn Community Orchestra, 6 p.m., Grand Gallery, JCS Museum of Fine Art.

CHORAL CONCERT University Singers Spring Show, 8 p.m., Telfair Peer Theatre; also 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Sunday and 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Monday; tickets $10, call 844-4190.

Monday, May 1

NEXT AU Report

CLASSES END for spring semester.

MAY DAY Family Celebration, music, games and activities for children and families, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., grounds of JCS Museum of Fine Art; free admission to museum, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

FIRE CONSTRUCTION CELEBRATION AU Student Center, brief ceremony followed by free hotdogs and refreshments, noon, south of Haley Center.

Wednesday, May 3

FINAL EXAMS Wednesday-Saturday, May 3-6, and Monday, May 8

Thursday, April 27

AU Report Editor: Ray Sommerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder and David George; AU Communications; Martha Barker, Sciences and Mathematics; and Sara Borko, Engineering. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Bruce Morgagni; Photographic Services.

 Acting Executive Director of Communications & Marketing: Doodle Doxelle.

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Sullivan awards

Interim President Ed Richardson congratulates the 2006 winners of AU’s Alumnus Sydney Sullivan Awards for humanitarian service. The recipients are, from left, students Angela Homan and Corey Edwards and Professor Emeritus Joseph Hood.

Professor emeritus, two students honored for humanitarian service

Auburn last week honored a retired faculty member and two students for exceptional humanitarian service. In a ceremony at Dixon Conference Center, AU officials presented Alge non Sydney Sullivan Awards for 2006 to Joseph Hood, professor emeritus from the College of Agriculture; Corey Edwards, a senior in business administration; and Angela Homan, a senior in exercise science.

The awards recognize students and others who exhibit excellence in character, service to humanity, scholarship and other qualities. The university presents the awards annually to at least one AU student and one non-student, usually either a current or retired faculty or staff member or an alumnus.

Hood is one of several Southern universities that present the awards, which are sponsored by the Alge non Sydney Sullivan Foundation and named for a prominent 19th century humanitarian.

Hood’s career at Auburn spans 57 years. Although formally retired since 1986, he taught agronomy and soils classes until 2000, and he continues to volunteer his time and services as an adviser and mentor to the College of Agriculture’s faculty and students. He received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia, a master’s from Purdue University and his Ph.D. from Cornell University in soil fertility.

During his tenure at Auburn, Hood served as department head for the Department of Agriculture and Soils and as acting assistant dean for the College of Agriculture. He was also chair of the University Senate.

Hood was named a Fellow in the American Society of Agronomy in 1984 and through the years has received numerous awards for his outstanding teaching.

An active member of the community, he has been involved with Lee County’s MERCY program since 1989. An outreach initiative through the Auburn United Methodist Church, the program assists those in the community facing financial crises such as mortgage foreclosures or the inability to pay utility bills.

Edwards, a Georgia native, has served as a campus leader throughout his time at Auburn. Elected treasurer of the Student Government Association, Edwards was instrumental in providing increased funding for various student organizations while helping to provide fiscal management to several Student Activity Projects.

He was also head orientation leader for Camp War Eagle and was a member of AU’s Official Hosts and Hostesses. Throughout his college career, he also devoted his time to the marching band, Freshman Forum, Auburn’s Student Alumni Association and Habitat for Humanity.

During her time at Auburn, Homan, an Ohio native, has excelled in athletics and academics while also maintaining a commitment to community service. She is a member of AU’s varsity track and field and cross country teams and has been recognized as a two-time All American.

In addition to athletics, Homan worked as a volunteer with Project Uplift, Toys for Tots and the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

NSF fellowships continued from page 1

Supervised by teachers at the participating Macon County and Lee County schools, the AU and Tuskegee graduate students will assist in laboratories, develop curriculum modules and design research activities and demonstrations.

Overtoun Jenda, AU associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, said the graduate students will bring their scientific research experience to the schools, explain concepts to individual students, participate in after-school enrichment activities, serve as mentors and role models for students and assist teachers with related duties.

“Many times teachers have heavy teaching loads and cannot provide as much individual attention to each student as they would like during a problem-solving session,” said Jenda, the GK-12 project director.

“The GK-12 Program will give teachers a rare opportunity to provide individual attention to each student and present the opportunity for students in general to receive more high-quality, one-on-one instruction,” Jenda said.

“Teachers will now have much-needed help in utilizing more challenging science and mathematicstrategies,” he added.

Jenda said the graduate students will gain teaching experience to complement their research, and the participating teachers will learn more about the subject matter as they participate in workshops and work with the graduate fellows.

Students in the participating Macon and Lee County schools will be the program’s primary beneficiaries, Jenda said. “Benefits to the students will include better knowledge of subject matter and hence better academic performance on ACT, SAT and high school graduation exams in sciences and mathematics.”

New perspective

The top floor of AU’s New Sciences Laboratory Center provides a respite from classes for these students and a new elevated view of campus looking west from the Sciences and Mathematics complex of buildings.

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In addition to athletics, Homan worked as a volunteer with Project Uplift, Toys for Tots and the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.
Autism Center, now at Yarbrough School, planning move to campus

The AU Autism Center, now operating out of Yarbrough Elementary School, will soon have a new 5,000-square-foot on-campus home in the Dawson Building on Donahue Drive.

The center staff are preparing for a move to the new facility that could come as early as August, said Caroline Gomez, co-director of the center, which is part of AU’s Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education within the College of Education.

“We’re excited about the opportunities the move will afford us,” Gomez said. “It will give us considerably more space, allow us to, over time, greatly expand our services and give us a good, central location on campus. But, primarily, we’re excited because it’s going to allow us to do so much more for children and others with autism and their families.”

At Yarbrough, three miles from campus, the Autism Center has one classroom and one small observation room that doubles as an on-site office for co-directors Gomez and Robert Simpson. The campus facility will feature a diagnostic clinic, three classrooms (two opening in August and another in August 2007), a conference room and office space for Gomez, Simpson, two outreach consultants and up to five graduate teaching assistants.

The date of the move will depend on preparations under way in the Dawson Building. The facility now houses Parking Services, which is scheduled to move to the Wallace Center and establish a satellite office in the Solar House on South Donahue to issue visitor passes. The planning staff in Facilities is working on schedules and other details of the moves.

The diagnostic clinic will allow the Autism Center to provide multidisciplinary diagnostic evaluations, something parents now must wait six months to a year to receive. The evaluations will be conducted by Gomez, an educational specialist, a speech language pathologist and an occupational therapist.

“We hope that, by providing these diagnostic services, we can help reduce the wait times that a lot of parents have to endure,” Gomez said.

The two classrooms that are scheduled to be available by August will serve children ages 3-5. Each classroom will accommodate five children with autism and five “peer models” or children without the disorder.

“Placing peer models in the classroom with the autistic children is something that is an approach that is receiving a lot of positive response and attention lately,” said Gomez. “Children learn from other children what they cannot learn from adults, even when the children have disabilities.”

A third classroom will open in August of next year as a transition laboratory serving ages 17-21. Gomez said she hopes the center can fill the need for help preparing autistic individuals for adult life.

“This service will be a new one for us, but it is one that there is a great need for,” said Gomez. “We want to be able to prepare individuals with autism for productive and enjoyable adult lives.”

She added, “Of course, the range of needs for these individuals will be very diverse, so our plans are to hire a Ph.D.-level individual with experience in this area. That person will have the help of three instructional assistants.”

Greenleaf's 'Celebration' played for inauguration at Baylor

Music Professor Robert Greenleaf’s orchestral work “Celebration” was a part of two major events in Texas this month.

The Baylor University Symphony Orchestra, directed by Stephen Heyde, performed the piece on Saturday as part of the inauguration program for John Lilley, the 13th President of Baylor University.

Earlier this month, the Baylor orchestra performed “Celebration” in San Antonio in the opening ceremony for the IBM-sponsored International Collegiate Programming Contest of the Association for Computing Machinery. Also at the San Antonio ceremony, the orchestra performed the North American premiere of Greenleaf’s “ICPC Fanfare” for brass and percussion.

With a commission from Ruth and Marvin Engel of Birmingham, Greenleaf composed “Celebration” in 1997 to celebrate the rebirth of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Since then, orchestras have performed the piece in Poland and China as well as in the United States.

AU seeks souvenirs from first 100 years

The AU President’s Office is seeking Auburn artifacts from 1856 to API’s centennial year, 1956, for display in the lobby of Samford Hall as part of the university’s sesquicentennial celebration.

Display cases will contain such items as hats, caps, banners, books, clothing items and other memorabilia.

To nominate items, send a photo and a description to Susan DeLeon, 107 Samford Hall, campus, or e-mail deleonsu@auburn.edu. Include your name, address, e-mail address, phone number and the date and name or type of each artifact.

For more information, call 844-4650.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Colleges, schools at AU with greatest growth in credit-hour production, fall ’00 through fall ’05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College/School</th>
<th>Fall ’00 Credit-Hours</th>
<th>Fall ’05 Credit-Hours</th>
<th>Percentage Growth</th>
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Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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