

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS

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AND MATHEMATICS

E=mc²

Engaging More
Community Connections



Volume 5: Issue 2

March/April 2013



Upcoming Events & Programs:

Spring YES

Saturday, April 13th

Spring Youth Experiences in Science (Y.E.S.) is a Saturday science program offered free to students in grades 3-5. Students will have the opportunity to experience science with hands-on activities in two mini-courses.

Spring Y.E.S. will be on Saturday, April 13th from 9:00am to 12:00pm, with check-in beginning at 8:30am. To register for the programs, participants must submit a registration form to the COSAM Outreach office before **April 1, 2013**.

Participants will be notified of acceptance and will receive specific information on the courses offered upon receipt of registration.

Registration forms can be downloaded at:
www.auburn.edu/cosam/springyes

For more information on Spring Y.E.S., please contact Kristen Bond at 334-844-5769 or email at kdb0022@auburn.edu

Upcoming Events and Programs

Spring YES

Celebrating Biodiversity with E.O. Wilson

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Upcoming Events and Programs (cont'd.)

Celebrating Biodiversity with E.O. Wilson

Wednesday, April 10th

The College of Sciences and Mathematics will host "Celebrating Biodiversity with E.O. Wilson" Wednesday, April 10, at 6:30 p.m. at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center to commemorate the opening of the Biodiversity Learning Center.

The event will include a presentation by biologist and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner E.O. Wilson, who will share his thoughts on the current state and emerging trends of biodiversity. Tickets can be purchased for \$100 per person or tables of 10 for \$1,000. A reception will take place from 5:30-6:30 p.m. to allow participants an opportunity to meet Wilson. The reception and dinner is \$250 per person, and tickets are limited. Proceeds from ticket sales will support the Auburn University Museum of Natural History.

For tickets or more information, call Kim McCurdy at (334) 844-7780. More information about the Museum of Natural History is available online at <http://aumnh.org>.

AU Explore

Friday, April 26th

AU Explore is an annual science and math festival offered free to 5th – 8th grade students and their teachers. This year's featured activities will include a variety of live large-scale science demo shows, including the Birds of Prey Show hosted by the Southeastern Raptor Center, and the Pyro Show hosted by two AU Chemists: John and Anne Gorden. In addition, AU faculty and students will offer dozens of hands-on mini-courses; "Science Fun Shops" in which participants dissect sheep eyes, explore buried treasure, find their house using Google Earth, and isolate their own DNA to take home in a bottle! Some of the most fascinating experiences for students occur at the Science EXPO where they handle live animals, learn how to pan for real gold, visit "Stan the dinosaur", and play a Wii game that teaches them about the field of plasma physics. There really is something that will peak the interest of every child...and every teacher!

Science Matters

Summer Academy for Elementary Students

Registration Now Open!

Science Matters is a summer enrichment program for elementary students (rising 1st – 6th grade students) that takes science education out of the traditional classroom in an effort to spark a child's interest in the world of science and discovery. The 2013 Science Matters program incorporates a hands-on learning approach that has been developed by education experts. The program features activities that are fun, engaging and inspire exploration, imagination and creativity while building skills such as self-esteem and teamwork. During this action-packed academy, kids can design and build, learn computer-programming skills, enhance their science vocabulary and more!

All weeks are five-day programs. Parents can choose between the Regular Day option (8am-3:30pm) or the Extended Day option (8am-5pm). Prices range from \$170 - \$235 per week per child with discounts available. Seating is limited and spaces are filled on a first come, first served basis.

To download a registration form or for more information visit our website at www.auburn.edu/cosam/sciencematters or contact Kristen Bond by e-mail at kdb0022@auburn.edu.

Robotics Academy

Summer Robotics Academy for 7th – 10th grade students

Registration Now Open!

This ALL-NEW Summer Academy will allow rising 7th-10th grade students interested in robotics to engage in real-world science and math as they work in teams to design, construct, program and test a functional robot! The week will culminate in a Robot Challenge that will test the creativity, functionality and robustness of each team's robot. Robotics Academy will take place at Auburn University July 22-26, 2013, and will be taught by the Technical Team of our well-established BEST Robotics program. The 5-day, non-residential program will meet from 9:00am to 3:00pm each day and will cost \$375 (includes academy t-shirt, lunch and snacks each day). Register by April 22 to get the discounted early-bird registration of \$325.

To download a registration form or for more information visit our website at www.auburn.edu/cosam/outreach or contact Erin Percival by e-mail at erin.percival@auburn.edu.



Outreach Calendar

March

- 2 High School AMP'd Challenge
- 5 GEARSEF
- 8 Kidz-sized Science
- 20 GUTS

April

- 12 Kidz-sized Science
- 13 Spring YES
- 26 AU Explore

Activity of the Issue

Homemade Greenhouse

Materials:

- A tray of grass or growing seeds
- A jar

What to do:

1. Place the jar over a patch of grass or a section of your plant tray of seeds.
2. Watch the plants under the jar grow taller and faster than the ones outside.

What's Happening?

The jar creates a greenhouse, which provides a warmer and moister atmosphere for growing plants. The light and heat from the sun go through the glass and heat the air inside, and the heat cannot escape very easily.

Extension:

Why do you think a greenhouse is necessary? Are there other home items that would make a good greenhouse? Take this demonstration one step further and test these common items out!

- 2 L. bottle
- Egg carton
- Plastic bowls

This activity is from funology.com, be sure to check out his website for more great science activities to do at home!

Since the Last Issue



Middle School Science Olympiad

Results:

- 1st – Auburn Junior High School (Team A)
- 2nd – J.F. Drake Middle School (Team A)
- 3rd – Beverly Magnet School



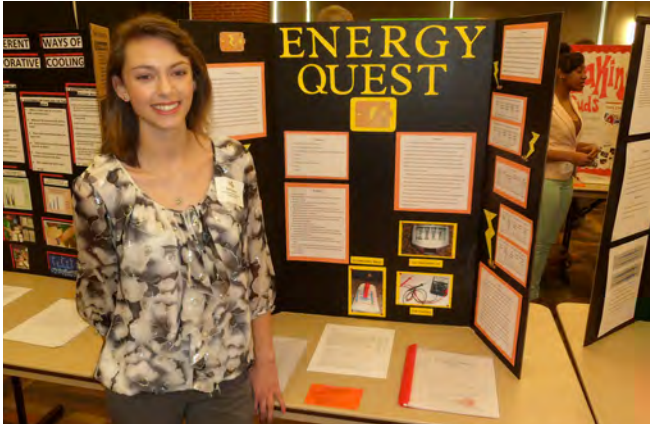
Elementary Science Olympiad Results:

- 1st – St. Luke's Episcopal School (Team 29)
- 2nd – Ogletree Elementary School (Team 13)
- 3rd – Geneva Middle School (Team 4)
- 4th – Richland Elementary School (Team 16)

Auburn Mathematical Puzzle Challenge Results:

- 1st – Saint James School
- 2nd – Montgomery Catholic Preparatory School
- 3rd – The Heritage School





GEARSEF Results:

BEST of Fair & INTEL Finalists to compete in Phoenix, AZ in May

1st Place: Megan Lange-Auburn Junior High School
2nd Place: Mason Corbett-Lakeview Christian School

Category Winners Advancing to Alabama State Competition in April:

Jr. Division Winners (alphabetically)

Jeb Ballard
Kaitlin Connelly – Everest Academy
Daniel Corbett – Lakeview Christian School
Emma Lee Gullatt – Glenwood School
Carrington Huddleston – Glenwood School
Michael Johnson – Eclectic Middle School
Lucas Lynn – Wetumpka Middle School
Maloreigh Todd – Glenwood School

Sr. Division Winners (alphabetically)

Shelbi Ballew – Glenwood School
Hannah Benton – Wetumpka High School
Dalton Cape – Wetumpka High School
Mason Corbett- Lakeview Christian School
Taylor Faulk – Glenwood School
Cheyenne Hatcher – Glenwood School
Demetrius Hooks – Wetumpka High School
Tanner Knight – Wetumpka High School
Malvika Lall – Auburn High School
Megan Lange – Auburn Junior High School
Audrey Pinkston – Wetumpka High School
Bradley Probert – Wicksburg High School
Hannah Szarenski – Glenwood School
Neil Windon – Lovelace Academic Magnet Program H.S.

For more information about GEARSEF contact:

Erin Percival
334-844-7449
erin.percival@auburn.edu

Announcements

COSAM Awarded \$230K for Math Science Partnership Grant:

Researchers from the College of Sciences and Mathematics, the College of Education, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and Alabama Math, Science and Technology Initiative (AMSTI) have received a \$230,500 grant from the Alabama State Department of Education to provide professional development for teachers and engage students in project-based science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. The grant will support the RE²-FoCUS Initiative (Robotics and Engineering Education Fostering the Conceptual Understanding of Science) to offer professional development for 176 Alabama middle school science and math teachers.

The principal investigators for the project are Allen Landers, associate professor and Howard Carr Professor of Outreach and Experimental Atomic and Molecular Physics in the College of Sciences and Mathematics; Mary Lou Ewald, Director of Outreach for the College of Sciences and Mathematics; and Christine Schnittka, assistant professor of science and engineering education with a joint appointment in the Colleges of Education and Engineering. George Blanks, Director of K-12 Outreach in the College of Engineering and Erin Percival, Assistant Director of Outreach for the College of Sciences and Mathematics will also collaborate on the three year project.

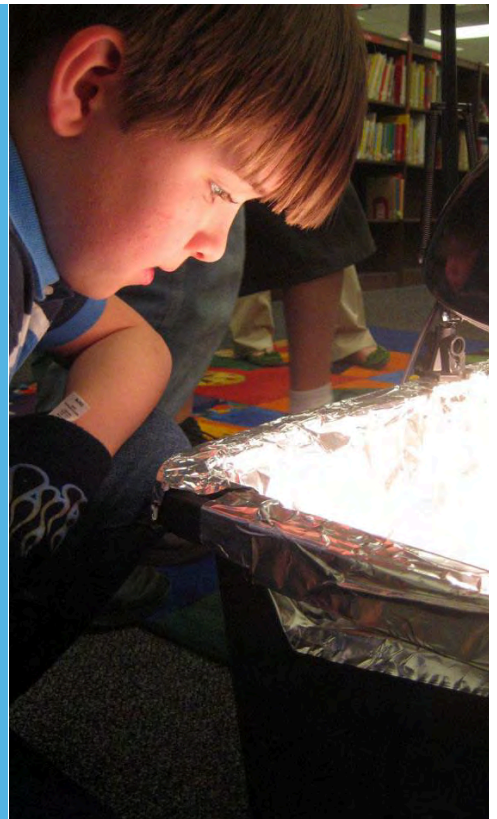
Announcements

COSAM Outreach announces The Alabama STEM Studio for Afterschool Learning (TASSAL).

The Alabama STEM Studio for Afterschool Learning is a new afterschool science education initiative developed by program specialists from Auburn University's College of Education and College of Sciences and Mathematics in collaboration with the Truman Pierce Institute. TASSAL will utilize a series of hands-on, inquiry based activities that integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) principles in a fun, non-threatening learning environment.

Afterschool programs offer a great environment for inquiry-based science. The afterschool setting offers children the flexibility to explore and investigate freely and creatively. Science is a way of thinking and finding out about the world, not just a collection of facts.

TASSAL will increase the accessibility of STEM education in afterschool programs across Alabama by 1) identifying vetted materials for teacher use, and 2) providing professional development for teachers using these materials.



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