

COSAM OUTREACH ANNUAL REPORT

AUGUST 2020 - JULY 2021



An outreach and public engagement office in the
College of Sciences and Mathematics



DEAR SCIENCES AND MATH ENTHUSIASTS,

Organisms adapt. Necks lengthen to feed from trees, feet web for increased speed and control in the water and bones lighten for flight. Like our biological counterparts the COSAM Outreach office adapted to the changing environment of the Covid-19 pandemic during the 2020-21 academic year.

We added new programs and modified existing to bring STEM education to students and families during a time when traditional face-to-face interactions were not the norm. The acceptance of virtual technology exposed children to the wonder of science and math. While our impact has been effected this academic year, we feel confident in the scientific encounters we were able to host and their ability to engage a new audience.

Best,



Mary Lou Ewald

Director COSAM Outreach

OUR MISSION

The College of Sciences and Mathematics at Auburn University aims to promote scientific and mathematic literacy and interest among K-12 students, teachers and communities in our region, state and nation.

***“The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”***

— Dr. Seuss



AUGUST 2020 - JULY 2021 AT A GLANCE

HOUSEHOLDS IMPACTED

2,442

AGES IMPACTED















ALL

“The science of today is the technology of tomorrow.”

— *Edward Teller*

PROGRAMS

NUMBER IMPACTED

COSAM Campfires, 10/15 & 11/12/2020		150 participants
AJAS Paper Reading Competition, January		3 students
GEARSEF Junior (virtual), 3/22/2021		34 students
GEARSEF Senior (virtual), 3/23/2021		27 students
State Science Olympiad (virtual), various		1,065 students
Elementary Science Olympiad (virtual), April		195 students
Earth Day Event, 4/24/2021		125 participants
Summer Science Institute		12 students
Science Matters Camps (seven weeks)		420 participants
Geocaching Challenge		100 households
MaSTErMinds Science Kits		43 households
GUTS (four)		94 households
COSAM Career Conversations (virtual), (six)		72 participants
Science Cafe/Pub (four)		102 participants

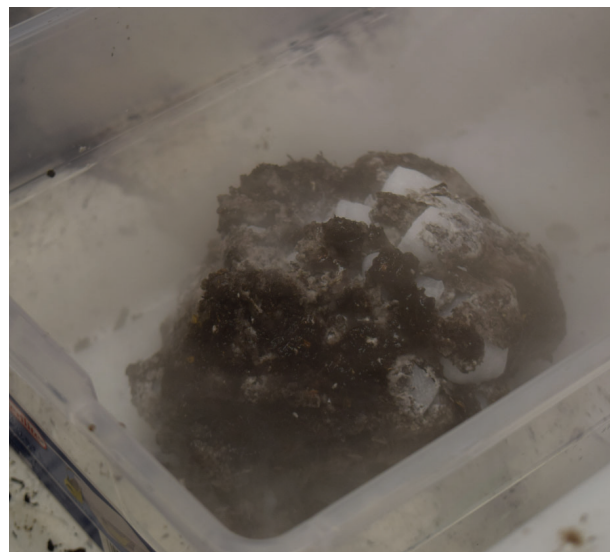
PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

COSAM CAMPFIRES

This series of outdoor scientific presentations and interactive demonstrations for the whole family was presented by Auburn University faculty and other experts. Sessions covered topics such as comets and natural history. Families were encouraged to get their hands dirty with scientific discovery. There were more than 150 participants.

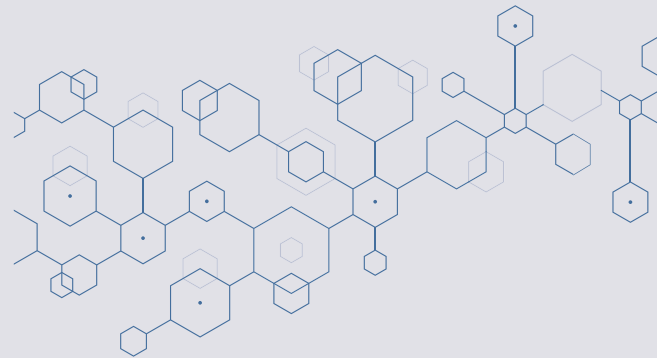
“I had so much fun learning about comets at the campfire event. I really liked seeing how a meteor forms.”

- Molly Mae Sabo, Age 8



COSAM CAREER CONVERSATIONS (C3)

COSAM Career Conversations is a new virtual forum that provides undergraduate and graduate students opportunities to learn about career development from successful Auburn University COSAM alumni. Career development is the lifelong process of managing learning, work, leisure and transitions in order to move toward a personally determined and evolving future.



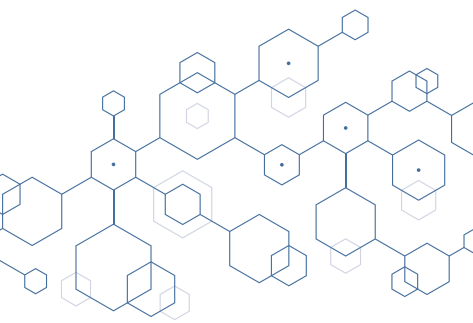
EARTH DAY

The Earth Day Awareness event promoted the conservation of natural resources. Attendees spent time in the great outdoors at the Auburn University Arboretum to learn about conservation efforts. The event was supported by the Museum of Natural history (endangered species), Alabama Water Watch (pollution and microinvertebrates, Forestry and Wildlife (invasive species), and Geosciences (recycling).



ADAPTING HOW WE LEARN

COVID-19 led us to develop new ways to learn. We turned to online resources more than ever and learned we don't always need to be face-to-face in a classroom setting to connect and learn about our world. We also reconnected with our families in ways that brought us together over simple things — a walk in the woods or seeing the wonder of nature as it grows and evolves in the world around us.

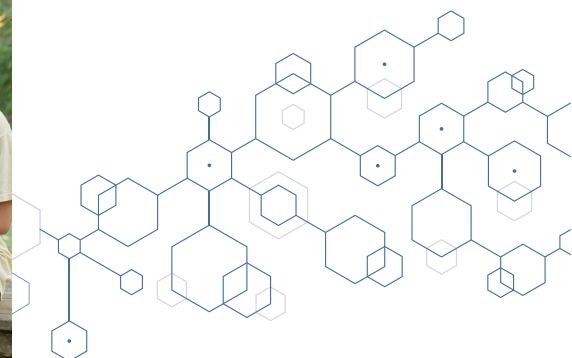


“I didn’t know could touch bees. It was fun.”

- Edwin Dubose, age 4

THANK YOU

Thank you to our countless employees, mentors, donors, and volunteers during the 2020-21 academic year. We would not have accomplished the successes we did without your support. Your commitment to meaningful exposure to the sciences and mathematics enabled our youth to learn and explore during unique circumstances.



MARY LOU EWALD

Director of Outreach
College of Sciences and Mathematics
Auburn University
Office: (334) 844-5745
Cell: (334) 444-1513
Email: ewaldml@auburn.edu



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
AND MATHEMATICS