

AUBURN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES AND MATHEMATICS

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Engaging More
Community Connections



Volume 4: Issue 3

May/June 2012



Upcoming Events & Programs: Science Matters

Application Deadline: May 7, 2012

Late Registration Deadline: June 1, 2012 or until course fills

Science Matters is a summer enrichment academy for elementary students in rising grades 1-6 offering youngsters a supercharged science experience. The program allows participants to explore the world of science through real experiments, technology, language arts, art projects, and hands-on, make-n'-take activities. During this action-packed program, kids can design and build, dabble in the art of chemistry, "become a flight specialist", see amazing critters, and more! Science Matters offers six different science-themed weeks for rising 1st-4th graders to choose from and four weeks for rising 5th-6th graders to enjoy. Parents may choose between the Regular Day option from 8am-3:30pm or the Extended Day option from 8am-5pm. Prices range from \$170 - \$235 per week/child. Multiple week discounts are available.

Courses fill on a first-come-first-serve basis and remaining seats are filling quickly, so be sure to register today by visiting:

www.auburn.edu/cosam/sciencematters

For a list of current course availability go to page 2

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Upcoming Events and Programs (cont'd.)

Science Matters–Seat Availability

June 4-June 8:

All courses are full for the week of June 4-8th

June 18-June 22:

Grades 3-4: Creepy Crawler Olympics (5 seats open!)

June 25-June 29:

Grades 5-6: The Electric Pickle (3 seats open!)

July 9-July 13:

Grades 5-6: Amusement Park Adventure (2 seats open!)

July 16-20:

Grades 3-4: We Got The Beat (8 seats open!)

Grades 3-4: Snap It! (14 seats open!)

July 30-August 3:

Grades 5-6: Measuring- Microbes to Mountains (14 seats open!)

For more information about
Science Matters contact:

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334-844-8161

Find course descriptions and more information at:
www.auburn.edu/cosam/sciencematters

AP Summer Institute

The Advanced Placement Summer Institute is designed for the professional development of 9th-12th grade teachers involved in Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These workshops will be held on the campus of Auburn University during the week of June 18-21, 2012.

The College of Sciences and Mathematics in cooperation with the Office of Professional and Continuing Education at Auburn University and the College Board will host workshops in the following areas:

Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Calculus

For more information or to register, go to
<http://www.auburn.edu/outreach/opce/apsi/>



Summer Science Institute

June 10-16th, 2012

An academically competitive search of rising 11th-12th grade high school students with a high interest and aptitude in science and math throughout Alabama and Georgia yielded 26 outstanding students to attend Auburn University's first ever Summer Science Institute. The institute, funded through the office of the Vice President for Outreach and the College of Sciences and Mathematics, partners students with experienced AU Science and Math research faculty to explore topics more advanced than what is typically taught in a public or private high school environment. Below is a list of this year's chosen participants.

Amber Akbar

East Coweta High School
Newnan, GA

Blaire Bosely

Northeast Independent Prep. Acad.
Stone Mountain, GA

Robert Campbell

Briarwood Christian High School
Birmingham, AL

Robert Clemons

Oak Mountain High School
Birmingham, AL

Casie Connolly

W.P. Davidson High School
Mobile, AL

Camden Cutright

Spain Park High School
Hoover, AL

Allen Davis

McGill Toolen Catholic High School
Spanish Fort, AL

Regan Gaskin

Talladega High School
Talladega, AL

Nidhi Goel

Virgil I. Grissom High School
Huntsville, AL

Pierre Guillermo

Forsyth Central High School
Cumming, GA

Christian Johnson

South Forsyth High School
Cumming, GA

Catherine Johnson

Forsyth Central High School
Cumming, GA

Trevan Jones

Benjamin E. Mays High School
Lithonia, GA

John Kavula

St. Paul's Episcopal School
Mobile, AL

Jessica Kennedy

East Coweta High School
Sharpsburg, GA

Carson May

Virgil I. Grissom High School
Huntsville, AL

Jacqueline Morris

Trinity Presbyterian School
Montgomery, AL

Natasha Narayanan

Auburn High School
Auburn, AL

Madeleine O'Mara

Montgomery Catholic Prep. School
Montgomery, AL

Jeremy Oyler

Stanhope Elmore High School
Millbrook, AL

Justin Oyler

Stanhope Elmore High School
Millbrook, AL

Kaitlin Russell

Prattville High School
Prattville, AL

Jonothan Segars

Wetumpka High School
Wetumpka, AL

Richard Trieu

Virgil I. Grissom High School
Huntsville, AL

Michael Volz

Virgil I. Grissom High School
Huntsville, AL

Luci Willis

Springwood School
Pine Mountain, AL



Outreach Calendar

May

1 SWSM Symposium

June

4 Science Matters

10 Summer Science Institute

18 Science Matters

25 Science Matters

25 AP Institute

Activity of the Issue

Sponge Seedlings

Materials:

- Sponges (various sizes)
- Large bowl
- Water
- Plate
- Seeds
- Popsicle or craft sticks
- Post-it Notes
- Packaging Tape
- Marker
- Scissors

What to do:

1. Fill the bowl with water and soak the sponge for a few minutes. Squeeze the sponge so that it's moist but not dripping wet.
2. Put the sponge on a plate and open your packet of seeds. Using steady fingers or tweezers, stick a handful of seeds into the holes of the sponge, spreading them out evenly.
3. Now place the plate on a sunny windowsill, countertop or table near a window.
4. Check your seedlings daily to see how they sprout and progress. Add water to the base of the sponge, a tablespoon at a time.
5. When your seedlings start growing leaves and roots, talk about the role of different parts of the plant.
6. The roots stabilize the plant and suck up water from the soil.
7. The leaves capture energy from

sunlight. The plant uses this energy to produce its own food through photosynthesis.

8. Now transplant your seedlings outdoors in a garden, or indoors in a pot with soil.
9. Identify the different plant types with handmade garden markers
10. Write names of your flowers and/or vegetables on Post-it® Notes, making sure the sticky side runs vertically on the left.
11. Stick the notes onto the popsicle or craft sticks at the top end, to look like a flag.
12. Cut off a piece of packaging tape, making it at least twice as wide as the Post-it® Note.
13. Position your garden marker to be flush right on the tape, then fold the left half over on top.
14. Press firmly to seal, then trim the extra tape with scissors.

What's Happening?

This basic activity is a fun way to examine plant science up close. Breaking down plant science to its most basic level helps build understanding from the ground up. Green plants use photosynthesis to make their own food and release oxygen. Only three things are required for photosynthesis: water, air and sunlight. Many people assume plants need soil to photosynthesize, but that's not true. Here's how it works: Green plants capture energy from sunlight, they absorb water from their roots and carbon dioxide from the air, and combine these ingredients; sunlight, water, and carbon dioxide to make their own food (plant sugar).

For more science activities visit:

<http://www.scienceofeverydaylife.com/activities>

Since the Last Issue



Elementary Science Olympiad

1st Place

St. Luke's Episcopal- Team #17

2nd Place

Ogletree Elementary- Team #30

3rd Place

Geneva Middle School-Team #7

4th Place

Wrights Mill Rd. Elementary- Team #37

5th Place

Ogletree Elementary- Team #31

6th Place

St. Luke's Episcopal- Team #6

7th Place

Cary Woods Elementary- Team #16

8th Place

Cary Woods Elementary-Team #36

9th Place

Mountain Gap Elementary- Team #27

10th Place

Dean Road Elementary- Team #2

Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics Annual Symposium

On Tuesday, May 1, the Society of Women in Sciences and Mathematics (SWSM), an outreach component of the College of Sciences and Mathematics, hosted its sixth annual Women's Leadership Symposium. SWSM is committed to training the next generation of women for careers in sciences and mathematics.

More than 75 high school girls from diverse populations attended the Symposium as guests of SWSM to meet and network with successful women in the sciences and mathematics. The event culminated with a luncheon featuring keynote speaker Anda A. Ray, Senior Vice President of Engineering, Environmental and Support Services at the Tennessee Valley Authority and a 1978 alumna in nuclear physics.



Since the last issue

AU Explore

COSAM's 8th Annual Science and Math festival, AU Explore, took place on the AU campus on Thursday, April 26th. Approximately 1,200 students in grades 5-8th from across Alabama experienced raptors, snakes, and other live animals up close, participated in mini-workshops at the "Make-n-Take Science Fun Shop" and visited with Auburn faculty and students at the Science and Math EXPOs.

GUTS Backyard Bash

On Sunday, April 22nd children and their parents attended this year's Backyard Bash. The event featured the Wet 'n' Wild Science Show, put on by Auburn University's Science in Motion Chemistry Specialist, Dr. Paul Norgaard and Alabama State University's Science in Motion Chemistry Specialist, Ms. Jennifer Cox.



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