2007-08 Awards

Baskiyar, Sanjeev: Associate Professor: Computer Science and Software Engineering: **Supplementing Computer Architecture Instruction with Comic Strips**

Abstract: This project proposes a bold new initiative in supplementing computer architecture instruction with comic strips developed using the “Socratic Instruction Method” which emphasizes dialog. We believe that our approach will help deal with challenges in learning and teaching computer architecture. It will instill critical thinking and creativity among students and produce better computer scientists and engineers for the next generation information technology needs of the nation and world.

Beard, Debra: Clinical Associate Professor: Clinical Sciences: **Funding for EduCause Institute Learning Technology Leadership Program**

Abstract: The objective of this project is to provide support for The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) curriculum faculty in the use of instructional technology by training a faculty member in for a leadership role in this area, specifically by providing funding for me to attend the EDUCAUSE Instituted Learning Technology Leadership Program 2007. The program is designed to broaden perspectives and develop leadership abilities, enabling participants to assume leadership roles in applying learning technology to improve teaching and learning within their institutions. As the chair of the Instructional Technology committee for the CVM, I am in a position to provide informal and formal leadership to support other faculty in their instructional endeavors.

Biggs, Lindy: Associate Professor, Williams, Matthew: Project Coordinator: History: **Sustainability in the Curriculum Workshop: The Fall Line Project**

Abstract: This proposal requests funding for a workshop that will be the second in a series of yearly workshops to help integrate sustainability and environmental literacy into the Auburn University curriculum. Through the curriculum workshops our goal is to enhance knowledge of sustainability and provide faculty with tools and skills to begin changing their courses. Thereby, we will build a strong foundation for education for the future.

Chaney, Philip: Associate Professor: Geology & Geography: **Hazards Education: Teaching Hazards Courses**

Abstract: The Hurricane Katrina disaster of 2005 and the Indian Ocean Tsunami disaster of 2004 awakened many people to the need for expanding opportunities in the field of natural hazards education. In response to this growth, a panel discussion session has been organized for the forthcoming meeting of the Association of American Geographers at San Francisco, CA. I was invited to serve as a panelist because of my previous teaching and research experience in natural hazards. Participation in this project will provide an opportunity for me to exchange ideas with instructors from across the U.S., which will contribute to my efforts to enhance the educational experience for AU students.
Daniels, William: Associate Professor, Terhune, Jeff: Assistant Professor: Fisheries & Aquaculture and Fisheries: Global Training in Aquaculture: The Uganda Experience

Abstract: Dr. Jeff Terhune, Assistant Professor, and I plan to take my Aquaculture Production class on the road to Uganda to train undergraduate and graduate students using Uganda as the living classroom. The goal is to train students in aquaculture and international development but also to provide a truly cross-cultural experience working side-by-side with Uganda students and farmers. This will be the first time that this course or any Fisheries course has been taught in an international environment. It is expected that based upon the success of teaching this in Uganda, the course will be taught again on a regular basis in Uganda or another country where AU is actively involved in aquaculture development and will serve as a catalyst for other courses to be taught likewise.

Grandjean, Peter Walter: Associate Professor: Health and Human Performance: Development of Instructional Multimedia to Improve Practitioner-Client Interaction in a Curriculum-Based Health Assessment Outreach Program

Abstract: The purpose of this project is to develop instructional multimedia designed to enhance the learning and practice of knowledge, skills and abilities related to practitioner-client interaction during health assessment and exercise program management. Faculty, graduate and undergraduate students in the Health Promotion Program will develop video-recorded segments of rehearsed health assessments (case scenarios) designed to enhance understanding of pulmonary function, body composition, muscular strength, endurance and flexibility, and cardiovascular responses to exercise through graded exercise testing. These case scenarios will be developed, edited and made available to our students in different formats. Our students will be able to view the scenarios—during and outside of class and prior to actually working with a client—in order to analyze and discuss optimal ways to interact with people they are learning to serve.

Mansour, Mahmoud: Associate Professor, Coleman Elaine: Associate Professor: Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology: Plastinated Specimens for Teaching Veterinary Gross Anatomy

Abstract: The object of this project is to craft permanent plastinated specimens for gross anatomy instruction. The proposal will benefit both freshmen and senior veterinary students seeking to refresh their anatomical information. Finished plastinated structures will be displayed in glass cabinets in the veterinary gross anatomy laboratory with disclosure of the Daniel F. Breeden Endowed Grant Program as the source of funding. This project will produce dry, safe, odorless and durable plastinated specimens. As much they will be valuable adjunct tools for teaching gross anatomy of large and small animals.

Marghitu, Daniela: COMP 1000 Coordinator, Zylla-Jones, Elizabeth: Associate Clinical Professor: Computer Science and Software Engineering and Communication Disorders: Enhancing Graduate Students’ Professional Skills Using Instructional Technology and Assistive: Educational Technology Applications in Auburn University Summer Outreach Computer Literacy Program for Children

Abstract: This is a multidimensional computer literacy program, designed to enhance computer knowledge and technology skills for a targeted population of typical and special needs children, ages
eight to fourteen. It was developed by the Auburn University Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering and the Auburn University Department of Communication Disorders. The objective of this program is two-fold. The first objective is to offer the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering and the Department of Communication Disorders graduate students the opportunity to work with peers from different disciplines, knowledge of serving children from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, knowledge of working with special needs children in an inclusive program, understanding of the current level of effectiveness of educational computer programs, and ideas to enhance these educational computer applications both on the technological and pedagogical level. The second objective is to provide the community with a computer camp geared toward both typical children and children with special needs.

McComick Theresa: Assistant Professor: Curriculum and Teaching: Annual Conference of the National Council for the Social Studies

Abstract: This proposal seeks funds to attend a conference on teaching, learning, and research in the specific content area of social studies education. As an elementary social studies teacher educator, and an eager scholar of teaching and learning, this conference is an opportunity to learn and collaborate with other teacher educators surrounding the topic of teaching and learning in my specialized field. Since I am the only elementary social studies teacher educator in the College of Education, I have a strong desire to participate in professional development opportunities that provide me with examples of effective and innovative instructional strategies for the courses I teach along with developing research agendas with other teacher educators in my field. Specifically, this proposal seeks funds for the costs of registration, meals, travel (airline), and hotel accommodations for four nights.

McCurry, Natasha: Assistant Professor: Building Science: A Manual for Teaching Shop Drawings and Submittals

Abstract: New building science graduates, interns, and co-operative education students, are frequently tasked with checking submittals and shop drawings. This task is often viewed, by the student, as one of minimal importance because their superiors have handed-off the task to someone who is not proficient in the knowledge that is necessary to perform this task, which could be better performed by very experienced workers. The applicant has attempted to implement teaching/learning modules that would sufficiently prepare the students for their upcoming careers, with respect to the knowledge necessary to perform these tasks; and has realized the need for a set of guidelines and hands-on examples that must come from the experts in the industry. Since a manual is not currently available, the applicant proposes to visit and interview industry professionals in order to create such a manual.

Noe, Nancy: Librarian III: Reference & Instruction: Library Instruction Workshop

Abstract: Recent national assessments indicate that students’ ability to locate, evaluate and effectively use information is not at the level expected of undergraduate college students. To address in part this deficiency, library teaching faculty recognize that there is a need to move away from “traditional” library instruction to a more effective teaching model. Effective library instruction focuses on specific outcomes, actively engaging students and teaching the skills student’s need to not only successfully complete their...
classroom assignments, but providing them with the necessary information literacy skills essential for their academic and work careers. By bringing in an outside expert in library instruction and information literacy to conduct a workshop, library teaching faculty would develop a greater understanding of information literacy concepts and skills and learn to develop more effective and engaging library instruction sessions.

Potter, Mary Ann: Assistant Professor: Consumer Affairs: Talking Walls

Abstract: The goal of this Grant is to enhance student learning in selected interior design subject matter. The proposal is to purchase a digital camera and with the use of a computer create custom-made educational media for three Interior Design classes. With the service of E-Reserve available through RBD Library, these media will be available to students at any time from any Internet-connected computer by accessing the University website and entering the assigned password for the course E-Reserve materials. An additional element of the Proposal is to create a photographic documentation of Interior Design students engaged in the full range of class activities that support the Interior Design program’s compliance with Standards set by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation, the accrediting body for Interior Design programs.

Roberts, Sharon: Associate Professor: Biological Sciences: American Society for Microbiology Scholars in Residence Program

The purpose of this program is to train microbiology faculty to perform research on student learning in microbiology. I proposed to study the impact of assignments designed to develop students’ metacognitive abilities on their performance and confidence in the discipline. I am seeking funding from the Breeden endowment to cover travel, room and board and registration.

Robinson, Carolyn: Assistant Professor, Wright, Amy: Assistant Professor, Clendenen, Beth: Instructor, Kessier, Raymond: Associate Professor: Horticulture: Horticulture Study Abroad Program in England

Abstract: The Horticulture Study Abroad Program to Myerscough Agricultural College in Bilsborow, England is a six-week program led by Myerscough faculty that includes class time lectures; hands-on experience and training in British landscape garden design, care, and maintenance; and weekend travel throughout England and parts of Europe. This grant would aid our faculty members to travel to England to expand both their teaching philosophy as well as enrich their course content. As a University, our challenge is to create citizens of the world, what better way than to promote study abroad programs such as this and incorporate more worldly views in our courses.

Seals, Cheryl: Assistant Professor, Suh, Laura: Assistant Professor: Computer Science and Biological Science: Student Teaching to Enhance Student Learning

Abstract: The development and refining of innovative teaching methods are finding increased support on college campuses. Here we describe a student learning method that requires the student to transfer information from one faculty member to another. Student-Teaching is a proven method for increasing a student’s retention of information. There are several goals for this study: 1. To instruct a student in web
page design using computer software; 2. To study the dynamics of student learning and teaching; 3. To develop a web page for the faculty member that will be supportive of their research program and easily modified by someone new to web page design and development.

Sidler, Michelle: Associate Professor: English: **English Composition II Curricular Training**

Abstract: The results of University-wide assessment such as the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA) and the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) indicate that the writing skills of Auburn students are slightly lower than those of peer institutions and that Auburn students tend to write less throughout their academic careers than at comparable schools. In response, the University is investigating ways to support writing throughout the curriculum. To support the University’s commitment to writing instruction, the Composition Program is transforming the first-year writing core sequence, developing its curriculum to better support writing in the core and in upper-level disciplinary courses. By concentrating on specific theme-related issues, students’ writing will include deeper inquiry, more sophisticated research, and academically-rigorous writing situations.

Spangler, Elizabeth: Assistant Professor, Welles, Elizabeth: Associate Professor, Whitley Elizabeth: Assistant Professor: Pathobiology: **Construction of a Case-based Microscopic Image Database that Illustrates the Results of Diagnostic Tests for Diseases in Veterinary Species**

Abstract: Veterinary students must be able to become familiar with features of both normal and abnormal findings in order to correctly interpret the written results that they receive. To facilitate this process, we propose to create a web-based digital repository of cytologic and histopathologic images from cases representative of those that often confront a practicing veterinarian. The format of the database will provide an overview of a problem through presentation of a specific case with photomicrographs that illustrate the results of both cytologic and histopathologic evaluations. This will be accompanied by a brief discussion of how these diagnostic strategies contribute to the diagnosis. A further aim is to emphasize that various diagnostic imaging modalities complement one another, and that interpretation of each followed by a synthesis of the information gained is the optimal path to reaching a diagnosis and developing a treatment plan.

Tilt, Ken: Professor, Foshee, Wheeler: Assistant Professor: Horticulture: **Teaching New Product Introduction: Propagation, Production, and Marketing of Nelumbo nucifera and Nelumbo lutea**

Abstract: Faculty and students trips to China, Korea, Japan, Australia and New Zealand over the past six years has led a multi-state, international project to evaluate the potential of Lotus as a crop for the Blackbelt region of Alabama to help offer economic stimulus to this depressed area. The project will be designed as a hands-on educational offering to teach the history and culture of this crop as well as the basic physiology of this special water plant. Students will also be taught the planning and current progress of the developing BMP’s for production and marketing of this new crop. The research process will be taught and students will be involved in propagating, planting, fertilization, pest management and asked to assist on the thought process of shipping and handling of the product. New students will be taught the research process and older committed students will be taught production management skills.

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Breeden Endowment Grants, 2007-08
We will be looking for participation and ideas to improve the process from their fresh and varied perspective.

Zugazaga, Carole: Assistant Professor: Sociology: **Insider’s Look at Washington Politics: A Public Policy Seminar for Professors (Conference)**

Abstract: I am submitting this application in order to participate in a seminar entitled “Insider’s Look at Washington Politics: A Public Policy Seminar for Professors” offered by The Fund for American Studies (TFAS) this summer in Washington, DC. The seminar is designed specifically for faculty who teach about American government and politics and is designed to provide insights into how public policy is formulated, to help faculty to reinvigorate subject matter and teaching material for courses, and to foster discussion of current policy issues with national leaders and public policy experts. I believe that each of these activities will serve to enhance the educational experience of students who enroll each Spring and Fall in my SOWO 4090 Social Welfare Policy class. I am confident that this seminar will enable me to become a better, more informed and experienced teacher, advisor and mentor to students at Auburn University.