The School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences has the triad mission of teaching, research and public service in this 21st century global economy. To meet society's needs of economic development and sustainable food provision in a safe and environmentally benign manner, we offer diverse programs, some of which are not traditionally associated with agriculture or environmental sciences. We offer programs in Community Planning and Urban Studies, Agribusiness, Food and Animal Sciences, Family and Consumer Sciences, and Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. These programs aim to train the next generation of professionals capable of solving society's problems through scientific and technological know-how, coupled to critical thinking.

This publication is designed to keep you aware of our efforts to achieve the abovementioned. I feel privileged to support such recognition of excellence in teaching, research and public service.

Dr. Robert W. Taylor
SAES Dean

Alabama A&M University (AAMU), as an 1890 Land-Grant institution, receives annual federal and state supports to fulfill its tri-fold land-grant mission via research, instruction, and extension or outreach activities. AAMU partners with Auburn and Tuskegee Universities to address issues in food, agriculture, environmental and natural resources critical to the state, region, and nation. Our scientists have developed multi-disciplinary, multi-institutional, and science-based teams that focus on the opportunities and the challenges facing farmers, consumers and agribusiness. AAMU scientists have also developed research collaborations with several 1890 and 1862 institutions, federal and state agencies, industry and international entities. These relationships enable us to further build and strengthen our capabilities, remain competitive, and serve our stakeholders more efficiently.

I am privileged to support the recognition of excellence in research, teaching and extension in agribusiness, community planning and urban studies, family and consumer sciences, food and animal sciences, and natural resources and environmental sciences by our students and faculty.

Dr. Zachary N. Senwo
SAES Research Director
Welcome to Issue 1 of the SAES Magazine! We are so very excited to be able to produce such a publication and hope that its contents will provide revealing/remarkable insight, relevant information, and recurring interest in the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (SAES) and its efforts.

For centuries the words agriculture or agricultural would stimulate thoughts of manually cultivating the earth, and a rural way of living and/or livelihood. Well, in 2010, the SAES is far from that image.

This 21st Century School offers a varied list of career options that range from soil and water ecology to exploring a cure for cancer and other health issues. This does not begin to describe all that the research, education and outreach holds for the future successes of its students—both graduate and undergraduate.

Let me close by saying, agriculture is not just about farming and the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University will continue to lead the way and provide opportunities for bright futures.

K. Renée Johnson
Editor-in-Chief
SAES Public and Media Relations Coordinator
Dr. Martha Verghese, Chair

The Department of

Food and Animal Sciences
The Department of Food and Animal Sciences (FAS) is an area that we can all relate to, because its primary focus is food and its many aspects. The Department of FAS is one of the oldest in the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. Dr. Martha Verghese serves as the qualified chair, having a Ph.D. in Food Science with a specialization in Nutritional Biochemistry. Additionally, she is a Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry, Nutritional Toxicology, and Functional Food Product Development.

The Department of FAS offers two programs:

- Food Science & Technology, offering a Bachelor of Science (BS), a Master of Science (MS) and a Doctoral (PhD) degree in Food Science & Technology. This is a unique opportunity in that 18-year-olds can come into the program to get a BS degree and leave with a PhD, which will allow for a much higher starting salary. This process has worked well for a number of students.
- Animal Science, offering a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Animal Science.

Food Science & Technology

Food Science & Technology is the application of science and technology to the manufacturing, production, processing, product development, packaging, preparation, evaluation, distribution, utilization, and safety of food products. It is also the studying of everything that happens to food from the time it leaves the farm, field, or waters until the consumer buys it.

For more than 30 years, the FAS has maintained its accreditation through the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), which is its national/international organization accrediting body. There are only 53 programs in the world that meet the standards of the IFT, and the Food Science & Technology Program of the Department of FAS is one of them. It is the only IFT endorsed Food Science & Technology Program at an HBCU (Historically Black College & University). Furthermore, it is being used as a model for other food science programs in the United States.

The food industry is the largest industry in the world and because students are leaving the Food Science & Technology Program with accredited degrees, it is easier for them to get jobs in the industry and get opportunities at a number of food companies. Even with the current economic crisis and recession, people have to eat, so Food Scientists/Technologists are rarely without jobs, with a specialization in Nutritional Biochemistry. Additionally, she is a Professor of Nutritional Biochemistry, Nutritional Toxicology, and Functional Food Product Development.

During the last semester of their senior year, students are required to develop their own food product. This is called the Capstone Class and the students are responsible for the development of a product from the conception of the idea to the actual goods being on the shelf, and everything in between. The Capstone Class takes place in a small-scale industrial setting, meeting industrial level standards. This includes the product development lab (test kitchen), creating the design, type of container, analysis of the product for the food label information, marketing, and business plan. Basically this involves using the knowledge that the students have acquired over the 3½ years prior to this last semester. Some of the products have been: soymilk beverage with fruits & almonds, vegetable chips, coffee tablets, frozen crème brûlée, and chocolate & fruit balls. The potential for some of the products developed in the Capstone Class to become available to the public is very realistic.

Those students who participate in this research and development of food products could see their creations on the grocery-store shelf, developing new products and improving existing ones. This is one of the reasons we as consumers are always seeing new and different products.

Career Opportunities available in Food Science and Technology are:

- Food Biochemist
- Food Chemist
- Food Engineer
- Food Microbiologist/Food Safety
- Food Biotechnologist/Molecular Biologist
- Meat Scientist
- Management
- Marketing
- Quality Assurance
- Sensory Analyst
- Researcher
- Teacher
- Manufacturer
- Government Employment
- Nutritionist
- Quality Analyst
- Jobs with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) dealing with food monitoring, food safety, and food safety research in an effort to provide wholesome, healthy food to the consumer.

Because the Food Science & Technology program deals with the sciences, there are also opportunities to enter professional schools such as pharmacy, medical, or dentistry school to pursue careers in medical fields or law school to pursue careers in the legal fields such as food law. Department faculty

continued
advisors assist and mentor students who are interested in pursuing other career options.

Students in Food Science are very active in both local and national organizations. These include the Food Science Club, Phi Tau Sigma Honor Society, and the Institute of Food Technologists, especially its regional section (Southeastern Region).

The faculty of the Department of FAS is conducting research in the areas of Food Chemistry, Food Microbiology & Safety, Sensory Science, Food Toxicology, Food Biotechnology, Food Process Engineering, and Food Biochemistry.

Since 2002, graduate students in the Nutritional Biochemistry research program in the department, have had an eight-year winning streak (and counting) in national awards during IFT scientific competitions. Their research and presentations have been repeatedly recognized. In 2009 and preceding years, they have won 1st, 2nd and 4th place awards of 4; in 2008, 2nd and 3rd places of 3; in 2007, 1st, 3rd, and 4th places of 4; in 2006, 1st, 3rd, 4th, and 5th places of 5 and, in 2005, won the 1st and 3rd places of 3 in national competitions.

Faculty continuously seek funding to provide high-school students with hands-on training and to introduce them to different fields of Food and Animal Sciences. Drs. Verghese and Konan have funded grants from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to increase the awareness of the Food Science & Technology program and Nanobiotechnology, respectively to help recruit students into the program.

Animal Science

Animal Science is the area of study concerned with the science and business of producing domestic livestock species, including but not limited to beef cattle, dairy cattle, horses, poultry, sheep, and swine. An animal scientist applies principles of the biological, physical, and social sciences to the problems associated with livestock production and management. In addition to this, the field is also concerned with foods of animal origin: meat, dairy foods, and eggs. Furthermore, animal science includes the study of wildlife, concerns of animal conservation, as well as their extinction or ability to thrive. This also covers aspects of companion animals, including their nutrition, care, and welfare.

Students majoring in Animal Science have the option of designing a plan of study reflecting his or her goals and interests, including courses in:

- Animal Breeding and Genetics
- Animal Nutrition and Feeding
- Reproductive Physiology and Endocrinology
- Livestock Production Management and Judging

As part of the Animal Science curriculum a two-year pre-vet program is offered in conjunction with the Department of Biology.

Animal Science majors also get valuable hands on learning, primarily at the Agribition Center. The Agribition Center is a multi-purpose facility located east of the main campus of Alabama A&M University and is operated by the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. It may be rented for various public activities; such as, horse shows, rodeos, livestock shows, dog shows, meetings, craft fairs, receptions and much more. The students get a chance to have practical experience at many of these animal related events.

Even though Alabama A&M University is located in a high tech, cosmopolitan city, Animal Science majors are provided with the opportunity to study food animal production, while enjoying the culture and advantages a city provides. Thus, students are also exposed to research and public service activities as well as traditional course work.

Career Opportunities available in Animal Science are:

- Veterinarian
- Marketing and Sales
- Consultant
- Breeding and Geneticist
- Endocrinologist
- Animal Nutritionist
- Reproductive Physiologist
• A.I. Breeding Technician (Artificial Insemination)
• Livestock Feedlot Operator
• Research and Lab Technician
• Public Relations Specialist
• Researcher
• Extension Specialist
• Food / Meat Product Development
• Quality Assurance
• Food Service Management
• Farm Management
• Dairy Equipment Specialist
• Meat Grader
• Meat Inspector
• Government Employment

Despite the fact that there is only a B.S. degree available for the Animal Science program, there is also quite a bit of research being done in this area at the Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station located in Hazel Green, about 8 miles north of the University’s main campus. Various types of research are being done with sheep and cows dealing with their quality, animal nutrition, obesity, breeding and genetics. Furthermore, the community benefits from some of these efforts, as turkeys and rabbits are raised and sold at the poultry farm.

As with the Food Science & Technology majors, students in Animal Science are very active in both local and national organizations; including, the Block and Bridle Club, the American Society for Animal Science, and the Poultry Science Association. Students in the Animal Science program have also won numerous platinum, gold and silver awards in the past 5 years at the Annual Southern Regional Dairy Challenge, the American Society of Dairy Science (Student Affiliate Division) and the National Intercollegiate Dairy Challenge. Under the leadership of Dr. Gamal Abdelrahim, associate professor and doctor of veterinary medicine, these achievements have come about without having an established Dairy Program at the University.

In the Department overall, students have successfully worked summer internships at the following companies: Gen-Ex, The Kellogg Company, Unilever Foods, Cargill, Kraft, General Mills, Tyson Foods, McKee Foods, Wayne Farms and Sara Lee. They have also participated in summer programs at Cornell University, Purdue University, University of Minnesota, Kansas State University, University of Arkansas, and Iowa State University, among others.

Both, the Food Science & Technology and the Animal Science degrees offer a wealth of applied learning. There are labs with state-of-the-art equipment and the latest technologies that complement the science classes being presented by the faculty. This allows the students to learn the scientific/research principles in the classroom and see them first-hand in the laboratories. The combination of the two allows the student to see the big picture and further establish the potential for beginning salaries in the $60,000 range.

The faculty and staff of the Department of Food and Animal Sciences are professional, competent and highly motivated to teach, mentor, and assist the students in both programs to become successful in every related arena. You can visit the Department of Food and Animal Sciences at http://www.aamu.edu/saes/FAS/HOME.aspx; call 256-372-4176 for a tour of the Department, or contact Interim Chair, Dr. M. Verghese.

“Even though Alabama A&M University is located in a high tech, cosmopolitan city, Animal Science majors are provided with the opportunity to study food animal production, while enjoying the culture and advantages a city provides. Thus, students are also exposed to research and public service activities as well as traditional course work.”
Dr. Willie Cheatham, Chair

The Department of

AGRIBUSINESS
Preparing Students for the Future

by Labretta Donegan

The Department of Agribusiness, of the School of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences, strives to train and educate students to excel on many levels. This field of study also offers a variety of career choice opportunities, which include but are not limited to:

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<th>Agricultural Sales</th>
<th>Financial Analyst</th>
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<tr>
<td>Market Research Analyst</td>
<td>Research &amp; Development Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Development Specialist</td>
<td>Journalist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economist</td>
<td>Agriscience Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food and Beverage Manager</td>
<td>Youth Program Director</td>
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<td>Quality Control Specialist</td>
<td>Purchasing Manager</td>
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<td>Landscape Designer</td>
<td>Technical Writer</td>
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<td>Natural Resources Manager</td>
<td>Credit Analyst</td>
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<td>Rural Development Specialist</td>
<td>Turf Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farm Manager</td>
<td>County Extension Agent</td>
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<td>Public Relations Specialist</td>
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For students who are in pursuit of any one of these promising careers, the department offers four courses of study to choose from to earn an undergraduate degree in the agribusiness world: Agriscience, Agriscience Education, Agribusiness Management, and Agricultural Economics. In addition to this degree, an M.S. graduate program is also offered in agribusiness. Here is a summary of what each undergraduate course of study has to offer.

**Agriscience** prepares students for:
- Careers in private and public agricultural agencies, self-employment, as well as graduate studies.
- Multi-disciplinary education in agriculture-related sciences, and offers flexibility to meet the individual needs of students.
- Opportunities to acquire internship experiences at agribusiness firms or government agencies.

**Agriscience Education** prepares students for:
- Secondary Professional Certification.
- Teaching Agriscience in public schools; Internship Opportunities.

**Agribusiness Management** prepares students for:
- Careers in agricultural business and agriculture-related careers with industry and government in the food and agricultural sectors.
- Seeking employment, as well as attending graduate school.
- Opportunities to acquire applications of business and management principles that are useful in the agribusiness sector; Internship Opportunities.

**Agricultural Economics** prepares students for:
- Careers in agricultural management, agribusiness, government services, and international agriculture agencies.
- Opportunities to acquire knowledge and skills, which enable one to apply economic principles and concepts.
- Opportunities to acquire quantitative skills necessary for graduate studies; Internship Opportunities.

The Department of Agribusiness also takes part in many extracurricular projects, programs, and meetings that allow students to interact with their peers and gain knowledge of the latest developments & technology in their choice of major. The department is actively involved with outreach programs that offer resources to the small farmer, such as the USDA Rural Development Project, the Women in Agriculture Program, and the North Alabama Risk Management Education Program, to name a few. Quiz bowls are held among fellow agribusiness majors from different universities for friendly competitions of knowledge. Case study competitions are also held to see which university can provide the best solutions to risky problems through research, data collection and analysis. There is also the Agribusiness Club, an association of undergraduate & graduate students, that organizes many fundraising activities.

All courses of instruction and direction of the Department of Agribusiness are led by a team of ten faculty members, who hold PhD degrees in Agricultural Economics and Agriscience Education; all sharing valuable knowledge and guidance with their students. This faculty team is spearheaded by Dr. Willie Cheatham, who serves as Chair of the Department. A native of Alabama and former military officer, Dr. Cheatham is one of many Alabama A&M University (AAMU) alumni, who completed degrees in Agricultural Education. He also went on to receive a master’s degree from Troy University in School Administration & Supervision and a PhD degree from Iowa State University, in Agricultural Education. Dr. Cheatham taught Agricultural Education at the high school level for three years, before becoming an instructor in this field of study at Iowa State University and the University of Tennessee. He returned home to AAMU in 1980 to further hone his teaching skills in Agricultural Education; ultimately reaching his present-day accomplishment, that of chairing the department.

With its dedicated faculty, leadership and career options, the Department of Agribusiness can open the door to a world of opportunity for a bright future.
Dr. Teferi Tsegaye, Chair

The Department of

Natural Resources

and Environmental Sciences
Providing a Wealth of Opportunities  
Making a Difference

by Labretta Donegan

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES), is the “go-green” division of the School of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences at Alabama A&M University. Headed by Dr. Teferi Tsegaye, chair of the department since 2007, NRES is very supportive in research and contributions to make our agriculture and forest environment friendly. Better and safe food to eat, safe water to drink and fresh air to breathe are essential needs that the Department of NRES focuses on through the following programs of study:

Environmental Science Program—offers majors in Soil Science and Environmental Science, and concentration in Environmental Health Science, as well as minor in Remote Sensing and GIS (minors are available outside the department). A GIS Certificate course is also offered to non-traditional students in this program. The Environmental Science program is accredited by the Association of Environmental Health Science Accreditation Program.

Forestry Program—offers majors in Forest Management, and Forest Science, and minors in Wildlife Biology and Fisheries (minors are available outside the department as well). The Forestry program is accredited by the Society of American Foresters.

Plant Science Program—offers a major in Horticulture and Crop Science, minors are available within and outside the department. The degrees and course curricula are as per Alabama Council for Higher Education (ACHE) standards and are recognized by the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, and American Society for Horticultural Science.

Students can earn an undergraduate Bachelor of Science degree from these programs with paid on-the-job training. Master’s and doctorate degree programs in Plant and Soil Science are also offered; allowing students to remain in the field, or to pursue interests in academic careers, medicine, USDA, private industry, US forest services, legal fields, public health, US public science administration, etc. upon completion of undergraduate study.

Each course of study provided by the Department of NRES allows undergraduate students to gain knowledge and develop skills through cutting edge research and hands-on training in the following areas:

- Horticulture/Sports Turf Management
- Ornamental Horticulture/Landscape Designing
- Wildlife and Fisheries/Forestry
- Biotechnology/Bioinformatics
- Environmental Science/Water Quality
- Remote Sensing and GIS/Geographical Information Systems
- Alternative Fuels
- Medicinal Plants/Organic Vegetable Production
- Seed Production Technology
- Soil Science/Soil and Water Conservation

State-of-the-art laboratories and facilities, and a supportive learning environment are some of the unique features of the Department of NRES. The department is also involved in diverse organizations, activities, national competitions, and outreach programs working together with local high schools, weather stations, and other universities in order to give back to the community. For example, organic plant research and production has been increased within the department to provide food for low income families and communities. The High School Adoption Program works with a chosen high school from the community, during the summer to provide NRES training and education to students. Also, extensive research projects are conducted to find alternative medicines through medicinal plants for those who are diabetic or have hypertension. Success from these research projects could result in medicine that could be less expensive for consumers. The Department of NRES also has a strong community focus with education and outreach programs that reach all sectors of the local community.

The Department of NRES is on a mission to recruit as many students as possible to this highly marketed program here at Alabama A&M University; the only accredited institute that is unique to producing African American students in this field of study. NRES graduates have higher earning potential and higher job placement rates; with salaries ranging from $38,000 to $60,000 and will increase the longer one is on the job. Scholarships and financial aid are available for any student who is interested in earning a degree from the Department of NRES to pursue a promising career in any one of the following areas:

- Landscape Design
- Seed Technology
- Biotechnology
- NRES Research
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Consultancy
- Wildlife Management
- NRES Education
- Forestry
- Environmental Public Health

Dr. Tsegaye and the faculty of the Department of NRES are 100% supportive and dedicated to all the hard-working students, who wish to succeed in helping to make the world a better place.
Dr. Chukudi Izeogu, Chair

The Department of

Community Planning
and Urban Studies
As a professional discipline, urban planning is concerned with sustaining and enhancing the quality of life in cities and regions by designing livable communities. A career in urban planning is ideal for an individual who enjoys developing a better community and has a strong interest in positive social, economic, environmental and physical change. An interest in solving complex problems and research is also beneficial.

**Mission**
Alabama A&M University (AAMU) is a land-grant institution that incorporates education, research, and service into the professional, vocational and liberal arts fields. The mission of the Department of Community Planning & Urban Studies (CPUS) is to provide a nationally accredited research and practice-oriented planning education that prepares students for careers in the planning profession. After successfully completing their education, students can address critical issues of physical, environmental, economic and social change in urban and rural communities.

**Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Planning**  
Prepares students for careers as generalist planners with the knowledge base and skills needed to support entry-level positions in planning and related fields.

**Master’s Degree in Urban and Regional Planning**  
Prepares students to become competent professional planning practitioners.

Graduates possess the knowledge, skills and values needed to improve the quality of public and private decisions, which address the social, economic, and physical needs of diverse urban and rural communities.

**Concentrations include:**
- Housing and Community Economic Development
- Transportation Planning
- Environmental Planning
- International Planning

**Accreditations**
The Department of Community Planning & Urban Studies (CPUS) was established in 1970. The two planning programs of study are nationally accredited by the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB).

**Career Opportunities for graduates exist in:**
- City, State, County and Federal planning agencies as –
  - Generalist Planners
  - Planning Technicians
  - Zoning Services Technicians
  - Compliance Officers
  - Housing Officer
  - Transportation Planner /Modeler

continued
- Project Management Assistant
- Researcher
- Mapping/GIS Technician
- Parks & Recreation Supervisor,
- Environmental and Land Use Planner
- Human Services Officer

Employment Opportunities Also Exist in:
- Community Development Corporations
- Housing Agencies
- Banks
- Real Estate Development
- Retail Chains
- Planning Consulting

Career Areas Upon Completion of the Master’s degree for Professional Planning Practice:
• Governmental agencies (State, County, City and Federal) in housing, environmental, transportation, economic development, etc.
• Consulting Businesses
• Community Service Organizations
• Community Development Corporations
• Private Industry
• International Development

Past alumni of the AAMU CPUS department have enjoyed professional success as:
• Director of Planning for Huntsville, AL
• Director of Community Planning for Decatur and Huntsville, AL
• Director Office of Transit Programs, Washington, DC
• Manager, State Transit Services
• Regional Vice President for SEDCO
• Manager Cargo Stakeholder for the Department of Homeland Security
• Planner, Planning Department for the Island of St. Lucia
• Urban Extension Coordinator for the Alabama Cooperative Extension
• Planner, Planning Authority for the Federal Capital Development, Abuja, Nigeria
• Executive Director, Tuskegee-Macon County Community Development Corporation
• Transportation Planner, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Nashville, TN

Advantages of the Department of CPUS:
• First Accredited Planning program in Alabama
• One of two HBCU’s with graduate programs in urban and regional planning in the nation
• One of thirteen universities in the country with both nationally accredited graduate and undergraduate urban planning programs
• Family oriented learning environment that supports formal and informal one-on-one contact with faculty and staff
• Strong student-organization that provides opportunities for students’ voice in program administration
• Computer facilities to support technology based courses
• Professional growth and opportunities through participation in national and local conferences, alumni, faculty and students round table discussions, internships/practicum and field trips
• Faculty and Alumni mentorship

Student Competitions
Students in the Department of Community Planning and Urban Studies participate in national and state competitions such as the Annual Student Planning/Urban Design Competition held during the Spring Conference of the
American Planning Association (APA). Qualified graduate students have also received The Eisenhower Transportation Fellowship from the Federal Highway Administration.

**CPUS and the Community**

The Department of CPUS provides technical assistance to communities within north Alabama. One of the current projects is the Meridian Street Corridor. Also, as a result of Hurricane Katrina, the Department has completed research to determine ways to help communities respond better to emergencies and disasters.

**Other projects include:**

- Providing tutorial assistance and mentoring programs to at-risk children
- Development of a land use plan for the city of Triana, AL
- Technical and research assistant to Dallas-Lincoln Mills neighborhood in its effort to preserve historic structures and improve the village atmosphere of the neighborhood
- Documenting the level of computer literacy in Edmonton Heights, Meadow Hills, and Colonial Hills neighborhoods, and assessing potential of a university – neighborhood computer network.
- Partnering with the City of Selma, AL on a project titled “Charting the Future of Downtown Selma, Alabama”. The purpose of the project was to gain consensus and direction from citizens for the renaissance of Downtown Selma.

**CPUS Faculty and Staff**

Dr. Izeogu has a PhD in Urban Planning from the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) with a concentration in the area of public service systems (housing and infrastructure development). He has a Master of Planning (MPL) degree with concentration in physical spatial systems design from the University of Southern California (USC) Los Angeles, CA, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree in Geography from the University of Nigeria. He has 35 years of combined experience in planning, professionally and academically, and is widely published in the area of planning.

The faculty and staff have many years of professional experience and are involved in teaching, research and public service. They are committed to mentoring students and preparing them for the job market. Dr. Izeogu and the Department of Community Planning and Urban Studies feel that planning is about managing change in urban and rural communities. Planners influence where people live, work, and play and they make a difference in the lives of those people. They influence how an urban area or community should grow and develop so people can enjoy a better quality of life.

“...excellence in research, teaching, and extension in agribusiness; community planning and urban studies; family and consumer sciences; food and animal sciences; and natural resources and environmental sciences.”
Dr. Cynthia Smith, Chair

The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
The Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) offers numerous programs for students that affect families and consumers internationally. The FCS department operates within the total mission of the University’s land-grant function of research, instruction, and service. Program areas include: Apparel, Merchandising and Design; Human Development and Family Studies; Family and Consumer Sciences Education (in cooperation with the School of Education); and Nutrition and Hospitality Management.

**Mission**

The mission of Family and Consumer Sciences is to prepare professionals to enhance the general well-being of individuals, families, and communities, within the context of their environments through teaching, research, demonstration and economic development activities.

**Degrees:**

The department offers a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Family and Consumer Sciences with Majors/Concentrations in:
- Apparel, Merchandising & Design
- Fashion Design
- Human Development & Family Studies
(Offering an 18-hour online minor in Family Financial Planning)
- Nutrition & Hospitality Management
- General Dietetics
- Hospitality Management

Master of Science (M.S.) in Family and Consumer Sciences (Thesis and Non-Thesis Options) with Concentrations in:
- Apparel, Merchandising & Design
- Human Development & Family Studies
- Nutrition & Hospitality Management

In cooperation with the School of Education the department offers two degree programs:
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Family & Consumer Sciences Education
- Master of Education (M.Ed.) in Family & Consumer Sciences
(Alternative 5th Year Program available for students desiring to become certified in Education)

**Accreditations**

All of the undergraduate programs in the department of FCS are accredited by the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS). The General Dietetics program is also accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) of the American Dietetic Association. Although an accreditation, the 18-hour online program in Family Financial Planning is registered with the CFP Board of Standards.

**Career Opportunities**

- Apparel, Merchandising & Design Majors
- Merchandising and Retail Managers
- Apparel Designers
- Fashion Stylists/Personal Shoppers

Further education at a design school could develop additional connections in the industry that could lead to apprenticeships and/or ownership of design businesses.

- Family & Consumer Sciences Education Majors
- Educators in academic institutions and community settings.
- Focus areas include global education, interpersonal relationships throughout the life cycle, and diverse family settings.
- Human Development & Family Studies Majors
- Professional jobs in the following sectors:
  - Child and Adolescent Development
  - Family Life
  - Government Social Service Agencies
  - Private Businesses that specialize in goods and services for the family, children, and the home environment
- Nutrition & Hospitality Management Majors
- Dietitians
- Managers in hospitals, restaurants, amusement parks and resorts such as Disney

Becoming a registered dietitian can lead to higher paying jobs at specialized institutions.

Graduates in many of the FCS majors may also work in the Cooperative Extension System, which offers opportunities for competitive salaries and professional growth. The Extension System provides both county and state staff the opportunity to interact with the public to design programs that fit the needs of their constituents. Extension agents are usually required to have a master’s degree. Terminal degrees are preferred for state specialist positions. Salary ranges for these positions begin at about $32,000. State specialists can achieve pay grades comparable to individuals with doctoral degrees, depending on professional experience and the length of service.

**Student Activities and Involvements**

All FCS students are required to complete hands-on pre-professional activities throughout their undergraduate programs through internships, experiences associated with classes, and involvements in pre-professional organizations.

The Department sponsors an Awards Day each Spring where students are recognized for their accomplishments, (i.e., President’s Cup, Dean’s List, honor roll, choir, band, dance team, etc.). Awards Day is also the department’s way of showing appreciation to the FCS students for representing the Department at various functions internal and external to the University. The Department also sponsors a special activity (reception, brunch or luncheon) for its graduating students, both undergraduate and graduate levels, preceding each commencement exercise at the University. Students are provided words of encouragement, presented with gifts by the department for their achievements, and asked to replace themselves through recruitment of future students. Family members are encouraged to attend the ceremony.

**Competitions and Events**

The Department of FCS participates in various competitions and events throughout the year where students gain valuable experience and exposure. Some of the competitions are state level design competitions mainly for undergraduate students. In 2009, Alabama A&M University students won two of the three awards in the design competitions at the state meeting of the Alabama Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (ALAFCS). In that same year, the Department of FCS had winners in the graduate scholarship competition from ALAFCS and the Alabama Dietetic Association. Another FCS undergraduate student also won the election of state president of the ALAFCS student unit. Events such as these encourage the objective of the department concerning the preparation of students to be strong leaders.

The annual Spring Fashion Show is another exciting event for the department. Open to the public, this event is the culmination of activities for seniors in Apparel, Merchandising & Design. This activity allows students to showcase original designs and to utilize knowledge and skills learned to plan and organize a fashion show for public presentation.

The Fashion Study Tour, where students travel to major fashion markets, is an additional opportunity for learning and growth. With this in mind, in the future, the department optimistically plans to travel to the fashion capital of the world - Paris, France!

**Community Service**

The Department of FCS values giving back to the community by being involved in service to mankind and providing a positive and motivating presence. Some of its efforts have included service to the community by providing seminars to children’s homes, local elementary schools and other community organizations.

**General Department Information**

The Department of FSC also offers:
- A Hospitality Management Program in conjunction with J.F. Drake State Technical College
- An expanding e-learning program and practical learning experience through the Family Center, Child Development Center, Bed and Breakfast, Catering Services, Historic Costume Collection, Fashion Study Tour, and Fashion Extravaganza.
- Research and Development opportunities
- Financial assistance and Scholarship Awards for qualified students
- Distinctive internship opportunities for all students with organizations such as the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and Walt Disney World, Inc.
- Great job prospects!

**FCS Faculty and Staff**

The Department of FCS has creative and competent faculty and staff, capable of meeting the needs of all its students. Dr. Smith and her faculty are published professionals that hold various offices and board memberships in professional organizations. The department also has an excellent advisory council consisting of practitioners from various facets of Family and Consumer Sciences. Care is taken to ensure that all program areas are represented on the council.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Title</th>
<th>Organizer</th>
<th>Web Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan-8</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>AANU NASW Meeting</td>
<td>Donna Harris</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aanu.edu">www.aanu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan-8</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>Outlaw Monster Truck Event (3 Shows)</td>
<td>Steve Quercio</td>
<td><a href="http://www.outlawmonstertrucks.com">www.outlawmonstertrucks.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan-9</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ron Woodbridge</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-11</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-16-17</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>North Alabama Canine Cruisers</td>
<td>Brenda Murray</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gosomersetnet/nacc/">www.gosomersetnet/nacc/</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-23</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>2nd Annual Rama Show American Bully Dog Show</td>
<td>Jason Sargent</td>
<td>wwwALSEK.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-26</td>
<td>11 AM</td>
<td>MSU Program Advisory Board</td>
<td>Donna Harris</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aaru.edu">www.aaru.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan-30</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Rocket City Swap Meet and Trade Show</td>
<td>Tony Gobert</td>
<td><a href="http://www.rocketcityrc.com">www.rocketcityrc.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-1</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Mike Moore’s Bucking Bulls Rodeo</td>
<td>Mike Moore</td>
<td>861-388-0182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb-20</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>National Barrel Horse Association</td>
<td>Randy Stigall</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abbha.com">www.abbha.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-1</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-5 - 6</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Tennessee Valley Junior Beef Expo</td>
<td>Raymond Jones</td>
<td>256-533-3311</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar-13</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>United Barrel Horse Association</td>
<td>Eddy Hulsey</td>
<td>205-360-1922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar-27</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>PH Horse Show</td>
<td>Wanda Farris</td>
<td>256-532-1577</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-5</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr-24 &amp; 25</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>North Alabama Canine Cruisers</td>
<td>Brenda Murray</td>
<td><a href="http://www.gosomersetnet/nacc/">www.gosomersetnet/nacc/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May-3</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May-22</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>National Barrel Horse Association</td>
<td>Randy Stigall</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abbha.com">www.abbha.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May-28-29</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>International Kiko Coat Association</td>
<td>Mista Browning</td>
<td>613-530-2117</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun-7</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<td>July-12</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<td>Aug-2</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept-13</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept-23</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>National Barrel Horse Association</td>
<td>Randy Stigall</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abbha.com">www.abbha.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-2</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>United Barrel Horse Association</td>
<td>Eddy Hulsey</td>
<td>205-360-1922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct-4</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct-31-31</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>Huntsville Obedience Training Club</td>
<td>Terry Campbell</td>
<td>256-722-6558</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov. 6 - 7</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>North Alabama Canine Cruisers</td>
<td>Brenda Murray</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec-6</td>
<td>7 PM</td>
<td>Madison County Farmers Federation</td>
<td>Rex Vaughn</td>
<td><a href="http://www.aldfarmers.org">www.aldfarmers.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec-18</td>
<td>8 AM</td>
<td>National Barrel Horse Association</td>
<td>Randy Stigall</td>
<td><a href="http://www.abbha.com">www.abbha.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calendar of Events**

The Agribition Center

"Serving Our Community"

4925 Moores Mill Road
Huntsville, Alabama 35811
256-859-5896 Office
256-859-7813 Fax
(dates subject to change)
SAES Directory

Dean
Dr. Robert W. Taylor
Administrative Assistant 256.372.5783

Research Director
Dr. Zachary N. Senwo
Secretary 256.372.5781

Public and Media Relations Coordinator
K. Renée Johnson 256.372.4827

Research Programs Coordinator
Phyllis S. Campbell 256.372.4200

Research Specialist
M. Carleen Bailey 256.372.4830

Departments and Facilities

Agribusiness
Dr. Willie Cheatham, Chair 256.372.5411
Ms. Denise Fountain, Secretary 256.372.8257

Community Planning and Urban Studies
Dr. Chukudi Izeogu, Chair 256.372.4990
Mrs. Heidi Weaver, Secretary 256.372.5426

Family and Consumer Sciences
Dr. Cynthia Smith, Chair 256.372.4172
Ms. Sharon Moore, Secretary 256.372.5419
Ms. J. Diana Grigsby, Secretary 256.372.5262

Food and Animal Sciences
Dr. Martha Verghese, Chair/Interim 256.372.4175
Ms. Sharon Steele, Secretary 256.372.4176
Ms. Sonya Bynum, Secretary 256.372.8028

Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
Dr. Teferi Tsegaye, Chair 256.372.4219
Ms. Vanessa Curry, Administrative Secretary 256.372.4214
Ms. Lacy Milan, Senior Secretary 256.372.4198

Agribition Center
Ms. Donna Gilbert, Secretary & Center Contact 256.859.5456

Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station
Mr. Gokul Ghale, Station Manager (Interim) 256.828.2114/828.2100
The role of the Winfred Thomas Agricultural Research Station is to “provide facilities and outdoor laboratories to completely integrate the instructional, research and extension programs within the School of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at AAMU, under the traditional land-grant concept; conduct both basic and applied research programs designed to improve the productivity of agricultural and natural resource systems in Alabama and the nation, while maintaining a quality environment; develop in conjunction with academic programs within the School, a sound program of research designed to expand existing knowledge, and develop new knowledge in order to provide solutions to local, state, national and global problems.”

-Gokul Ghale, Station Manager