



OCTOBER 4, 2002

SOLAR MEGAPHONE

AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Success Through Team Work

Auburn's journey to the Solar Decathlon began with Dr. Henry Brandhorst, the director of the Space Power Institute. In the fall of 2001, Brandhorst met with the deans of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering to propose that Auburn participate in the event.

The deans have told us that their first response was mixed. Auburn is a state funded school in a state with low taxes and little support for education, so budgets are always a concern.

However, both deans felt that the experience of going head-to-head against students from some of the strongest schools in the nation would be an ideal way to showcase the strength of Auburn's strong engineering and architecture programs and their students.

Realizing that money was key, alumni development officers from the two colleges volunteered to work with students to identify potential sponsors. Faculty from architecture, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, biosystems engineering, computer science and software engineering, and industrial and systems engineering signed on as faculty advisors and found creative ways to integrate the solar decathlon into the curriculum.

In the fall of 2001, students in architecture studio, engineering senior design and other courses began work on various aspects of the design process — all within their own colleges and departments.

"When I first signed on to this project I wasn't entirely sure what it was," says architecture student Katie Houston. "I had no idea how many people I'd be working with or how much I would learn."



Abby Dunlap and Brian McGee work on transportation logistics for the trip back home.



Auburn students meet for the last time to coordinate any last minute plans.



Lesley Hoke directs the Auburn Golden Eagles 50 year reunion through the solar house.



Nathan Blackwood and Drew Freeman frame the first partition for our summer press kickoff.

THE SOLAR MEGAPHONE



It was the transportation aspect of the project that first forced all of us involved in the project to begin to work together as a team. As we struggled to figure out how to adapt the design for transport, we got to know one another

"I remember wondering, who are THOSE people," explains Elizabeth Wagner, a senior in industrial design. "Now some of them are my best friends. In fact, I'm planning to marry another one of THOSE architecture students in a few months!"



While students from the very different cultures of architecture and engineering were coming together in cross disciplinary teams, development staff were out signing on corporate sponsors such as Mirant and Excelon and finding a location to begin constructing our home.

