

# ALABAMA ENTREPRENEUR INTERNSHIPS

*Rural Programming*  
Sustainable Technologies and Green Manufacturing  
Dr. Karen Boykin, Ph.D., J.D.  
The University of Alabama  
Alabama EPSCoR

## Sustainable Technology & Green Manufacturing



Our 2012 Group, consisted of five teams, each aiming to develop a sustainable, eco-friendly product or process tied to State Economic Growth.

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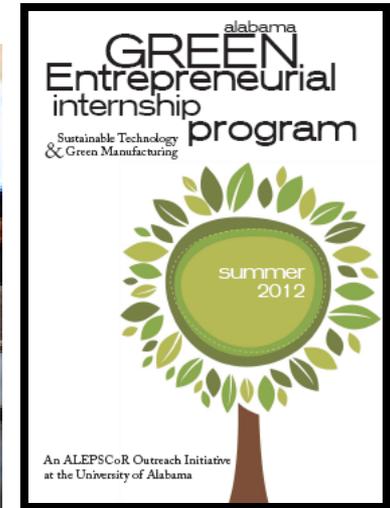
Our Interns

Our Mentors

Project

## Overview

- Entrepreneurial Bridge Program
- NSF Metrics
  - Underrepresented Groups
  - Rural Communities
  - Industry Collaborators
- State Strategic S&T Plan
- Introducing STEM Research
  - Nano, Bio, Sensors, Green Sustainability
  - Variable Comparisons, Basic Science
- Student Team Businesses
- Tied to Local Resources



## Expanding Opportunities

- Existing 1 Week Program
- Rural Communities
- Art/Design, Economics, STEM Elements

### Model:

**Center + Industry + Student ⇨ Employee<sup>10</sup>**

- Mutual Goals and Economic Benefit

### Addressing: What Does Industry Want?

Sustainability, Competent Workforce, Profitability

- Real World Ownership Understanding Risk

### Elements:

Campus Classes, Rural Projects, Labs, Site Visits,  
Website Design, Marketing, Journalism

**Challenges:** Design, Recruiting ,Location, Sustaining



bamboo

Empowering Small Towns,  
One Light at a Time.

AlabamLight found a marketable use for locally grown bamboo. Working with local builder Glen Campbell and industrial design mentor Kristin Maki, interns David Alan Hawkins and Tarif Haque developed elegant and innovative designs for LED-powered bamboo lamps. Rodney and Gabriel Pelt, Hale County High School students, assisted art mentor Jamey Grimes with graphical computer design simulations.

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## Successful Research Based Projects

- Agricultural ByProducts
  - Catfish Fertilizers
  - Biofuels Soaps
- Alternative Energy, Defense
- Bamboo, Aerospace/Materials Engineering
- Paper/Water, Civil Engineering
- Recycling:
  - Recycling T-Shirts, Chemistry, Textile Design
  - Recycling Glass, Glass Industry, Social Work

**Mentors:** Post Docs, Grad Students, Others

**Presentations:** Chamber & Community

**Next Steps: Rurally  
Located Program(s)**

Working with local  
schools



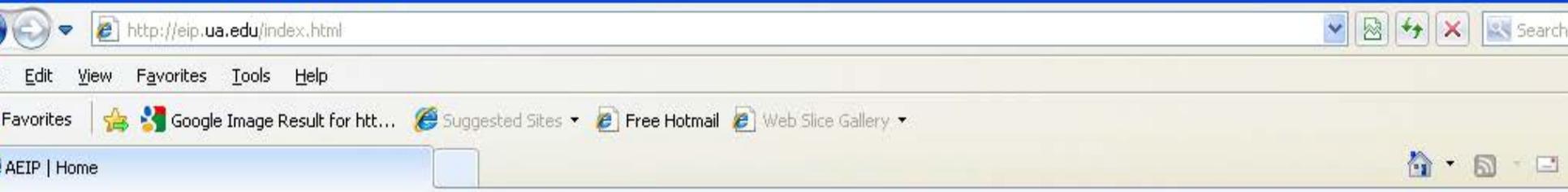
Write.  
Plant.  
Water.  
Enjoy!



Sprout tackled the issue of wastewater produced from the traditional process of paper-making. The team, led by environmental engineer Jonathan Bonner, interns James Barks and Jordan Peit, and mentors Kate Kotan and Reeh Sleshi, developed a way to make sustainable paper using locally sourced bamboo and embedded with seeds. Once the paper has been used, it can be planted to grow wildflowers, vegetables or a variety of herbs. The wastewater from the paper-making process is then run through an ecological filter, rendering the water clean and reusable without the use of chemicals.

water 





# ALABAMA ENTREPRENEUR INTERNSHIPS

**Entrepreneurial Programs Key to Student-Industry Equation  
Equations are Shifting to Partnership Models  
Mutual Benefit for All in Talent Fishing:  
Keeps Student Fish and Industry Fishermen Happy!  
Visit Our Website -- <http://eip.ua.edu>**

## Making Paper

The Water Team made sustainable paper using local bamboo sources. Their business, Sprout paper, centers on a innovative idea: once the paper's been used, it can be tossed in a garden or backyard, and flowers will grow from it.



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