

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12/17/07

Mark Wilson, 334/844-4948 (wilsom3@auburn.edu)

Mike Clardy, 334/844-9999 (clardch@auburn.edu)

LAKWETE TO SPEAK ON THE COTTON GIN FOR DISCOVER AUBURN SERIES

Dr. Angela Lakwete, associate professor of history at Auburn University and author of *Inventing the Cotton Gin: Machine and Myth in Antebellum America*, will speak on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at 3 p.m. in the Special Collections and Archives Department of the Ralph Brown Draughon Library.

In *Inventing the Cotton Gin*, Lakwete explores the myths surrounding Eli Whitney's cotton gin and shows that gins existed for centuries before his 1794 invention. "Lakwete's compelling and revisionist book on the cotton gin is a major contribution to the history of Southern technology," notes Pete Daniel of the National Museum of American History. *Inventing the Cotton Gin* won the prestigious Edelstein Prize from the Society of the History of Technology in 2004.

The Discover Auburn series is co-sponsored by the Auburn University Libraries, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and the Auburn University Bookstore. This semester's series will conclude on April 16 with Dr. Tim Dodge on "The Influence of Gospel Music on Early Rock 'n' Roll."

A reception will follow the program, and copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing. For more information on the program and the series, contact the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center at 334-844-4946.

---end---