The National Center for Asphalt Technology (NCAT) is one of the world’s leading institutions for asphalt pavement research and testing. We develop and evaluate new products, design technologies and construction methods that lead to asphalt pavement improvements. Our mission is to provide innovative, relevant and implementable research, technology development and education that advances safe, durable and sustainable asphalt pavements.

The Program for Advanced Vehicle Evaluation (PAVE) is made possible by research at the NCAT Test Track and serves as the operational mechanism and outdoor laboratory for Auburn University's Transportation Research Initiative. In order to simulate traffic wear on the 1.7-mile test oval, our fleet of Class 8 heavy trucks operates over 750,000 miles per year. This type of research is known as accelerated pavement testing because a design lifetime of truck damage (typically 10 to 15 years) is compressed into two years, creating an excellent opportunity to affordably evaluate new technologies while simultaneously providing fleets with reliable and unbiased performance data.

We offer customized research including:

- Type II, Type III, and Type IV SAE/TMC fuel economy studies
- Component durability testing
- Cab vibration reduction and driver fatigue research
- Facility use
- Comparing synthetic vs. conventional fuels and lubricants
- Analyzing pavement damage resulting from conventional dual tires versus wide-base single tires

Program for Advanced Vehicle Evaluation

at AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Contact
Jennifer Dukes: stilljl@auburn.edu
Robert "Rosey" Rosenthal: rosey23@comcast.com

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