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Source: Planning & Analysis

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AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 1

On the rise

Construction crews continue work on AU's new 135,000-square-foot Science Laboratories Center on Roosevelt Drive. Two buildings are scheduled for completion in 2004 and a third in 2005.



Discussion of SACS probation

AU faculty to hold special meeting

The University Faculty will hold a specially called meeting at 3 p.m. Jan. 27 in Broun Hall auditorium to discuss Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' recent decision to place Auburn University on probation.

In placing AU on 12-month probation in December, SACS said Auburn failed to demonstrate compliance with the agency's criteria for institutional commitment and responsibilities in the accrediting process, had not established clear and effective protections against minority control of the governing board, lacked sufficient administrative oversight and financial control of intercollegiate athletics and had insufficient protections against Board of Trustees involvement in day-to-day administration.

Details of the SACS letter are online at www.auburn.edu/administration/specialreports/sacsletter121703.pdf.

The probation resulted from a special investigation into AU governance that SACS launched in 2001. SACS is also scheduled to complete its regular 10-year analysis of AU accreditation this year and will consider both reviews at its annual meeting next December.

On Dec. 12, three days after the SACS action, the University Senate, the faculty's representative

organization, voted without opposition to censure, or officially reprimand President William Walker. The group then voted 37-31, with five abstentions, that it had "no confidence" in Walker's judgment and leadership of Auburn University. The senate rejected by a vote of 42-27, with five abstentions, a call for Walker's immediate resignation.

Addressing the senate before the votes, Walker said he plans to serve no longer than the three-year term he accepted from the Board of Trustees in June 2002 and will ask the board early this year to start a search for his successor. He said the priority for his remaining time in office will be to get AU's full accreditation restored, leaving his successor with a clean slate.

Walker noted that the SACS decision and the recent controversy involving Tommy Tuberville's job status as head football coach followed a period of steady progress for the university. The president cited progress in improving university finances and academics during a time when other universities are facing major economic problems. He also cited improvements in communication among the faculty, administration and trustees during his presidency, as well as improvements in quality of new students, increased diversity and a surge in new facilities.

Trustee Samford leaves Auburn legacy

Funeral services were held on Jan. 2 at the First United Methodist Church in Opelika for AU Board of Trustees member W. James Samford. Burial was in Rosemere Cemetery.

Samford, a member of the board since 1987, died Dec. 29 at his home in Auburn following a lengthy illness. He was 53.

An Opelika native, he was the great-grandson of Alabama Gov. William James Samford, for whom AU's historic Samford Hall is named.

"Mr. Samford had a great love for Auburn University and was a wonderful asset to the institution," said President William Walker. "He was also a good friend of mine."

In April, the Board of Trustees voted to rename Auburn University's baseball park, Plainsman Park, the W. James Samford Stadium at Plainsman Park. Samford, who frequented Auburn baseball games,



Samford

spearheaded the efforts for the construction of the new baseball facility in 1996 and additional renovations in 2001.

Six years after being appointed to the Board of Trustees by former Gov. Guy Hunt to represent the 3rd District, his fellow board members elected Samford president pro tem, a position he held until June 2003.

He was reappointed to the board for a 12-year term in 1999 by then-Gov. Don Siegelman.

Samford earned a B.A. in political science from AU in 1972 and a law degree from the University of Alabama in 1978.

From 1978-1980, he was an attorney for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. in Washington, D.C. When he returned to Alabama in 1980, former Gov. Fob James appointed him to the Alabama Public Service Commission.

Samford, who was an Air Force veteran, was senior legal adviser to James before going into private law practice in Montgomery.

Samford's ties to AU went beyond his great-grandfather. His father, William J. Samford, was Auburn's general counsel for 17 years and his first-cousin, the late Thomas D. Samford III, was general counsel for 29 years. His grandfather, Thomas D. Samford, was also a member of the Board of Trustees from 1902-1906 and 1914-1947.

Selection committee approves nominees

The Auburn Trustee Selection Committee has unanimously approved three new potential Auburn University trustees, and a fourth could be forwarded to the Alabama Senate this spring.

The Selection Committee, meeting last Thursday at Gov. Bob Riley's call, quickly approved the trio of state Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle of Alexander City, Gadsden city planner Charles Ball and Fayette school principal Sarah Newton.

The three were nominated in 2003, but did not become trustees because the state Senate never considered their names. Approval by a majority of the Senate is required to become a trustee.

Riley said that after speaking with most of the members of the Senate Confirmation Committee, he expects no problem with Senate confirmation.

Senate President Pro Tem Lowell Barron, who would be replaced on the board by Ball, also says he sees no problems with approval of the three.

Other trustees who will be leaving the board are state Rep. Jack Venable, D-Tallassee, and Charles Glover of Vinemont.

The terms of Barron, Glover and Venable officially ended on Jan. 1, 2003, but the state constitution allowed them to carry over until the end of 2003 because the Senate had confirmed no replacements.

In addition to the three seats that have been pending for more than a year, a fourth seat was opened with the death on Dec. 29 of trustee W. James Samford Jr. of Auburn.

Sen. E.B. McClain, chairman of the Senate Confirmation Committee, said, however, the Samford seat would not become involved with the three others and will be handled separately.

Riley said a meeting would be called fairly quickly to consider a replacement for Samford.

Outreach receives 53 scholarship applications

The Office of the Vice President for Auburn University Outreach has received 53 applications for \$200,000 in outreach scholarship faculty competitive grants. The office will announce the recipients later this month.

"We're pleased with the number and variety of proposals submitted," said Robert Montjoy, assistant vice president for University Outreach, who conducted the workshop and is serving as the contact person for the grant project. "Every college and school across the campus is participating."

The program builds on the experience of the "Do Something" grants funded by Outreach in 1998 and adds an emphasis on promoting outreach scholarship as described in the 2002 revisions to Chapter 3 of the AU Faculty Handbook. The "Do Something" grants initiative earned an award of excellence from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education in 1999.

Grants will range in value up to \$20,000 for one year with the possibility of a renewal.

A committee of five faculty members is reviewing the 53 proposals. The committee's goal is to review the applications and provide recommendations to the vice president by the end of the semester.

For additional information, contact Robert Montjoy at 844-5700 or by e-mail at montjrs@auburn.edu

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 13

- First day of classes for spring semester.
- Multicultural Lecture: "In Defense of African History," Patience Essah, History, noon, Foy 208.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- Curators Choice Film Series: Chihuly in Action, free, 7 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art auditorium.

Wednesday, January 14

- Multicultural Lecture: "The Relevance of an Africana Perspective to Public Schooling," Kimberly King, Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology, noon, Foy 208.

Thursday, January 15

- Multicultural Lecture: "Using Technology to Diversify University Campuses," Juan Gilbert, Computer Science and Software Engineering, noon, Foy 208.
- Presidential Symposium: "The Roots of Terrorism in Saudi Arabia," Joshua Teitelbaum, Tel Aviv University, noon, Foy 202.
- Concert: AU Symphonic Band and Concert Choir, 8 p.m., Auburn High School.
- Free Night, Jules Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art open to the public, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Monday, January 19

- Holiday: Martin Luther King Jr. birthday observance. No classes; offices closed; no AU Report.

Tuesday, January 20

- Multicultural Lecture: "The Relevance of Africana Studies to Auburn's Scientific Community," Overtoun Jenda, Mathematics, noon, Foy 203.
- Art Talk for Parents and Grandparents, free, 7 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art auditorium.

Wednesday, January 21

- Multicultural Lecture: "Plural Marking and the History of African-American History," Robin Sabino, English, noon, Foy 203.

Friday, January 22

- AU Libraries Book Club: Discussing "The Last Girls" by Lee Smith, 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., first floor Systems Classroom, Draughon Library.
- Curators Choice Lecture on Audubon: Alan Gehret, curator of Mill Grove Museum in Philadelphia, free, 7 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art auditorium.

Friday, January 23

- Multicultural Display: SanKofa African-American Museum on Wheels, 2 p.m.-5 p.m., Foy Student Union ballroom.

Monday, January 26

- Next AU Report: Weekly production resumes.

Tuesday, January 27

- Littleton-Franklin Lecture: Bioterrorism expert Richard Preston, 4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Meeting: University Faculty, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- AU Theatre: "Freakspiel!," 7:30 p.m., Peet Theatre.

AUreport

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The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during academic terms, except for major holidays or the Monday after a major holiday. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is 4 p.m. on Wednesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone 334/844-9999. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu

United Way campaign exceeds goal



Auburn faculty and staff exceeded their United Way goal for 2003 by more than \$4,000, contributing \$129,314 to support local charities and social services.

The campus campaign was a major part of the Lee County United Way Campaign, which started after Labor Day with an \$865,000 goal and ended on Dec. 31 with \$910,500 in contributions and pledges.

More than 30 charities and social services agencies receive funds from United Way to assist the needy in Lee County. The support may be more critical this year than in the past, said campus campaign coordi-

Smith named new AU dean of students

Kent J. Smith Jr. has been named dean of students at Auburn University following a national search.



Smith

Smith comes from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where he was director of Multicultural Affairs. He previously held administrative and faculty positions at Colorado State University, Cleveland State University and Southern University.

Wes Williams, AU associate provost and vice president for student affairs, announced Smith's appointment.

"I know Dr. Smith will be a great leader, mentor and advocate for our students and provide guidance for a broad range of student development-oriented departments," said Williams.

Smith says his impressions of Auburn are positive. "I've been on a lot of campuses and have heard of the Auburn Spirit, but to see it first-hand is wonderful," he said. "The Auburn Spirit is real, and it is amazing."

Smith said he knows the reputations of those who have come before him. "Dean (James) Foy (dean of students 1952-78) is a legend at Auburn, and he along with many other administrators in student affairs will always be known for the great rapport

Lecture series to introduce Africana studies

AU's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs will host a series of public lectures on Africana studies by Auburn faculty over the next 10 days.

The lectures will introduce the campus to a rich but frequently overlooked part of world culture and history, said Keenan Grenell, AU's interim assistant provost of multicultural affairs. "These extremely informative lectures make the intellectual argument that Africana studies are an essential part of any complete educational curriculum," he added.

The College of Liberal Arts recently launched a minor in Africana studies, and Grenell said the lectures could help build the case for elevating the program to departmental status.

All presentations will be at noon in Foy Student Union. Three speakers this week will be in Foy 208:

- Patience Essah, an associate professor of history,

nator Susie Hall, executive secretary in the Office of Administrative Services.

"Many agencies will face shortfalls or the loss of funding from other sources this year because of state and national economic problems. People who need services would not get them if it weren't for United Way contributions," Hall said.

AU met its goal before Thanksgiving and received more pledges and gifts during December, she said.

"The willingness of people to give when the economy is down, and there is a lot of uncertainty about the future, demonstrates that the Auburn Spirit is alive and well," Hall said.

built with students," Smith said. "I want to follow that fine example of service and be remembered as dedicated to meeting student needs."

A native of Baton Rouge, La., Smith earned a B.S. in secondary education and a M.Ed. from Southern University. His Ph.D. from Colorado State University is in education and human resource studies with an emphasis in student affairs.



Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four staff members for outstanding performance. Winners for December were, from left, Marie Byrd of Telecommunications, Sharee Garrett of Air Transportation, Bill Harmon of Facilities and, not pictured, Waymon Abner of Housing and Residence Life.

speaks Tuesday, Jan. 13, on "In Defense of African History."

- Kimberly King, an associate professor of educational leadership, will speak Wednesday, Jan. 14, on "The Relevance of an Africana Perspective to Public Schooling."

- Juan Gilbert, an assistant professor of computer science and software engineering, will speak Thursday, Jan. 15, on "Using Technology to Diversify University Campuses."

Two speakers next week will be in Foy 203:

- Overtoun Jenda, a professor of mathematics, will speak Jan. 20 on "The Relevance of Africana Studies to Auburn's Scientific Community."

- Robin Sabino, an associate professor of English, will speak Jan. 21 on "Plural Marking and the History of African-American English."

“Freakspiel!” to premiere in Telfair Peet

AU Theatre’s world-premiere production of “Freakspiel!: A Demented Rock Opera” will be Tuesday, Jan. 27, in Telfair Peet Theatre.

Performances of “Freakspiel!” are scheduled for Jan. 27-Feb. 1 and Feb. 3-7. All performances except



Theatre work

Though AU’s Telfair Peet Theatre will host “Freakspiel!” with in-the-round, on-stage seating later this month, work continues on renovations to the 30-year-old venue. Here, from left to right, Worth Gardner, head of the Theatre Department, Dan Wood, Bailey-Harris Construction Co. superintendent of the renovations, and Linda Bell, AU Theatre marketing manager, look at blueprints for the renovations. The refurbished theatre will include new seating and improved lobby and entrance areas with terrazo tile and gallery lighting.

the Feb. 1 matinee will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Feb. 1 performance is set for 2:30.

The AU Theatre box office is open from noon-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Admission is \$18 per person for faculty and staff, \$15 for students and \$20 for others. For tickets, call 844-4154.

“Freakspiel!” was originally scheduled for November at the city’s Jan Dempsey Art Center, but was cancelled. The show was set for the Dempsey Center because of renovations to Telfair Peet.

Worth Gardner, head of the Department of Theatre, said renovations to Telfair Peet are not complete, but are far enough along to allow the production of “Freakspiel!”

“We’re not ready for a gala opening, and it probably won’t be until next year,” said Gardner. “There’s still a lot of work going on, but we are to a point where we can present ‘Freakspiel!’ on stage with in-the-round seating.”

Gardner describes “Freakspiel!” as “edgy, experimental theatre” that some viewers may consider shocking and others will see as a satire on the extremes of popular culture.

“‘Freakspiel!’ is a new and different kind of theatre from what most of the audience is used to experiencing,” said Gardner, who is also the play’s director and musical composer. “We are warning people not to come if they are easily shocked or looking for soothing entertainment, and not to bring young children. This is anything but soothing; it is supposed to make people think.”

AIA 2004 Gold Medal goes to Mockbee

Samuel “Sambo” Mockbee, the late founder of Auburn’s Rural Studio, is the 2004 recipient of the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal.



Mockbee

The Gold Medal is the highest individual award the AIA presents to individuals whose significant bodies of work have lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture. The 59 past winners include such luminaries as Thomas Jefferson, Frank Lloyd Wright and I.M. Pei.

Jamie Aycok, Gulf States regional director for AIA, nominated Mockbee for the award. “Sambo and the Rural Studio he founded have transcended both the architectural profession and the academy and have found shelter in the hearts of the populace,” Aycok wrote.

“We want to expose students to their social responsibility as architectural citizens, along with the principles of design and construction,” Mockbee said in 1998. “Everybody wants the same thing, rich or poor—not only a warm, dry roof, but a shelter for the soul. If it doesn’t have that, it isn’t architecture.”

As a Gold Medal recipient, Mockbee’s name will be chiseled into the AIA’s granite Wall of Honor at the organization’s Washington headquarters. Mockbee’s widow, Jackie, will accept the Gold Medal at the 2004 American Architectural Foundation Accent

on Architecture Gala on March 3 at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

In 1993, Mockbee and Rural Studio co-founder D.K. Ruth began taking students from AU’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction to the Rural Studio’s base in Newbern, Ala., a town about 160 miles from campus in rural Hale County. The West Alabama county is one of the poorest in the United States, with more than 1,400 substandard dwellings. Since then, students, in consultation with local residents, have produced architecture that challenges conventional methods, materials and forms. The students use such discarded objects as tires, scrap wood and bottles as structural materials.

Since its inception, architectural students at the Rural Studio have built several homes and community projects including a farmer’s market, a chapel, a bus stop and community center, a children’s center and an open-air pavilion.

In addition to serving as Alumni Professor of architecture at Auburn, Mockbee was a partner in the firm of Mockbee/Coker in Memphis, Tenn., and Canton, Miss. He received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from AU in 1974. He began practicing architecture in 1977. In 1989, he was elected to the AIA’s College of Fellows.

Mockbee died of complications from leukemia in December 2001.

Wilson shares knowledge with Koreans, Vietnamese

Dennis Wilson, professor and head of the College of Education’s Department of Health and Human Performance, was an invited keynote speaker for the recent World University in Daegu, Korea.

In November, Wilson was part of a 10-member Sports Medicine Delegation that visited Vietnam. The group interacted with various school and hospital personnel in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon). Plans were laid for additional cooperative efforts between the U.S. and Vietnam in the area of sports medicine.

Ellis again VP of Alabama Council

James Ellis, director of international education at AU, was recently re-elected to a third term as vice president of the Alabama Council for International Programs at the council’s annual conference in Montgomery. Anne Ledvina of Birmingham Southern College was re-elected to a second term as president. All universities and colleges in Alabama are members of the organization whose mission is to provide leadership for international education in the state.

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