

Inside

2 Samia Spencer receives award from France

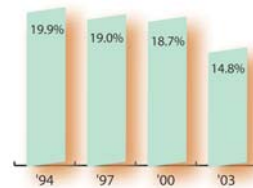
2 Farmers group presents top award to Jensen

3 Band marching in Washington at inauguration

4 Delegation from South Africa visiting Auburn

How Auburn Stacks Up

Withdrawal rates for AU freshmen by year



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY



Lawn gone

No, Cater Lawn is not being converted into a mobile home park. The trailer is merely a temporary addition to the lawn in front of Cater Hall. Workers began rebuilding the lawn in late December in the first stage of a larger project to improve pedestrian access and provide a more consistent look to landscaping along Thach Avenue. Below is an artist's rendering of the completed pedestrian mall.

Thach corridor

Work starts on new pedestrian mall

Work began in late December on the first phase of the pedestrian corridor between Foy Union and the west side of Haley Center.

Scheduled for completion in late summer, a section of Thach Avenue that once funneled hundreds of cars daily through the center of campus will provide a walkway for thousands of pedestrians.

"The Thach project is part of a family of projects in the master plan to make the central campus safer and more pleasant for everyone," said Cathy Love, who is coordinating the conversion for the Facilities Division. "We want to improve the pedestrian experience for the thousands of students and others who must walk from building to building throughout the day."

In preparation for this project, Thach has been closed since May while construction crews installed

new infrastructure lines for heating, cooling and other utilities.

The first phase of the current project started with removal of the earthen mounds, circular drive and fishpond in front of Cater Hall. The new, more accessible landscaping on the lawn will include rows of trees and a large expanse of lawn stretching from the historic building to the Thach pedestrian corridor.

"The Cater lawn will be part of a larger park that will permit people to move about more easily on foot, and it will be an attractive, inviting place for everyone," said Love.

In the largest part of the project, the former street will be replaced with a pedestrian walkway that will be 20 feet wide with etched and brick accents.

See [Pedestrian corridor](#), page 2



Ambassador bestows award

France honors Auburn professor

The government of France has awarded one of its highest academic designations, the Palmes



Spencer

Spencer, who is France's honorary consul in Alabama, accompanied the French ambassador to

Academique, to an AU professor.

Jean-David Levitte, France's ambassador to the United States, presented the award to Samia Spencer, Alumni Professor in the AU College of Liberal Arts' Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, during a visit to Alabama in December.

Montgomery, where Levitte met with Gov. Bob Riley and Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright and spoke to military officers at Maxwell Air Force Base.

A member of the AU faculty since 1972, Spencer is internationally prominent in the field of French language and culture. In recognition of the Auburn professor's efforts to strengthen cultural ties between Alabama and France, Levitte conferred upon Spencer the title Officer in the Order of Academic Palms, a ministerial title established in 1808 during the Napoleonic Era.

From Alabama Farmers Federation

Jensen wins top agriculture award

Alabama's largest farm organization has presented its top award to John Jensen, former interim dean of the AU College of Agriculture, recognizing him for 32 years of service to Alabama farmers.



Jensen

Jensen, who has been special assistant for agriculture to interim AU President Ed Richardson since September, came to Auburn in 1972 as a fisheries research associate and later became a fisheries specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

He was named a professor in the Department of

Alabama Farmers Federation President Jerry Newby presented the federation's 2004 Service to Agriculture Award to Jensen in December during the organization's 83rd annual meeting in Mobile.

Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures in 1989 and six years later was named department head. Jensen served in that role until 2001, when he was named interim dean of AU's College of Agriculture and interim director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

Biggin Gallery shows progression of metal artworks from drawings

A series of working drawings and artworks by more than 20 metalsmiths from 10 states is on display at Biggin Gallery through Feb. 4.

"Working Drawings" is an exhibition of artwork accompanied by the artists' preliminary drawings. These drawings are seldom seen by anyone other than the artists themselves, says the exhibition's curator, Eric Cuper, a New Jersey artist blacksmith.

Pedestrian corridor

continued from page 1

The walkway will be lined with trees and benches and architectural and landscaping elements as recommended in a study by Idea Inc. design consultants in 2001 and the master plan by Sasaki Associates in 2002.

Concrete-filled bollards are being removed from the corridor. Decorative metal posts at each end of the Thach corridor will keep vehicles off the walkway. However, the walkway will be six inches thick and wide enough to permit access to fire trucks and other emergency vehicles, as well as some small service vehicles. The park between Cater and Haley Center will also receive walkway and landscaping upgrades.

The \$2.2 million Thach project is part of a \$6.6 million program to improve pedestrian safety and access across the center of campus. The Thach

project will be followed by similar work on Roosevelt Drive, which has been closed for two years for construction of new science laboratories across from the lower quadrangle student housing.

Love said the Thach design is based on the Idea Inc. and Sasaki guidelines and grew out of a collaboration of a broad-based campus committee, the landscape architectural firm of Holcombe, Norton and Pritchett, the civil engineering firm of Krebs and Associates and others.

Other pedestrian access projects scheduled for the next two years include improvements to the concourses east of Haley Center and Broun Hall and removal of a section of Duncan Drive.

Samford Avenue will remain open, but speed bumps or other traffic calming devices will be added to reduce vehicle speed.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Through Feb. 4: "Working Drawings," drawings and artworks by more than 20 prominent metalsmiths, Biggin Gallery.
- Through March 13: Rodin sculptures, selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Tuesday, January 18

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.

Wednesday, January 19

- Pay It Forward Film Series: "Salaam Bombay," 5 p.m., Spidle 144. Admission is \$1.19 for "War on Hunger."

Monday, January 24

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, January 25

- HR Development Program: "Preventing Identity Theft," Cyndy Walp of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Alabama, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., HR Training Facility, 146 N. Gay St. Register online at Human Resources A-Train website or call Kelli Henderson at 844-7939.

Saturday, January 29

- Literary Dinner: Hosting Rick Bragg, author of "All Over But the Shouting," 6 p.m., EAMC Health Resource Center, Opelika. Tickets, \$50; contact Faith Nance, 826-8346.

Monday, January 31

- Library Book Club: Discussing Simon Winchester's "Krakatoa: The Day the World Exploded," 11:45 a.m., Conference Room, Draughon Library. For information, contact Richelle Mask at 844-1734.
- Speech & Hearing Screening: Free service of AU Speech and Hearing Clinic, Haley 1199, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Friday, February 4

- Board of Trustees: Committee sessions start at 8 a.m.; board meets at 1 p.m.; AUM campus.



AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: David Granger and Diane Clifton, AU Communications; Jamie Creamer, Agriculture; and Katie Crew, Education. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services; and JCS Museum.

Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle.

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. 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.

The interlocking AU symbol, shown above and at the top of page 1, is a registered trademark of Auburn University and may not be reproduced without written permission from the AU Office of Trademark Licensing.



Back to school

The AU Bookstore was busier than normal last week as returning students bought books for spring semester classes and souvenirs of the Auburn Tigers' championship season in football.

AU Marching Band participating in parade at Bush inauguration

The AU Marching Band has been selected to participate in the nation's 55th Presidential Inaugural Parade following the inauguration of President George W. Bush on Thursday.

Approximately 320 band members will participate in the parade, which Marching Band Director Rick Good describes as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

"The students' reaction has been awesome. They are really excited to be participating," he said. "I told them in 20 years they can look back and say they were part of history."

This will be the third time the AU Marching Band has participated in a presidential inaugural parade. The last time was in 1989 for the inauguration of the senior George Bush.

The band will play two marches along the 1.7-

mile parade route. The AU Marching Band is the only band from the state that was invited to participate in the parade; the only other group from Alabama invited to participate is the Mobile Azalea Trail organization.

"I think winning the Sudler Trophy last year really helped because we had to list all our awards and accomplishments on the application," Good said referring to the national award that is considered the "Heisman trophy of marching bands."

Alabama legislators supported the AU effort with letters to the selection committee.

Selected from hundreds of applicants, the band had to submit a picture, a 2-minute video clip and an audio recording to the inauguration planning committee. The national organization extended the invitation on Dec. 10.

Former First Lady Caroline Draughon dies



President and First Lady Ralph and Caroline Draughon in 1965

Caroline Marshall Draughon, widow of former AU President Ralph Brown Draughon, died Jan. 7 at age 94.

As Auburn's first lady during her husband's presidency from 1947-65, Mrs. Draughon developed a reputation as a jovial and gracious hostess who had a special rapport with students.

During her husband's presidency, she was an advocate for housing and services for married students. In recognition of her commitment to married students, the Board of Trustees named AU's married-student housing complex the Caroline Draughon Village. That complex opened in 1959. Also in her honor, student apartments built in 1980 were named the Caroline Draughon Village Extension.

After her husband's death in 1968, Mrs. Draughon remained active in the Episcopal Church, Girl Scouts and the Red Cross. Mrs. Draughon was a graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery where she earned membership into Mortar Board honorary.

Succeeds Housel

Jacobs takes helm of AU Athletics

Jay Jacobs, senior associate athletic director for development, was named the AU director of athletics by interim President Ed Richardson in December. Jacobs succeeds David Housel, who is retiring after 10 years as athletics director.

In his new position, Jacobs oversees an athletics program with a \$47 million budget which fields 21 sports.

"I am extremely excited about the opportunity of directing Auburn's athletic program," said Jacobs. "We have a great tradition of success here and I look forward to helping Auburn continue to achieve positive results on the playing field and in the classroom."

Richardson noted that the search for the new athletic director was very competitive. "The search for an athletic director attracted a number of very qualified candidates, making this a difficult decision. I believe that Jay's experience with Auburn athletics, his tenure with Tigers Unlimited and his strong desire to serve the university as athletic director are solid indicators of the skills and leadership he will draw on in guiding athletics. I look forward to his every success."

As senior associate athletic director in charge of Tigers Unlimited, the AU athletics development arm, Jacobs oversaw fundraising efforts that

secured approximately \$60 million in gifts in the last three years. He is spearheading a \$90 million capital campaign that is the largest in Auburn athletic history.

Before being named the head of Tigers Unlimited, Jacobs served in various capacities in the Auburn athletic department, holding the positions of associate athletic director for operations from 1994-2001 and assistant athletic director for support services from 1991-94.

Rudisill named acting department head in College of Education

Mary Rudisill has been named acting head of the Department of Health and Human Performance in the College of Education at AU.

Rudisill, a Humana-Germany-Sherman Distinguished Professor in the department, replaces Dennis Wilson, who has served as department head since 1981.

Wilson, a faculty member for 31 years, is returning to full-time teaching and research in the department. "I have thoroughly enjoyed these 23 years as department head, but I feel that this is a good time for me to return to the faculty," he said.

Interim Dean Bonnie White said Wilson will be missed as a department head but she is pleased that he will remain a part of the College of Education and she looks forward to working with Rudisill as the acting department head.

Rudisill, who was named a distinguished professor last November, has been on the faculty since 1996. Her work focuses on early childhood motor development, with an emphasis on developing physical activities for good health.

She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Appalachian State University and a doctorate from Florida State University.

Biggio Group discussing book on better teaching

The Biggio Book Group will meet on Feb. 22-23 to examine an award-winning book on improving teaching effectiveness.

The group will discuss Stephen D. Brookfield's "Becoming A Critically Reflective Teacher," which won the Cyril O. Houle World Award for Literature in Adult Education in 1996.

AU's Biggio Center for Enhancement of Teaching and Learning will pay half the cost of the books for participants. For information, contact Isabelle Thompson at thompis@auburn.edu.

S. African delegation visits AU, area cities

A 15-member delegation of municipal officials from South



Africa is visiting Auburn this week to study local government practices as part of an AU Outreach initiative.

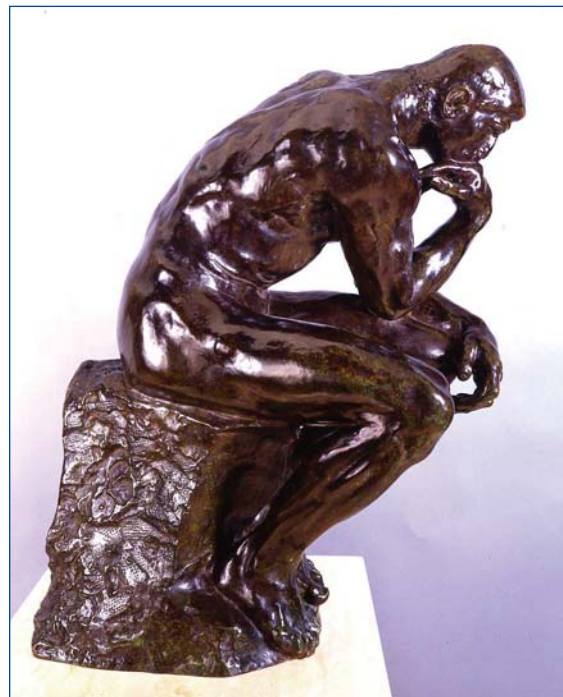
On Monday, the delegates were to join AU and local community leaders at a memorial breakfast for Martin Luther King Jr. at Dixon Conference Center.

Later, David Wilson, vice president for Outreach, and other AU representatives will brief the delegates on university-community partnerships such as the Interstate 85 corridor alliance for economic development.

"We are pleased to host the South African delegation, particularly at this time, when we are celebrating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his desire to promote understanding between people of all backgrounds," said interim AU President Ed Richardson.

"While the delegation is looking to AU and the state for ideas, we, too, are privileged to gain insight from them," he added.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each unit mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.



Thinking about Dobie Gillis?

Auguste Rodin's iconic "The Thinker" is part of an exhibition of the legendary sculptor's works at AU's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. The exhibition, which runs through March 13, was organized and made possible by the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation of Los Angeles.