Taylor named to lead energy panel, center

Steven Taylor, chair of the Biosystems Engineering Department at AU, has been appointed head of the university's Alternative Energy Committee by President Ed Richardson.

Taylor, a faculty member since 1989, will also lead the soon-to-be-established AU Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts, which will capitalize on the university’s research expertise in forestry, engineering and agriculture and position AU as a national leader in converting natural resources into fuels and other products. The center will be an integral part of the Institute for Natural Resources.

“This initiative is important on a national scale as we look for ways to reduce dependence on foreign oil and create new industries,” Richardson said.

“Under Dr. Taylor’s leadership, the committee will identify and develop alternative energy technologies and prepare them for commercialization in the marketplace.”

Richardson last year committed $3 million toward the alternative energy effort for fiscal year 2007.

Taylor assumes the committee’s leadership from former co-chairs Ralph Zee and Graeme Lockaby.

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AU activities celebrate Year of Alabama Arts

Auburn is hosting an Alabama art lecture series and an exhibition this semester to celebrate the state’s Year of Alabama Arts tourism campaign.

In events starting this week, AU’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will host the lecture series, “New Perspectives: Looking at 20th Century Alabama Art,” starting at 4 p.m. Tuesday, with a presentation by art historian Karen Hendricks, a professor of art history at Jacksonville State University.

Hendricks, an authority on the art and architecture of the Roosevelt Administration’s New Deal programs of the 1930s, will present “Views from the South: Alabama’s New Deal Post Office Murals.” The lecture will focus on the historical background of Treasury Section art created for federal buildings in Alabama. Hendricks will also discuss the future of the murals, some of which have already been lost.

The second lecture, at 4 p.m. Jan. 30, will feature William Underwood Eiland of the Georgia Museum.

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of Art speaking on “Picturing the Unvictorious: The Southern Scene in Alabama, 1930-46.”

Future speakers include Margaret Lynne Ausfeld, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts; LaQuita Thompson, Freed-Hardeman University; Lynn Barata Williams of AU.

The series is sponsored by the Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and the Alabama Humanities Foundation. It is co-sponsored by the Alabama Center for the Book, the AU Art Department and the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. After premiering at Auburn, the lectures will be offered in selected locations around the state.

The juried art exhibition “Drawing on Alabama” may be viewed in Biggin Gallery 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Mon.-Fri. through Feb. 23. Serving as juror was Auburn alumna Florence Neal, executive director and co-founder of the Kentler International Drawing Space in New York City.

Neal will present “Artist Talk” at 4:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in Biggin 005. Also, she will present “Juror’s Talk” at 4 p.m. Feb. 20 at the Jule Collins Smith Museum, followed by a closing reception at Biggin Gallery from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

The Biggin exhibition is made possible with support from the Alabama State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This spring, the Alabama Center for the Book, a program of the Center for the Arts and Humanities in the AU College of Liberal Arts will cosponsor the Alabama Book Festival on April 21 at Old Alabama Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery. This event has been named by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as its Town in Montgomery.
AU Theatre to celebrate dance this week in Daunce V activities

Modern, contemporary dance will be the focus of activities at Telfair Peet Theatre this week as AU Theatre presents Daunce V, the Theatre Department’s annual celebration of dance as an art form.

Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Directed by Visiting Assistant Professor Adrienne Wilson, the concert is the fifth year of this event, which features students and visiting guest artists in performances that feature vernacular jazz and rhythm tap as well as modern dance.

Guest artists include Bill Evans, Thaddeus Davis and Tanya Wideman-Davis. Evans is a visiting master teacher and choreographer/performer from State University of New York, Brockport and was voted one of the three top American tap dance artists in Dance Magazine’s 2004 readers poll.

The husband-wife contemporary team of Davis, a native of Montgomery, and Wideman-Davis, are internationally prominent performers of contemporary dance. Davis danced with Donald Byrd / The Group and was featured in Dance Theatre of Harlem, was honored as “Best Female Dancer of 2004” by Dance Magazine.

The concerts are dedicated to American troops serving in Iraq. Donations will be accepted after each evening performance to send care packages overseas. The matinee is reserved as a benefit for the AU Theatre Scholarship Fund.

For tickets or related information, call the Peet Theatre box office at 844-4154.

Also, the AU Early Learning Center will hold an art show and sale at the Telfair Peet Upstairs Gallery during the Theatre Department’s production of Daunce V. Proceeds will benefit the ELC’s scholarship fund.

Committee searching for new AU trustee

The AU Trustee Selection Committee is seeking nominations to fill the vacancy on the Board of Trustees for the seat formally held by Charles Ball of Gadsden.

The committee has requested that nominations and relevant information be submitted by Friday to Board Secretary Grant Davis in Samford 105, but the panel will accept information about nominees until Feb. 9, when interviews are scheduled to begin.

The selected board member must be less than 70 years old when joining the board and must come from Alabama District 5, which includes the counties of Chambers, Cherokee, Cleburne, DeKalb, Etowah, Marshall, Randolph and Tallapoosa counties. A trustee cannot be an employee of AU or a member of the selection committee.

Members of the selection committee are Gov. Bob Riley, Nancy Fortner and Dent Williams representing the Alumni Association Board and Earlon McWhorter and Paul Spina from the AU Board of Trustees.

The committee will submit its selection to the Alabama Senate for confirmation. When confirmed, the new trustee will serve for a term of seven years.

Fans to air thoughts on game day operations

Fans of Auburn football will share their 2006 game day experiences with university officials at a fan forum on Tuesday.

The forum will be from 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. in the Lettermen’s Lounge of Jordan-Hare Stadium, preceding the basketball game against the University of Alabama, which tips off at 8 p.m. in the coliseum.

Members of the AU Game Day Committee will be in attendance to hear fans’ suggestions or concerns. The committee consists of public safety and transit officials, representatives of the athletics and communications offices, facilities division and other AU departments.

Many suggestions made at previous forums were implemented into the campus game day plan. “They have asked for more trash and recycling receptacles, and we’ve provided them,” said Baker Melson, chair of the AU Game Day Committee. “We’ve also added to our number of available restrooms, and our transit system is better.”

Melson added, “The information we gain at this forum will further improve the experience next fall and in the years to come.”