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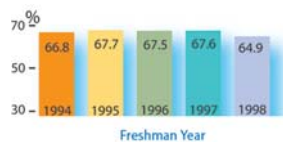
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How Auburn Stacks Up

Six-year graduation rates of AU students



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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

IAU FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

Inaugural parade

The AU Marching Band braved a light snow and cold temperatures in Washington, D.C., on Thursday to march in the parade following the inauguration of President George W. Bush. AU's 320-member marching band was the only one from Alabama invited by event organizers to participate in the parade. Auburn's band also marched in the inaugural parade in 1989 for President George H.W. Bush.



Richardson seeks united front for goals in legislative session

Interim President Ed Richardson and attorney-lobbyist Sid McAnnally of Decatur last week outlined AU's four key objectives for the session of the Alabama Legislature that starts Feb. 1.

In remarks to the University Senate on Tuesday, Richardson said AU's success in the session could depend on the university community's ability to present a united front.

He urged the faculty leaders and other members of the AU community to help the university build its case by focusing on the four priorities. Any effort by individuals or groups to promote additional goals could dilute and weaken the overall effort, he said.

"We must be focused," Richardson stressed. "We must leave no doubt that we are all together."

McAnnally, who is presenting AU's legislative goals to members of the Alabama Legislature, said AU and the University of Alabama are united with

other institutions of higher education in support of four priorities:

- Full funding from the state for the PEEHIP health insurance program, which serves AU retirees.

- Full funding from the state for the Teachers Retirement System. As with PEEHIP, the Legislature last year passed along to the institutions a major part of the state's responsibility for financial support of the retirement system.

- Funding from the state for salary increases for faculty and staff in the next budget cycle, which starts Oct. 1. AU has funded the past two pay raises for faculty and staff from non-state revenues.

- Gain legislative approval for a bond issue for construction and renovations.

Legislative goals

- Fully fund PEEHIP
- Fully fund retirement
- Fund pay raises
- Approve bond issue

Replaces 1930s building

AU's new medical clinic opens

The start of spring semester brought the opening of AU's first new medical clinic since the 1930s. The new clinic moved at the end of December from its previous home in Drake Hall on the northern edge of campus to its new home at the corner of Duncan and Lem Morrison drives.

Physician Fred Kam, the medical center's director, said the new clinic is more spacious and efficient and described the building as "customer-centered."

Not all the advantages are inside the new building. "One of the biggest improvements is parking," he said. "We've never had open parking spaces until now."

The new clinic includes 40 examination rooms and six IV beds as opposed to the old clinic's 18 exam rooms and three IV beds.

The building also incorporates larger nurses' stations and new radiology equipment, which will be connected electronically to the East Alabama Medical Center. "If a patient gets an X-ray here and then needs to go to EAMC for further treatment, the hospital will immediately have access to those records," said Lori Taylor, the clinic's associate director.

A new room in the clinic provides space for minor procedures. Patients might go there, for example, if they need stitches. Also, a larger immunization room provides more privacy for the patients needing vaccinations.

The spaciousness of the new clinic allows the doctors and nurses to work from two different substations. A third substation or pod will be opened when the number of patients increases. Taylor noted that the old clinic only contained one hub.

Kam said the new clinic also implements small changes that make big differences in patient care. For example, instead of nurses calling out patients' names in the waiting room, patients will receive beepersto notify them when it is their turn to see a doctor.

Kam said he also wanted to do away with the sliding glass window that separates receptionists from waiting areas in many offices. "With those windows, it is like they cut you on and then cut you off by opening and shutting them in your face," he said. Architects designed the new reception area to avoid that obstacle, Kam noted.

"These are subtle changes but they are important from a patient's perspective," he said.

Staff accommodations include a small conference room and a large break room. The break room and smaller conference area shared space in the old building.

The new clinic also features a large conference room that will hold about 70 people. The room



Friendlier welcome

A more appealing waiting room is part of the medical staff's efforts to make visits to the doctor more pleasant and less intimidating.

will be used for staff meetings as well as educational training sessions.

The new clinic houses a larger pharmacy that can handle more prescriptions than the old one and will soon offer a wider variety of over-the-counter products. The pharmacy already delivers prescriptions to faculty and staff on campus and will soon expand that service to students.

Beyond the pharmacy and medical services, the new clinic houses a women's health unit and offices for Safe Harbor and Student Counseling Services, which moved from Foy Student Union. The clinic will also soon employ a full-time massage therapist.

Tiger Transit bus system has incorporated the new clinic into one of its routes and buses stop at the clinic's front door.

The clinic is open from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. on Mondays; 8 a.m.-5 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Thursdays; and 8 a.m.-noon on Saturdays.

For more information, call 844-4422.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, January 25

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

Wednesday, January 26

- Public Lecture: "Research Enters the Culture Wars: The Effects of Country Music and Abortion on Suicide," Sociology Professor James Gundlach, noon, Foy 213.

Thursday, January 27

- English Symposium: Poet and author Michael Hofmann, 3 p.m., auditorium, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. His books of poetry include "Nights in the Iron Hotel," "Acrimony," "Corona, Corona" and "Approximately Nowhere."

Friday, January 28

- Conference: "Best Practices for Community Festivals," Dixon Conference Center. Contact Auburn Technical Assistance Center, 844-3881.

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

- Next AU Report.
- 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 & Hearing Clinic, Haley 1199, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m.

Thursday, February 3

- Public Lecture: "Continuing to Dream," Tuskegee attorney and Civil Rights pioneer Fred Gray, 7 p.m., Foy Union ballroom.



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Riding the bus

Students gather at Haley Station near the center of campus to board buses for trips across campus as well as to parking areas and off-campus apartments. Ridership increased 126 percent in two years.

Buses carry million more riders in 2004 than two years earlier

AU's transit system, Tiger Transit, carried 600,000 more riders in 2004 than a year earlier and 1 million more than in 2002.

"More people are riding Tiger Transit than ever, and the numbers keep growing," said David George, AU's director of Parking and Transit Services. "Students, especially, have found that the buses are the best alternative for transportation to, from and around campus."

Ridership on the campus bus system was up 58 percent to 1.7 million in 2004, compared to 2003, and it was 126 percent more than in 2002.

The largest increases in ridership have been at the beginning and end of each semester. Ridership in August was up 137 percent, compared to the same month in 2003, and ridership in December increased 200 percent over the previous year as people took advantage of more routes, more buses and longer periods of service.

George said continuing upgrades to service by Groome Transportation and close coordination

with AU officials have made the transit system the first transportation choice for many students. He said AU and Groome have worked together to add buses and routes to off-campus apartments, adjust campus routes and operating procedures and improve communications.

The result of the changes, George said, has been more consistent, reliable and faster service that has attracted and kept riders. "Demand has been tremendous," George said. "Tiger Transit is operating at close to capacity much of the time, and we are still getting requests for more routes and more buses on existing routes."

Ridership on Tiger Transit has risen as the campus has closed several streets for construction of new buildings and new pedestrian walkways. In response, more students are using the expanded parking areas on the eastern and southern sides of campus, and George noted that many students are leaving their cars parked at their apartments and taking a bus to and from campus.

Some AU faculty, staff must file ethics forms

The Alabama Ethics Commission is reminding AU faculty and staff that all employees whose salary is \$50,000 or more per year must file a Statement of Economic Interests form with the Ethics Commission by April 30.

The filing requirement is unchanged from previous years and applies to employees of all state agencies, including public universities, as well as political candidates. The requirement applies to all employees at or above the minimum salary level,

even if an employee actually has worked less than a year at that salary level.

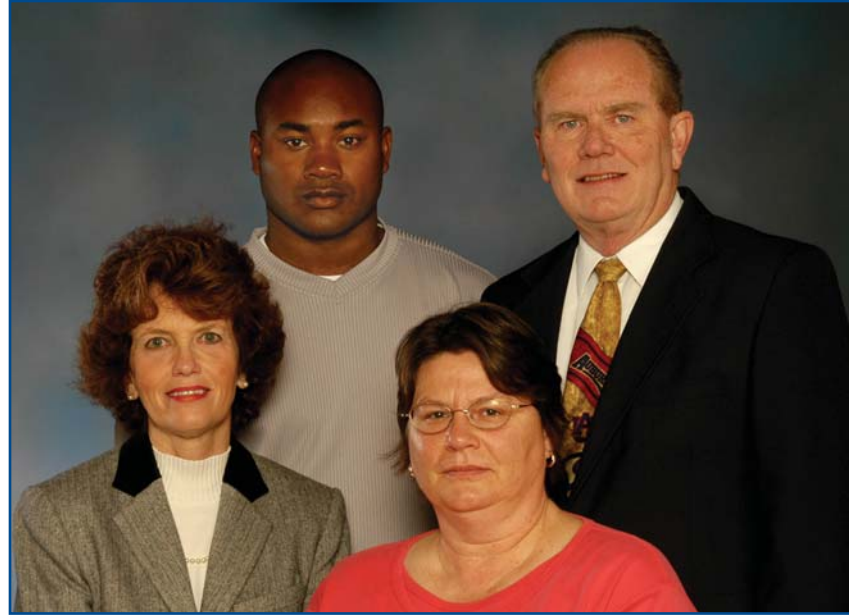
The Ethics Commission, citing budget constraints for a second consecutive year, is asking state agencies, universities and other arms of the state, to refer employees to the commission's web site, www.ethics.alalinc.net.

AU faculty and staff may also find the forms at www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/forms.

Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees to recognize exceptional performance.

Recipients for December were, clockwise from top left, Tyrone Johnson of Facilities Heavy Construction, Mike Hornsby of Research Electronics Support, Sharon Storrs of the Business Office and Lydia Walls of AU Outreach Programs.



Larkin wins service award at breakfast commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.

Willie D. Larkin, chair of the University Faculty and Senate at AU, received the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award at Lee County's 2005 Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Breakfast last week.



Larkin

Larkin, the first African American to hold the top faculty leadership post at Auburn, is a leadership and organizational specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and an assistant professor in AU's College of Education.

Away from campus, the AU faculty leader is

known throughout the region as an author and motivational speaker.

He also serves as the chair of the East Alabama Task Force for Battered Women and is a board member of the Alabama Communities of Excellence program.

Larkin is president and a charter member of the recently established 100 Black Men of Greater Auburn/Opelika Inc. He is also a member of the local Toast Masters, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. and other community organizations.

A native of Troy, Larkin is a past recipient of the Kellogg National Fellowship award.

Commerce official to meet with Corridor Alliance, discuss East Alabama economic development

Robert Bogart, senior policy adviser to the assistant secretary for economic development in the U.S. Department of Commerce, will deliver the keynote address to the I-85

Corridor Alliance on Tuesday.

The alliance will meet at Dixon Conference Center from 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.

The Interstate-85 Corridor Alliance, an outgrowth of an AU planning committee, is a partnership among local government, private sector organizations and universities committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85 in Alabama.

Larry Fillmer, executive director of the I-85 Alliance, said Bogart will discuss his outlook from the Economic Development Administration and its support for regional collaboration and strengthening the business environment.

A goal of the project is to significantly increase the number of high-quality, high-paying jobs along the corridor within 10 years.

Drawing on the example of North Carolina's Research Triangle and other government-university collaborations, the I-85 alliance has developed clusters grouping interrelated industries across city, county and political lines. Planners organized the first four clusters into educational services, infrastructure services, transportation technology and tourism and community development.

Bogart is responsible for policy recommendations on all areas affecting the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration, and he provides investment guidance to regional offices that allocate annual grants and investment funding. He also represents the agency on the National Innovation Initiative, a program of the Council on Competitiveness.

Singers to perform at U.S. choral directors convention

The American Choral Directors Association has selected the AU Singers to perform at the association's national convention Feb. 2-5 in Los Angeles.

The association selected approximately 100 groups out of 380 entries for coveted spots on its program. The AU Singers and a choir from Belmont University in Tennessee were the only groups invited to perform at Show Choir Night.

The ACDA, the largest organization of its kind, has more than 18,000 members who conduct choirs of virtually every type. Founded in 1959, the now-international organization promotes excellence in choral music through performance, composition, publication, research and teaching. The organization holds its national convention, attracting 10,000 participants, every two years, alternating annually with divisional conventions.

Founded in 1972 and directed by Thomas R. Smith, chair of the Music Department, the AU Singers is an auditioned group of 36 singers and nine instrumentalists.

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