Scholarship funding at AU surges 25 percent to record amount in ’07

Auburn University has seen a 25 percent increase in funding for student scholarships this academic year to a record $18.5 million.

Auburn students saw an increase in funding for both need-based and merit-based scholarships. Spirit of Auburn scholarships, a new program of financial assistance for students with outstanding academic records, led the way, with more than $2.5 million in scholarships in its first year.

Enrollment officials predict continued growth in scholarships, with funding for Spirit of Auburn scholarships expected to double in the next academic year, which starts in August.

This year’s record increase in scholarship funds was achieved in the aftermath of a 2006 commitment by the AU Board of Trustees to significantly increase scholarship aid to Auburn students.

That pledge came in a year in which Auburn was awarding a then-record amount of $14.8 million in scholarships.

“The Board of Trustees has committed to significant scholarship growth, and we’re now seeing the results of that commitment with a record number of scholarships awarded,” said Wayne Alderman, dean of enrollment services. “Deserving and talented students have earned these, and we’ll continue to increase our numbers and these opportunities as we move forward on improving scholarship opportunities.”

Almost two-thirds of the $18 million in scholarship funding this academic year was in university awards, which are open to students in any major. Another $5 million went to students through departmental scholarships in their AU colleges and schools, and $1.6 million was in the form of academic scholarship waivers.

More than 4,300 students received 7,400 institutional scholarships, with many recipients awarded more than one scholarship. Departmental awards went to more than 2,400 recipients, and academic scholarship waivers of partial out-of-state tuition went to 310 high-achieving non-resident students.

For the current year, AU enrolled 617 Spirit of Auburn Scholars. Within that number are 82 Presidential Scholars, who receive tuition for four years plus additional benefits. Another 272 students are...
Auburn has launched a dedicated channel on the widely popular video-sharing Web site YouTube, www.youtube.com/AuburnUniversity.

The new channel already features more than 60 videos, including student study abroad experiences as well as lectures and events. Among the most viewed clips are videos of AU’s beloved mascot Aubie and a video featuring Auburn alumni reading the Auburn Creed.

“Through our relationship with YouTube, we are able to take our video content directly to the audience,” said Mike Clardy of AU’s Office of Communications and Marketing. “The huge benefit for us is that YouTube is an established entity and provides us another method for sharing information about Auburn.”

The Office of Communications and Marketing manages the content on the university’s YouTube channel and anyone can subscribe to the site, which will notify subscribers when new videos are posted. Viewers also have the opportunity to post comments about each video. Such features allow AU’s YouTube viewers to become engaged in the content while providing the university with valuable feedback.

Founded in February 2005, YouTube is the leading online video community that allows people to discover, watch and originally create videos. YouTube allows people to easily upload and share video clips on www.YouTube.com and acquires Internet through Web sites, blogs and e-mail.

The partnership with YouTube marks the university’s commitment to reaching students and the community through Web sites, blogs and e-mail.

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Winter wonderland
For a couple of hours on Jan. 19, a rare snowstorm swept through Auburn, as well as much of Alabama. The flurries did not last long and the snow had melted by mid-afternoon. Still, for a brief period, Auburn became a winter wonderland for the few students and residents willing and quick enough to venture into it.

Campus network head appointed to lead OIT operations at Auburn

Auburn’s information technology sector has a new leader. Bliss Bailey, who formerly headed campus networking for the Office of Information Technology, became executive director of OIT on Jan. 3, succeeding Rich Burnett, who is retiring this semester.

The head of information technology reports to the provost in support of Auburn’s academic mission, and the unit also works extensively with the Business Office and other administrative units across campus.

Provost John Heilman and Executive Vice President Don Large selected Bailey following an internal search. Heilman said Bailey’s experience and knowledge of the university’s computing environment will enable the university to proceed quickly and smoothly with plans to improve efficiency by reducing the unit’s administrative areas from nine to eight.

“Bliss Bailey’s appointment as Executive Director brings to that position a person of broad ability, knowledge and experience in the field,” he added. “These are qualities Auburn needs in order to continue and build upon the university’s reputation for technological innovation.”

Bailey has held several positions in OIT since joining the unit in 1989, seven years after its creation at Auburn, and played a key role in developing AU’s information network over the past decade, as technology continued the shift from mainframe computers to personal computers and moved beyond that to electronic networks. While planning and coordinating upgrades in networking technology at Auburn, he was instrumental in setting up a human network of information technology personnel in major units across campus and in OIT.

He received a master’s degree in management information systems from Auburn in 1990.

Provost seeking nominations for best teachers for 2008 Leischuck Awards

Who are the top two teachers at Auburn University in 2008?

The Office of the Provost is seeking nominations for the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Auburn’s highest awards for teaching excellence, the Leischuck Awards recognize two faculty members each year who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to student success through effective and innovative teaching and through advising and mentoring inside and outside the classroom.

At least one of the awards will recognize excellence in undergraduate teaching and the other may be for teaching excellence at the undergraduate or graduate level, or both.

Auburn established the awards to honor the university’s top teachers in 2005 with an endowed gift from the Leischucks, both of whom began their careers as public school teachers and earned advanced degrees at Auburn, where they each spent more than two decades as high-level administrators.

The awards program started in 2005. Recipients that year were William Buskist of the Department of Psychology and Leanne Lamke of Human Development and Family Studies. The 2006 recipients were Robert Lishak of Biological Sciences and Joseph Kicklighter of History. Pamela Boyd of Curriculum and Teaching and Roland Dute of Biological Sciences were Leischuck Award recipients in 2007.

Information on qualifications and nomination procedures is available online at www.auburn.edu/academic/provost.

The Provost’s Office encourages nominations from deans, department heads or chairs, faculty, student organizations and alumni. The deadline for nominations is March 10.

Workshop set for AU faculty in international programs

The Office of International Programs at AU will present a workshop on Feb. 7 for faculty interested in leading or participating in programs abroad.

Scheduled for 11:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m., the workshop will present information and updates on health and safety practices.

Topics include pre-departure health issues, preventing and dealing with health and safety issues in foreign countries, building confidence of students regarding safety and crisis-handling in international programs.

The workshop also includes protocol, practices and tools such as the Medex insurance program for individuals and groups involved in travel abroad.

Additional information is available online at www.auburn.edu/academic/international/oie/auburnabroad/international_week.htm.

To reserve a spot and lunch at the workshop, contact Deborah Weiss by e-mail at weissds@auburn.edu by Thursday, Jan. 31.

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