Celebrating legacy
An energetic performance by the Auburn University Gospel Choir was one of the highlights of recent activities at Auburn in observance of the birthday and legacy of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Over the years, campus activities have expanded from a one-day observance of the civil rights icon’s birthday to a week of activities celebrating his legacy for future generations. The activities were coordinated this year by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

President names dean from West Virginia to be Auburn’s new provost, succeeding John Heilman

Concluding a national search, Auburn University President Jay Gogue has announced that Mary Ellen Mazey has been selected as provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The Board of Trustees unanimously confirmed the appointment, effective Feb. 16, on Thursday during its winter meeting at Auburn Montgomery.

Mazey has an extensive background in teaching and administration, most recently as dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University.

“Dr. Mazey brings to Auburn a vision and experience in higher education administration that will serve the university well in the coming years,” said Gogue. “Her expertise in the area of strategic planning will help us achieve the ambitious goals we have laid out for our future.”

Mazey holds both a bachelor’s degree in sociology and a master’s degree in geology from West Virginia University and a doctorate in urban geography from the University of Cincinnati. Since 2005, she has been a professor and dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, West Virginia University’s largest and most diverse academic unit. As dean, Mazey is responsible for 28 academic units, more than 1,000 employees and more than 50 academic programs. The college has more than 7,500 undergraduate and graduate students and programs that encompass 15 campus buildings and other facilities.

Previously, Mazey served in various administrative capacities at Wright State University for more than 20 years, including a six-year term as dean of the College of Liberal Arts. In 1996-97, she was director of the Office of University Partnerships for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

“I look forward to working with President Gogue, the administration, faculty, staff, students and alumni to build our state, national and international reputation,” said Mazey. “Auburn is an outstanding land-grant institution, and I am pleased to be part of the team that will guide it towards its 21st-century vision.”

As a dean at West Virginia, Mazey has been responsible for developing and implementing her college’s strategic plan, the college budget and allocation to departments and programs, fundraising, research funding and overseeing the development of new programs. She has also worked with the college’s departments and in university-wide initiatives in the recruitment of faculty, staff and administrators.

At the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Mazey oversaw the administration of a $25 million budget and five grant programs. She also served as HUD’s liaison to colleges and universities, higher education professional associations and other federal agencies.

At Wright State, Mazey served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts, executive assistant to the president and director for both the Office of Urban Affairs and the Center for Urban and Public Affairs.

Mazey has been a member of the Council of College of Arts and Sciences since 2000 and has served on the board since 2007. She has served in several leadership positions as a member of the Urban Affairs Association, the Ohio Academy of Science and the American Association of Geographers and is a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society. She is the recipient of several awards for both outstanding teaching and distinguished professional service and was named West Virginia’s Eberly College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Alumnus in 2004.

The new provost succeeds John Heilman, who retired at the end of 2008 after three years in that position and 35 years on the Political Science faculty. Heilman also served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and special assistant to the president.

— Katie Wilder
Auburn’s College of Human Sciences will present an International Quality of Life Award to philanthropist Teresa Heinz and a Lifetime Achievement Award to singer Emmylou Harris in New York on Saturday.

The ceremony at the United Nations Building will mark the 15th time the college has bestowed the International Quality of Life Award on an individual who has international esteem for service to humanity.

Teresa Heinz, chair of the Heinz Endowments and Heinz Family Philanthropies, among the largest private foundations in the United States, has been cited by the New York Times as one of the nation’s leading philanthropists and by the Utne Reader as one of America’s top 100 visionaries.

Heinz has established a reputation for vision and achievement in areas of environmental sustainability, public policy, the economy, the arts and human rights. She assumed leadership of the Heinz Endowments and Heinz Family Philanthropies in 1991, following the death of her husband, U.S. Sen. John Heinz.

Among other awards, Heinz has been recognized for philanthropic activities through the Women’s Leadership Award of the Save the Children organization and the Albert Schweitzer Gold Medal for Humanitarianism awarded by Johns Hopkins University.

The award to Emmylou Harris recognizes the Birmingham native for a lasting impact on American music in a variety of genres, including country, folk, country-rock, bluegrass, pop and alternative. Music critics have praised her unique vocal style and interpretive skills.

Harris’ achievements and professional recognitions include album sales in excess of 15 million, 12 Grammy Awards, Billboard magazine’s Century Award and induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. In addition to her music, Harris is a committed social activist whose focus is on cultural preservation, animal rights and the eradication of land mines.

The International Quality of Life Awards are sponsored by the College of Human Sciences to honor individuals who have achieved at the highest levels professionally and have demonstrated a strong commitment to empowerment through public policy and educational initiatives to enhance quality of life. IQLA laureates represent a diverse array of fields including economics, business, non-profit, medicine, government and social justice.

— Neali Vann

University of Texas professor named CGS senior fellow at Auburn for year

Auburn’s Center for Governmental Services, a unit within University Outreach, has named John Sibley Butler as its senior fellow for this academic year.

The center’s program recognizes experienced practitioners, academicians and researchers for their significant contributions to excellence in government. Requirements for senior fellow status include extensive experience, prominence and recognized contributions in public affairs.

Butler is a professor and administrator at the University of Texas at Austin. He holds the Gale Chair in Entrepreneurship and Small Business in UT’s Graduate School of Business and the Herb Kelleher Chair in Entrepreneurship. He is the director of the Herb Kelleher Center for Entrepreneurship and the director of the Institute for Innovation and Creativity.

“Center for Governmental Services Senior Fellows utilize their expertise to engage in research while increasing funding opportunities that will improve the quality of public policy for the state of Alabama,” said Don-Terry Veal, the center’s director. “As a primary component of the senior fellow recognition, Dr. Butler will assist with and provide guidance to the center within the areas of public-private partnerships; alliances between universities, governments and the private sector, and issues of providing added value in working with and within the public sector.”

Butler received his undergraduate education from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and his Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. His research is in the areas of organizational behavior and entrepreneurship, new ventures, and immigrant and minority entrepreneurship. For the last seven summers, Butler has occupied the Distinguished Visiting Professor position at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan, where he lectures on new venture start-ups and general entrepreneurship.

As senior fellow, Butler will also support the efforts of the 2009 Governmental Excellence and Best Practices Conference on Governmental Transparency being provided by the center. The conference will be in New Orleans this spring. Butler also will assist in organizing and developing the Global Transparency Alliance on Governments.
In the classroom

Fulbright Scholar teaching during year of research at Auburn

With a busy schedule of research and collaborative studies with other faculty, visiting Fulbright scholars seldom teach semester-long classes in American universities. Cristina Fernandez, a visiting Fulbright Scholar from Spain, is an exception, teaching calculus at Auburn University during the 2008-09 academic year while participating in a full schedule of research and activities associated with the world’s leading program for international scholars.

Fernandez agreed to teach in the mathematics program at the request of Kevin Phelps, a mathematics professor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. “I believe that international education exchange is at the heart of the Fulbright Program,” Phelps said. “Being involved with students in a small class is one of the best ways to promote mutual understanding and respect for different cultures.”

The Fulbright Scholar, whose yearlong visit to Auburn began in May 2008, teaches a class that includes 25 freshmen. “They are very motivated and do well,” she said. “In Spain, I teach much larger classes of 40-80 students, sometimes 100, who are studying to be computer engineers. They are not always as motivated as my Auburn honors students.”

Stewart Schneller, dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics, said Fernandez’ students gain culturally as well as academically. “Having Dr. Fernandez offer a calculus course in the college is a rare opportunity for our freshmen to not only learn in a cross-cultural setting, but to experience an internationally acclaimed and talented professor in the classroom.”

At Auburn, Fernandez is continuing her research on coding theory, which is a branch of mathematics concerned with accurately transmitting data signals from one location to another. It involves many different disciplines – electrical engineering, computing and mathematics – coming together to successfully recover these signals.

Schneller describes Fernandez’s participation on campus as a “unique coalescence of several university priorities: attracting noted scholars, internationalization of our classroom offerings, enhancing the honors college, and placing highly regarded academicians in the freshman experience.”

Fernandez previously visited Auburn, though not as a Fulbright Scholar, for two months of pre-doctoral studies in 2003. Her thoughts turned again to Auburn while competing for one of the highly competitive Fulbright grants the U.S. State Department awards each year to international scholars for collegial studies at colleges and universities in the United States. The Fulbright Scholar grant provided Fernandez with an opportunity to renew her ties to Auburn.

“I like Auburn,” said Fernandez, a native of Sabadell, Spain, a city of 200,000 near Barcelona, which has 2 million people. “Auburn is a quiet place to live. Everyone is so nice and willing to help you. The weather is about the same as Spain, very hot. I miss the large public transportation systems of Europe, but I ride my bike here, and your Tiger Transit is very helpful around campus.”

Fernandez has served since 2003 as an assistant professor at her alma mater, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where she teaches computer engineering. She earned a bachelor’s degree in mathematics in 2000, a master’s degree in computer science in 2003 and a doctoral degree in computer science in 2005. Fernandez has published eight articles in professional journals and has presented at 12 national and international conferences.

— Charles Martin and Christy Truitt

Journal designates Auburn College of Architecture, Design and Construction for partner school status

A prominent design journal, Places: Forum of Design for the Public Realm, has recognized Auburn’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction as one of its partner schools.

The journal recently expanded its group of six partner schools to 10, adding Auburn to its select group, which includes the University of California, Berkeley, MIT and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Each partner school provides a representative to the editorial advisory board for the journal, which features writings from fields in design, the arts and social sciences.

“We are honored to have been asked to join the group of 10 nationally prominent partner universities that provide guidance and support to ‘Places,’” said CADC Dean Dan Bennett. “This journal is the premier forum for ‘Design for the Public Realm’ through discussions of multiple voices from a variety of design disciplines. This recognition is further evidence of the expanding reputation of our college and its influence upon design and construction education at a national level.”

Karen Rogers, the college’s associate dean for external affairs will represent Auburn on the board, which is responsible for developing content and overseeing the quality of the journal. The board meets several times a year to plan, review and update editorial calendars and to guide the editorial and peer-review processes. The panel also assists the Board of Directors of the Design History Foundation in long-range and strategic planning for the journal.

“To be asked to serve as one of the partner schools is a great honor for Auburn University,” Rogers said. “It is also an important recognition of the strength of the CADC and its programs.”
EMBA graduate students raise funds for Texas school

A class of graduate students in the Executive MBA program have reached out to help a school in Texas whose building was left uninhabitable by September’s Hurricane Ike.

The idea originated with Auburn EMBA student Kristie Barton, a distribution manager for Mississippi Power, who understood the urgent needs of those in Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike because of her own experience with Hurricane Katrina. Barton’s plan began with identifying Sims Elementary School in Bridge City, Texas, as being in need of financial help. She and her fellow students then formed the Auburn EMBA Class of 2010 Hurricane Relief Fund, which in its initial stage has raised $3,405 for their adopted school.

Hurricane Ike, bringing with it four and a half feet of salty flood water, reduced Sims Elementary School from a welcoming brick and mortar primary school to an unusable building filled with a thick layer of toxic sludge.

The Texas school now operates out of a collection of temporary modular units joined by decks and canopies. The school’s teachers, who lost tools, technologies, curriculums and personal effects, are starting from scratch to help their students, from kindergarten through fifth grade. Donated money has been used mainly to buy basic classroom supplies such as cutting boards, laminators, die cuts, paper and bulletin boards.

Complicating the project for the Auburn students was the nature of the EMBA program. The students attend class through a mix of distance learning and campus residencies while living in 20 states from coast to coast including California, Texas, New York and Washington, D.C.

The efforts of the 57 students involved in the Auburn EMBA Class of 2010 Hurricane Relief Fund, who are in professional positions in companies located across the country, have inspired their companies to get involved. Some “adopted” individual children attending Sims to receive gifts during the recent holiday season while others have contributed school supplies.

— Dina Kanellos

Design magazine gives high ranking to Auburn college

A leading magazine for design professionals has again recognized programs in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, including architecture and industrial design as among the best in their fields. DesignIntelligence is the only organization or publication that provides rankings of architecture and design programs.

The magazine ranked the undergraduate program of the Department of Industrial Design as number seven in the nation and included professors Clark Lundell and Tin-Man Lau among 25 architecture and design faculty members across the United States in the category of 2009’s Most Respected and Admired Educators.

For the third year the department’s graduate program is also ranked among the top 10 programs nationwide, moving up to number six from number 10 last year. The School of Architecture appeared in the top 20 architecture programs nationwide, ranked at number 12 for 2009, and the landscape architecture graduate program jumped to number 14, appearing in the top 15 programs for the first time.

In addition, the magazine surveyed more than 100 deans and department heads in the U.S. and Canada, asking them to list the Top Six Most Admired Accredited Bachelor of Architecture Programs. Auburn University’s Bachelor of Architecture program was listed number two, just behind Cornell University.

“I put a very high value in this survey because it is a legitimate peer evaluation and recognition,” said Dan Bennett, dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. The University of Texas, Austin; California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo; Cooper Union and Virginia Tech rounded out the top six.

Spread across 20 states

Auburn EMBA graduate students raise funds for Texas school
New center to aid expansion of longleaf pine forests in South

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences has formed the Center for Longleaf Pine Ecosystems with faculty member Lisa Samuelson as director.

The center’s focus is on restoration and management of the majestic, slow-growing but high-value variety of pine trees that once dominated the Southern Coastal Plain.

The longleaf pine ecosystem once stretched south and west through nine states from Virginia to east Texas and covered 90 million acres across more than 140,000 square miles. Today, longleaf pines occupy only 3 million acres across the Southeast. Alabama has seen its longleaf pine forests decline from approximately 18.2 million acres in 1880 to only 860,000 acres today.

Samuelson said interest in the restoration and management of long-leaf pine ecosystems is increasing because of increased enthusiasm for the economic, ecological and recreational returns from longleaf pine forests. Noting that over the past 10 years longleaf pine acreage in Alabama has increased by 60 percent, she cited tremendous interest by landowners in converting land back to longleaf pine. In other Southern states, longleaf acreage has either remained unchanged or continued to decline.

Among the incentives for longleaf pine production and improved forest management in Alabama, she cited the potential of longleaf pine for greater growth on sites with poor and average soil quality than other varieties of southern pines as well as the tree’s versatility in producing a variety of products, the high quality of lumber, protection of rare plants and animals and the investment security of longleaf pine. She said the benefits of longleaf pine forests also include aesthetics, hunting habitat, carbon sequestration, water purification and soil stabilization.

The center will address knowledge gaps in longleaf pine ecosystem management, conduct research activities to improve longleaf pine restoration and management activities and will provide ecological, social and economic services for the Southeast.

Samuelson said there is no similar center in the nation focusing on longleaf pine ecosystems, and she noted that Auburn has a national reputation as a leader in the study, research and management of longleaf pine. The center will provide an umbrella agency assisting faculty as they pursue research and outreach efforts in longleaf pine and will enhance interdisciplinary collaboration within the school and with other departments on campus.
Although his research concerns fish, people are foremost in the mind of Fisheries Professor Rex Dunham. Citing Auburn’s land-grant mission, Dunham says he conducts research with the goal of helping catfish farmers and local communities sustain their way of life.

“The goal is to serve the entire catfish farming industry and local communities,” said Dunham, who recently won Auburn’s Creative Research and Scholarship Award. “In addition to helping the farms in rural west Alabama, research helps the processing plants, which employ a lot of people, and there is an indirect impact on the local businesses. These include tractor parts suppliers, restaurants, any type of local shop. Hopefully, the impact of that research helps make that way of life sustainable.”

A primary aspect of Dunham’s career has been the hybridization of channel and blue catfish, which is cited by some agricultural experts as a potential savior of the U.S. catfish aquaculture industry. Farm-raised catfish is the largest aquaculture industry in the United States and has been a significant part of the economy of the Southeast for 30 years. But this industry faces high feed prices and marketing pressure from imported fish.

“The hybrid catfish, which has been Dr. Dunham’s signature area of work, has the potential to improve production efficiency to the point where U.S. farmers can continue to compete in today’s marketplace,” said Craig Tucker, director of the National Warmwater Aquaculture Center and USDA Southern Regional Aquaculture Center, in nominating Dunham for the Auburn research award. “He has been directly or indirectly responsible for most of the technologies now used to produce this fish.”

Dunham says it is now feasible to produce commercial quantities of hybrids, which have better growth, survival, disease resistance, feed conversion and tolerance of poor water quality – all leading to an improved harvest. His research is being applied to the catfish industry through Auburn’s Office of Technology Transfer, which is working with the company, Aetos, to provide hybrid fingerlings to catfish farmers.

“It is very gratifying that we finally reached this point,” he said. “With the tough economic times globally, this can greatly impact the catfish industry. The industry now has the technology to make hybrids.”

Dunham is recognized as a world leader in his field and has been awarded $14 million for research through 77 federal, state and university grants during his time at Auburn. He came to Auburn in 1978 to work on his master’s degree, which he earned in 1979, followed by a Ph.D. in 1981. He has published 223 scientific articles, chapters and proceedings papers.

He says a goal-oriented approach to research is vital to obtaining results that will impact specific fields and industries. “Some scientists change directions to follow the research money,” Dunham said. “If a goal or objective is worthwhile, then you should stay the course, even if it is not easily fundable.”

Dunham’s major research achievements include:

- First researcher to demonstrate that selection works for the genetic improvement of channel catfish;
- First release of genetically improved fish in the United States. In total, responsible for four releases of genetically improved catfish;
- His research has led to the formation of the first four commercial genetics and breeding companies in the catfish industry; and
- First to produce a transgenic fish in the United States, and the fourth worldwide.

“He has a history of successful collaboration with university and government scientists, as well as farmers and technicians in the private sector,” Tucker said. “He gives freely of his time to work with other scientists, an important contribution that does not show up on his resume.”

Fisheries researcher Rex Dunham displays a catfish used in his research.

Dunham sees the next major impact coming from transgenic sterilization, which involves the development of a genetic system that puts catfish reproduction control in the hands of the laboratory culturist.

“We would genetically turn on or off a fish’s ability to reproduce,” Dunham said. “This would virtually eliminate all environmental impact that might occur if farm or laboratory fish were accidentally released into waterways. They would not reproduce in a natural environment, so they would not threaten native fish.”

Dunham said he believes integrated solutions are needed to make advances in genetic improvement and that genetic research is a long-term, never-ending puzzle that has great rewards along the way. The future of catfish research, he says, includes learning more about traditional selective breeding, building a better hybrid through both selection and transgenics, learning how to use genome data to make practical applications, and using cryogenics to preserve species.

“In building a house, you use more than one tool,” he said. “The same is true for research. You use more than one tool to reach your objective.”
Learning Communities
Freshmen share academic experiences in expanded program

Auburn’s rapidly growing Learning Communities Program is helping freshmen make the transition from high school to college a little easier.

The program groups together students who share a common interest in an academic college or in topics such as sustainability and conservation biology. The groups, or communities, take several classes together including a UNIV course (an elective course that focuses on transitioning to college and study skills), and one to three core curriculum courses, such as English Composition or World History. For program participants, learning communities make walking into their first large lecture class at a major university a less intimidating experience.

“I came from out of state so already knowing 25 people when I walked into a large lecture class was just awesome,” said Auburn sophomore Amy Hood, who participated in Learning Communities last year.

Each community is made up of approximately 25 students. This year there are 17 different communities and the program has increased significantly from 227 participants in 2007 to 367 students in 2008.

“Back when the program started in 1999 we had 50 available spots for students, so we have grown enormously and we are even looking to add more for next year as we continue to grow,” said Ruthie Payne, academic counselor in Auburn’s educational support services and one of the coordinators for the Learning Community Program.

Almost every college or school on campus has its own Learning Community which allows students interested in pursuing similar majors to be grouped together. As the program has grown, Payne said interdisciplinary or theme-oriented communities have been added. This year in addition to the specific college or school communities, students could choose from topics like conservation biology, civic engagement and Earthsmart, a community focused on sustainability.

One of the main benefits of the program, which is open to all incoming freshmen, is that it provides students a small group of peers with common interests.

Suzanne Free, an Auburn graduate student who was part of the university’s first Animal Science Learning Community, said the program allows students an opportunity to “meet people with common educational goals that come from diverse backgrounds.”

These groups often study and socialize together. Last fall the program started the Learning Communities Activities Board which plans events and activities beyond the classroom for participants. For example, members have had the opportunity to participate together in intramural sports and attend socials such as “Pumpkins and Professors,” where they could interact with faculty outside the classroom.

A few of the learning community groups also live together in student housing. Known as Living-Learning Communities, this aspect of the program will be expanded next fall, when the new on-campus housing called The Village is complete.

While some Living-Learning Communities will still be located in the Quad and Hill residence halls, Payne said the new housing will provide groups with amenities such as group study space, office space for faculty and satellite support services for students including academic coaching, career counseling and library services.

“We are really working to make Learning Communities part of the culture of a student’s freshman year at Auburn,” said Julie Huff of Auburn’s Office of Undergraduate Studies.

Payne said there is research to support that students in general who participate in Learning Communities retain at a higher rate than non-participating students because they have the support they need to succeed academically and stay enrolled in school. “We’ve seen that at Auburn as well,” she said.

She added that the Learning Community program also increases student/faculty interaction, which also leads to student success.

“Being in a comfortable classroom environment where students know the other students allows them to feel more comfortable to get to know their faculty members and we’ve seen that transfer over to their other classes. We all know that faculty interaction makes such a huge difference for student success,” Payne said.

Another benefit Payne said that students cite as one of their favorite aspects of the Learning Communities Program are the long-lasting relationships that are formed during the transitional freshman year and often continue throughout and beyond college. “We have a close bond,” Catia Irons, a freshman who is participating in the Animal Sciences Learning Community, said of her group. “We have shared experiences and I’m making friendships now that will continue along as I go through college.”

Like Irons, Free formed long-lasting relationships through the program.

“My learning community experience was a very positive one with connections that lasted long past my freshman year at Auburn,” she said. “Over the years of my undergraduate career at Auburn, I continued to take classes and study with the students that I first met in the learning community.”

Hood found her Learning Community experience so beneficial she decided to give back to the program by working as a peer instructor. She is also student director of the Learning Communities Activities Board.

“I still keep up with people from my learning community. A lot of them are in my classes this year. I’ll see a familiar face and we can go ahead and study together since we already know each other’s study habits.”

For more information online about Learning Communities, see www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/undergrad_studies/support/learning_communities/index.html.

— Katie Wilder
Campus Briefs

Grant aids food-safety research
Auburn researchers Jong Wook Hong, an assistant professor of materials engineering, and Omar A. Oyarzabal, an associate professor of poultry science, have been awarded a competitive research grant in nanoscale science and engineering from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The grant will provide $240,000 over three years to aid in the search for new ways to identify pathogens in foods in a fraction of the time now required for such tests. “The goal of our project is to develop a nanotechnology-based system that can quickly detect food-borne pathogens,” said Hong.

NSF grant supports study of innovation
The National Science Foundation has awarded a $315,000 grant to Auburn researchers Levant Yilmaz of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and Bryan Edwards of the College of Liberal Arts for studies aimed at gaining a better understanding of creativity and innovation.

The grant will support the work of Yilmaz and Edwards as they collect data on the creative process, focusing on instances when people from different backgrounds, such as scientists and engineers, work together. The Auburn researchers will study the structure and function of multi-disciplinary teams, track their contributions and measure their impacts on innovation.

Edwards, an industrial and organizational psychologist, will help analyze the behavioral side of the research, while Yilmaz, a computer scientist, will use computer simulation to study how and why communities of science and innovation form and evolve.

Bell to promote faculty outreach work
C. Leary Bell, has been appointed director of faculty engagement and program development in the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach, where he will be responsible for promoting faculty engagement in scholarly outreach activities as well as development of comprehensive university-wide outreach programs and partnerships.

In his new post, Bell will work with department heads, faculty and institute and center directors to develop new programs for external audiences.

Bell earned his master’s and doctoral degrees in mathematics at Auburn before joining the faculty of Columbus State University. At CSU, he rose through the academic ranks to chair the departments of Mathematics and Computer Science. He then served as executive director of Columbus State’s regional educational services and continuing education programs.

Bell later served as vice president for external affairs at Armstrong Atlantic State University in the University of Georgia System and as associate chancellor for community outreach at the University of South Carolina at Beaufort.

Dudley to display art by French professor

Mazaheri calls the works “abstract landscapes,” which he says express his feelings through forms, lines and colors inspired by nature. Mazaheri is a foreign languages professor in the College of Liberal Arts and has taught French at Auburn since 1989.

He received a master of fine arts degree in printmaking from the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, a master’s degree in French from the University of Aix-en-Provence, France, in 1984 and a Ph.D. in French from Brown University in 1989.

Grant aids food-safety research

A parking monitor saved the day recently for one campus organization. See page 4.

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