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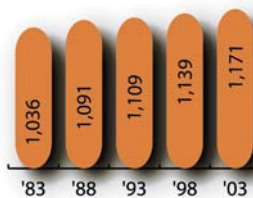
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Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues
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[www.ocm.auburn.edu/
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AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 3

Richardson: Greatest challenge will be to restore focus, trust

Interim AU President Ed Richardson sees similarities between the challenges facing Auburn today and those faced by Wilford Bailey, who became interim president two decades ago.

"Dr. Bailey came in during a troubled time and brought some peace and stability to the university," recalled Richardson, who was superintendent of Auburn City Schools during the Bailey presidency in 1983-84.

"He very quickly helped restore the university's focus and established a sense of trust that made it possible for people to put aside their differences on behalf of shared values and goals."

When Bailey left office, the Board of Trustees retroactively named him president in appreciation of his leadership.

Richardson, who holds three degrees from Auburn, said AU was a much stronger and unified institution when Bailey left office. That, he said, will be his goal as interim president. "Somewhere along the way, we lost our focus and we need to regain it. I think we have an excellent chance of doing so, and I will do everything possible to help Auburn achieve that goal."

He said Auburn will take whatever steps are necessary to maintain full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. SACS placed Auburn on 12-month probation in December over issues of governance, institutional control of athletics and commitment to the accreditation process. Those are issues Richardson said Auburn can and must resolve quickly.

By refocusing on shared values and goals and acting accordingly, Auburn should meet the SACS criteria this year and establish a solid foundation for the next president, he said. That transition should take about two years but could proceed more quickly



Interim President Ed Richardson

ly if the university is making rapid progress in satisfying SACS and restoring trust internally, he added.

"If everybody thinks first of Auburn's best interest, we can reestablish the focus and trust we need to move the university forward," Richardson said. "I will do all I can to convince people that they can work with me with a high level of trust, even when we don't always agree about every issue."

February, his first full month in office, could be the most challenging of his tenure as interim president. (See *Challenge*, page 2)

Wilcher named to Diversity and Multicultural Affairs position

Jocelyn Wilcher has joined AU's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs as the department's student advisor, says Keenan Grenell, interim associate provost for multicultural affairs.



Wilcher

Wilcher, formerly academic advisor in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, will coordinate AU's Minority Peer Mentoring Program, which helps minority students develop leadership and academic skills while becoming more involved in campus activities.

"The Minority Peer Mentoring Program is one of the most important programs on campus to ensure the academic success and leadership development of minority students," said Grenell.

"Since the students in this program are expected to develop into leaders within their professions, communities and state, we wanted a proven and respected leader to guide the program. In Jocelyn

Wilcher, we have found an ideal person to meet this challenge," he added.

Wilcher holds three degrees from Auburn — a bachelor's in human development and family studies and master's and specialist degrees in adult education. Grenell said Wilcher, as an academic advisory in CADC over the past five years, had established a reputation for enthusiastic job performance and developed a broad network of contacts that would benefit students in the Minority Peer Mentoring Program.

In her new post, Wilcher said she will expand existing opportunities and develop new programs to help minority students succeed at Auburn. "I would like to build this program to the point where students will have many more scholarship and internship opportunities presented to them," she said. "And, hopefully in the future, we will have opportunities for not only students at Auburn but also minority high school students to develop their leadership and academic skills on our campus."

Challenge

(continued from page 1)

dent, he said. Richardson is preparing for his first meeting as president with the Board of Trustees, which meets Friday at AU-Montgomery. He will discuss some changes then to help establish a clear-

"Over a fairly short period of time, I think we can get to the point where we have a high level of confidence in one another."

er distinction between the roles of the board and the administration.

Richardson said his experience as state superintendent of education for eight years will be an asset at Auburn.

As superintendent, he served as the administrative head of the state school system. That system has a much larger budget and administrative structure than AU and an elected Board of Education, which by definition is a political body.

As superintendent, he also served on the nine university governing boards, including Auburn's. The interim AU president said the administrative and board roles gave him a better view of the needs and responsibilities of administrators and board members.

Richardson will meet with the University Faculty next Tuesday, Feb. 10, and appear at an NCAA hearing on AU's basketball program on Feb. 13. Then, on Feb. 22, an accreditation review team from SACS will be on campus as part of the association's regular 10-year accreditation review. Richardson

said discussions with this SACS review team could help the university meet compliance standards for governance that a separate SACS panel will review next fall.

In his first days on the job, he met with faculty leaders and AU team leaders of the 10-year SACS review to discuss immediate issues and ways to strengthen shared governance over the remainder of his term. Richardson said he is committed to shared governance and wants to strengthen procedures and processes that ensure faculty involvement in major decisions.

"Once we get through February, I want to look ahead to longer-term issues, and that is where you will see a lot more faculty involvement, and the involvement of staff, students and alumni, as well," he said. "Over a fairly short period of time, I think we can get to the point where we have a high level of confidence in one another."

"People at every level, including the Board of Trustees, are ready to do whatever is necessary to restore trust and cooperation, get us off SACS probation and get this university moving forward," Richardson said.

"I am committed to doing that, and I believe there are a lot of people out there who have the same commitment. We may not always agree on every issue but I think we can establish the comfort level where issues can be discussed in an atmosphere of respect for one another. When we do that, we can make better decisions."

Library dean elected to offices in state, national organizations

Sheri Downer, interim dean of AU Libraries, was recently elected to state and national offices of library organizations.

At the state level, Downer has been elected chair of the Network of Alabama Academic Libraries. NAAL was established in 1984 by the presidents of Alabama's academic institutions and the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. NAAL coordinates a statewide program to strengthen and share library resources supporting graduate education and research.

At the national level, Downer has been elected to serve a three-year term on the Diversity Committee of the Association of Research Libraries. The ARL Diversity Program supports efforts within libraries to promote and develop library staff and leaders who are representative of North America's diverse population.

The Association of Research Libraries is comprised of 123 leading research libraries in North America. The ARL's mission is to shape and influence the future of research libraries in scholarly communication.

Agriculture journal gives high rankings to two AU departments

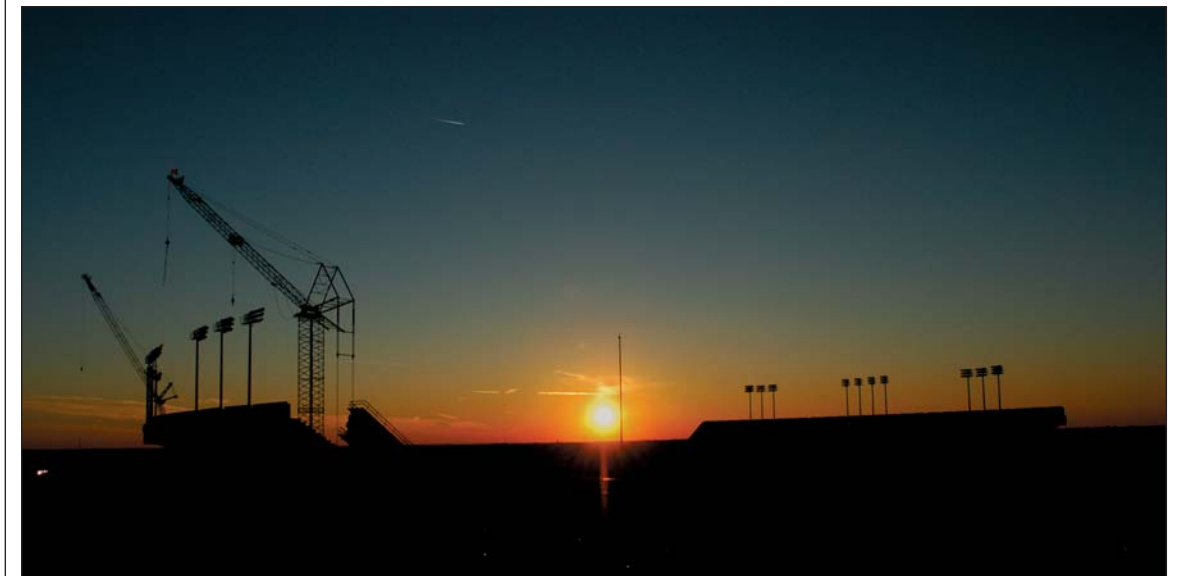
Meat & Poultry, the business journal of the North American meat and poultry industry, recently gave high national rankings to programs in two departments of the AU College of Agriculture.

The rankings appeared in a recent issue of Meat & Poultry and were based on an informal survey of faculty members from more than 40 universities.

The business journal ranked AU's Animal Sciences and Poultry Science departments 10th nationally for service to the industry and the Department of Poultry Science fourth in the nation for its programs specializing in poultry processing.

Meat & Poultry said the AU departments earned the rankings on the basis of exceptional research opportunities in poultry science at Auburn; the muscle-foods career track in animal sciences; joint specialization in the areas of food safety and sanitation, food processing, muscle biology and chemistry, product development and plant food management.

Other factors included the new poultry science building and meat science laboratory and beef teaching unit nearing completion at Auburn.



Winter sunset

Construction cranes are silhouetted above Jordan-Hare Stadium in one of a recent series of colorful sunsets. The cranes are part of a \$29 million project to add seating and skyboxes to the east side of the stadium and improve the appearance, facilities and function of the concourse.

Survey shows rapid growth in use of electronic mail as news vehicle

A survey by the Office of Communications and Marketing in November revealed a major shift in the way AU faculty and staff receive their news about campus.

Between 1996 and 2003, use of electronic mail as a primary source of campus news rose from less than 3 percent to 47 percent. Reliance on print media as the primary source of news during that period declined from 64 percent to 24 percent.

However, according to the survey, e-mail is not displacing print media but is increasingly used in tandem with it. The survey revealed that 89 percent read most issues of the AU Report and 78 percent read AUDaily e-mail news reports at least once a week. Both the AU Report and AUDaily are produced by the Communications arm of AU Communications and Marketing.

Respondents listed their top priorities in campus news coverage, in descending order, as information about pay and benefits, AU finances, legislative

issues affecting AU, working conditions and the calendar. Lowest rated items were conferences, Campus Forum, alumni gifts and color pictures.

The survey was the third conducted by the office since 1996, providing a comparison of changes in news preferences and use of internal communications by faculty and staff.

The survey was conducted by campus mail between Nov. 1-21. Survey forms were mailed to 755 faculty and staff, and 254 completed and returned the forms by the deadline for a 34 percent return rate.

Roy Summerford, editor of the AU Report, conducted the survey, with assistance from Mike Clardy, editor of AUDaily, and Camille Barkley, director of marketing services in the Office of Communications and Marketing.

Details and results of the survey are posted on the AU Report Web site at www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html.

University Faculty meeting rescheduled to Feb. 10

AU faculty officers have rescheduled the special, called meeting of the University Faculty to Feb. 10.

The meeting was originally scheduled for Jan. 27 to discuss the decision of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to place Auburn on probation over governance issues.

That session was rescheduled for Feb. 3 following the resignation of former President William Walker. Interim President Ed Richardson, appointed by the

Board of Trustees on Jan. 20, asked the faculty leaders to schedule a session that he could attend after the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday.

The AU Senate, representative body of the faculty, will meet at 3 p.m. in Broun Hall auditorium and adjourn for the general faculty to meet there at 3:15 p.m. An agenda is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/2004feb10/fac.htm.

AU communications, marketing programs win regional awards

AU's Office of Communications and Marketing has won three Awards of Excellence and a Special Merit award for 2003-04 from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, District III.

The district council represents approximately 5,000 development, communications, marketing, public relations and alumni relations staff members in more than 500 colleges and universities in nine Southern states. CASE officials will present the awards on Feb. 25 during the regional council's annual conference in Atlanta.

AU Communications and Marketing won Awards of Excellence for internal communications, television public service announcements and improvement in design. The office also won a Special Merit Award for internal newsletters.

The Internal Communications Award recognizes the combined efforts of Communications staff to produce the AUDaily e-mail packages, AU Report internal newsletter, "AU In the News" daily clip-

pings and the AU calendar on the university Web site and "Briefing Notes" providing periodic background information on major events and news.

Mike Clardy, David Granger and Roy Summerford coordinated those efforts, which included contributions from other staff in Communications and Marketing, Photographic Services and communications professionals in AU colleges and schools.

The Special Merit Award recognizes the AU Report, which underwent a major redesign, added color and increased from bi-weekly to weekly publication during 2003.

AU won an Award of Excellence in the television category for public service announcements in which Auburn students and faculty recite the Auburn Creed. Auburn also won the design improvement award for the "Tiger Transit Rider's Guide," which was designed by Al Eiland.

The PSA and transit guide projects were coordinated by Jim Jackson and involved additional staff, faculty and students throughout the university.

AU professor named Fulbright Scholar

Jack Williams, a professor in the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction, was recently named a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Williams, chair of the landscape architecture program in the School of Architecture, will begin his studies at the University of Lusiada, Lisbon, Portugal in 2005. He will carry the title of Fulbright-Fladd Endowed Chair of Landscape Architecture and Urban Design.

While in Portugal, he will teach courses in landscape architecture and urban design and will share his research on urban form in Mexico, China, and the American South. Williams also plans to expand his studies through investigations of villages on the Iberian Peninsula.

"Jack Williams' teaching and research interest centers upon urban and rural settlement patterns, and the cultural/sociological associations related to that issue," said Dan Bennett, dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

"This cutting-edge work involves both a national and international emphasis," Bennett added. "It is a great honor for the college and Auburn University to have such a respected and skilled professor represent us abroad."

Williams began teaching full-time in the School of Architecture in 1992. Previously, Williams had his own firm, Woo and Williams in Cambridge, Mass. His work there included designs for the athletes' and reporters' villages for the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Korea, as well as the Harvard

University Faculty Townhouses in Cambridge, Mass.

Williams previously received a fellowship from the Asian Cultural Council to travel and research the distinctive typologies of courtyard housing in rural villages of China.

Other previous support includes a grant from the Alabama State Council on the Arts for work on urban form in small Alabama towns. That material will be incorporated in "East 40 Degrees, Mapping the Meaning of Place," to be published by the University of Virginia Press.

"This fellowship means a lot to me as I have spent my professional and academic life working and teaching in international situations," Williams said.

"I have lived and taught international collaboration and exploration because I believe the problems of the way we settle this earth are universal, cutting across all cultures," he said.

"The problems of habitat destruction and urban poverty must be addressed by all peoples. So this Fellowship means I have become what I am — not only an ambassador for the United States, but also an advocate for a more humane and sustainable world."

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship program in international educational exchange and grants are made to U.S. citizens and nationals of other countries for a variety of educational activities, primarily university lecturing, advanced research, graduate study and teaching in elementary and secondary schools.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 3

- AU Theatre: "Freakspiel," 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Additional performances at same time Wednesday-Saturday. Box Office: 844-4154.

Wednesday, February 4

- Diversity and Race Relations Lecture Series: "Racism and Taxes: Keeping Alabama Down and Out," Jim Gundlach, professor of sociology, noon, Foy 213. Bring your lunch.

Thursday, February 5

- Art Faculty Lecture Series: "Myths and Metaphors: The Art of Leo Twiggs," Marilyn Laufer, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.
- Aviation Management Forum: "The Future of the Aviation Industry," executives from the FAA and jetBlue Airways, 7 p.m., Lowder 125.
- Faculty Recital: Bill Schaffer, horn and piano, selections from Grazioli, Vinter, and Gliere, 7 p.m., Goodwin Recital Hall.
- Museum After Hours: Music, art, refreshments and guided tours for members and visitors, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Smith Museum of Fine Art. Admission free for members, \$3 for non-members.

Friday, February 6

- Meeting: Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., AUM Library Tower. Committee sessions start at 8:30 a.m.

Tuesday, February 10

- Meetings: University Senate at 3 p.m., University Faculty at 3:15 p.m., both in Broun Hall auditorium.
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212.

Wednesday, February 11

- Art Faculty Lecture Series: "The Gendering Power in Italian Renaissance," Joyce de Vries, 4 p.m., Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Friday, February 13

- Public Forum: "The Future of the Race: The DuBois and Washington Discussion in the 21st Century," Cornell West of Princeton, Cynthia Tucker of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution and John Sibley Butler of the University of Texas, 7 p.m., Foy Ballroom.

AUreport

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Bob Lowry and David Granger, AU Communications; Mitch Emmons, Research; Jim Langcuster, ACES; Kyes Stevens, Architecture, Design and Construction; and Katie Wilder, Development Communications. Photography by Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle. Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel.

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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

Campus Forum

Travel adds perspective, hope

By Willie D. Larkin, Leadership and Organizational Development Specialist
Alabama Cooperative Extension System

Travel does wonders for clarifying one's vision of purpose and mission in life personally and professionally.

Recently, I traveled to South Africa with a contingency of Auburn faculty and administrators to attend the ninth African American Entrepreneurship Summit, "Empowerment through Entrepreneurship" in Cape Town, South Africa."

The trip opened the eyes of all of us and gave each participant more meaning, clarity, purpose and direction towards enhanced contribution to the academy.

Approximately 10 years after Nelson Mandela's release from a 27-year imprisonment due to the evil of apartheid, the people of South Africa are living testimony to how social change can occur within a relatively short time period when there is a compelling enough reason to make it happen.

Although the country was beautiful, we were reminded that there is far too much pain and suffering all over the world. That is true in our country as well as South Africa, even with the abundance of resources in both the United States and South Africa.

As in America, a disproportionate share of the major resources are owned and/or controlled by a few, and the opportunity for empowerment is not readily available for far too many citizens. However, it is amazing to hear people talk about how bad we have it in Alabama, particularly our neighbors in West Alabama, and then see living conditions in parts of South Africa.

Yes, the Black Belt can legitimately lay claim to some of the poorest conditions in America, but just go to South Africa and visit some of the crowded Townships — such as Khayelechia.

This impoverished community is inhabited by approximately one million people. They live in substandard houses five to 10 feet apart and made of tin and scrap lumber. Ironically, these homes have running water, electricity, televisions, telephones, etc.

We even visited a bed-and-breakfast in the heart of Khayelechia.

The most mystifying and fascinating thing about the Black and Coloured South Africans that live in substandard conditions is that the human spirit is alive and well among them. I interviewed one of the community leaders and asked why the people were so happy. Her reply was simply, "Freedom is more valuable than creature comforts." I was floored by such a basic and simple answer.

But, it's true. Freedom that we take for granted in America is the lifeblood for South Africa's Black and Coloured people.

The conference was attended by some 150 eager learners willing to share a wide range of multidisciplinary principles, concepts and approaches to opening up opportunities to start their own businesses or entrepreneurial enterprises. The overarching goal of the conference was to empower individuals and communities to sustain a healthy and thriving economy.

Every professional from Auburn either presented a paper on a panel or provided a keynote address. There was a free-flow exchange of ideas and plans for future collaborative initiatives. We laughed, danced, shared stories of success and failure in helping people in underserved or underrepresented audiences/neighborhoods. But most of all, the conference was about serious issues of human potential and empowerment. We realized that many of the poor people in South Africa and Alabama are NOT there because they chose to be there or deserve to be there. They are in those conditions because they have been used, manipulated and abused, and their cultural identity has been stolen from them.

I left South Africa with a renewed spirit to help those who are less fortunate and to encourage others to do the same. If each person of means will contribute to the well-being of just one person without means, this world be a much better place for all.

Campus Forum is a periodic discussion of issues in higher education that are of special concern to the AU community but which are not generally featured in the mass media. Columns are 750 words or less, and views expressed are those of the contributor.



Larkin

"...the people of South Africa are living testimony to how social change can occur within a relatively short time period when there is a compelling enough reason to make it happen."

"I interviewed one of the community leaders and asked why the people were so happy. Her reply was simply, 'Freedom is more valuable than creature comforts.'"

Panel seeks nominations for two positions on Board of Trustees

The AU Trustee Selection Committee has issued a call for nominations, with a Feb. 18 deadline, for persons to fill two vacancies on the Board of Trustees.

The committee will meet Feb. 26-27 to review nominations for the seats formerly held by the late Jimmy Samford of Auburn and new AU interim President Ed Richardson, who resigned as Alabama superintendent of education to lead AU. Samford died on Dec. 29 with seven years remaining in his term. The position formerly held by Richardson switched from ex-officio to an appointed position following his departure from the board.

Those two vacancies plus three previous vacancies leave the AU Board with only nine voting members. New appointments to the board are for seven-year terms.

The Alabama Senate must confirm nominations for the appointments to become effective. The Senate has received nominations for three other seats on the AU Board for consideration in the legislative session that starts Tuesday. The nominees for those

positions are state Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle of Alexander City, Gadsden city planner Charles Ball and Fayette school principal Sarah Newton.

Under the Alabama Constitution, to fill the seat formerly held by Samford, the nominee must be a resident of Lee County. To fill the seat formerly held by Richardson, the nominee must be a resident of the continental United States. Under other criteria, each nominee must be less than 70 years old when appointed and cannot be an employee of AU or a member of the selection committee.

Submit nominations to the AU Trustee Selection Committee, Attn: Grant Davis, 105 Samford Hall.

ACES, partners launch campaign for agri-tourism

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and three public and private partners have launched a statewide effort to help small communities capitalize on their assets in agriculture and tourism.

Tourism and farming, which each generate about \$6 billion in income annually in Alabama, are a natural match, said Tom Chesnutt, an ACES Tourism specialist and assistant professor of nutrition and food science at Auburn. He notes that thousands of Alabamians, many of whom are several generations removed from the farm, have a natural curiosity about how commodities raised on the farm eventually find their way to supermarket shelves.

Partners with ACES in the agri-tourism endeavor are the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, the Alabama Farmers Federation and the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel.

The partnership's first goal is to develop a statewide Alabama Agri-Tourism Trail — an inventory of agri-tourism sites on the partnership's new Web site, www.alabamaagritourism.com. Extension personnel will then work with representatives from the other organizations to inform the public about these opportunities.

Although initial efforts focus on marketing existing agri-tourism operations, the partners also are developing long-term plans for more ambitious outreach efforts.

"Down the road, we hope to be providing a series of workshops, publications and other outreach efforts so that those who are not yet involved in agri-tourism will have the tools to start their own operations. We also want to develop a certification process for these sites," Chesnutt said.

AU Human Resources offers class on parenting adolescents

The Office of Human Resources will sponsor the program "Parenting Adolescents: Your Teenager Really Does Care What You Think" at 9 a.m. Feb. 10 in Foy 321.

Jennifer Kerpelman, an associate professor in human development and family studies, will present the two-hour program, which examines ways to improve communication with teenage children.

To register, contact Human Resources online at www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/hrd/index.html or call Melissa Askew at 844-4145.

Sollie named special adviser to provost

Donna Sollie has been named to a one-year appointment as special adviser to the provost for women's leadership. The appointment became effective Jan. 1.

Sollie is an Alumni Professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and has been a faculty member at AU since 1986.

Women's Leadership Institute seeks nominations for class

The Women's Leadership Institute is seeking nominations from faculty for admission of outstanding female undergraduate and graduate students for membership in the institute.

The recently created AU institute will induct approximately 30 students during a five-day session in May.

Each faculty member may submit up to three names for consideration.

The session on May 17-22 will help the women develop skills to aid in their career success. The institute covers the cost of instruction, food, housing, and program materials, and it seeks applicants from diverse backgrounds, regardless of the student's major or field of study.

Faculty nominating Auburn students for the institute may simply send the students' names and e-mail addresses.

Submit nominations by Friday, Feb. 6, by e-mail to womenleaders@auburn.edu. Contact Samia Spencer at 844-6842 for additional information.

Seminar to explore future of race relations, diversity in America

A Feb. 13 public seminar at AU will explore the future of African Americans, race relations and diversity in Alabama and the nation.

Nationally prominent speakers at the 7 p.m. forum in Foy Student Union Ballroom include Princeton University Professor Cornell West, AU alumna and Atlanta Journal-Constitution Editorial Page Editor Cynthia Tucker and University of Texas Professor John Sibley Butler.

The forum, "The future of the Race: The DuBois and Washington Discussion in the 21st Century," is sponsored by AU's Center for Diversity and Race Relations, Office for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and University Program Council.

The visiting speakers will reflect on the divergent views of early 20th century African American philosophers W.E.B. DuBois and Booker T. Washington and discuss how those leaders would view issues of race and diversity in the new century.

West, one of the nation's most prominent writers on race and diversity, recently joined the Princeton faculty as a professor of religion after a highly public dispute with the president of Harvard over the direction of that university's African American studies program.

Two staff members receive research awards

Niki L. Johnson and Brian Schwieker are recipients of the second annual Meritorious Service Award from the Office of the Vice President for Research.



Johnson



Schwieker

Johnson, research compliance administrator with the Office of Human Subjects Research, and Schwieker, an electronics technician with the Research Electronics Support unit, each received a \$1,000 cash award and a plaque.

"Niki, an attorney with an M.B.A., has brought a new level of professional skill to our operations so that we serve AU researchers and students more effectively," said Chip Burson, director of the Office of Human Subjects Research. "Niki works tirelessly and puts in long hours to ensure that protocols are reviewed in a timely manner for submittal to the Institutional Review Board, and she has played an important role in delivering educational programs to investigators all across campus."

Schwieker's supervisor, Henry Cobb, cited his contributions to Auburn. "Brian's knowledge of electronics and computers is outstanding," Cobb wrote in his nomination of Schwieker. "His job

West is the author of numerous books, including "The Cornell West Reader," "Race Matters" and "The African American Century." He holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard and master's and doctoral degrees from Princeton.

Tucker is a 1976 journalism graduate of Auburn and has spent most of her career with the Atlanta Journal-Constitution as a reporter, editorial writer and editorial page editor.

Tucker was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard in 1988-89 and was the April 2000 winner of the American Society of Newspaper Editors' Distinguished Writing Award. She is a member of the board of directors of the International Women's Media Foundation and organizations of women minority journalists.

Butler holds two distinguished chairs in entrepreneurship at the University of Texas at Austin, where he is also director of the Herb Kelleher Center for Entrepreneurship and director of the Institute for Innovation and Creativity.

Butler's books include "Entrepreneurship and Self-Help Among Black America," "A Reconsideration of Race and Economics" and "Immigrant and Minority Entrepreneurship." He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

requires him to work on all types of machines. He does it all with a 'can do,' customer service attitude. Brian has always displayed a certain thirst for knowledge for new technology."

The Meritorious Service Award, begun last year by the OVPR, recognizes exemplary job performance. All employees within any of the units reporting to the OVPR are eligible for nomination. Previous recipients include Deb Enebak of the Office of Technology Transfer, and Tony Ventimiglia of the Office of Sponsored Programs.

Journal names Auburn faculty member to editorial board

Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research journal has named Ram B. Gupta, AU Alumni Associate Professor of chemical engineering, to its editorial advisory board, effective Jan. 1.

The American Chemical Society publication is one of the most prestigious and widely circulated international journals for research in the fields of chemical engineering, chemistry and materials engineering.



Winter skies

Recent frigid temperatures have had a redeeming quality, as seen in this sunset captured on film looking west along Dormitory Drive.



Stage "freaks"

The original AU Theatre production "Freakspiel" concludes its premiere run this week. The play is AU Theatre's view of reality television shows as an updated version of early 20th century "freak" shows. For show times and box office information, see calendar on pages 4-5.

Bequest will fund scholarships

A bequest from the estate of former Auburn High School teacher Mary Simpson Stephens will provide \$2.1 million to endow scholarships for students who demonstrate financial need.

The bequest will endow the Miles and Mary Stephens Endowment for Scholarships. Mary Stephens died in 2002, and her husband, Miles Stephens, a retired AU faculty member, died in 1998.

"Mrs. Stephens' gift to Auburn University is an inspiration to the Auburn family and to the students who will benefit from her spirit of philanthropy," said Robert McGinnis, Auburn's vice president for development. "This endowment contribution will memorialize her benevolence, and we at Auburn are most grateful."

Wes Williams, vice president for student affairs, added, "This is a wonderful gift from the Stephens family as it will carry on their philosophy of helping students receive an education. There are too many students that are not able to attend college because of financial need and the Stephens scholarship will provide that opportunity for students to attend Auburn University," Williams said.

Born in Piedmont, S.C., Mary Simpson graduated from Chicora College in that state. She taught and

was a high school principal in North Carolina before marrying Miles Stephens in 1937.

In 1945, the couple moved to Auburn, where Mary worked in the university registrar's office and Miles, a 1927 graduate of Auburn, was a soil scientist. She earned a master's of education degree at Auburn in 1948 and began teaching in 1952, first in Opelika and then at Auburn High School, where she taught business, until her retirement in 1970.

"Mary was a lovely person. She was a genuine southern lady from South Carolina," Larkin Radney, her nephew-in-law, recalled. "She really loved Auburn – both the town and the university."

Radney, who also is attorney for the estate, described Stephens as very outgoing and always interested in helping others. "Up until a few months before her death, she read books to the elderly at Wesley Terrace who couldn't see to read," he said.

Her colleagues at Auburn High School remember Mary Stephens as a generally happy person. "She was a very gracious lady and always had a smile on her face. She was never unhappy," said Virginia Taylor, who taught at Auburn High School with Stephens from 1962-70.

ATN gets grant to teach workplace-violence prevention

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration has awarded the Auburn-based Alabama Technology Network center a \$153,000 grant to develop a workplace violence prevention program.

The program is aimed at small- to mid-size businesses, says Jackie Robinson workforce development specialist. The ATN project team, which also

includes AU management scientist Rick Horne and graduate assistant Quita Rosser, will develop a comprehensive training program for workers, supervisors and managers.

The free training will help employers identify situations and behaviors that could lead to workplace violence. It will also cover measures to prevent violence and procedures to follow if violence occurs.

Airline, FAA executives to discuss future of industry

An executive from the successful low-cost carrier jetBlue Airways and officials from the Federal Aviation Administration will discuss the future of the aviation industry Thursday at a 7 p.m. public forum at Lowder Business Building, Room 125.

Panelists include Al Spain, senior vice president of operations of New York-based jetBlue Airways; Nick Sabatini, the FAA's associate administrator for regulation and certification; and Quentin Smith, the FAA's senior technical adviser to Sabatini.

The forum on aviation is sponsored by the Department of Aviation Management and Logistics in the College of Business.

Cosponsors are the Aviation Management Advisory Board and aviation and logistics student organizations at Auburn.

"This is a very distinguished and knowledgeable panel and their visit to Auburn is a tribute to the outstanding reputation of our university and the aviation program," said forum coordinator Ted Mallory, an Aviation Management Advisory Board representative.

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