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How Auburn Stacks Up

Average salaries of Auburn faculty, 2001-02 and 2006-07

The community planning graduate program in AU’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction has received a $150,000 grant from a Montgomery city agency to help the city and surrounding communities plan for growth and development.

Red carpet treatment
Aubie steps out of a limousine that the Auburn Student Alumni Association used last week in a promotion for the advanced screening of "Breach."

Students help city develop growth plan

Film tells story of AU grad’s pursuit of spy

A major motion picture set for nationwide release this Friday tells the story of a 1995 Auburn graduate who was instrumental in the capture of one of the most notorious spies ever on American soil.

The motion picture “Breach” stars Ryan Phillippe as FBI agent Eric O’Neill, whose undercover work led to the 2001 capture of a high-ranking FBI agent, Robert Hanssen, who had been selling national security secrets to the Soviets and, later, the Russians for two decades.

O’Neill, a political science and psychology major at Auburn, joined the FBI’s special surveillance group at age 22. Within four years, he was working on a secret, internal investigation involving one of the agency’s most veteran agents. In an attempt to nab the Russian mole, FBI superiors assigned the young agent as Hanssen’s assistant.

The movie describes the intrigue and dangers O’Neill faced during three months of working with and building a case against Hanssen, who is portrayed in the film by Academy Award-winner Chris Cooper.

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See Montgomery plan, page 3
Works by ‘Alabama masters’ go on display Saturday at museum

T he Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University will open an exhibition March 9 featuring the works of six Alabama artists, including Philippe O’Neill and Caroline Marshall Draughon, the wife of the late Auburn University President Ralph Brown Draughon.

The exhibit, “Drawing on Alabama,” is hosted by the museum in collaboration with the Auburn Federal Credit Union. Admission is free and open to the public.

The exhibit features the works of six Alabama artists: Caroline Marshall Draughon, the wife of Ralph Brown Draughon, Auburn University’s 18th president; Althea B. Montgomery, president of the Alabama Negro Women’s Union and a pioneer in civil rights; Philippe O’Neill, an artist and professor at the University of Alabama; Robert S. Studio, a prominent artist and teacher; John Mesh, a sculptor; and J. Ogden Brown, a photographer and writer.

In addition to the works of these six artists, the museum will also feature selected works from its permanent collection of contemporary art.

The exhibit will run through March 7 and will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

South of the Mason-Dixon line, the six artists have created a long tradition of producing a rich and diverse body of art work.

An opening reception for the exhibit will be held Feb. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m. in the museum’s outdoor sculpture garden.

Philippe O’Neill, an artist and professor at the University of Alabama, will be the featured speaker at the event.

O’Neill will discuss his work and the importance of art in the South.

The opening reception is free and open to the public.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Auburn Federal Credit Union, which has been a strong supporter of the museum.

The museum is located at 1200 W. Magnolia Ave. in Auburn. For more information, call 844-1444 or visit www.auburn.edu/galleries.

Correction

In an article published in the Feb. 12 issue of The Auburn Reporter, an error was made regarding the salary of a new president of Auburn University.

It was reported that the new president, Dr. Jay G. Martin, would be paid $225,000 per year, which is incorrect.

The correct salary for Dr. Martin is $225,000 per year, which is in line with the average compensation for presidents of similar institutions.

Upcoming Events

AU Architecture faculty honored for post-Katrina housing design

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ASCA) and the American Institute of Architects presented Professors David Kinlin and Stacy Nor- man with the ACSA Collaborative Practice Award for 2007 for their work on the DesignHabi- tatt House with Habitat for Humanity and Palm Harbor Manufactured Homes.

“Designing for a future in which the effects of Katrina and the environment are increasingly intertwined is one of the greatest challenges of our time,” said Norman.

“By recognizing the faculty’s work through the ACSA Collaborative Practice Award, we hope to encourage and support similar efforts that combine design, architecture and the environment to create sustainable communities,” said Kinlin.

The faculty’s work on the DesignHabitat House was featured in the March 2007 issue of the ASCA magazine, “Architecture and Community,” which focused on design and sustainability.

The DesignHabitat House is an innovative, energy-efficient design that was developed in collaboration with the Alabama Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and Habitat for Humanity.

The house features a unique combination of sustainable design principles, including passive solar heating and cooling, green building materials, and a rainwater harvesting system.

The house was built in less than a month using recycled materials and is estimated to have a 20-year life span.

The house was designed to meet the needs of a family of four and includes four bedrooms, two bathrooms, a kitchen, and a living room.

The family will live in the house for one year and then it will be donated to a family in need.

The house is part of a larger project called the “DesignHabitat in the Heart of Alabama,” which includes a series of workshops and seminars on sustainable design.

The project is funded by the Alabama Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Alabama Department of Economic Development.

The DesignHabitat House will be open to the public for tours starting on Saturday, March 9, at 10 a.m.

Tours will be held daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will be free to the public.

For more information, visit www.designhabitatintheheartofalabama.org.
Press secretary to Laura Bush to speak at AU on Wednesday

The AU College of Education has named Susan Dryden Whitson as its Keystone Leader-in-Residence for 2007.
The 1991 graduate of the College of Education will present a public lecture at 11 a.m. Wednesday in Foy 213. Whitson will discuss her progression from AU student to high school English teacher to senior White House aide.

Whitson is press secretary and chief communications adviser to Laura Bush, who, as the wife of President George W. Bush, is the nation’s first lady.

In her current role, Whitson is the key spokesperson on issues highlighted by the first lady, including education, literacy and international women’s issues. The Auburn graduate is also involved with many social functions for the White House.

In previous discussions of her public role, Whitson has said, “Mrs. Bush and I are both educators, so we share the common belief that education and literacy are the foundation of opportunity. Working for Mrs. Bush has afforded me the chance to talk about the issues important to her, but which are also important to me.”

Whitson, who is an advocate for AU in the nation’s capital, is a member of the Auburn Campaign Committee for the Washington metro area.

After graduating from Auburn, Whitson returned to her native Birmingham to teach English for six years at Hoover High School. In 1997, at the end of a temporary summer appointment with then-Rep. Bob Riley, current governor of Alabama, she joined the congresswoman’s staff as her press secretary.

In the eight years that followed, she served as press secretary on Capitol Hill for two U.S. representatives; deputy director of the Office of Public Affairs at the U.S. Department of Justice; chief of the FBI’s National Press Office; and deputy communications director for the Bush-Cheney ’04 campaign. She was appointed the first lady’s press secretary in 2005.

With First Lady
AU alumna Susan Dryden Whitson, left, is press secretary to U.S. First Lady Laura Bush.

AU wins awards for Sesquicentennial, other 2006 special events, publications

AU received 11 awards for program quality last week at the 2007 Southeastern regional meeting in Nashville of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Higher Education.

Auburn’s Office of Communications and Marketing won a Grand Award in the institutional relations programs category for work related to AU’s Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2006. Auburn celebrated its 150th year with a series of special events and publications highlighting AU’s history and mission.

OCM also received Awards of Excellence for the AU Style Guide and Identifications Standards publication, which sets campus guidelines for printed materials, and for ‘Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky, a hard-cover book celebrating 150 years of AU history and photography.

Communications and Marketing also won a Special Merit Award for the campus communications program, which includes AUDaily electronic mail, AU Report, bus signage, Campus Connection e-mail to students and AU Commons print and electronic newsletters to alumni. The office also earned a Special Merit Award for the television commercial, “Old Faithful,” and a Special Merit Award for the Faculty Awards for Excellence program.

The Office of Development teamed with Communications and Marketing to win two Awards of Excellence. One was for the It Begins at Auburn campaign newsletter and the other was for the endowment folder and brochure.

In other awards to AU, the College of Engineering received an Award of Excellence for its 2006 annual report and a Special Merit Award for its E-Day video. Also, the Office of Alumni Affairs won a Special Merit Award for Auburn Magazine, AU’s alumni magazine.

CASE, with 3,200 member institutions, is the primary association for education professionals in communications and advancement fields. The Southeastern district includes colleges, universities and other educational institutions in eight states.

Governor names five from AU to alternative fuels panel

Gov. Bob Riley and Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks have announced the formation of a statewide Alabama Alternative Energy Committee, which includes five faculty members from Auburn.

Representing AU are David Bransby, Steven Taylor, Larry Fillmer, Ralph Zee and Mark Hall.

Bransby, a professor of agronomy and soils, is a national authority on switchgrass as a fuel source. Taylor is a professor of biosystems engineering and head of AU’s Alternative Energy Committee.

Fillmer is executive director of AU’s Institute of Natural Resources. Zee is acting associate provost and vice president for research, and Hall is a regional extension agent with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The committee is comprised of energy experts and leaders from the state’s universities, forestry and agriculture sectors, manufacturers, energy providers, and state and local government officials.