Drivers can expect major changes in some primary access routes to the Auburn campus this summer. The changes will involve some traffic delays and detours during the less-crowded, warmer months as the university launches long-planned street improvement projects on the south side of campus and the City of Auburn undertakes previously announced roadwork on Magnolia Avenue along the north border of campus.

A major part of the work, in both projects, will involve improvements to intersections to enhance safety and traffic flow. While the city project will seek to reduce the traffic bottleneck at the intersection of Magnolia Avenue and Donahue Drive, the university project will address bottlenecks at the Donahue-Samford Avenue and Samford-Wire Road intersections. The south campus project will also address deep drainage ditches and deteriorating culverts that present safety and environmental concerns.

Although the projects fall under different jurisdictions, city and university planners are meeting regularly to coordinate the projects and minimize any overlap of street closings during construction, said Cathy Love of Campus Planning and Space Management.

The city’s work on Magnolia Avenue is scheduled for completion by the start of football season. In addition to reworking the Magnolia-Donahue intersection to improve traffic flow, that project will include raised pedestrian crosswalks along Magnolia similar to those installed by the university last year on Samford Avenue in front of the South Residence Halls. With revenue from an existing city fund, the project was authorized by city voters in a recent referendum.

The longer, southside project involves 2.5 miles of roadway and three intersections, with financing from a university account for maintenance of campus streets.

Love said work on the project will be suspended in the fall, when football crowds add to the usual traffic congestion, and will resume following football season. The street resurfacing will involve Donahue from South College north to Samford Avenue and west along Samford beyond Wire Road to Shug Jordan Parkway. Depending on bids received, the Samford work also could extend east past Sewell Hall to Duncan Drive.

In addition to roadway improvements, the work will include replacement of collapsing culverts under Samford near the Wire Road and Biggio Drive intersections and under Donahue south of the USDA Soil Dynamics Lab. In addition, the project will include reshaping stream banks for erosion control and implementing various roadside improvements to correct potentially hazardous conditions.

Turnouts will be added or improved for safer access to and from facilities along the two streets. In addition, traffic signals will be reprogrammed and the Samford-Donahue intersection will be altered to make access and turns easier for Tiger Transit buses and other vehicles, especially at peak traffic periods.

As a safety measure for motorists and bicyclists, the outside lanes of Samford, Donahue and Magnolia will be milled down to the base before resurfacing; the practice helps avoid a potentially hazardous drop-off between the pavement’s edge and the adjacent gutter.

After resurfacing, the four-lane section of Samford extending to Shug Jordan Parkway will be restriped for three lanes with a 6-foot-wide bicycle lane on each side. Based on the price of bids, due this month, the work along Samford could include a multi-use path along Samford between Shug Jordan and Donahue. Similar to the new multi-use trail along South Donahue, the proposed multi-use path would serve pedestrians and bicyclists in an area where the terrain leaves little room for roadside sidewalks.

Love said an off-road trail would improve safety for pedestrians, especially on football weekends, would provide an attractive nature trail for walkers and would be an alternative for bicyclists who want to avoid traffic on the busy street. She noted that commuting bicyclists often prefer the faster speeds afforded by roadside bicycle lanes, while recreational bicyclists and walkers have asked for more off-road multi-use paths like the one along Donahue.

— Ray Summerford
Presidential fellow

Forsythe working on project to help new women faculty with careers

As an authority on consumer behavior and marketing, Sandra Forsythe of Auburn’s College of Human Sciences was aware of the importance of a broad perspective on informed decision-making when she saw an opportunity last fall to broaden her own perspective of higher education.

Pursuing that opportunity, Forsythe, the college’s Wrangler Professor of Consumer Affairs, is serving as a presidential fellow in the Office of the President this semester. The university established the one-semester fellowship in late 2007 at the suggestion of President Jay Gogue to acquaint individual faculty members with the operations of the central administration while providing an opportunity for presidential fellows to develop a special project or program with long-term potential for the university.

Forsythe says she expects the presidential fellowship to provide insights for use in the classroom and future research. As part of the fellowship, she is also working on a project to help junior faculty members, especially female assistant professors, get established and grow professionally.

Since a limited perspective can lead to the bad decisions for consumers and companies marketing to them, Forsythe says her career field made her keenly aware of the importance of a broad range of viewpoints in decision-making. She notes that while she was advising students and professionals to broaden their perspective as much as possible, she wanted to be sure that she was following her own advice.

A college instructor and professor for more than two decades and a faculty member at Auburn since 1991, Forsythe is heavily involved in teaching, research and professional activities within her academic field. Yet, as she saw academic administrators making decisions about complex problems affecting many people, Forsythe increasingly wondered how their situation and viewpoints differed from her own as well as how they overlapped. In the presidential fellowship, she saw an opportunity to explore the administrative environment for a limited time without giving up her faculty position.

“A one-semester fellowship seemed ideal,” she said. “I can learn more about what the central administration does and the challenges that administrators face, and I look forward to going back to Spidle Hall with a clearer picture of administration.”

From her Samford Hall office next door to Executive Vice President Don Large and a few steps away from the president’s office, Forsythe is observing these administrators and others involved in longterm planning as well as day-to-day operations, and she has been meeting with several administrators to learn about their duties and decision-making processes.

Forsythe said two things became apparent early in her new role: Administrative decision-making is far more of a balancing act than she had realized, and teamwork is essential.

“As individual faculty members, we are looking most of the time at our own responsibilities,” she said. “It is hard to find the time to step back and look at the big picture the way that those in the central administration have to do with every issue. Even simple decisions at that level can have a ripple effect through the whole university, so administrators have to be aware of the implications of every decision they make.”

The presidential fellowship also provides Forsythe an opportunity to work on a project that addresses a topic of special interest to her — mentoring new faculty.

Aside from her classroom and research endeavors, Forsythe has long taken an active role in helping graduate students and new faculty get established professionally. Along the way, she learned that, nationwide as well as at Auburn, women were not keeping pace with men in rising through the academic ranks from assistant to associate and full professor. Although the numbers have improved over the years, she noted that the advancement rate for women remains lower than for men.

Since the Human Sciences professor had been active for years in mentoring women entering the teaching and professional ranks, senior administrators encouraged her to help develop and expand programs to ensure that women faculty at Auburn receive the support they need for effective career development.

All new faculty members need guidance but, due to personal and societal expectations, mentoring at the start of their careers is even more important for women, Forsythe said. “People want and need feedback if they are to be successful,” she said. “If they feel that they are not getting guidance, they can become discouraged and leave.”

She added, “We already have some good programs out there, particularly in some of the colleges and in the Biggio Center, which is very important in helping new faculty improve their teaching performance. But we need to identify and address the gaps in faculty development and find the resources to help new faculty get established and grow professionally.”

— Roy Summerford

On Southern Tour Circuit, museum to present film about black social club in New Orleans

As one of only ten venues in five states to host the 2008-09 Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, Auburn’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will screen “Member of the Club” at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

After the screening, the film’s director, Phoebe Ferguson, will lead an audience discussion about the film and her work as a filmmaker.

“Member of the Club” tells the story of a debutante, Marisa Arianne Mitchell, who has been groomed from infancy to be a New Orleans Mardi Gras queen.

With an observational, cinema vérité approach, the film follows the Mitchell family through the 2003-04 debutante season as the debutante experiences a flurry of interviews, dress fittings, rehearsals, academic challenges and ball practices. The film explores black social clubs in the South, as well as issues of race, class and the desire of an American family to become part of a community.

A native of the city and a 1978 Mardi Gras debutante, Ferguson still lives in New Orleans, where she produces and directs documentary projects. “Member of the Club” is her first feature film.

Before the screening of “Member of the Club,” the Museum Café will offer a buffet, prepared by caterer Ursula Higgins, from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. The cost is $15 per person plus gratuity. Also, a cash bar will be available. For reservations, call the Museum Café at 844-7016 or 844-3085.

The Auburn Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Deedie Dowdle. Auburn Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Communications and Marketing contributing editors, writers and photographers: Mike Clardy, Katie Wilder, Charles Martin, Neal Vann, Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Humble. Other contributors are based in colleges and schools throughout the university.

Issues of the Auburn Report appear every other Friday during academic terms, except in the week of or after some major U.S. holidays. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is noon on Monday before publication. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to the Auburn Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9984. Electronic mail: summero@auburn.edu.

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Honoring Heinz, Harris
June Henton, dean of Auburn’s College of Human Sciences, presented the 2008 International Quality of Life Award to philanthropist Teresa Heinz and the Lifetime Achievement Award to Grammy-winning singer Emmylou Harris on Jan. 31 at the United Nations in New York. Married to U.S. Sen. John Kerry, the 2004 presidential candidate, Teresa Heinz is also internationally prominent for continuing and expanding the philanthropic endeavors of her previous husband, the late U.S. Sen. John Heinz, as chair of the Heinz Endowments and Heinz Family Philanthropies. A Birmingham native, Emmylou Harris was recognized for a career in which she has received critical and popular acclaim across musical genres. Shown, from left, are Harris, Kerry, Heinz and Henton.

Author of book about Montgomery bus boycott to deliver lecture honoring crusading Auburn journalists Neil and Henrietta Davis

Alabama writer and prize-winning journalist Wayne Greenhaw will deliver the 2009 Neil and Henrietta Davis Distinguished Lecture at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, at The Hotel at Auburn University.

The public program is presented by the Department of Communication and Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts.

The Davis Lecture Series was established in 1996 to promote excellence in journalism as exemplified by the late Neil O. and Henrietta W. Davis, Auburn newspaper owners who were two of the nation’s leading community journalists of the 20th century. The series features distinguished journalists who continue through their work the spirit and principles exhibited in the couple’s life and work.

“What’s inspiring about Wayne Greenhaw and writers like him is that they are continuing the courageous, diligent work of Neil and Henrietta Davis,” said John Carvalho, journalism program director. “The Davis family did more than establish this lecture series; they inspired the lecturers.”


Greenhaw was a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University in 1972-73 while he was a reporter for the Alabama Journal in Montgomery. In the 1980s, he was editor and publisher of Alabama Magazine, a political, financial and lifestyle monthly publication. In the early 1990s, he was a columnist with The Alabama Journal and The Montgomery Advertiser. An Alabama native, Greenhaw has published 21 books of fiction and nonfiction. As a columnist and reporter, he has published hundreds of articles in regional, national and international publications including The New York Times, Atlantic Monthly, Reader’s Digest and The Writer. He has also written for stage and television and served as an editor and writing teacher.

“I consider it a great honor personally and professionally to be chosen to give a lecture in the name of my old friend Neil Davis and his wife Henrietta,” Greenhaw said. “For me, Neil Davis personified the essence of good journalism. He was not only a top-flight professional with the highest ethical priorities, he was a true gentleman in every sense of the word. When I speak at Auburn, I will think of Neil being in the front row, watching and listening.”

Neil Davis founded The Lee County Bulletin, later renamed as The Auburn Bulletin, in 1937 and served as its publisher and editor for 40 years. He was a 1935 Auburn graduate and a Nieman Fellow whose editorials won numerous state and national awards and were reprinted in such publications as The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Louisville Courier-Journal and The Atlanta Constitution.

Henrietta Worsley Davis, also a 1935 graduate, was the newspaper’s associate editor and chief reporter. Her precise and complete coverage of civic matters, particularly education, made The Bulletin a staple in Auburn homes and a model for weekly newspapers across the nation.

Among a handful of liberal newspaper publishers in the South throughout their careers, the Davises devoted their professional lives to making their newspaper an agent for social and civic progress in the community. Nationally they were often cited by political reformers and media critics as a voice for individuals and groups who had few defenders in the region’s media and for advancing the cause of civil rights in Alabama and throughout the Southeast.

The Davises also won commendations from national media analysts for providing comprehensive coverage of the black community in Macon County through The Tuskegee News, which they also owned, and responsible reporting and editorial commentary in The Auburn Bulletin on events such as the desegregation of Auburn University and local public schools. Media analysts have cited their reporting and editorials during the Civil Rights Era as leading examples of superior journalism during troubled times.

In his later years, Neil Davis also taught at Auburn in what is now the Department of Communication and Journalism.
Lean budget ahead

Speaking to the Administrative and Professional Assembly on Feb. 4, President Jay Gogue said Auburn has been able to limit damage up to now from the nation’s economic recession through careful budgeting, a tuition increase and the use of reserve funds. He cautioned, however, that the next budget year, which starts Oct. 1, will be very difficult because all states, including Alabama, face the prospect of continuing revenue shortfalls in 2009-10. Although the impact could be reduced by the fiscal stimulus package that was still pending in Congress, Gogue said Auburn, along with institutions across the state and nation, must prepare for even more belt-tightening in the months ahead.

Provost’s Office seeks nominations for Leischuck Awards for teaching

The Office of the Provost is seeking nominations for the 2009 Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching. Auburn’s highest awards for teaching, the Leischuck Awards carry a stipend of $10,000.

The two awards, at least one of which is to recognize undergraduate teaching, are open to full-time, tenured Auburn faculty with a minimum of three years service at the university. Nominees must hold at least a 50 percent teaching load in the 2008-09 academic year, must have demonstrated a commitment to Auburn University, and must not have accepted an early retirement option. Previous recipients are ineligible for five years after receiving the award. Nominations may come from deans, department heads and chairs, faculty, student organizations and alumni.

Additional information about eligibility and the nomination process is available online at www.auburn.edu/academic/provost/leischuck.html. The deadline for nominations is March 2.
Helping schools
Auburn, Tuskegee faculty team with area teachers in math initiative

A collaboration between Auburn University and Tuskegee University faculty members has resulted in a $600,000 National Science Foundation grant supporting efforts to strengthen mathematics education in regional Alabama school systems through a new TEAM-Math initiative.

TEAM-Math, or Transforming East Alabama Mathematics, is a partnership of the two universities, 14 local and regional school districts and area businesses working together in efforts to improve mathematics education in East Alabama.

Through this grant, six East Alabama educators became fellows in the recently established TEAM-Math Teacher Leader Academy, an initiative designed to keep skilled educators in the schools where they are most needed.

The five-person team that secured the grant will oversee the new initiative and will work closely with the academy’s fellows to help them strengthen mathematics instruction at their respective schools. The first six fellows will receive an annual stipend of $10,000 for three years and tuition reimbursement for advanced degrees in mathematics education.

The fellows are Catherine Culleton of Southside Middle School, Tallassee City Schools; Debra Davis-Harris of Millbrook Junior High School, Elmore County Schools; Nancee Garcia of Auburn High School, Auburn City Schools; Lisa Lishak of Loachapoka High School, Lee County Schools; Christie Nestor of LaFayette High School, Chambers County Schools; and Denise Peppers of Sanford Middle School, Lee County Schools.

Faculty team members include two from the Auburn College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Teaching: W. Gary Martin, principal investigator and project director of TEAM-Math; and Marilyn Strutchens, co-principal investigator and co-director of the Teacher Leader Academy. Two members are from Auburn’s College of Sciences and Mathematics: Steven Stuckwisch, co-principal investigator and co-director of the Teacher Leader Academy; and Phil Zenor, co-principal investigator. From Tuskegee University, Mohammed Qazi is co-principal investigator.

“We’re hoping that the fellows will be able to continue as leaders in their schools, working with other teachers to help them be more reform-math oriented,” said Strutchens. “As they learn more about math education through their graduate courses, they will be able to hold workshops at their schools and act as peer coaches. They can help other teachers understand why they’re asked to change the way they teach and help them to understand effective practices.”

“Over 90 schools have participated in the TEAM-Math program, which includes a two-week summer institute, and a one-week follow-up summer institute,” said Martin. “However, because of turnover, it’s not always clear how much of it sticks. That’s why teacher leaders are very important. They can provide the continuity and the constant encouragement at the school level.”

TEAM-Math previously received awards of $9.4 million from the National Science Foundation to provide intensive professional development and other support systems for East Alabama schools. The partnerships efforts are targeted toward improving math education at the elementary, secondary and university levels and ensuring that math education at those levels meets or surpasses state and national standards.

Faculty members with TEAM-Math also conduct and share research on mathematics teaching, learning and program improvement. The Teacher Leader Academy, meanwhile, is designed to help schools maintain lasting improvement in mathematics education through ongoing training activities.

— Troy Johnson

Healthy Tigers
More than 800 university employees participated in health-risk appraisal online surveys and follow-up in-person health screenings at the Student Center in January as part of Auburn’s expanding Healthy Tigers wellness program. Of those, 14 percent were identified as having five or more risk factors for heart attack, stroke or other major health disorders. Those who were at the greatest risk but were not on medication were immediately evaluated by medical professionals and placed on proper medications, and the University Medical Clinic provided free follow-up consultations. Meanwhile, 15 faculty and staff members won door prizes of $100 to $500 for participating in the screenings. They are, above from left, front row, Mechelle Golden, William McDonald, Susan Marsh, Sevgi Kucuktas, Kimberly Braxton-Lloyd, Eddra Crook; second row, Diane Thorne, Claire Twardy, Jennifer Harris, Saad Blaz, Sue Schoonhoven; and, not pictured, Darrell Orand, Steve Ballew, Christine Eick and Edith Davidson.
Aerial view
The new basketball arena, dining hall and Village student housing complex are taking shape rapidly on the west side of campus. In this aerial view at the end of January, the dining facility at lower right and residence halls at the top of the photo have roofs, and workers have completed much of the exterior work on some buildings. Interior work is also under way. The basketball arena, which got the most recent start, last August, is in the lower left quadrant of the photo. The student housing is on schedule for occupancy this fall. The eight residence halls will house more than 1,600 students in apartment-style living quarters and will include classrooms for Learning Community participants. The dining facility will serve residents of the Village as well as commuters and students in nearby off-campus housing. Meanwhile, the 11,000-seat arena will replace the coliseum as home of Auburn’s basketball teams and will provide a new locale for special events such as graduation.

Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Auburn, AUM faculty to help Chambers County teachers in program aimed at improving reading skills of students

Students and educators in the Chambers County school district will soon receive assistance in reading education from faculty at Auburn and Auburn University at Montgomery.

The assistance is coming through the Strategic TIPS in Reading program involving faculty members in Auburn’s colleges of Education and Liberal Arts, Auburn Montgomery’s School of Education and the Alabama Reading Initiative.

The program will expand the Alabama Reading Initiative professional development model, a statewide K-12 initiative whose goal is to improve reading instruction and achieve 100 percent literacy among public school students. The Strategic TIPS in Reading project will serve Chambers County educators in 2009-10 and, if funding is available, will be available to Tallapoosa County the following year. Both school systems have been identified by the U.S. Department of Education as high-need local education agencies.

Edna Brabham, an associate professor in the Auburn College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Teaching, said the Strategic TIPS in Reading program will initially reach 50 teachers, paraprofessionals and principals from public and private schools in Chambers County.

“We are working with research-proven methods that have been around for some time, but these teachers may not have had the opportunity to experience them in active, hands-on ways or to really put them into action in their classrooms,” Brabham said. “We hope that there will be additional funding through the Alabama Reading Initiative and other sources to make this happen in many more middle schools and high schools. There is an effort now to put more funds in those directions and to improve adolescent literacy instruction and achievement across the content areas.”

Other individuals involved in the collaboration include Alyson Whyte, an associate professor of English language arts education; James Ryan, an associate professor in the Department of English; Connie Buskist, an assistant professor of reading education at Auburn Montgomery; and Jennifer Hall, an ARI education consultant.

The program will be aided by a $98,000 grant from the Alabama Commission on Higher Education and $25,768 of in-kind support from Auburn.

The ACHE grant will enable the project to focus on four major goals:

♦ Providing resources to support a professional learning community in which educators build knowledge and skill for using literacy and inquiry as tools for teaching English language arts.

♦ Engaging teachers and administrators in hands-on experiences with activities, materials and technologies proven to be effective in improving student learning of core content and text comprehension.

♦ Increasing student learning in core academic subjects and improving performance on state-mandated reading and writing tests.

♦ Providing participants with three options for involvement that will support and extend adult learning and collaboration — participation in summer workshops and in-school sessions, opportunities for teachers to earn continuing education credit for recertification by completing online assignments and discussion on strategic teaching, and university course credit that can be applied toward a graduate degree.

— Troy Johnson
Leadership conference seeks to bridge racial, cultural barriers for men

The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs will sponsor the first Alabama Men of Every Color Leadership Symposium on Friday, Feb. 20, at The Hotel at Auburn University.

With the theme “Becoming my Brothers’ Keeper,” the community-based initiative will highlight issues such as men’s health and education and will provide information about support networks to promote personal achievement and leadership ability.

“This event will provide opportunities to examine the shared issues men face today and to reflect on past successes and failures so that we may learn from them,” said Dean of Students Johnny Green. “We want to promote the values of education, success and leadership and to provide guidance in how to create opportunities for others.”

Green added, “The event theme shows our commitment to uniting men across racial, cultural and socio-economic boundaries and making sure we really do become our brothers’ keeper.”

Among the speakers, Na’im Akbar is a pioneer in the development of an African-centered approach to modern psychology. A former president of the National Association of Black Psychologists and a professor emeritus at Florida State University, Akbar is director of the consulting firm Mind Productions and Associates.

Another speaker, James L. Moore III, is inaugural director of the Todd Anthony Bell National Resource Center on the African American Male at Ohio State University. Moore is also an associate professor in the College of Education and Human Ecology and coordinator of the School Counseling Program at Ohio State.

Participants will attend from colleges and universities around the state, including the University of Alabama, Alabama State University, Tuskegee University, Southern Union Community College, the University of Alabama in Birmingham, the University of South Alabama, Samford University and Alabama A&M. Students from Auburn will also attend and students from surrounding high schools have been invited to participate.

The fee is $50 for university and community professionals and $25 for college students. For information, contact Brandon Wolfe at 844-5042 or wolebr@auburn.edu. The fee includes all conference materials, the opening reception, breakfast and lunch.

On-site registration begins at 8 a.m. The schedule includes morning and afternoon breakout sessions, a town hall meeting at 4:45 p.m. and a reception at 7 p.m. For a downloadable registration form, schedule and other information go to https://fp.auburn.edu/aci/men/.

University Outreach office seeking nominations for Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach

The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach is seeking nominations for the 2009 Auburn University Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.

All full-time faculty members with significant outreach accomplishments are eligible for nomination for the award, which carries a $5,000 honorarium.

The award criteria stress the overall academic merit and demonstrable impact of the nominee’s outreach. A nomination packet should provide an overview of the nominee’s outreach record, describe how the outreach complements the teaching and research mission of the unit, describe the engagement of scholarship in the design and execution of the outreach and provide any quantitative and qualitative statements illustrating impact.

Criteria and information about the nomination process is available online at www.auburn.edu/outreach/award_excellence.htm. All nominations must be received by 4 p.m. March 2.

University Theatre production gives new twist to fairy tales

Ever wonder what happens to fairy tale characters after the “happily ever after” conclusion? The cast of Auburn University Theatre’s next production will present their take on that question in performances over the next two weeks at Telfair Peet Theatre.

Directed by Theatre Department Chair Dan LaRocque, the mostly student cast will present “Into the Woods,” Stephen Sondheim’s and James Lapine’s revisionist, comic retelling of some of the most popular Grimm’s fairy tales, including “Jack and the Beanstalk,” “Cinderella” and “Little Red Riding Hood,” plus an original tale featuring a childless baker and his wife.

Performances are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday, Feb. 18-21, and Feb. 25-28, with a matinee at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22. Also, College of Liberal Arts Dean Anne-Katrin Gramberg will host an opening night reception for the cast and audience following the Feb. 18 performance.

The play features 18 student actors appearing with faculty guest artists Chris Qualls and Chase Bringardner. “The opportunity for students to learn from faculty who are performing side by side with them brings an added element of excitement for all of us,” said LaRocque.

“We also have extraordinary talent contributing behind the scenes in faculty production designer Pip Gordon, faculty costume designer Tracy Oleinick, faculty choreographer Adrienne Wilson and a trio of professional guest artists — music director Joey Bates, sound designer Jason Czaja and associate lighting director Kris Brodeson,” he added.

For tickets, call the Peet Theatre Box Office at 844-4154. During the run of “Into the Woods,” paintings by Alan Weinstein will be on exhibit in the Peet Theatre Gallery. Numerous galleries in the United States and Europe have featured works by Weinstein, who is the father of Anna Weinstein in Auburn University Outreach and father-in-law of Chris Qualls in the Department of Theatre.
Achievements

The American Society for Public Administration has selected Paul Harris, associate director for national prestigious scholarships in the Honors College at Auburn, to receive the 2008 Best Article Award from Public Administration Times for his article, “Dalton, Georgia’s Response to Immigration.” Harris co-authored the article about the efforts of a small city to not just face, but benefit from, the challenges created by immigration.

Judges selected the article from more than 90 entries nationwide. The society will present the award in Miami on March 23 at the organization’s 70th annual conference.

The Alabama Rehabilitation Association recently honored a former and a current College of Education faculty member at the association’s annual meeting in Auburn.

The association established the Clarence D. Brown Diversity Award in honor of the emeritus professor of rehabilitation counseling, who served as graduate program officer from 1991-2003.

Previously, at Auburn, Brown received the Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award, the Student Government Association’s Outstanding Faculty Member Award and the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award.

E. Davis Martin, head of the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling and School Psychology, received the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Alabama Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Association, a division of the ARA.

The award recognized Martin’s service in a number of capacities and for developing training programs.

James Groccia of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning and the College of Education at Auburn conducted a day-long workshop on Supporting Faculty Innovation and Change for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and the chief academic officers of the 19 Tennessee Board of Regents colleges and universities on Jan. 20.

College of Architecture, Design and Construction faculty members David Hinson, Christian Dagg and Rebecca O’Neal Dagg received awards at the recent inaugural American Institute of Architects Montgomery Chapter Design Awards Gala. Hinson + Dagg Architects received the Merit Award and Members’ Choice Award for the “House on Turtle Creek,” a new private residence in Auburn.

AIA Montgomery recognizes excellence in the architectural design work of its members through the design awards program. Projects are judged upon merit, how well they solve the problems addressed and on their sustainability.

Valentina Hartarska, an associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, is a visiting faculty member for 2008-09 with the School of Economics and Management at the University of Mons-Hainaut, Belgium, and the Center for European Research in Microfinance at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

During fall semester, Hartarska traveled to Brussels to teach in the European Master in Microfinance program. This spring, she will teach Ph.D. seminars to doctoral students in the management program. At the Free University of Brussels, Hartarska is serving as a major professor on graduate student committees, and she is collaborating with faculty on research projects.

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