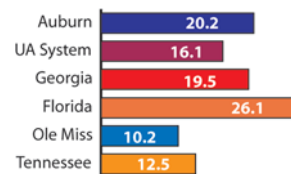


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How Auburn Stacks Up

Growth of university endowments by percentage, 2003-04



Source: *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, <http://chronicle.com/stats/endowments/>

# AU FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report



**New home**

Amanda Freind, a student assistant in AU Admissions and Student Recruiting, moves a cardboard cutout of Aubie into the unit's new home in the Quad Center behind Cater Hall. Meanwhile, Student Financial Services has settled into renovated offices in Mary Martin Hall. For more on the moves, see page 2.

## AU to fill interim provost position internally, accepting applications

Interim AU President Ed Richardson has begun an internal search for an interim successor to Provost Thomas R. Hanley, who last week submitted his resignation from the provost position, effective March 1.

Richardson will accept applications for the interim position through Monday, Feb. 21. He said he expects to conduct interviews of selected candidates next week and name an interim provost soon afterward.

Candidates for the interim position must be full, tenured professors with some administrative experience and must not have an interest in the permanent position, Richardson said.

"I think there are a lot of people on this campus already who would do an excellent job in this position," he added. "Hopefully, we'll find the most qualified person and then move forward."

Although an interim provost would be able to begin performing job duties upon his or her selection by the president, the AU Board of

Trustees would still need to approve the appointment at its April 22 meeting.

Hanley, who came to Auburn from his position as dean of the University of Louisville's Speed Scientific School in October 2003, submitted his resignation from the provost position to Richardson on Feb. 9. He cited family considerations as chief among the reasons for his resignation.

Hanley has been temporarily appointed vice president of special projects, a post he will hold through May 15. In that position, his duties will likely include reporting to the president on federal and foundation funding opportunities for AU's planned research park, development of a business plan for the Canine Detection Training Center and fundraising.

If Richardson does not name an interim provost by March 1, he and his senior staff will handle any urgent business within the provost's purview until the interim is named.

**HR winner**

Marie Byrd, center, of Telecommunications was the first winner in a promotion by AU Human Resources and the AU Bookstore to encourage participation in Human Resource Development Programs. Bookstore Director Katy Lee, left, and Kelli Henderson of Human Resources presented the prize last week. Human Resources will select one participant each semester for the \$50 gift card.



## Can't find the Admissions Office? Go to the old office of the Bursar

Two historic buildings long associated with student admissions and financial services at Auburn have reversed roles.

Mary Martin Hall, home to AU's Admissions Office and Student Recruiting since the 1960s, and the Quad Center, a former dining hall that has been home to the Bursar's Office for more than a decade, changed tenants over the past two weeks.

Mary Martin Hall is now home to a new unit, Student Financial Services, which includes the offices of Student Financial Aid and the Bursar. Those units were merged last fall and occupy adjacent and newly renovated space in Martin Hall.

The Quad Center is the new home for the offices of Admissions and Student Affairs' Marketing and Recruiting.

Mary Martin Hall was home to the college library from 1910 until Draughon Library opened in 1962; after that Martin Hall housed Student Affairs offices, including Admissions and Financial Aid.

The Quadrangle was constructed in 1940 and served as a dining hall for the surrounding women's residence halls. With changes in student dining habits during the 1980s, AU closed the cafeteria in 1987 and converted the Quad Center into offices for the Bursar.

"Recruiting will be greatly enhanced because of the opportunity to welcome campus guests in a more central location, in a beautiful and more functional building," said Mike Waldrop, associate director of admissions. "Tours will leave from the steps of the Quad Center, which provides a very warm and welcoming setting."

Instead of going to Martin Hall, as in the past,

prospective students and their families start their campus visits at the Quad Center, a building that Waldrop said is better suited to handle the volume of foot traffic.

John Fletcher, assistant vice president for enrollment management services, said the change will give a large boost to student recruiting. "With the move of Marketing and Recruitment to the Quad Center, Auburn will have an outstanding world-class facility that will be a great front door to the university," he said.

Fletcher added that future renovations are being planned that will make the Quad Center even more inviting and welcoming to prospective students and their parents.

Mike Reynolds, director of student financial aid, said having the offices of Financial Aid and the Bursar in one location will be more convenient for students. "Combining the Bursar Office and the Financial Aid Office into the Office of Student Financial Services enables the university to provide a one-stop shop for students regarding their financial affairs while pursuing their higher education goals," he said. "The main objective of each office is to assist students in meeting their financial obligations, and this allows us to accomplish that task from the same location."

Vice President for Student Affairs Wes Williams said the moves will have an immediate effect on student recruiting. "Despite all of the changes currently being made to campus, I am confident that moving Admissions and Marketing and Recruiting into the Quad Center will be invaluable to Auburn's recruitment efforts," said Williams.

"Our goal is to meet our students' needs with as little inconvenience as possible," he added.

## Upcoming Events

### Tuesday, February 15

- Meeting: Administrative and Professional Assembly, 2 p.m., Foy Student Union 246.
- Black History Lecture: "Researching African American Genealogy," Frazine Taylor of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 3 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library.
- AU Theatre: "Equus," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15-19 and Feb. 22-26, Telfair Peet Theatre. Matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 20.
- Art Display: Works by sculptor and painter Pieter Favier of Mobile at Telfair Peet Theatre gallery through Feb. 28.

### Wednesday, February 16

- Conference: "Perfecting the New Paradigm: Distance Education Integration and Maturation," Dixon Conference Center.

### Saturday, February 19

- Museum Family Day: Free admission to AU's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, noon-3 p.m.

### Monday, February 21

- Next AU Report.

### Tuesday, February 22

- Biggio Book Group: Discussions of Stephen Brookfield's "Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher," noon and 5 p.m. Also at 5 p.m., Feb. 23. Contact Isabelle Thompson at thompis@auburn.edu.
- Black History Lecture: "Cradle of Freedom," Frye Gaillard, 4 p.m., Foy 217.
- Distinguished Faculty Lecture: "The Future of Alabama," Wayne Flynt, 5 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Inaugural event in College of Liberal Arts lecture series.
- Annual Meeting: AU Federal Credit Union, 7 p.m., AUFCU Building, West Magnolia Avenue.

### Wednesday, February 23

- Human Resources Seminar: "Financial Planning for Retirement," financial adviser Cindy Hayes of AIG VALIC, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Human Resources Training Facility, 146 N. Gay St. Register online at HR A-Train web site or call 844-7939.



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## Commission seeks public input on direction for AU agriculture

An AU commission is seeking public input on the direction of the university's agricultural, forestry, wildlife sciences and related programs.

The President's Commission on Agriculture will meet in March to assess all the options for these programs at Alabama's largest land-grant institution. The commission is scheduled to submit recommendations to interim President Ed Richardson in May.

Agriculture is one of six major initiatives for which Richardson appointed commissions last summer to develop long-term recommendations for possible presentation to the Board of Trustees in June 2005. The other initiatives involve a research park, a Gulf State Park hotel-conference center, review of all academic programs, the Auburn-Opelika Airport and AU-Montgomery. (See the web site [www.auburn.edu/administration/president/initiatives.html](http://www.auburn.edu/administration/president/initiatives.html).)

John Jensen, coordinator for the agriculture commission, said the panel has received recommendations from stakeholders across Alabama. He added that the commission is also looking for ideas and suggestions from individuals at Auburn, throughout the state and beyond the state's borders.

The 29-member commission, with members drawn from many constituencies in Alabama, has established a web site, <http://auburnag.org>, to receive input from all interested persons. (To submit recommendations at the now-public site, enter the username:auburnag and password:pride.)

Jensen said the commission welcomes input

from people outside agriculture and forestry as well as those in related occupations and academic disciplines. "We are interested in the value of all ideas, regardless of their source," Jensen said.

The commission's web site states that the panel will consider comment from all perspectives, but maintaining the status quo is not an option. Jensen explained that the challenges facing agriculture at Auburn have been accumulating for decades. Meanwhile, he added, little attention

has been focused on either the challenges or Auburn's emerging opportunities in agriculture, forestry, wildlife sciences and related areas.

Neither Auburn nor any other major land-grant institution in the United States can afford to maintain the status quo indefinitely, he said.

"Agriculture is changing rapidly, not diminishing in importance to our state, but there are shifting areas of opportunity," said Jensen, a College of Agriculture faculty member since 1979. "We cannot continue doing business the same way we have in the past if we are to fulfill our mission for Auburn University and meet the needs of the people of Alabama."

Jensen noted that traditional sources of funding from the state and federal governments have remained nearly level in the face of increasing costs.

The financial situation is prompting the AU commission to look at all potential sources of new revenue, Jensen said. "We have to be creative. We want to position ourselves to prosper in the long run and not just survive."

The commission is also looking at the structure of agricultural programs at Auburn, where faculty perform instruction, research and extension duties under three different administrative organizations. Faculty also collaborate with one another in agriculture-related teaching and research across several colleges and schools.

Jensen said the commission is looking for ways to improve coordination and flexibility in all these areas without harming the autonomy of colleges, schools and divisions.



### Past and future

Historic Comer Hall is a link to the past as a commission develops recommendations for the future of agriculture and related programs at Auburn.

## Building Science, Architecture

# Courses cast common material in unique context for students

Concrete furniture designed and built by students in AU's College of Architecture, Design and Construction is on display in the Dudley Hall gallery this week.

The furniture pieces are the result of a group project in the reinforced concrete design classes in the Department of Building Science. Teams of Architecture and Building Science students created the furniture and will donate it to the AIDS Outreach House.

"The students learned how to understand the engineering aspects of concrete," said Steve Williams, a Building Science professor, who teaches one of the two concrete classes. "They learned how to work with reinforced steel. They had to build their own forms and mix their own concrete."

Michael Hein, also a Building Science professor, teaches the second concrete class that participated in the project.

The students worked for two weeks to create the furniture, which included lighted end tables and a recliner-type lounge chair among other pieces.

Kelly O'Neal, a senior Building Science major, said the project provided a good foundation in working with concrete. "I had never really been around concrete before, but our groups were mixed really well," she said, noting that each group had members who had experience with concrete.

Andrew Pitts, a senior Building Science major, was in O'Neal's group. He had worked with concrete before but learned new things from the project. "We had to be very cautious, especially when we were drilling in the rebar," he said of constructing their lighted end table.

Pitts said working with electricity proved to be one of the biggest challenges of the project. "We had to work with the light kit around the concrete so we had to be really careful."

The students said they had to consider many different aspects of the project. For example, they had to be aware of the weight so the piece would not be too heavy to move. In some cases, this



## A hard subject

Building Science students Andrew Pitts and Kelly O'Neal prepare their project for display among other pieces of concrete furniture at Dudley Hall.

meant making the walls of the table thinner. "I learned that you have to be really careful when working with concrete," Pitts said.

O'Neal added, "I've also found out why concrete furniture isn't as popular as wood furniture."

Although the assignment is a unique experience for the participants, students in Building Science have been working with concrete structures as part of their curriculum for more than a decade.

During the second part of the semester, the students will participate in another public service project that involves pouring concrete for a non-profit organization in the community.

## Lall receives NSF grant for Mechanical Engineering research

Pradeep Lall, a faculty member in the Ginn College of Engineering's Department of Mechanical Engineering, has received a three-year \$180,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct research on the shock and vibration reliability of electronic packaging.

Lall, who is associate director of AU's Center for Advanced Vehicle Electronics, said the proposed research will assist in developing convergent

communication technologies. The center is partially funded by NSF and by industrial members.

"This grant will provide for sustained research support over a period of time to establish Auburn's leadership in the area of damage-tolerant portable electronics," said Lall. "The effort will also enable us to expand the scope of extreme environments to include shock and vibration."

## Gaillard to speak on Civil Rights movement in Alabama

Author Frye Gaillard will discuss his latest book on the Civil Rights movement in Alabama in a Black History Month lecture at 4 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Foy Student Union Exhibit Lounge.

Gaillard, author of 19 books, will speak on "Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America." His book by the same name tells the story of Alabama's transformation from the Cradle of the Confederacy to the Cradle of Freedom.

The book covers the major events of the period, including the Montgomery bus boycott, the Freedom Rides, the Birmingham demonstrations and the Selma to Montgomery march.

Gaillard tells the story through personal accounts and interviews with both the movement's foot-soldiers and such icons as Rosa Parks and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth.

The program is sponsored by the AU Office of Outreach, Center for the Arts and Humanities, Center for Diversity and Race Relations and Department of History.

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