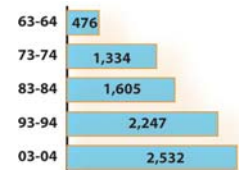


## Inside

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## How Auburn Stacks Up

Number of female graduates of AU by academic year



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

[www.ocm.auburn.edu/au\\_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html)

# **AU** report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

## USA Today selects two AU students for All-USA College Academic Team

Two Auburn students were named to USA Today's All-USA College Academic Team on Thursday.

Caesar Garcia, a senior in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, was named a member of the Academic All-Stars First Team. He is the only student from a college or university in Alabama to be selected for the first team.

Joshua Jarrell, a senior in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, was selected for the Academic Second Team.

Started in 1996, the USA Today program honors 60 undergraduates as representatives of all outstanding students at the nation's colleges and universities, with 20 members each on the first, second and third teams. Another 24 students receive honorable mention.

A mechanical engineering major with a 3.91 grade-point average, Garcia is also a championship diver and member of AU's varsity swimming and diving team. Last summer, he represented the U.S. at the 2004 Olympics. He also won back-to-back NCAA titles on the platform and won the SEC title in the same event in back-to-back seasons and was named the 2004 NCAA Diver of the Year.

Garcia was named AU's Outstanding Mechanical Engineering Student of the Year in 2003. The Louisiana native is a member and executive chair of the Cupola Engineering Society and is active in the Catholic Student Organization.

"Caesar's academic success is especially impressive considering his extracurricular accomplishments as a student athlete," said Larry Benefield, dean of AU's Ginn College of Engineering.

Jarrell is a senior majoring in applied mathematics from Richmond, Va. With a 3.93 overall grade-point average, Jarrell has maintained a perfect 4.0 in all his mathematics classes.

A member of the Army Reserve, Jarrell was on active duty in Iraq from May 2003 to May 2004. He is the youngest staff sergeant in his unit.

Named the 2003 Auburn Mathematics Depart-

ment Outstanding Junior, Jarrell was also named to the 2002-03 National Deans List, which represents approximately 1 percent of U.S. undergraduates.

"Josh is a rare find – a Renaissance man proficient both in the sciences and the arts," said Lawrence Wit, a professor and associate dean in AU's College of Sciences and Mathematics. "He is certainly one of the most broadly gifted students I have observed in nearly 30 years of teaching."



### 'Equus' at Telfair Peet

The AU Theatre interpretation of the figuratively and, at times, literally dark Tony-winning play "Equus" continues through Saturday at Telfair Peet Theatre. For ticket information, call 844-4154.

## Campus Forum

## Agriculture must change with the times

"If we don't change direction soon, we'll end up where we're going."—Comedian "Professor" Irwin Corey

By Michael J. Weiss, Dean  
College of Agriculture

Corey may have quipped this for laughs, but his point is seriously appropriate for those of us in agriculture.

Monumental changes have occurred in American agriculture during the past 100 years. Yields now far exceed our grandparents' wildest imaginations, production efficiency and space-age technology have taken much of the drudgery out of farm labor and our food supply is the highest quality and most affordable in the world. However, things are changing down on the farm. More and more of our food and fiber are being produced on large, corporate farms or produced on farms outside the United States. In Alabama, the face of agriculture is changing. Row crops—cotton, peanuts, corn and soybeans—are still viable commodities, but production of poultry, forest products and beef cattle are leading our agricultural economy. And the green industry—horticulture and turfgrass production—has become our major plant-based agricultural industry.

Even as farmers adapt to these changes, they face broader challenges: global warming; skyrocketing fuel costs; stagnant rural communities; food safety and security; labor shortages; intensifying international competition; new and emerging diseases of both plants and animals; and growing pressures to develop and expand a food system that focuses on renewable resources, fewer pesticides and human-made fertilizers and limited use of biotechnology.

Because these issues include both biological and societal components, they are complex and often pose challenges with no simple solutions.

Challenging times? Indeed. But these also are exciting opportunities that can be met—and, in many cases, already are being addressed—by land-grant universities such as Auburn University.

As the agricultural component of a land-grant institution, the AU College of Agriculture is responsible for educating students, discovering new and applying existing knowledge and disseminating research results. The need for these services is still great, but the approach to them must change to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Changes in farming trends have hit close to home, right here in Auburn's College of Agriculture. Since 1990, our enrollment has increased 77 percent, yet fewer and fewer of our graduates are

going back to work on farms or in production agriculture. Instead, they're finding jobs in the service, technology, sales, financial, regulatory, research and consulting sectors or going on to professional schools.

Auburn's first course catalog, published in 1872, said it best: Auburn's mission was "not to teach how to plow, but the reason for plowing at all." That still holds true today. Our role is to give students the practical knowledge they need to work in agriculturally related professions and teach them the critical thinking and communication skills they need to be productive members of the workforce and society.

We must also give our students a deeper appreciation and understanding of the various cultures of the world through international education and study-abroad programs. And we must add an entrepreneurial component to our curricula and provide more and more hands-on experiences for our students.

In other words, we must provide a society-ready graduate—one who can see change coming and meet it head on.

What's more, we must continue to invest in research and outreach programs that address both current AND emerging issues. We no longer can focus our efforts solely on squeezing one more pound of production from an acre of land. Agriculture at Auburn must move beyond plows, sows and cows, and approach agriculture as a component of food and fiber systems that interface with all of the environment and society.

To do this, we must balance our applied research with what I call "anticipatory" research programs—ones that anticipate future problems and needs and address them early.

We also must remember that no amount of research is useful unless the people who can benefit from the studies have access to those answers. For that reason we must continue to disseminate our knowledge and findings to every citizen through our extension and outreach efforts.

In short, Auburn's College of Agriculture must change with the times, but we are ideally positioned to do so, and, with the right support, we can make those changes while continuing to provide valuable educational opportunities and scientific breakthroughs for the citizens of Alabama—potentially the world.

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*Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by AU faculty, staff and administrators of issues in higher education that are of special interest to the campus community but which are infrequently discussed in the commercial news media. Views in each Campus Forum column are the independent expression of the writer.*



Weiss

## Upcoming Events

## Tuesday, February 22

- AU Theatre: "Equus," 7:30 p.m., Feb. 22-26, Telfair Peet Theatre. Box Office: 844-4154.
- Black History Lecture: "Cradle of Freedom," Frye Gaillard, 4 p.m., Foy 217.
- Annual Meeting: AU Federal Credit Union, 7 p.m., on-site.

## 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 Human Resources A-Train web site or call Kelli Henderson at 844-7939.
- Faculty Development Seminar: "Scholarship Redefined," James Groccia, director of Biggio Center, noon-1:30 p.m., Foy 202.
- York Lecture: "Emerging Food Systems: Creating Opportunities for Farmers and Rural Communities," Jim Horne of Kerr Center for Sustainable Agriculture, 7 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

## Thursday, February 24

- Benson Lecture: "Who's In and Who's Out," Jahan Ramazani, editor of the "Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry," 3 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

## Friday, February 25

- Public Lecture: "A National Conversation on Civil Rights in America," Gerald Reynolds, chairman of U.S. Civil Rights Commission, 6 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

## Monday, February 28

- Next AU Report.

## Tuesday, March 1

- Concert: AU Community Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. See <https://frontpage.auburn.edu/music/orchestra/>

## Wednesday, March 2

- Quarterly Meeting: AU Staff Council, 10 a.m., Foy 217.



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## Hint of spring

Warm weather brought an early hint of spring to campus last week. Along with Japanese magnolias, cherry trees burst into bloom in the student parking areas and several other parts of campus. However, with spring officially still a month away, more cold weather may lie ahead.

## President assigns responsibilities for Provost's Office during search

Interim President Ed Richardson last week assigned administrative responsibilities for the Provost's Office during the search to fill the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The search began two weeks ago, following the resignation of Thomas Hanley, who came to AU from the University of Louisville in 2003. AU is conducting an internal search to fill the position for an interim or limited term.

With the President's Office receiving nominations through Monday, Feb. 21, each nominee who wishes to be considered has until next Monday, Feb. 28, to submit a curriculum vitae and a two- or three-page letter describing his or her interest and vision for the position. The President's Office will announce further plans for the selection process when the details are complete.

In the meantime, Richardson has directed that matters requiring the attention of the Provost's Office be reviewed by Stephen McFarland, representing that office, and John Heilman, representing the President's Office. McFarland is acting associate provost and dean of the Graduate School, and Heilman is senior assistant to the president.

Richardson said matters affecting the faculty or otherwise involving shared governance should go to University Faculty Chair Willie Larkin and Chair-Elect Conner Bailey for review.

Nancy Nowicki, administrative assistant in the Provost's Office, is assisting in the handling of administrative matters for that office. She will contact administrative offices across campus to help determine what items may need immediate attention.

## In Research Office

## Taylor named assistant vice president

Martha Taylor has been promoted from director of sponsored programs to assistant vice president for research at AU.



Taylor

"Martha is well suited to meet the challenges this new assignment brings, and I am confident that as assistant vice president, she will be extremely effective in initiating program improvements and in ensuring that Auburn's research administration is both effective and responsive," said Vice President for Research Michael Moriarty.

Moriarty said Taylor's promotion and other administrative changes in AU's research operations are related to the university's initiative to establish a research park. "The restructuring is necessary to provide the flexibility and management attention required as we work toward bringing the research park online," he added.

Taylor, a University of Florida graduate, joined Auburn's research office in 1989 as a database consultant with what now is the Office of Sponsored Programs. She was named assistant director of that office the same year and became its director in 1995.

## Alabama Senate confirms Ginn's appointment to Board of Trustees

The Alabama Senate confirmed the appointment of Samuel Ginn to the AU Board of Trustees on Thursday.



Ginn

Ginn, who became an AU trustee immediately upon confirmation, will take his seat on April 22 at the next meeting of the board.

The State Senate voted unanimously for Ginn's appointment on a recommendation by the Senate's Confirmations Committee, which also unanimously approved the appointment.

Auburn's five-member trustee selection committee, headed by Gov. Bob Riley, selected Ginn in January to fill the at-large position on the AU Board previously held by Golda McDaniel, whose term expired on Dec. 31.

Ginn, the namesake for AU's College of Engineering, will serve a seven-year term on the 14-member AU Board.

The California-based wireless communications industry leader is the only board member from outside the state. The other at-large members are industrial developer Earlon McWhorter of Annis-

ton and Alabama Power Co. President and Chief Executive Officer Charles McCrary of Birmingham.

A 1959 Auburn engineering graduate, Ginn is co-chair of the university's capital campaign, and his \$25 million gift in 2001 is the largest in Auburn history. His gift was instrumental in Auburn's launch of the first wireless engineering program in the nation.

A pioneer in the wireless communications industry, Ginn is among the most prominent advocates of that emerging global industry. The Alabama native began his career with AT&T in 1960 and by 1977 he was vice president of network operations for AT&T Long Lines. In 1978, he became vice president of Pacific Telephone.

Sensing the potential for wireless communications, he led the AirTouch communications company through a spin-off from the Pacific Telesis Group in the early 1990s and a merger with Vodafone later in the decade.

He retired as chairman of Vodafone in 2000 and has remained active in the industry as an investor and adviser to start-up ventures.

## Auburn researchers join UAB scientists in \$18 million study of heart disease

Auburn researchers will collaborate with University of Alabama at Birmingham medical scientists as part of an \$18 million National Institutes of Health grant for research into congestive heart failure.

Researchers in AU's College of Veterinary Medicine and Samuel Ginn College of Engineering will work with UAB researchers in a Specialized Center of Clinically Oriented Research program at UAB for five years to focus on NIH-funded studies of heart disease.

Veterinary medicine researchers said the research has direct clinical implications for their college because mitral valve disease is more common than all other canine heart diseases combined.

"Working with UAB, we have developed new therapeutic strategies to immediately improve the quality of life of dogs with heart disease," said Ray Dillon, Jack Rash Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, where he is that college's principal investigator on the project. "When we started some of these projects 10 years ago, we had to send the MRI data to an engineering group in New Zealand for computer analysis."

Now, Auburn has developed the technology and expertise to produce the images and analyze the data on campus.

The image data go to Tom Denney, professor of electrical and computer engineering in the Ginn College of Engineering, for analysis. Denney has developed techniques for quantitatively measuring how much the heart muscle contracts and other indicators of cardiac health from cardiac MRI data. Researchers say this analysis, combined with serial MRI scans, is expected to greatly enhance their understanding of the heart's response to disease.

The UAB-AU research targets three types of heart failure: medication resistant hypertension, diabetes and valvular heart disease. Preliminary research has shown that these three types of heart disease are resistant to standard medical treatment and account for more than 50 percent of patients with heart failure.

"Understanding these mechanisms could lead to new treatments for those living with chronic heart disease," said Louis J. Dell'Italia, lead researcher on the project at UAB.

Heart failure, with more than 500,000 new cases each year in the United States, affects more than 4.7 million people nationwide. Since heart transplants are the only known cure for heart muscle disease, the NIH is seeking more knowledge that could lead to a less traumatic and more accessible cure for more people.

## Civil Rights Commission chairman to speak at AU on Friday

Gerald Reynolds, the newly appointed chairman of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission, will speak on "A National Conversation on Civil Rights in America" at Dixon Conference Center at 6 p.m. Friday.

Before being appointed by President Bush in December, Reynolds was the assistant general counsel for Great Plains Energy Inc. in Kansas City.

He has also served as the assistant secretary in charge of the civil rights office at the Education Department and deputy attorney general at the Justice Department.

"This is a great opportunity for the general public to learn more about the civil rights agenda under the Bush Administration and the current status of civil rights in America," said AU Vice President for Outreach David Wilson.

The public lecture is sponsored by AU Outreach, the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the Center for Race Relations and Diversity.

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