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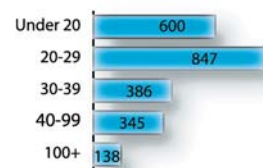
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Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues
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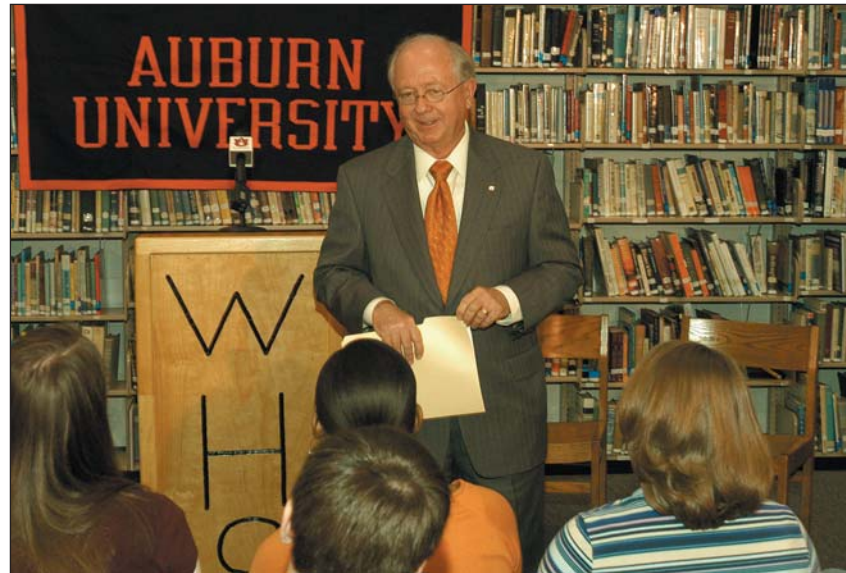
AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 6

New scholarships

Interim AU President Ed Richardson unveiled two new scholarship programs last week during a presentation in Elmore County at Wetumpka High School. The scholarships are available to top seniors from schools on the state's academic-priority list and other high-achievers at schools throughout Alabama.



AU starts new scholarship programs

Interim AU President Ed Richardson last week announced two new freshman scholarship programs for Alabama residents. The programs are among the largest of their type in AU history.

AU will award \$2 million over four years to 400 students, beginning with 100 students in the 2004-05 academic year.

Richardson made the announcement at Wetumpka High School, one of the Alabama State Department of Education's 19 academic priority schools, all of which will benefit from the program.

Interim Alabama Superintendent of Education Joe Morton was present for the announcement on Tuesday.

Each year, the two programs will provide 100 students \$5,000 each for up to four years.

Under the new Freshmen Opportunity Scholarship program, students from the 19 academic priority schools (as identified for 2002-03) will receive 30 awards each year.

The Freshmen Presidential Scholarship program will award 70 scholarships each year to students from Auburn's top 75 public and top 25 private high schools.

"The competition for the best prepared Alabama students is increasing, and with national college tuition prices rising, Auburn is committed to easing their investment in education," said Richardson.

"By the time this program is four years old, it will represent a \$2 million investment in our most deserving young men and women, and a solid
(See *Scholarships*, page 2)

Incoming, outgoing faculty leaders discuss challenges

New officers for the University Faculty will take office on March 16.

News articles on pages 4-5 in this issue present reflections on the current year by outgoing Faculty Chair John Mouton and plans for the coming year by 2004-05 Faculty Chair Willie D. Larkin.

The March 1 issue of the AU Report will feature statements by candidates for chair-elect and secretary-elect.

The March 8 issue will provide additional information about the candidates.
(See *Candidates*, page 2)

Experiment Station launches first test site for growing organic vegetables

A team of AU scientists will break ground this spring for the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station's first research project devoted solely to organic vegetable production.

Plant pathologists, horticulturists, agronomists and agricultural economists will participate in the project on a three-acre plot at the AAES's North Alabama Horticulture Research Unit in Cullman.

AU plant pathologist and research project coordinator Joe Kloepper said the project is a response to escalating consumer demand for organic produce and increasing interest among financially strapped small-scale Alabama vegetable growers.

The long-term project will yield comprehensive scientific data that will provide growers valuable information on transitioning to organic production, pursuing designation as a federally certified organic operation, maximizing production and profit, and marketing the organic crops they produce.

Calling organic farming "one of the bright spots in agriculture," Kloepper said the AAES commitment

to the project increased significantly after a meeting in Birmingham with landowners interested in organic vegetable production. An overflow crowd of nearly 100 landowners enthusiastically endorsed the research project.

"This meeting showed us that a lot of Alabamians, including a growing number of conventional farmers, are looking seriously at farming organically on at least some of their acreage, but they want to be able to base it on solid, scientific information and hard data," Kloepper said.

He added that strong interest in organic production was also evident during a series of six regional public meetings the AAES sponsored across Alabama recently, as participants repeatedly called on the AAES to make organic farming a research priority.

Organic farming systems are ones that avoid use of synthetic chemicals and rely instead on crop rotations, crop residues, animal and green manures, legumes, mechanical cultivation and biological pest control to control insects, diseases and weeds.

Agriculture gets gift for new research award

St. Louis-based Novus International Inc., a global leader in the animal agriculture industry, has donated \$100,000 to establish the Novus International Research Award in AU's College of Agriculture.

The award will be given annually to a graduate student who has conducted advanced research in

one or more of the following areas: animal nutrition, metabolism, growth and development, and health and disease. Students may submit written applications for the award or be nominated by their major professors.

The recipient will be chosen by a selection committee comprised of the College of Agriculture's Awards Committee chairperson, two faculty members from the college and a representative of Novus International.

Chris Gary, development officer for the college, said the gift is contingent on AU raising an additional \$100,000 in matching funds.

Candidates

(continued from page 1)

Chair-elect candidates are Conner Bailey of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and Mark Nelms of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Secretary-elect candidates are Patricia Duffy of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology and Jim Gravois of AU Libraries.

In their first elections by computer, AU faculty will cast their ballots electronically on March 11-15, and results will be announced at the University Faculty meeting at 3 p.m. March 16 in Broun Hall.

University Senate Secretary Paula Sullenger has suggested that all faculty members check their access online at <http://vote.auburn.edu> before the voting period starts. Voting information is posted at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/au_senate.html.

Lanehart to discuss book 'Sista Speak,' diversity at two events

Author and linguist Sonja Lanehart will speak at two events Tuesday at AU.

Lanehart will discuss her book "Sista Speak" at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the first-floor systems classroom of Draughon Library in a public reading hosted by the AU Libraries Book Club and the Center for Diversity and Race Relations.

Lanehart will also present a public lecture at 4:30 p.m. in Foy 246 as part of the Inquiry Series of the Center for Diversity and Race Relations.

In her book, Lanehart, a University of Georgia linguist, explores how society's expectations of "proper" English have affected the language, literacy, education and self-image of five African-American women: her grandmother, mother, aunt, sister and herself. Through interviews and their own written statements, Lanehart examines each woman's life and attitudes toward and use of language.

Making comparisons and contrasts among them, she shows how, even within a single family, differences in age, educational opportunities and social circumstances can lead to widely different abilities and comfort in using language to navigate daily life.

Scientist to discuss search for real ET in public lecture on Tuesday

Auburn's Littleton-Franklin Lecture series will present a public lecture Tuesday by a scientific expert on the search for intelligent life in the universe.

Jill Tarter, director of the private, non-profit Center for SETI Research, will speak at 4 p.m. at the Dixon Conference Center. SETI is an acronym for "Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence."

Although the search for intelligent life beyond Earth is a staple of science-fiction, Tarter takes a scientific approach to the subject, including listening over the world's largest radio telescope in Puerto Rico for transmissions from other solar systems.

She has won awards from NASA and other science-based organizations for her research in the field of extraterrestrial studies.

Tarter holds a bachelor's degree in engineering physics from Cornell and a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of California.

In addition to her extraterrestrial research, Tarter has won awards for her science and nature books for young readers and has received a National Science Foundation grant for an integrated science curriculum she is developing for 9th grade students.



Spirit of Excellence
Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to a different set of four staff members for exceptional performance. Recipients for February are, seated from left, Vanessa Jerido of Facilities and Rosie Gary of Navy ROTC and, standing from left, Warren Dow of Facilities and Jack Walls of Career Development Services.

Architects rank AU tops in South

The architecture profession's publication DesignIntelligence has ranked Auburn's School of Architecture as the No. 1 school in the South for preparing its graduates for the professional field.

In addition, the school was ranked No. 10 in value nationally. AU's Interior Architecture program was ranked 9th nationally, up from a ranking of 13th last year.

This was the fifth annual set of rankings of U.S. architecture and design schools by DesignIntelligence.

AU's School of Architecture was rated ahead of such regional schools as North Carolina State University, the University of Tennessee, Virginia Tech, Georgia Tech, Tulane and the University of Florida.

"The significance of these rankings is that they are determined by responses from a large number of professional practices from around the country," said Bruce Lindsey, head of the School of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

Grant to help scientists in pollution research

A team of Auburn scientists has received a one-year, \$25,000 grant from the AU-based Alabama Water Resources Research Institute to support their search for a process to remove a noxious chemical from Alabama drinking water.

With the AWRRI grant, Engineering faculty members Don Zhao, Willie Harper and Aliicia McClain will focus on perchlorate, a key ingredient in solid-rocket fuel and a substance that has been found at dangerously high levels in drinking water in Alabama and 21 other states. Perchlorate poses serious thyroid-related health risks, especially in newborns, children and pregnant women, and can cause physical and mental retardation.

"Responses to the question, 'Which NAAB (National Architectural Accrediting Board) accredited programs in the last five years produced graduates most prepared for professional practice?' show the significant impact our alumni are making in professional practice."

For its survey, DesignIntelligence sent questionnaires to 1,108 architectural firms in July and August 2003.

DesignIntelligence states: "...the surveys were targeted to those individuals in each firm that have direct experience with the hiring and performance of graduates."

Rankings were based on perceptions of which graduates were best prepared for real-world practice.

DesignIntelligence is the Design Futures Council's monthly report and the repository of articles, original research and industry news. The annual rankings are compiled in conjunction with Counsel House Research.

The goal of the AU engineers is to formulate a new class of absorbent that will remove perchlorate from the water supply and destroy it in an environmentally safe way. Because of the widespread nature of the perchlorate problem, success of the AWRRI-funded project could help the AU engineering team secure additional research dollars from various outside funding agencies.

AWRRI awarded the grant through its 2004 State Water Resources Competitive Grants Program. Another AU grant went to Luke Marzen of Geology and J.M. Wersinger of Physics. They will evaluate the use of remote sensing methods to estimate surface moisture conditions as indicators of drought.

Scholarships

(continued from page 1)

investment in the future of our state," he added.

Wes Williams, AU vice president for Student Affairs, added, "Auburn is committed to attracting the best students from Alabama and solidifying its position as Alabama's school of choice. This scholarship program is just the next step in that direction."

All students who attend the designated high schools and who meet the minimum criteria for the scholarships will be considered. Once at Auburn, recipients will be required to maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average to remain eligible.

"We expect this to evolve into a very competitive program," said John Fletcher, AU assistant vice president for enrollment management.

"In the review process, we will not only be looking at academics and entrance exam scores, but also at what co-curricular experience students have participated in, from leadership to community service to work experience," Fletcher said.

Details about the new scholarship programs and a list of schools are available online at www.auburn.edu/admissions/presidential-scholarships.htm.

Incoming Faculty Chair

Larkin says changes will enhance Senate's role in AU governance

After a year as chair-elect of the AU Faculty and the University Senate, Willie D. Larkin will move into the top leadership posts of the faculty and its representative body on March 16 with commitments he outlined in print when he ran for office.

"Faculty have certain expectations of me on the basis of initiatives I proposed when I agreed to become a candidate for chair-elect," Larkin said. "I promised I would move quickly to implement those initiatives, and I intend to keep that promise."

Those initiatives (online at www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/AUR-Candidates03.html) include establishing a standing, long-range planning committee to be chaired by the Senate's chair-elect, placing a box at the back of the room at Senate meetings to receive suggestions not expressed or discussed during the meeting, conducting an orientation session for new senators and creating a mentoring program to help junior faculty, especially women and minorities, with the tenure and promotion process.

Larkin said he will also continue the work of his predecessor, John Mouton, on priority issues for the faculty. Those include working with the administration, faculty and Board of Trustees to get AU off probation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and transforming principles of shared governance into practices of shared governance.

"It is easy to talk about the principles of shared governance, but it is a lot harder to actually practice shared government."

Larkin, a leadership and organizational development specialist for the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

"We have a commitment to shared governance from the new administration. We will give the president an opportunity to demonstrate that commitment, but we have to do our part, as well, with ideas and suggestions that are thought-out, deliberated and presented early enough in the process to have an impact," he said.

Larkin said refinements in the handling of Senate business are not an end in themselves. They are, he said, a necessary first step toward a larger goal of creating an environment in which shared governance can thrive.

"My ultimate goal as Senate chair will be to provide a positive, thought-provoking, business-oriented environment where important issues are introduced, discussed and debated and the best decisions are made," said Larkin.

Noting interim President Ed Richardson's recent remarks to the University Faculty, Larkin said, "If we are going to hold Dr. Richardson to his commitment to shared governance, we need to get all our committees fully operational and larger numbers of the faculty fully involved in deliberation of the issues."

With the search for a new president to start early next year, Larkin said the Senate should start this spring preparing for an active role in the search. "That is one thing we cannot delay. We should use this time to make sure that we have clear priorities and sound suggestions that will enhance the faculty role in the search and help the university find the right person for the job," he said.

"Additionally, I'd like to get our faculty back focusing on the issues of academics at the university," said Larkin who holds a dual appointment with the Extension System and the College of Education.

Larkin said meeting the challenges will be difficult after several years in which discussions of academic issues have been sidetracked repeatedly by debates over governance. But he added, the change in administration creates a new opportunity for the faculty to assert its role as the most knowledgeable source in all matters involving academic policy.

"It's time for the faculty to become full partners in Auburn's future," he said. "I feel very confident that President Richardson wants to bring the faculty into the mix as we grapple with some major issues over the next few months."

Leadership of the Senate is a team effort, Larkin said, citing the roles of the Rules Committee, the Steering Committee and the Senate secretary. Secretary-Elect Debra Cobia will play a crucial leadership role during the coming year, as Paula Sullenger has done this year, he added.

"Dr. Cobia and I are prepared to tackle the challenge that lies ahead of us," Larkin said. "However, we cannot do it alone. We need the help of the Senate committees, other members of the Senate and the faculty as a whole. I have received a lot of pledges of support, and I find that very encouraging."

Larkin said he will encourage debate on issues before the Senate while holding senators to high standards of decorum for public debate. "I believe strongly that spirited, lively deliberations help lead to the best decisions, but that only works if people stick to the issues," he said.

(See *Larkin*, page 6)

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Art Exhibit: "Her Story: Self-Taught African-American Women Artists," 8 am-4 p.m., Monday-Friday through March 5. Biggin Gallery.

Monday, February 23

- SACS Open Forum: Discussion with members of SACS visiting committee, 3 p.m., Foy 203.

Tuesday, February 24

- Book Discussion: Sonja Lanehart, author of "Sista Speak," 1:30 p.m., first-floor systems classroom, Draughon Library.
- Littleton-Franklin Lecture: Extraterrestrial intelligence researcher Jill Tarter, 4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Art Faculty Lecture Series: "Art and Architecture of Ancient West Mexico," Mark Miller Graham, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.
- Diversity and Race Relations Lecture Series: "Language is the Only Homeland: Language, Self and Society," Sonja Lanehart, author and University of Georgia linguist, 4:30 p.m., Foy 246.

Thursday, February 26

- Public Lecture: "The Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower: Universal Symbols through History and Art," Catherine Danielou, UAB French literature specialist, 5 p.m., Thach 112.

Tuesday, March 2

- Curator's Choice Lecture Series: "Art and Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright," Emeritus Professor of Architecture Nicholas Davis, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.
- Public Lecture: "The Vision of Havana in Poetry by 20th Century Cuban Women," Jana Gutierrez, Foreign Languages and Literatures, 12:30 p.m., Draughon Library auditorium.

Thursday, March 4

- Mid-semester
- Museum After Hours: Music, art, refreshments and guided tours for members and visitors, 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. Admission free for members, \$3 for non-members.

AUreport

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Outgoing Faculty Chair

Mouton looks back on turbulent year in faculty leadership role

John Mouton expected an eventful year when he became chair of the AU Faculty and University Senate 11 months ago. With his year as leader of the faculty ending on March 16, the Building Science professor says the year proved even more eventful than he imagined.

The resignation of William Walker as AU president and appointment of Ed Richardson as interim president in January was the latest in a series of events that challenged Mouton and other faculty leaders this year.

"There were a lot of concerns, especially with SACS (the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools), at this time last year, but it would have been hard to imagine so much happening in such a short time," Mouton said, looking back on his year as faculty leader.

"The SACS situation, even before probation, and the presidential change created a lot of turmoil for the faculty and siphoned off a lot of our time and energy," he said. "I went into office with some organizational goals that I had to put aside in order to adequately address these issues."

However, Mouton added, he advised the faculty two years ago, before the faculty chose him as chair-elect, that accreditation was paramount. He recalled that he also discussed at that time his views on shared governance and his plans to actively represent the views of the faculty to the administration and the Board of Trustees. (Online, see: www.auburn.edu/administration/univrel/news/02-25-02aur-a.html#Candidates)

The most enjoyable aspect of the year, he said, was working with Senate Secretary Paula Sullenger and the Senate Steering Committee. He added that Sullenger and the Steering Committee went to heroic efforts to organize a special meeting of the Senate in early December to discuss the administration's handling of athletic issues and a special meeting of the University Faculty this month to discuss the SACS decision to place the university on academic probation.

"I have had the privilege of working with a group of very dedicated and very accomplished individuals this year," Mouton said. "They are an invaluable resource for the Senate and for the university."

The most frustrating aspect of the job, he said, has been criticism from faculty members who advocate a more adversarial relationship between faculty leaders and the administration and trustees. The intensity of their criticism was disturbing, he said.

"Before I was elected, I advised the faculty of what I was going to do and how I was going to do

it," he added. "My perspective of shared governance is that sharing requires direct communication and a reasonable degree of cooperation. I promised to engage the administration on behalf of all the faculty, not just those who are the angriest, and that is what I have done."

Faculty leaders must at times represent the faculty's interests directly to the Board of Trustees, he said. "It is this board that will determine which initiatives will be implemented, including faculty initiatives. Faculty leaders must engage trustees on matters and concerns of substance."

Before taking office, Mouton and Sullenger visited most academic departments. "The predominant perspective expressed to us in those visits was not the one advocated by the most vocal and unnecessarily vicious critics," he said.

Mouton said his critics misrepresented his contacts with the president, provost and trustees. "All contacts have been straightforward and on behalf of the Senate. I don't see how we can effectively present our interests to the administration and trustees or have an impact on outcomes if we don't deal with them one-on-one."

Many faculty, he said, refuse to become involved in campus governance because they want no part of an ongoing verbal war between a coalition of about 10 percent of faculty, who have very strong opinions, on one side and some trustees and administrators with equally strong opinions on the other.

As in national politics, those with the strongest opinions in campus politics tend to dominate the conversation, shutting out more moderate members within their own ranks, he said. Part of the problem for faculty with more moderate views, he said, is that the most vocal people on both sides of the issues are quick to label as an enemy anyone who disagrees on any point of any issue.

"Many of our faculty are apolitical but they are not apathetic; they just feel that there is not a viable opportunity to express their views," Mouton said.

"There is no one, true faculty perspective on all issues," he added. "As a leader representing all the faculty, I try to be inclusive of the range of views held by faculty."

"Many of our faculty are apolitical but they are not apathetic; they just feel that there is not a viable opportunity to express their views."



Mouton



Larkin



Gallery exhibit
"Bupe," in foreground, a sculpture by Georgia artist Bessie Harvey, is one of a collection of artworks on display through March 5 in Biggin Gallery. The Department of Art exhibit, in observance of Black History Month and Women's History Month, presents exceptional works since the 1960s by self-taught African-American women artists.

Art publication cites logos by Bryant

The annual national design publication American Corporate Identity has selected two logos designed by Kelly Bryant of the Department of Art in the AU College of Liberal Arts for inclusion in its 2004 edition.

Nationally prominent identity designer David Carter and a select panel of jurors selected logos for the publication, which provides examples of the best work in the field during the preceding year.



Artists whose works are selected receive national recognition and an award from the publication.

The winning designs by Bryant, an assistant professor at Auburn, were a logo for the Lyda Rose Gallery in Birmingham and a logo for Mod Maiden Press in Lee County.

AU Art Department Assistant Professor Samantha Lawrie was art director and Bryant was designer for the Mod Maiden Press logo.



Biggio Center offers grants for teaching; deadline is March 19

AU's Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning is accepting applications for competitive grants for teaching enhancement.

The grants are available from the Daniel F. Breeden Endowment for Faculty Enhancement.

Deadline for applications is 4:45 p.m. on March 19.

Information about the grants and application forms are available at the Biggio Center's Web site at www.auburn.edu/biggio or the center's office in Room 4011 of Draughton Library.

The AU Teaching Effectiveness Committee will review proposals for the grants of up to \$2,000 each for one-year projects this summer or fall term. Tenured and tenure-track faculty and faculty from the clinician title series with appointments through the 2004-05 academic year are eligible.

Funds may be used to enhance courses or programs, enrich the core curriculum, provide field experience or hands-on experience for students, pay for travel for research or presentations on teaching, purchase books, develop workshops, or underwrite almost any activity germane to teaching or the evaluation and assessment of teaching.

Larkin

(continued from page 4)

"I want to create an environment in which people can express their opinions without fear of being verbally attacked for having done so," Larkin said. "If we are to be successful, we will have to address issues in an atmosphere of collegiality and mutual respect."

The chair-elect said he will encourage all faculty senators to be professionally aggressive in the practice of shared governance rather than reliving past grievances. "Although I know people everywhere have a tendency to go back into the past and rehash old problems and issues, I believe it is much healthier to look at the present and future," he said. "To that end, I will encourage faculty to look to the past only as a reference and not try to relive issues that serve to divide us."

As the first African-American chair of the AU faculty in Auburn history, Larkin said he hopes that his election last year is part of a transition to a broader, more diverse leadership in the administration,

including academic deans, as well as the faculty. "If Auburn is going to secure its leadership role in higher education, it has to have more diversity at the top," he said. "There seems to be general agreement to do that, but it is hard to make that first step."

"In addition to public expressions of commitment, administrators at every level must lead courageously while working within the constraints of EEOC guidelines," he said. "Search committees must reflect the same kind of thinking and action as we promote diversity university-wide."

Larkin said race is not a factor in most issues that come before the Senate but it could have an indirect and positive influence in the manner in which issues are handled. In a career devoted to working with people from diverse cultures, Larkin said he has learned that unity is strongest when people feel free to express differing ideas and still work together.

He added, "I look for what binds people together, not what separates them."

Modern dance master to perform at Peet Theatre in March

Bill Evans, an internationally known modern dance and rhythm tap artist, will perform a solo concert at Telfair Peet Theatre at 7:30 p.m. on March 15.

Evans will share his physical and verbal articulation and expressivity through solo dances and stories illustrated by slide projections. The 62-year-old performer will include highlights from his long and exciting career as an international dancer, choreographer, artistic director and educator.

For information, contact the theatre box office at 844-4154.

HR to host workshop on planning vacations

Auburn University Human Resources will host the workshop, "And We'll Have Fun, Fun, Fun: Family Vacations," from 9-11 a.m. March 9 at Dixon Conference Center.

Christine Vawter of Fairwinds Travel will present the program, which will provide tips on how to plan and budget for family vacations.

To register online, see the Web site www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/hrd/index.html or contact Melissa Askew at 844-4145.

AU anthropologist to help develop NPR series on religion, pollution

An AU faculty member will play a major role in developing a National Public Radio series and Web-based educational programs on the relationship between religious purity and environmental pollution in India.

The three-year project, funded in part by a National Science Foundation grant of \$670,000, will use the Ganges River as the setting for an examination of universal issues of religion, ecology and culture, said Kelly Alley, director of the anthropology program in the College of Liberal Arts.

Alley will provide expertise to independent documentary maker Julian Crandall Hollick, whose program will examine many of the issues raised by Alley in her book "On the Banks of the Ganga: When Wastewater Meets a Sacred River." The book was published in 2002 by the University of Michigan Press, adding to a collection of book chapters and articles in which Alley uses India as a setting for broader studies of cultural and environmental issues.

Alley is one of three academic experts who will work with Hollick as co-principal investigators for the series. Two of the others are in India.

The AU associate professor's work in India examines the interaction of science and environmental issues within a deeply religious culture. Although heavily polluted by cities and industries along its

banks, the Ganges, or Ganga as it is known in India, remains a sacred symbol of purity for hundreds of millions of Hindus.

Due to the divergent views of the same river, environmental scientists have been frustrated in their attempts to clean up the Ganges. The barrier to communication between science and religion is present in many cultures but India provides one of the most prominent examples of the complexity of that relationship, Alley said.

Alley, who teaches in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, said issues examined in the public radio series and educational package for high school teachers and students are important to social and environmental scientists worldwide. "What Indians face today in terms of the diminishing availability of fresh water supplies may be conditions not too far down the road for American citizens if new ideas about sustainability are not forged fairly soon," she said.

"A radio series exploring the conflicting scientific, religious and activist approaches to understanding the river Ganga and using her waters can be presented to American listeners in a way that provokes a reexamination of their own consumption patterns and the ways they link these patterns to status and power," she added.

Arts and Humanities project wins grant

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded the AU Center for the Arts and Humanities a \$20,000 grant for the Alabama Prison Arts Initiative, a creative writing program for inmates in Alabama correctional facilities.

The Center for the Arts and Humanities, in partnership with Aid to Inmate Mothers and the Alabama Writers' Forum, has maintained a creative writing program at the Julia Tutwiler Prison and Annex for Women in Wetumpka since 1999. A similar program recently began at the Frank Lee Youth Center in Deatsville.

The Alabama Prison Arts Initiative also sponsors library development at these facilities and has received more than 1,000 books as donations.

Previously, the program's sponsors offered two creative writing courses per year. With the NEA funding for 2003-04, at least four courses will be offered this year for up to 150 inmates.

Jay Lamar, associate director of the Center for the Arts and Humanities, said the classes seek to expand the students' understanding of the world and their place in it. The classes focus on the creative process, self-discovery and writing improvement, she noted.

With a background in English and history, Kyes

Stevens teaches many of the creative writing classes. Her efforts on behalf of the Arts and Humanities partnership is in addition to her regular duties with the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction, where she is coordinator of external affairs.

Stevens credits the college's dean, Dan Bennett, with scheduling flexibility that enables her to assist the Prison Arts Initiative, a program that she says is important to the lives it touches.

"The Alabama Prison Arts Initiative is about planting seeds of vision through intellectual and creative discovery. It is about helping people find hope within themselves and offering a foundational educational background in writing," said Stevens, who frequently writes poetry as well as teaching about it.

"These writing courses give [incarcerated women] a means to express emotions and thoughts they might not have been able to in the past," said Gladys Deese, warden of the Julia Tutwiler Prison for Women.

John Cummins, warden of the Frank Lee Youth Center, added, "The program is a great opportunity for our inmates. We are glad to have the Alabama Prison Arts Initiative working in our facility."



Nearing completion

The scaffolding that has obscured parts of the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center for more than a year will soon come down. The waterproofing and rebricking project is scheduled to conclude by late April. Besides housing guests and hosting conferences, the building is a teaching facility for the College of Human Sciences.

Public lecture scheduled on symbolism of icons

The Alabama Humanities Foundation and the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures will sponsor a public lecture on the symbolism of the Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower at 5 p.m. Thursday in Thach 112.

Catherine Danielou, an associate professor and specialist in 17th century French literature at the University of Alabama at Birmingham will speak on "The Statue of Liberty and the Eiffel Tower: Universal Symbols through History and Art."

Danielou has published professional articles in many American and European professional journals, works as a translator, serves as associate chair of the UAB Foreign Language Department, and she is executive director of the Alabama Association of Foreign Language Teachers.

For more information, contact Giovanna Summerfield at 844-6842 or 844-4345, or by electronic mail at summegi@auburn.edu.

Students cited by USA Today

Two Auburn students have been given honorable mention on the All-USA Today College Academic All-Star team for 2004.

Joshua Clanton, a senior from Alexander City, and Leslie McCall, a senior from Birmingham, were selected to the prestigious team from 600 nominees nationwide.

Clanton is majoring in electrical engineering, while McCall is a physics major and in the pre-medical certificate curriculum.

Clanton is an undergraduate research assistant with a software group developing computer programming for low-gravity instrumentation. The work will enable multiple measurements on cast metal samples in outer space, minimizing variabilities and reducing the need for large quantities.

Experiments in the low-gravity environment of space will provide rigorous tests of theoretical concepts and help advance existing commercial casting methods, said Tony Overfelt, a member of the Mechanical Engineering faculty and director of AU's Solidification Design Center.

"Josh's software has been described to experts in NASA, and we are excited that his results may be made available to other research groups across the country for use in their own space research," said Overfelt.

The instrument package is scheduled for launch to the International Space Station. It will house 18 samples and will be controlled by Auburn scientists and engineers via tele-operation, or remote control.

McCall, an Honors College student with a 4.0 grade point average, was named the Outstanding Junior in AU's College of Sciences and Mathematics in 2003.

Last summer the Vestavia Hills High School graduate did research for the National Institutes of Health. McCall has also been an undergraduate teaching assistant at AU in entry-level electricity and magnetism.

McCall has received the National Merit Finalist Scholarship, William R. & Fay Ireland Endowed Scholarship, McWane Foundation Scholarship, the Dr. William Allsup Endowment Scholarship, the Howard Earl Carr Scholarship, the Fred Allison Scholarship and the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship. She is also a member of the Society of Physics Students, Mortar Board and Cardinal Key.

After she receives her degree from AU in May, McCall plans to enroll in medical school.

Each February, USA Today announces a 60-member academic team of collegiate undergraduates. The magazine's staff develops criteria for the team in consultation with the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and other education organizations.

Winner of Pulitzer Prize to visit AU next week

Anthony Hecht, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, will present public readings of his work and visit with students and faculty at Auburn on March 3-4.

Hecht will visit campus as part of the Poetry Project in the Department of English and the College of Liberal Arts.

At 7 p.m. March 3 in Foy 217, Hecht will present a journal reading, "Speaking the Un-speakable," in which he describes scenes he witnessed during the liberation of Nazi death camps at the end World War II. Paul J. Filben, chairman of the Alabama Holocaust Commission, will also participate in the program. The presentation is sponsored by AU's Center for Diversity and Race Relations and the College of Liberal Arts.

The 80-year-old poet will also read from his recent works at 4:30 p.m. on March 4 at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art and participate in the museum's "After Hours" program afterward.

Among America's most prominent living poets, Hecht has published collections of poems and other writings since the early 1950s and received the Pulitzer Prize in 1968 for "The Hard Hours."

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