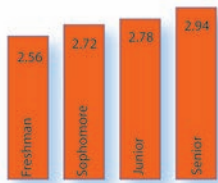


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### How Auburn Stacks Up

Average GPA of AU undergraduates for fall semester, 2006



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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

# FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report



**A&P Assembly**  
The Administrative and Professional Assembly last week elected new officers, who will take office on April 1. From left are Secretary Katie Mantooth of Student Affairs, Chair-Elect Todd Storey of AU Aviation, outgoing Chair Drew Burgering of Copycat and incoming Chair Maria Tambyln Folmar of the Center for Governmental Services.

## AU faculty to vote electronically in early March for new leaders

Auburn faculty will vote electronically March 8-12 to select new officers for 2008. The candidates for chair-elect of the University Faculty and its representative body, the University Senate, are Roy Hartfield, a professor of aerospace engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and Bob Locy, a professor of biological sciences in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Both have been AU faculty members since 1991.

Sue Barry of Curriculum and Teaching in the College of Education is unopposed for secretary-elect. An associate professor, she is coordinator for the college's foreign language education program and has been an Auburn faculty member since 1993.

Richard Penaskovic and Kathryn Flynn will end their terms as chair and secretary, respectively, at the March 13 session of the University Faculty. At that meeting, David Cicci will assume office as chair and Ann Beth Presley will succeed Flynn. The person elected chair-elect for 2007 will move into the top spot in 2008, and the new secretary-elect will rise to the secretary position at the same time.

After he steps down as chair of the University

Senate, Penaskovic will succeed Conner Bailey as the faculty adviser to the Board of Trustees.

Candidate statements by Locy and Hartfield are inside this *AU Report*. Barry will issue a statement next week.

Hartfield has served on the Campus Planning Committee and the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee, and he is graduate program officer in the Department of Aerospace Engineering. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, teaches courses at all levels of the department's curriculum, maintains an active research program and has authored approximately 60 journal articles and conference publications.

Locy has served as a member of the University Senate, the Steering Committee, Rules Committee and the Academic Standards Committee. He also served on the University Curriculum Committee during semester transition. He formerly served on the Graduate Studies and Graduate Recruiting committees of the Department of Biological Sciences. He has published extensively and taught at the graduate and undergraduate level. He holds a Ph.D. from Purdue University.

## University Faculty Chair-Elect Candidate

# Roy Hartfield in his own words

In my view, the modern American university is the beacon lighting the way for the advancement of our society. This beacon flickered to life with the formation of Harvard more than 350 years ago.

But it was not until the 20th century that the American university truly blossomed into the driving force for innovation, research, thought and advancement that we know it as today. Today, for example, it is not uncommon for a majority of Nobel Prizes to be awarded to professors of American universities. These institutions are the intellectual engine driving much of the contemporary U.S. economy. The heart of this engine is a faculty free to develop and



Hartfield

express ideas. Indeed, the remarkable 20th century development of the American university coincided with the development of rigorous protections for academic freedom primarily in the form of the formal institution of tenure on a broad scale.

Along with the academic freedom that tenure provides comes the responsibility to develop and share ideas in the governance of the university. Too often at Auburn, shared governance has been more theoretical than practical because of administrative barriers and lackluster faculty interest.

The upcoming installation of a new administration will likely provide a rare window of opportunity for shared governance to become more of a reality including increased faculty involvement in forming university policy and in decision-making regarding matters that affect faculty welfare, academic standards, academic programs and curricula, intellectual property, research and extension, and student academic life. It is our responsibility as a faculty to seize that opportunity and, as Senate chair, I will provide the leadership mandated by this opportunity.

In the recent past, I have provided leadership of this nature informally. You might recall that in the fall of 2005, the administration simply announced without meaningful faculty input, that the format for faculty pay would change.

The announced format would have violated the faculty handbook and was completely unworkable for research-oriented faculty members. I polled the engineering faculty and a colleague from the College of Sciences and Mathematics polled the COSAM faculty regarding this matter. Using the results of this informal polling effort, and working through the Senate Faculty Salaries committee, we were able to convince key administrators that the previously announced plan was not viable and not in the best interest of the faculty or the university. This is why faculty members are now paid semimonthly rather than on a 10-month basis, as had been announced, and we were able to achieve this result with mini-

mum acrimony. This style of cooperative, results-oriented leadership is what I hope to bring as an advocate for the faculty to the office of Senate chair.

This is not to say that conflict can or should be avoided in many cases. Often, the best interest of the faculty is incorrectly seen by administrators and members of the Board of Trustees to be in conflict with the best interest of the university at large. This misperception often prompts administrators to make decisions with little regard for faculty input. In such cases, the interest of the faculty must be vigorously defended.

One of the best ways to promote the best interest of the faculty is to bridge the gap of understanding between university management and the faculty. This gap is due mostly to the perception on the part of the more business-oriented board members and admin-

**"The heart of the university is a faculty free to develop and express ideas."**

istrators that idea development should be initiated and, at a minimum, condoned by management. This business mindset often conflicts with the fact that at the university, idea development by the faculty occurs on a grand scale and the critical function of educating students is almost entirely the purview of the faculty. Managing business-oriented functions such as financial management, facilities and development using sound business practices simply makes sense, but treating faculty as corporate employees does not produce the world-changing ideas that American universities are famous for.

With regard to post-tenure review, it is my view that some non-punitive styles of review which serve to facilitate faculty development and reward high levels of scholarly activity can be very productive. I also believe that effective policies for sanction and even dismissal of faculty members guilty of particularly egregious behavior serve the best interest of both the faculty at large and the university. However, mixing PTR with threats of sanction and dismissal invariably will either be ineffective as a dismissal policy or infringe on the institution of tenure as a way to protect academic freedom or both. The currently stated trial policy for PTR takes just this approach and is so poorly conceived as to be self-contradictory and practically unworkable. I am strongly opposed to PTR in its current form and would work to support a much more positive form of faculty review.

I am firmly committed to the academic integrity of Auburn including the principle of academic freedom and the key pillars of diversity and tolerance. If elected chair, I will work with the Senate to safeguard the academic function of the university and to promote effective shared governance. I will be a strong advocate for the faculty on all issues of university governance. I will also work with the administration to ensure that faculty input is solicited, received and considered in the decision-making process.

# Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 27

**LITTLETON-FRANKLIN LECTURE** "Race, Genes, Intelligence and Behavior," medical anthropologist Alondra Yvette Oubre, author of "Race, Genes and Ability: Rethinking Ethnic Differences," 4 p.m., auditorium, Laboratory Sciences Center

**NEW PERSPECTIVES LECTURE** "The Art and Career of Lois Wilson," art historian Laquita Thomson, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

Wednesday, February 28

**'DISCOVER AUBURN' LECTURE** "The African-American Spiritual: Song Creating Community," Rosephanye Dunn Powell of Department of Music, 3 p.m., Special Collections, Draughon Library

Thursday, March 1

**PUBLIC LECTURE** "Model Minorities and Silent Majorities: The Meaning of Ethnic Identity in Modern American Literature," Phi Beta Kappa Visiting Scholar Walter Benn Michaels, 4 p.m., Haley 1203

Saturday, March 3

**MEETING** Auburn Alumni Association Board of Directors, 9 a.m., Alumni Center

**FREE CONCERT** AU Community Orchestra conducted by Howard Goldstein, performing works by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre

Monday, March 5

**NEXT** AU Report

Tuesday, March 6

**FACULTY SEMINAR** "Preventing Academic Dishonesty and the AU Academic Honesty Code," noon-1:30 p.m., Foy 208; open to all faculty, staff and graduate students; bring your lunch

**MEETING** University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

**NEW PERSPECTIVES LECTURE** "William Christenberry's Klan Tableau," art historian Allen Tullos, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

Thursday, March 8

**ELECTION** University Faculty, electronic voting for chair-elect and secretary-elect, through Monday, March 12



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## University Faculty Chair-Elect Candidate

# Bob Locy in his own words

For the past 15 years as a faculty member, I have had the privilege of observing the growth and development of our university.

During the terms of four university presidents, I have seen many positive changes and some not so positive ones.

There is no doubt that our university is a better place to work, study and learn today than it was 15 years ago, and that we have tremendous opportunity to become even better in the future. I believe we owe at least some of this progress to the efforts of a consistently strong faculty leadership that kept us moving forward when at times this appeared impossible. I give you my pledge that if I am elected chair-elect, I will strive to live up the tradition of effective faculty leadership that has gone before. I am interested in being your next chair-elect in the hope that in that position I can lead and assist you in moving the university forward toward academic greatness, not just within the state of Alabama, but at the national and international level as well.



Locy

Seldom are there factors and situations that will most influence what the faculty and their leaders are able to accomplish each year apparent in advance. We spend most of our time reacting to situations presented to us, and seldom do we have the opportunity to set an agenda for those items most critical to faculty and effectively follow through. With the arrival of a new president, the opportunity to develop a new, more productive relationship between the faculty and the president should be a critical priority of the next chair-elect. However, the selection of the right person as our new president will be critical to establishing this new relationship. We need to take every opportunity to give our input to the presidential selection process and push to get a president who recognizes the importance of faculty input as we complete the search process, and secure a new president.

My focus as a faculty leader, working with a new president, would be to pursue every opportunity to improve the working relationship of the faculty with the administration, and consequently the Board of Trustees. The guiding principle would be to change from past paradigms that have shown limited success, to new paradigms where the partnership of the faculty with the administration in academic matters figures more prominently as we move forward. I would challenge a new president to also embrace this paradigm for the good of the university.

Assessing where we are today, three big issues emerge where the faculty leadership needs to focus. We have made strides in recent years in addressing diversity issues on our campus, but there is much more to do, and such problems will only be ad-

ressed if they are held high in the consciousness of the university. I support the diversity efforts we have made, and would strive to keep diversity issues a high priority at all levels of the university.

A second priority area would be strategic planning. During my 15 years at Auburn University, strategic planning has focused almost entirely on coping with inad-

equately university funding, and this perspective has largely dictated the academic progress we were able to make. Our focus was not on examining how to progress and move forward, but on defending against cuts. Additionally, the absence of a consistent president

in more recent years has led to a series of piecemeal efforts apparently generated by the administration and Board of Trustees with limited faculty input. This generates the need for both a permanent president and a new strategic plan in that order. Faculty need to be heavily involved in the development of the academic side of a forward looking strategic plan rather than defending our programs against elimination or merger.

The third issue of immediate relevance is post tenure review. I am wholeheartedly in support of our present post-tenure review process, and I can further support our present faculty dismissal process. However, I do not support any new post-tenure review or new faculty dismissal procedures until it is clear what issues our current system does not address.

If what we have is broken, then let's fix it if, in fact, there is a compelling reason perceived by the public, the state government or the Board of Trustees that faculty need further review. I would submit to you that we already have more review than most workers in the private sector or other state employees. We need to take a more active role in educating those who are apparently ignorant of what faculty actually do, and about those factors that are important to the educational process that make tenure desirable while resisting adding new layers of bureaucracy to our system for political expedience.

Change at any vital academic institution is essential, and should be embraced. But when creative people are involved, change must originate with those who are most creative or it stifles rather than stimulates creativity, which is the driving force of positive change. As a leader of the faculty, I would wish this to be my legacy to those who seek to use other less effective models for setting change for our university.

**"...when creative people are involved, change must originate with those who are most creative or it stifles rather than stimulates creativity, which is the driving force of positive change."**

### Research review

Buzz Powell, left, manager of AU's asphalt test track, displays a model of the track at AU's National Center for Asphalt Technology to John Bobo, acting administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Research and Innovative Technology Administration. Bobo visited Auburn last week to address AU's Transportation Engineering Conference and to review transportation research projects.



## Federal transportation official visits AU to examine program for safer highways

The nation's top transportation technology official visited Auburn last week to view a research program that could lead to better, safer highways and to discuss federal initiatives to solve road and traffic problems around the nation.

John Bobo from the U.S. Department of Transportation in Washington, D.C., toured AU's transportation research laboratories and 1.7-mile test track. Bobo, who oversees all federal transportation research and technology programs, traveled to Alabama to hear from AU researchers about testing that helps road builders across the nation enhance the quality of new and reconstructed highways.

"As the Bush administration works to improve our nation's transportation system, we are looking to state and local partners like Auburn's National Center for Asphalt Technology to provide innovative ideas and solutions," said Bobo, who is acting administrator of the U.S. DOT's Research and

Innovative Technology Administration. "A better transportation system improves our personal lives, our economy and our environment and lessens our dependence on foreign oil."

AU's National Center for Asphalt Technology combines research from a full-scale laboratory with actual performance on its test track to identify the best mixes of asphalt. Researchers can compress the life span of a road surface into two years, allowing them to speed development of smoother, quieter and longer-lasting roads. Recent testing resulted in identification of new pavement surfaces that eliminate highway spray in wet conditions and reduce road noise by as much as 30 percent in metropolitan areas.

"Our test track breeds innovation in road design," said Buzz Powell, NCAT test track manager. "Drivers benefit from better performing and less congested roads that save taxpayers millions of dollars in highway construction costs."

## AU hosts summit to fight global hunger

AU welcomed representatives from more than 15 colleges and universities from across the nation last week for the second annual War-on-Hunger Summit.

These schools are part of Universities Fighting World Hunger, a grassroots student campaign to aid the United Nations in a global campaign against hunger and malnutrition.

"The War on Hunger movement is rapidly building," said College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton. "What began at Auburn as a partnership with the United Nations World Food Programme in 2004 has spread to more than 50 institutions of

higher education who have joined together under the banner of Universities Fighting World Hunger."

Participants discussed ways to build advocacies, develop a curriculum with a focus on hunger, start and market campaigns, develop strategic partnerships with the corporate sector and take other initiatives to bolster the world hunger movement.

Among AU initiatives to raise awareness and more than \$19,000 in donations are the annual Empty Bowls Banquet hosted by Human Sciences and the Jule Collins Smith Museum and the "Eat Less, Feed More" initiative sponsored by the Harrison School of Pharmacy.

## Speakers to discuss influential Alabama artists

In the first of two public lectures on prominent artists with Alabama roots, visiting art historian Laquita Thomson will discuss the works and career of Lois Wilson at 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Wilson, a Fayetteville native who studied architecture at Auburn for a year before enrolling in art school in Boston, became a prominent influence in the art world from her base in the Northeast.

Thomson, an associate professor at Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee, will speak as part of the New Perspectives lecture series "Looking at 20th Century Art."

The series will continue at the same time and location on March 6 with "Approaching the Territory: William Christenberry's Klan Tableau" by Allen Tullos of Emory University. Christenberry, with his often stark, frequently moody images of rural West Alabama, is one of the most influential American painters and photographers of the past half-century.

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