

March 1
2004

Inside

Page 2

Development
office adds two
executives

Page 3

Lowder family
gives \$4.2 million
for study center

Page 7

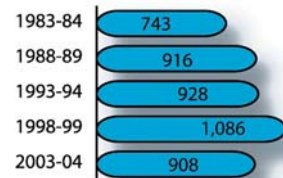
Mockbee among
recipients of
Alumni awards

Page 8

Students help
restore historic
Opelika house

How AU Stacks Up

Transfers of students
to AU from Alabama
community colleges



Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues
@

[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

Vol. 37 No. 7



Speaking to SACS committee

Rik Blumenthal of Chemistry stands to make a point to a visiting committee from AU's accrediting agency last week. University of Virginia President John Casteen, upper right, led the committee.

Panel visits AU for 10-year review

An inspection team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools spent three days at AU last week as part of the accreditation process all SACS members go through every decade.

Meeting with groups of staff, faculty and students on Monday, visiting team leader University of Virginia President John Casteen sought information about the university's instructional and research programs, student support and business operations.

As it compiled additional information for SACS to consider along with the self-study submitted by

Auburn, the visiting team also sought updates from representatives of units across campus.

Casteen received input from staff, faculty and students in public hearings on Monday. Staff members requested measures to ensure fairness in hiring and promotion and incentives for employees to advance their education.

Faculty members called for speedier administrative action when hiring new faculty and administrators and for more consistency in administrative pro- (See *SACS committee*, page 2)

Look inside for statements from Senate candidates

This issue of the AU Report contains statements from candidates for upcoming elections to the University Faculty and its representative organization, the University Senate.

Auburn faculty will vote electronically for the chair-elect and secretary elect officers on March 11-15. The winners will be announced at the University Faculty meeting at 3 p.m. March 16 in Broun Hall auditorium.

At that meeting, Willie D. Larkin will succeed John Mouton as chair, and Debra Cobia will succeed Paula Sullenger as secretary. Larkin and Cobia have

served as chair-elect and secretary-elect, respectively, since March 2003.

Statements from chair-elect candidates Conner Bailey and Mark Nelms are on pages 4 and 5, respectively in this issue. Statements from secretary-elect candidates Patricia Duffy and Jim Gravois are on page 6. Pages 6 and 7 contain biographical information about all four candidates.

Additional information about the election and the candidates and brief statements from the candidates will appear in the March 8 AU Report.

Two executives join Development

Robert Martin and Barbara Miller recently joined AU as assistant vice presidents under Vice President for Development Bob McGinnis.

Besides providing administrative oversight, Miller and Martin will support constituency development officers, help secure commitments from individual donors and assist in setting policies and strategies as capital campaign priorities are established.



Martin

"Both Bob and Barbara will play an integral role in the office of development's growth as we continue preparations for our capital campaign. Their combined knowledge and expertise in the area of private fundraising provides a valuable asset to Auburn," McGinnis said.

Martin comes to Auburn from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where he was assistant vice chancellor for development. As director of major gifts for UTC, he led the institution's 21st Century Campaign, which had a goal of \$20 million.

Martin helped UTC surpass that goal and raised \$33.8 million. Martin also was a training consultant for the UT System.

Miller moved from Williamsburg, Va., where she was associate director for gift planning at the College of William & Mary. While there, Miller participated in the College's \$500 million capital campaign, working primarily with planned giving donors and prospects. She raised more than \$6 million for the campaign.

Miller holds a bachelor's degree in psychology and sociology from Southwest Baptist University in Missouri, a master's degree in human relations from the University of Oklahoma and a Juris Doctor from Antioch School of Law in Washington, D.C.

Martin holds a bachelor's degree in political science from Lipscomb University and a master's degree in philanthropy and development from St. Mary's University in Minnesota.



Miller

AU researcher invents device to measure air in soil

An Auburn researcher has invented a measurement device that could help scientists in agriculture, geology and related areas more precisely measure the permeability of soil and other porous materials.

"In agriculture, air in the soil is as necessary as water for plant growth," said Jacob Dane, a professor in the Department of Agronomy and Soils.

Dane, along with former graduate student Marc Jalbert, invented the Air Permeameter to measure the amount of air flow through soil.

Air permeability of soil directly relates to the amount of water flow for agricultural applications. By knowing the degree of compactness of soil, it also is possible to use this information to calculate other soil properties and characteristics.

In industries such as petroleum production, Dane says that knowing the air permeability of the soil can be critical for planning and development.

The instrument also may have applications in flood prediction and in measuring snowpack.

SACS committee

(continued from page 1)

cedures at all levels of the university. Faculty also advocated more counseling services for students and complimented the work of the Student Success Center.

Faculty members also questioned the use of merit salary increases instead of cost-of-living increases for salaries when funds are limited and the financial benefits of closing some academic programs and merging others over the past five years.

Casteen provided a general briefing to members of AU's steering committee in an exit session.

SACS will submit a draft report of the team's findings to the university in two weeks. At that time, Auburn may respond to any errors in fact contained in the document.

The final report from the team is expected in about six weeks. If the final report contains recommendations from the team, Auburn has until July to report progress or compliance.

Interim President Ed Richardson said the reaffirmation

team was highly complimentary of the extensive work of the steering committee. "I was pleased to hear many positive comments during the visit, especially in recognition of the steering committee and its co-directors, Dr. Gene Clothiaux and Dr. Linda Glaze," he said. "I want to add my thanks to the committee for a job very well done."

Casteen said his visiting team would not address issues involved in the probationary status that SACS imposed upon Auburn in December 2003. A separate committee will visit Auburn next fall to examine AU's compliance with the governance-related standards cited in the accrediting agency's December decision.

Richardson, Gov. Bob Riley and other AU representatives met Feb. 20 with SACS administrators in Atlanta to identify specific steps AU must take to have the probation lifted. Riley and Richardson said they are committed to making sure that Auburn maintains full accreditation.

Library, OIT to sponsor Teaching Technology Day at AU

The Education Technology Services Department of the Office of Information Technology and AU Libraries will sponsor "Teaching with Technology Day" on March 16 in Draughon Library.

Participating faculty members will share their special methods through displays and presentations in the library. The informal presentations may be in the form of a computer lab presentation or poster board presentation with or without the use of a computer.

Faculty who need a wireless laptop for a presentation may check out a laptop computer from the AU Library.

All poster board presentations will be outside the computer lab in the first floor hallway of the library.

To participate in the "Teaching with Technology Day," submit a brief description of your presentation to Terry Daughtrey by e-mail at daughtw@auburn.edu. Include the name and number of the course and summary information about use of technology in the course.

Tables, poster board backing material, wireless computers and a computer lab will be available for presenters. Also a color printer will be available for those creating large posters.

AU leads consortium bid for homeland security role

An Auburn-led consortium of 11 universities is vying to become the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Center for Post-Harvest Food Protection and Defense.

If accepted by the U.S. agency, the proposal would provide Auburn and its consortium partners with \$15 million in research funding over a three-year period.

The project would be led by Donald Conner, professor and chair of the Department of Poultry Science, and Bryan Chin, professor and chair of the Materials Engineering Program.

The submission is an extension of research activity in the AU Detection and Food Safety Center, a university Peak of Excellence.

The consortium's efforts would support DHS in protecting the United States' domestic and imported post-harvest food supply. It would develop preventative approaches to evaluating and reducing critical and emerging post-harvest risks.

Consortium members are Cornell University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, Mississippi State University, Texas A&M University, Tuskegee University, University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Texas at Houston School of Public Health, University of Hawaii and Washington State University.



Announcing gift
Members of the Lowder family pose in front of the Student Athlete Development Center to which they donated \$4.2 million. The center, under construction, will provide academic support for student athletes. From left are son Bryan Cotney, Charlotte and Bobby Lowder and daughter Catherine Lowder Struble.

Lowder family gift supports new study center for Auburn athletes

Interim AU President Ed Richardson announced on Tuesday that Bobby and Charlotte Lowder have made it possible to move forward with the construction of the new Student Athlete Development Center. Their gift of \$4.2 million is the largest single donation ever made to the Auburn Athletic Department.

Continuing into the third generation of gifts from the Lowder family, the donation comes from Bobby and Charlotte Lowder and from the Lowder Family Foundation, which is managed by the Lowders' daughter, Catherine Lowder Struble, and son, Bryan Cotney.

"Bobby and Charlotte Lowder have consistently been among Auburn's most generous donors. Bobby's long-standing commitment to Auburn is a standard for all AU supporters," Richardson said.

Auburn Athletic Director David Housel said the Lowders' gift will help student athletes succeed at Auburn and later in life. "Hundreds and, in the years to come, thousands of Auburn student athletes will live richer, fuller lives as a result of the Lowder family's generosity," he said.

"The Lowder family has long been supportive of both athletics and academics here at Auburn," Housel added. "This gift will allow Auburn to meet the needs of its student athletes as never before and it is the perfect illustration of Mr. Lowder's love and commitment to both academics and athletics at Auburn."

Housel said a significant portion of the gift has been received and the balance will be donated by 2007.

Bobby Lowder is chairman of the board and CEO of Montgomery-based Colonial Bancgroup Inc., a bank holding company with assets of \$17 billion and locations in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, Tennessee and Texas.

A 1964 honors graduate of AU, Lowder has served Auburn as a member of its Board of Trustees, president and member of the Board of Directors of the Auburn Alumni Association and as a member of the advisory council for the AU College of Business.

His parents, Catherine Lowder and the late Ed Lowder, were also major benefactors of Auburn. The AU College of Business is housed in a building named in their honor.

"Almost everyone associated with Auburn recognizes that student athletes and their fans make up an important part of the Auburn experience," said Bobby Lowder. "In today's competitive world, however, athletic ability alone is not enough. It is important that each student athlete have access to the best educational experience Auburn can provide, and Charlotte and I thought that this facility would go a long way toward ensuring that result. We very much appreciate Catherine and Bryan joining with us in the cause."

Construction of the two-story, 30,000-square-foot Student Athlete Development Center began in January. The facility, which is being built above the James E. Tatum Strength and Conditioning Center next to the Auburn Athletic Complex, will use wireless technology in classrooms that integrate computer and video capabilities.

The facility will include administrative offices, counselor offices, a 50-seat multi-function classroom, a 50-seat tiered classroom, an academic excellence recognition area, 40 four-person study rooms, four eight-person study rooms, a 25-station computer laboratory, a study lounge and a library resources lounge.

Unlike many athletic academic centers at Southeastern Conference schools, the AU center will be specifically dedicated for Student Athlete Support Services programming.

Candidate statement

University Senate Chair-Elect

Conner Bailey

Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology



Bailey

The primary responsibility of elected officers of the University Faculty is to promote the academic and professional welfare of the university. This goal is best achieved through a process of shared governance where decision-making authority matches responsibility.

The faculty has primary authority over academic programs, administrators have primary authority over financial management, and the Board of Trustees has primary responsibility for setting broad policy. There are degrees of overlap between each of these domains, which is where the reality of shared governance is negotiated. I believe elected officers of the University Faculty must be both vigilant in protecting faculty rights where we have primacy and resourceful in promoting effective faculty participation in broader realms of governance, including budgeting, planning and the setting of priorities.

None of the "institutional control" problems we face with SACS or the NCAA have been caused by faculty involvement. I am not surprised that Dr. Richardson and his predecessors think that institutional control emanates from the President's Office. If recent history has shown us anything, it is that we need to rethink the question of institutional control. Leaving this to be settled between the central administration and the Board reminds me of the definition of insanity: doing the same thing over and over, each time expecting a different result. The missing element is a proactive faculty promoting true institutional independence and dedication to the pursuit of truth and knowledge in its many forms.

I do not wish to imply that institutional control over all aspects of university life simply should be handed to the faculty. There is an appropriate division of labor. We need administrators to handle details of university life so that faculty can teach and conduct research, outreach and Extension programs. We need trustees who value academic programs above all else, and who lend their energies to support of such programs, both through wise counsel and in attracting support from private and public sources. And we need faculty who are willing to step forward and commit the amount of time and energy necessary for shared governance to be a reality.

For shared governance to become reality, the faculty must become involved in an effective committee system. Much of the work of the university takes place on either university or Senate committees, and service on these committees can be time consuming. We need to make sure that such time is

well invested. We need to revisit the charges made to many university and Senate committees and make adjustments where appropriate. The elected leaders of the University Senate need to provide leadership to these committees. Committee reports need to be submitted to the Senate Steering Committee, as called for in the Senate's Constitution, and such reports should be posted on the web. We should avoid creation of ad hoc committees to address questions that fall under the purview of existing committees. And we should make sure that when the president or other administrator does not follow a committee recommendation, a written justification is provided.

Elected faculty officers play a key role in promoting faculty welfare. At meetings of the University Faculty and the University Senate, they have a responsibility to create a positive and constructive tone of critical engagement with the administration and Board. Our recent history has been marked by votes of no confidence and censure. I think we all look forward to a time when Senate deliberations are about academic and professional welfare rather than criticisms of our Board and central administration, and I believe we are making progress in this regard. We would not have made such progress had not the University Senate and the University Faculty in the past been willing to stand on principle and vote their collective consciences.

Elected faculty officers represent the faculty in many settings. They attend meetings, serve on committees, and respond to media questions. I believe elected faculty officers need to take a more active role in promoting the importance of higher education to the state of Alabama. We can do so through interactions with members of the media, our legislators and with our alumni. One positive development to emerge from controversies over the past few years has been recognition of common interest among alumni and faculty in working for the betterment of Auburn University. This is a relationship I would like to see nurtured in the years to come.

As departmental representative, Senate Secretary and member of the Steering Committee, I have served in the Senate a total of seven of the 18 years I have been at Auburn. Over this time, I have come to view the Senate as the moral compass of the university, an indispensable institution where faculty interact with other constituent groups within the university. I believe through past service that I have demonstrated leadership skills and personal commitment to shared governance at Auburn. I would be honored to serve as chair-elect and to represent the interests of the faculty during this time of great upheaval and great opportunity.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

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

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 is for members, \$3 for non-members.

Friday, March 5

- Faculty Honors Reception: Auburn Alumni Association honors Alumni Professors, Alumni Scholars and Teaching Excellence and Minority Achievement Award recipients, 4 p.m., Auburn Alumni Center.

Saturday, March 6

- Lifetime Achievement Awards: Auburn Alumni Association to posthumously honor four leading alumni, 6:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. For tickets, contact Charmoin Tatum at 844-2995.

Tuesday, March 9

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment needed.

Thursday, March 11

- Electronic Voting: Faculty elections through March 15.



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Candidate statement

University Senate Chair-Elect

R. Mark Nelms

Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering



Nelms

The past few weeks have been a time of change for Auburn University. We have seen the imposition of SACS probation, the appointment of a new interim president and the confirmation of three new trustees. The most important issue facing AU is the SACS probation.

It is imperative that the Board of Trustees, the administration and the faculty work together to remove the probationary status. Interim President Ed Richardson has already taken a positive step in that direction by withdrawing the SACS lawsuit. He has outlined a plan for addressing other issues and has requested faculty support and input.

If elected, I will be committed to working with Dr. Richardson to provide faculty input and to help boost the level of trust between the faculty and administration.

The upcoming presidential search is crucial for the future of Auburn. It is important that we are able to attract a strong, independent leader. In my opinion, we will only be able to do so after the SACS probationary status has been removed. We must work with Dr. Richardson to establish clear guidelines for university governance and ensure success for our next president.

As I reviewed the SACS Self Study Report and its addendum, I was surprised to learn that the Academic Program Review Committee of the Senate has been inactive since 1999. With uncertain economic times projected for the future, questions about resource reallocation and program viability will certainly arise. This committee can provide faculty input on these issues to the administration.

The program review guidelines developed in 1999 were quite burdensome and, as a result, never adopted. One of my goals will be to reinvigorate this committee. The activities of this committee should be brought into synergy with efforts in the Office of Assessment and Program Improvement to avoid duplication.

Everyone at Auburn University — students, faculty, staff and administrators — should have the opportunity to reach their full potential free from discrimination and harassment. We must work together to establish an atmosphere where diversity is valued and appreciated.

This election marks a first for Auburn University faculty. They will have the opportunity to vote electronically for faculty officers. This should only be the beginning of a process to seek more faculty input on important issues. The auditorium in Broun Hall, the location of recent University Faculty meetings, has a seating capacity of approximately 300. With

more than 1,000 faculty members, the seating capacity in Broun Hall would easily be exceeded for an emotionally charged issue.

Perhaps the only two campus facilities large enough to hold a large meeting of faculty would be Jordan-Hare Stadium or Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum. In my department of 30 faculty, it is almost impossible to schedule a time for a faculty meeting that everyone can attend. Scheduling a meeting time for 1,000 faculty members would be impossible.

I recently watched a high school robotics contest in College Station, Texas, via a web broadcast from the PC in my office. Discussions at University Faculty meetings could be broadcast over the Web for faculty unable to attend the meetings. They would then be able to hear all discussions and be prepared to make informed decisions. Web broadcasts could be stored and then faculty could review the discussions at their convenience. Voting could take place over a period of days after the meeting.

The electronic voting process could even be extended to poll the faculty on key issues. A few years ago, the Engineering Faculty Council took a vote on a number of issues. The departmental representatives conducted a vote by secret ballot of their respective departments. As a result, all engineering faculty had ample opportunity to participate.

Since 1997, I have been a member of the Engineering Faculty Council — an advisory group to the dean of the College of Engineering. I have been chair of this group twice.

I was president of a 10,000-plus member technical society in 2002. My one-year term as the society's president-elect allowed me the time to identify opportunities to advance that organization. As the society's president, I worked with a 25-member executive board and a 75-member governing council. Both groups were comprised of about 50 percent industrial members and 50 percent academic members.

The industrial and academic members often had very different perspectives on the same issue. We were able to understand and mediate our differences through an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect, and we were able to move forward as a result.

As faculty, I believe we have a common, shared goal — to advance Auburn University. We won't always agree, but we should be willing to discuss our differences in an atmosphere of open communication and mutual respect.

Candidate statements

University Senate Secretary-Elect

Patricia A. Duffy

Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

During my years at Auburn, I have served on many committees, including the Senate Rules Committee, the Core Curriculum Oversight Committee, the Student Academic Grievance Committee, which I chaired, and the Faculty Grievance Committee.

This service has made me cognizant that Auburn has an excellent framework to foster shared governance, addressing broad faculty concerns as well as providing mediation for individual faculty and students who believe themselves treated inequitably.

Good processes by themselves, however, are not sufficient to ensure that shared governance is a reality or that individuals are treated fairly. To achieve these goals, the university needs strong faculty leadership at all levels and an open and respectful relationship between the faculty, administration, and trustees.

The secretary and secretary-elect of the Senate play several important roles in ensuring that faculty-driven processes work. The secretary keeps minutes of Senate meetings and maintains other records. Accurate records are essential for open and effective governance. Having served on the executive board of an 800-member professional organization, with one of those years as president, I have experience keeping accurate records.

Serving on the Rules Committee, the secretary and the secretary-elect play key roles in ensuring that committees are staffed and functioning. Having previously served on the Rules Committee, I am aware of the time commitment and responsibility involved and believe I will be effective. Another important assignment is to serve on the Steering Committee, which acts for the Senate between meetings and assists the Senate chair in setting the agenda. If elected, I will give serious attention to getting matters of interest to the Auburn faculty on the Senate agenda in a timely manner. Further, I will do my best to keep abreast of faculty interests and concerns to be an effective representative of the faculty body at all times. Through my service on committees I have been exposed to the thinking of faculty across campus. Also, I've taken classes in two colleges other than my own, and I currently teach a core class that is overseen by a department in a third college. If elected, I will make every effort to ensure that all faculty voices, including those with which I am less familiar, are recognized and heard.

During this time of turmoil, it is important to have faculty leadership who will listen to and represent the interests of faculty. I would be honored to serve as an elected representative for this body.

Jim Gravois

Reference Librarian,
Ralph Brown Draughon Library

When I was first approached to run for secretary-elect, my response was: "But I have only a year's service in the Senate; don't I need to be on the Steering Committee first?"

The person nominating me, who served as Senate secretary some years ago, assured me that she did fine without such experience herself.

And so I chose to follow her advice and accept the offer. In introducing myself to faculty who do not already know me, let me say that I have been a member of the AU faculty for more than 12 years. My position as a reference librarian has given me the opportunity to work with faculty and students from all disciplines on personal research projects.

As a one-time instruction coordinator for the library, I facilitated efforts to offer library classes for those students who would benefit from introductions to library research techniques. I have seen the benefits of cross-departmental collaboration both in these library instruction classes and in the various committees on which I have served.

By serving on, and then chairing, the Faculty Grievance Committee, I had an opportunity to witness some of the struggles fellow faculty face in defending their rights and the uneven solutions offered by university administrations.

My service on the Teaching Effectiveness Committee resulted in a revision of the student forms used to evaluate teachers, a seemingly thankless task but important nonetheless. My efforts on that committee to evaluate Breeden Grant proposals gave me an insight into the excellent teaching goals of many faculty members across the campus.

My recent service as senator for AU Libraries has allowed me to witness and participate in the sometimes-rancorous, sometimes-boring deliberations of this body, and to see how these discussions can sometimes spill over into the local press.

Both as a senator and, potentially, as secretary-elect, I will strive to solicit input from all sides on any issue, to encourage and defend even the most extreme points of view, and then to respectfully ask for a collaborative response, supported by the majority, with profound regard for the honesty of all participants.

Throughout my life I have often learned the most from those I disagree with and I would hope to steer my colleagues toward a climate that allows free expression without fear of personal animosity, while accepting with respect the criticism of my own ideas.

Biography notes about candidates for AU Senate secretary-elect

Jim Gravois is a reference librarian (associate professor rank) in AU's Draughon Library, specializing in Foreign Languages, Philosophy and Religion.

He represents AU Libraries on the University Senate.

Gravois, an AU faculty member since 1991, earned a master's degree in library science from the University of South Carolina and holds bachelor's and master's degrees in history from the University of New Orleans and the University of Texas at Austin, respectively.

Before joining AU Libraries, he taught in public and private high schools in Louisiana and North Carolina.

Patricia A. Duffy is a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

An AU faculty member since 1985, she holds a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Texas A&M, an M.A. in English from Auburn and a B.A. in English and Romance Languages from Boston College.

Duffy is co-author of a textbook on farm management and has received AU, regional and national awards for teaching.

She served in the AU Senate from 1991-94 and served on the Senate Rules Committee and other panels. She has also served on several AU committees.

Biography notes about candidates for AU Senate chair-elect

Mark Nelms is a professor in the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering and has been a faculty member at Auburn University for almost 20 years.

He holds a B.E.E. and an M.S. from Auburn and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech.

Nelms has authored or co-authored approximately 70 publications in his discipline and has been faculty coach for AU's student Solar Decathlon team.

Conner Bailey is a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology.

Bailey holds a Ph.D. from Cornell and has been on the AU faculty since 1985.

He was Senate secretary in 1994-95 and served six years on the Senate Steering Committee. He has served on several university committees and on national committees for the Rural Sociological Society.

Bailey has served as member of the AU chapter of the AAUP and twice served on its executive committee. In 2001 he received the Academic Freedom Award from the AAUP.



Interviewing prospective trustees

The AU Trustee Selection Committee went through a marathon session Thursday, Friday and Saturday in Samford Hall as the five-member panel interviewed approximately 75 candidates to fill two vacant seats on the AU Board of Trustees. The committee is attempting to narrow the list to two persons and submit its choices to the Alabama Senate during the current legislative session. Committee members, from left, are Board of Trustees representative Earlon McWhorter, Alumni Association representative Owen Brown, Jim Main representing Gov. Bob Riley, Alumni Association representative Andrew Hornsby and Board of Trustees representative Paul Spina.

Ceremony to honor Mockbee, two former presidents, manufacturer

Four distinguished Auburn alumni will be honored posthumously Saturday with the Auburn Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Auburn Alumni Association.

The awards will be presented at a black-tie dinner and induction ceremony at Dixon Conference Center in memory of former AU presidents, Wilford S. Bailey and Ralph Brown Draughon; Samuel N. Mockbee, internationally-renowned architecture professor and co-founder of Auburn's famed Rural Studio; and industrialist and philanthropist Roy Brown Sewell.

For tickets to the 6:30 p.m. event, contact Charmoin Tatum at 844-2995 or tatumch@auburn.edu.

Betty DeMent, AU vice president for Alumni Affairs, said the honorees represent the highest ideals and aspirations of Auburn people everywhere.

"Through their many accomplishments and years of dedicated service, they have left a legacy to Auburn University that will impact future generations for many years to come," said DeMent.

The award — the highest honor given by the Auburn Alumni Association — was established four years ago to recognize extraordinary accomplishment by members of the Auburn family.

Bailey graduated from Auburn with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1942, the year he began his half-century of service to the university as an Auburn faculty member and administrator. He

earned his master's degree at Auburn in 1946 and his doctorate at Johns Hopkins University in 1950.

In 1983, AU's Board of Trustees named Bailey interim president while a committee conducted a search for a new president. The following year, a grateful board named him president emeritus. Bailey also was appointed AU's first University Professor and was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree. He died in 2002 at the age of 79.

Draughon, who died in 1968, was Auburn's 10th president, serving from 1947 to 1965, during a period of unprecedented institutional expansion. A 1922 Auburn graduate, Draughon regarded the building of the new campus library as his most important achievement. Built in 1962, the library is named in his honor.

Mockbee, who died in 2001, brought international acclaim to the AU's College of Architecture, Design and Construction through his work with the Rural Studio, which he and a colleague founded in 1992.

A 1974 Auburn graduate who returned in 1991 as a professor of architecture, was instrumental in creating AU's Rural Studio, which has become an international model for the teaching of social responsibility in architecture.

Sewell, who died in 1988, was an industrialist and philanthropist and one of Auburn's most loyal supporters of the mid-20th century. Sewell Hall, the university's athletic dormitory and dining hall, was named in his honor in 1964.



Art exhibit
 AU Art Professor Jim Furr, third from left, discusses Alabama artist Annie Lucas' version of "The Last Supper" with students. The artwork is part of an exhibition of works by 18 self-taught African-American artists. The works will be on display in the Department of Art's Biggin Hall Gallery for the remainder of this week.

AU students renovating historic home of area's first African-American doctor

A group of students from the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction's Historic Preservation Guild is experiencing history first-hand as they renovate the century-old Darden House in Opelika.

The approximately 15 students helping to renovate the home of the city's first African-American physician are part of an ongoing project that students in the college began in April 2001.

Built in 1904, the John Wesley Darden House is a piece of living history that fell on hard times near the end of the 20th century. Local citizens established the J.W. Darden Foundation to preserve this piece of history and developed plans to restore the building for use as a cultural and social center.

Faculty and students in AU's College of Architecture, Design and Construction soon became an active part of the renovation.

"It is a commitment to the house, to history and to the greater community," said building science senior Jimmy Goree, president of the college's Historic Preservation Guild.

Goree describes the project as more than a regular college service project. He is so heavily involved in the project that observers say he lives it. He and the other students have taken special care in restoring and preserving the finely detailed craftsmanship of the original builders.

By working on the project, the students are developing their skills as builders to maintain what others built in the past. "We are hoping this preservation project inspires others to do the same with some of these incredible homes in Opelika," Goree added.

"The physical work of the project **Darden House in Opelika**

gives us something we need — the hands-on learning," said John Lyle, a sophomore in building science. "Learning the process of building gives you the skills you need to do the estimating."

In addition to learning how to plan historic renovations, the students say they are learning the day-to-day work of renovation as they scrape walls, cut molding, hang sheetrock and perform other routine but necessary tasks.

With the project entering the final, critical stage, the students say they need some help. Goree says the preservation effort needs additional funds for such projects as the ramp for the front of the house, cabinets, handrails and painting. If funding for supplies is found, Guild members say they may finish all major work by the end of the summer so the building can be furnished this fall.

To make a tax-deductible donation to the project, contact the J.W. Darden Foundation at 745-5870 or P.O. Box 1581 Opelika, AL 36801.



Taylor testifies in landmark case against food giant

An AU agricultural economist was a major witness for the plaintiffs in a \$1.28 billion price-fixing verdict that a federal court jury in Montgomery handed down last week against beef-processing giant Tyson Foods.

Testifying as an expert witness in the class-action suit, Robert Taylor provided evidence that Tyson Fresh Meats, formerly IBP Inc., used contracts with a select few ranchers to create a captive supply of cattle and thereby drive down the prices paid on the cash market to independent cattle producers an average of 5.1 percent a year from 1994 through 2002.

Taylor, the Alfa eminent scholar in agricultural and public policy in AU's College of Agriculture, based his statements on exhaustive statistical analyses he conducted on previously undisclosed internal financial records detailing the per-head prices IBP/Tyson paid to independent producers over the course of almost nine years.

The lawsuit, known as Pickett v. Tyson/IBP Inc., was filed in 1996 by six cattle owners in Alabama, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana and South Dakota.

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