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### How Auburn Stacks Up

Average salary for assistant professors by academic year



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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

# IAI FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report



### Batting for Oscar

Nels Madsen, in the foreground, has not “gone Hollywood,” but Hollywood has found the AU professor. Madsen was a key player on a software design team that won an Oscar for advancing the technology of film. The black-clad batter in the background sports strategically placed lights in a process that provided the breakthrough in film technology. See page 2 for more on Madsen’s role in winning the Oscar.

## Dean gives keynote address on AU role in ‘War on Hunger’ at India conference

June Henton, dean of AU’s College of Human Sciences, will discuss Auburn’s role in the global “War on Hunger” in the keynote address at a United Nations-affiliated conference in India on Tuesday.

Henton will speak at the inaugural session of the Global Compact Regional Conclave in the Indian city of Jamshedpur.

Launched by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999, the Global Compact brings together business leaders from around the world to discuss initiatives such as human rights, labor, environmental responsibility and anti-corruption. The Global Compact, with more than 1,800 participating companies, is the largest corporate-responsibility initiative in the world.

The theme of the conclave is “Key to Business Sustainability: Reducing Poverty, Fostering Entrepreneurial Development and Employment.”

Henton’s remarks on corporate social responsi-

bility and business sustainability will focus on the role of the college, university, state and nation in fostering social responsibility and sustainability through educational, research, and outreach programs. A key component of her presentation will be the AU/UN World Food Programme partnership featuring Auburn’s student-led World Food Programme Initiative.

“We face a great challenge in higher education to help students better understand the issues of sustainability facing us today which have the potential to do irreparable harm to us as individuals and to the world community,” Henton said.

“By participating in this international forum focused on corporate social responsibility, I will have a unique opportunity to showcase to the world what Auburn students have worked so hard to achieve in the ‘War on Hunger’ campaign and what they hope to accomplish in the future,” the Human Sciences dean added.

## 'Lord of the Rings,' 'Polar Express'

# Madsen wins Oscar for film technology

An Auburn faculty member has something in common with Clint Eastwood, Jamie Foxx and other major Hollywood names. Each won an Oscar in February's Academy Awards ceremonies.

Nels Madsen, an associate professor of mechanical engineering in AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, shared this year's Oscar for technical achievement with three software designers in the entertainment industry for a breakthrough that produces realistic motion in animated scenes and special effects.

The results of their work can be seen in such major motion pictures as "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and "The Polar Express" in which the motion of computer-drawn characters mimics the movements of actual humans. Madsen and computer scientists from Motion Reality Inc. (MRI) developed the technology that made the characters motion more fluid and lifelike than animated characters of movies in the past.

Motion capture is the recording of movement – from simple change in body position to complex contortions of the face and muscle masses – for real-time or delayed analysis. Markers placed on a subject enable multiple video cameras to monitor movement. The video images are digitized, the markers are recognized and a three-dimensional computer model of the subject is derived.

Madsen shared the award with co-inventors Vaughn Cato, Matthew Madden and Bill Lorton. The three former MRI software designers are now at Giant Studios, an MRI affiliate that licenses technology to Hollywood studios. The design team

received the award in a ceremony in California two weeks before Oscar Night on Feb. 27.

"What I believe the Academy is recognizing us for, what we do so differently than other groups in this area, and why the recognition is for software, is the utilization of marker location," said Madsen, adding that the traditional use of markers is to construct a stick image of the subject by placing markers on each joint.

Madsen said the traditional approach was unsatisfactory for many animators and filmmakers. "You can't capture subtle movement because you get a lot of incompatibilities," he explained. "The body is not connected together very well."

Atlanta-based MRI takes a systems approach that enables a more comprehensive capture of motion. More markers in more places on the body are viewed simultaneously, and the software uses fundamental knowledge of body movement to deduce the most likely associated human configuration. Madsen said this approach to the body as a single integrated system as opposed to a collection of unrelated elements enhances accuracy and real-time performance. The software also enables captured human motion to be applied to an animated character, making the character more visually appealing.

"You can use human motion to drive a model of something else," Madsen said, "opening the door to all kinds of things you don't get with the marker-by-marker, point-by-point approach."

Madsen said these software features helped prompt director Peter Jackson to hire Giant Studios for work on "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, which won an unprecedented three consecutive Academy Awards for visual effects. The third installment, "The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King," also earned the 2003 Academy Award for Best Picture.

## Faculty vote this week for new officers

Auburn faculty will vote by computer from Thursday through Monday for leaders of the University Faculty in 2006.

In the second year of electronic voting, faculty will cast ballots for chair-elect and secretary-elect of general faculty and its representative organization, the University Senate. The four candidates were nominated by a committee of the University Faculty.

The Senate will provide details of voting procedures to all persons with faculty status at AU.

Candidates for chair-elect are Richard Penaskovic of the Department of Philosophy and Christa Slaton of the Department of Political Science. Can-

didates for secretary-elect are Virginia O'Leary of Psychology and Kathryn Flynn of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences. Their statements and biographical information were in the Feb. 28 AU Report and are online at the 2005 Archives web site under [www.ocm.auburn.edu/au\\_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html).

Winners will be announced at the University Faculty meeting at 3 p.m. March 15 in the Broun Hall auditorium. At that meeting, Conner Bailey, the 2004-05 chair-elect, will succeed Willie D. Larkin as chair, and Patricia Duffy will succeed Debra Cobia as secretary. Larkin will then succeed John Mouton as faculty adviser to the Board of Trustees for a one-year term.

## Upcoming Events

### Continuing

- Through March 13: Rodin sculptures, selections from the Iris and B. Gerald Cantor Foundation, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

### Tuesday, March 8

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall.

### Wednesday, March 9

- Gallery Talk: "Rodin and Michelangelo," Catherine Walsh, curator of exhibitions, 2 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.
- Professor Perspective: "Rodin in Prague," Cathleen M. Giustino of AU Art Department, Smith Museum, 4:10 p.m.
- Environmental Institute Seminar: "Potential Environmental and Economic Benefits of Bioenergy," AU agronomist David Bransby, 4 p.m., auditorium, Draughon Library.
- Faculty Recital: Bill Schaffer, AU Music Department, on horn, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall.

### Monday, March 14

- Next AU Report.

### Tuesday, March 15

- Distance Learning Seminar: "Online Learning and Communication: Keys to Student Success," 1 p.m., O.D. Smith 328. Contact: Prasanthi Pallapu at [pallapu@auburn.edu](mailto:pallapu@auburn.edu) or 844-3476.
- Meeting: University Faculty, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall. Includes installation of new officers.

### Wednesday, March 16

- Professional Development Seminar: "Documenting and Assessing Outreach Scholarship," Vice President for Outreach David Wilson, noon, Foy 202.
- Jay Sanders Film Festival: Top entries from the Movie Gallery Student Video Competition, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.



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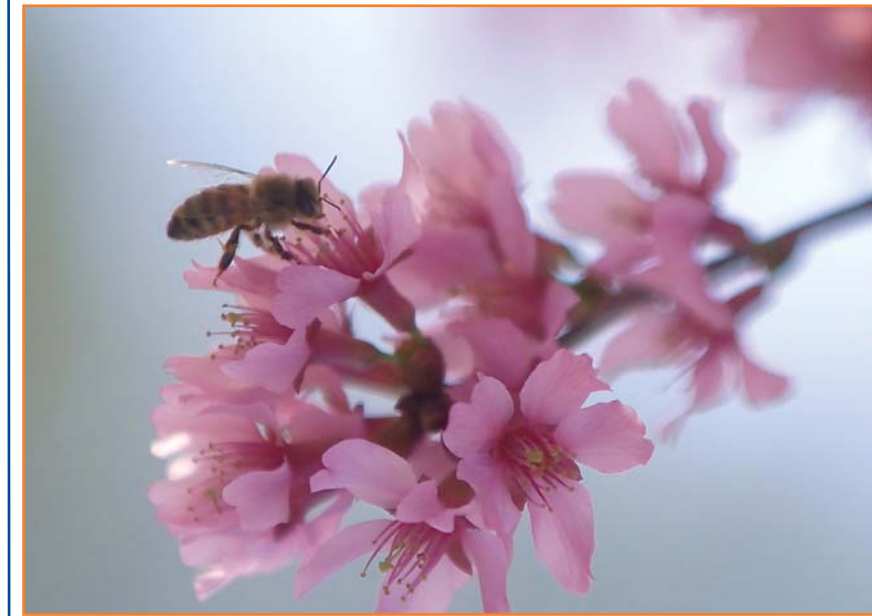
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### To bee or...

Not to be deterred by disease, mites and insecticides that sharply reduced their numbers in the past decade, bees are slowly making a comeback across the nation. Sightings of Alabama's new state insect remain rare, especially since the queen bee seldom leaves the hive, leaving the search for nectar from flowers to worker bees, which are only beginning to reemerge in significant numbers.



## English Department to award prizes for best essays in World Literature

Students in a major segment of Auburn's core curriculum now have their work judged for awards as well as grades.

Under a new initiative of the Department of English, students who write the best essays in Auburn's World Literature sequence this year will receive cash awards.

The essay contest will cover all papers written in 2005 by students in the World Literature classes, said Alexander Dunlop, coordinator of the World Literature Program. Early next year, the winners will receive prizes of \$300 for first place, \$200 for second place and \$100 for third place.

The essay contest will help focus attention on a major part of Auburn's core curriculum, said Dunlop, an associate professor in the Department of English. He noted that the World Literature Program is an expanded version of the sequence that was called "Great Books" until last fall semester.

A committee of World Literature faculty will judge essays that students write in the two courses in the World Literature sequence, which most students take as freshmen or sophomores. The

judges will not submit nominations, themselves, but will review papers nominated by the course instructors.

Instructors who select essays for nomination may advise the students and permit them to polish their work before submitting it. The criteria of evaluation, specified in guidelines approved by the World Literature Committee, will be "originality, incisiveness, usefulness, persuasiveness and sensitivity to cultural difference."

Dunlop said the awards program will recognize outstanding student work while promoting understanding of global diversity. He added that the awards program would also help demonstrate the faculty's interest in students.

Including those who take both courses, the World Literature sequence attracts 6,200 students per year.

"This is a student-centered program," Dunlop said. "We do not want to reduce students to numbers or see students reduce their experience in these courses to mere numbers and averages."

He added, "Our only function is to encourage student development and achievement."

## Services set for faculty member who succumbed to cancer

A memorial service for AU Engineering faculty member Brian Carnahan is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Saint Michael's Catholic Church.

An assistant professor of industrial and systems engineering at Auburn since 1999, Carnahan, 39, died Feb. 22 in Pennsylvania of complications from cancer. He was a member of the graduate faculty at Auburn and the Injury Control Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also

was director of research for the Occupational Safety Ergonomics and Injury Prevention Programs of the Deep South Educational & Research Center for Occupational Health & Safety.

He is survived by his wife Paula, program director for Safe Harbor, and their children Megan Jean and twin sons William and Nathaniel. Memorial contributions may be made to the Brian J. Carnahan Fund at Auburn Bank.

## Sustainability project tests feasibility of plan to recycle used office paper

Last week marked the beginning of a three-week pilot program by AU Facilities Division and the Sustainability Initiative Task Force to collect paper for recycling before it hits the wastebasket.

From Feb. 28-March 18, faculty and staff in the Lowder Business Building and Funchess Hall are collecting paper products for recycling in special bins instead of tossing the paper into wastebaskets. Custodial staff will collect the paper from the bins and take it to a central collection site.

"The pilot program is really a test to see if the recycling program we are designing is ready to set up across campus," said Lindy Biggs, a history professor who is chair of a special committee on sustainability. "We want to make sure we've got it right – iron out any wrinkles and fix whatever we didn't quite get right."

## Association honors Alumni Professors

The Auburn Alumni Association on Friday recognized AU's 25 Alumni Professors at a reception in their honor.

Alumni Professors who began their five-year terms in 2004-05 are K.H. Chang and Bill Gale of Engineering, Ray Dugas of Liberal Arts, Steven Kincaid of Veterinary Medicine and Francis Robicheaux of Sciences and Mathematics.

Other Alumni Professors and their colleges and schools are, Arthur Appel, Rex Dunham, Austin Hagan, John Liu, David Rouse, Elizabeth Guertal and Jeff Sibley of Agriculture; Sushil Bhavani, Ram Gupta, Hareesh Tippur and Jitendra Tugnait of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Liberal Arts; Eric Bakker and Geoff Hill of Sciences and Mathematics; Bernard Kaltenboeck of Veterinary Medicine and Dennis Ruth of Architecture, Design and Construction.

The Alumni Association also recognized Judy Troy of Liberal Arts, who is serving a five-year term as AU's Alumni Writer-in-Residence.

The Provost's Office is seeking nominations for new Alumni Professors for 2005-06. A university committee selects and the Office of the Provost appoints five faculty members each year to Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Writer-in-Residence.

The Alumni Association funds the professorships, which are awarded on the basis on each professor's quality of teaching, research and publishing.

Items that can be recycled in the desk-side program include paper (white, colored or glossy paper is acceptable as well as stapled items), index cards, envelopes, magazines, phonebooks, file folders and self-carbon paper.

Items that cannot be recycled in the program include newspaper, corrugated cardboard, Kleenex, paper towels, plastics, aluminum and glass.

"If we can get desk-side recycling to work, we'll move on to other materials," Biggs said.

Biggs said the committee is also looking for feedback about the program from faculty and staff as well as from facilities workers in the two buildings.

"Once we see if what we have in place is working, we'll start moving it into other buildings," she said.

Biggs said early reports are positive but she wants to hear about any aspects that are not working. "I don't think there will be any major adjustments. I think we have a very good program outlined," she said.

The recycling effort is beginning with office paper because it represents the largest amount of discarded materials on campus, said Biggs. She estimated that the amount of trash hauled to the landfill can be reduced by 50 percent through recycling efforts.

Donny Addison, recycling coordinator for the Facilities Division, said he will check the contents of dumpsters at the two buildings during the test period to determine how much paper is going into the trash instead of the recycle bins.



### Winning design

Wei Wang, an associate professor in the Department of Art at AU, recently won two "ADDY" awards for design from the Montgomery Advertising Federation. Wang, a faculty member for six years, won a Gold "ADDY" and a "Best of Show" award in the Interactive category for his personal online portfolio. A sample of the winning designs is shown above. The "ADDY" name is copyrighted by the American Advertising Federation.

## Auburn to premiere top works of student filmmakers

Auburn's Jay Sanders Film Festival will premiere award-winning short videos from high school and university students across the United States and internationally on March 16 at Dixon Conference Center.

The Auburn Film Society and the Department of Communication and Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts will present winners of the annual Movie Gallery Student Video Competition. The free screenings start at 7 p.m.

More than 180 entries were accepted into this year's competition, said festival coordinator Emmett Winn, a professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism.

Although most entries came from students in the United States, several entries this year came from Canada and Nigeria.

Sponsored by the Movie Gallery Corp. since 2001, festival organizers present trophies and prizes of \$1,000 each to winners in the high school and college divisions.

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