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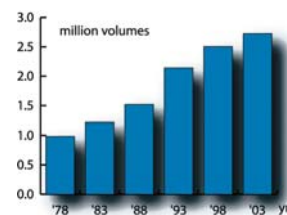
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Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues
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AU For the faculty and staff of Auburn University report

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Educators join forces in I-85 economic effort

Representatives from universities, community and technical colleges and K-12 school systems along Interstate 85 in East Alabama recently joined forces with business leaders to boost the role of education in the region's economic development.

The new Educational Services Cluster is part of the I-85 Corridor Initiative. That larger organization — a partnership of local governments, private sector organizations and educational institutions — is committed to increasing the prosperity of communities along Interstate 85.

The team of educators and business leaders will conduct much of its work through two task forces.

The "K-20 Create Excellence in Alabama" task force will identify and evaluate programs for best-practice models and programs for use in the region. K-20 is kindergarten in public schools through the doctorate level of universities.

The "Exporting Services and Products" task force will identify expertise in the academic institutions and businesses to assist in economic development.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to work together to examine what it would mean to more fully establish an educational focus in our region," said Frances Kochan, interim dean of the AU College of
(See *I-85 Initiative*, page 2)

Ethics Commission places forms on Web for employees

The Alabama Ethics Commission is reminding AU faculty, staff and administrators that every employee whose salary is \$50,000 or more per year must file a Statement of Economic Interests form with the Ethics Commission by April 30.

The filing requirement is unchanged from previous years and applies to employees of all state agencies, including public universities, as well as politi-



Spring blossoms

Blossoms from a Japanese magnolia added a touch of color to this view of Ross Hall last week. Spring officially starts Saturday.

cal candidates and office-holders. The requirement applies to all employees at or above the minimum salary level, even if an employee actually has worked less than a year at that salary level.

The only difference from previous years is that the Ethics Commission is no longer mailing the forms.

(See *Ethics forms*, page 3)

Assistant vice president

Melson takes charge of Facilities

Baker Melson, former director of the Physical Plant at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, has joined the AU administration as assistant vice president for Facilities.



Melson

Melson became head of the Facilities Division in February, reporting to Executive Vice President Don Large. He succeeds Christine Curtis, who served for two years as interim associate provost for Facilities and is now special assistant to the president.

At UNC-Greensboro for seven years, Melson headed a facilities operation similar to Auburn's. "There was a difference in scale, with Greensboro having an enrollment of 15,000 and a proportionately smaller physical plant than Auburn, but the operations were very similar," he said.

"The infrastructure maintenance program operated much the same. Also like Auburn, the campuses in the University of North Carolina System had major construction programs under way with funding from a bond issue."

Before going to UNC-Greensboro, Melson was a

facilities engineer in the private sector for three years. He is also retired from 20 years as a pilot in the U.S. Navy.

Although this is his first time to live in Alabama, Melson said moving to Auburn is almost like coming home because his family has roots in Hogansville, Ga., and his wife's family is from Brewton.

Melson said most of the challenges in running a facilities operation at Auburn are similar to those he faced in the past. However, he added, the overall quality of the staff in the AU Facilities Division was a pleasant surprise.

"I knew coming in that there were a lot of very competent people here, but I did not expect such an abundance of talent. I have been very pleased to find such a high level of competence and cohesion among the staff at every level," he said. "This is a very well-run operation."

Melson said his goal is to support and build on the current strengths of the Facilities Division. He said he will work with the staff of Facilities to refine operations as necessary and encourage team-building approaches to problem-solving.

CopyCat celebrates 10th anniversary

CopyCat, AU's full-service copy center, will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Thursday with an open house from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. at its operations center next to the Foy Student Union Food Court.

"We started on March 14, 1994, with basic black-and-white copying," said CopyCat Manager Glenda Miley, who was one of the original two full-time employees. "Demand kept growing, and in a short time we were a full-service operation that can handle just about any document reproduction anywhere on campus."

With the center averaging approximately one million impressions per month, Miley said CopyCat has grown by keeping pace with technology and adding services as needed to meet the changing needs of departments, faculty, students and staff.

While CopyCat has increased its full-time staff by one person in 10 years, boosting the total to three, the copy center has increased its part-time student-worker staff from two to 20. "We have enough student workers to help us provide quick turnaround for just about any job, and we generate enough business to help them meet their college expenses, so it works out well for everyone," Miley said.

Normal turnaround is the same day for most small jobs and one or two days for larger, complex operations.

With separate full-service operations in Foy Union for black-and-white and color printing, CopyCat also maintains copiers in Draughon Library, the Veterinary Medicine Library and the

Architecture Library in Dudley Hall. The Foy Union facilities are among the most comprehensive in the area for reproduction and packaging of documents, Miley said.

High-speed copiers in Foy can reproduce up to 255 pages a minute for black-and-white documents and up to 60 copies per minute for documents in color. The Foy centers also offer a variety of binding and finishing options.

Other services range from typesetting and design to printing of invitations, flyers and black-and-white newsletters, plus campus mailings for faculty, staff and departments.

CopyCat ColorWorks in the Foy Food Court center also performs poster printing, mounting and laminating and production of vinyl banners, canvas prints and fine art prints.

I-85 Initiative

(continued from page 1)

Education. "The question that should be foremost in our minds is how can we come together to share our expertise and resources and make the entire region stronger."

In formulating its development strategy, she said, the Educational Services Cluster will draw upon the long-term goals and strategic initiatives of the four universities, six technical colleges and 12 school systems along the corridor.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 16

- Teaching With Technology Day: Faculty exhibits illustrate innovations in teaching technology, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Draughon Library.
- Meeting and Election Results: University Faculty, 3 p.m., Broun Hall.
- Presidential Symposium: "War, Peace and Justice in the Middle East and Asia." Foy Union ballroom. Panel discussion: "Women in Hinduism, Islam, Judaism," 9 a.m.-noon; "Women, War and Peace-Making," 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m. Film: "This is Not Living," noon.

Wednesday, March 17

- AU World's Fair: Cultural displays by students from 40 countries, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Haley Center concourse.
- Meeting: Staff Council, 10 a.m., Foy 208.
- Saint Patrick's Day Celebration: 3 p.m.-6 p.m., Foy ballroom. Events: "Who was Saint Patrick?" public lecture by Dan Szechi, History Department, 3 p.m.; Low Tea, 4 p.m.; Irish music by Noisy Deirdre, dancing by the Auburn Celtic Dancers, 5 p.m.
- Presidential Symposium: "War, Peace and Justice in the Middle East and Asia," Foy 217. Roundtable discussion: "Feminism in Global Perspective," 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
- Neil and Henrietta Davis Lecturer: AU alumnus Eric Ludgood, vice president of CNN International, 5 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

Thursday, March 18

- Public Reading: "The Passion of Belle Rio," Bo May, 4 p.m., Pebble Hill.
- Film Festival: Movie Gallery Student Video Competition and Jay Sanders Film Festival, 7 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- AU Theatre Dance Concert: "Daunce," directed by Judith Nelson with special guest artists from New York, 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Also, same time, Friday and Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.
- Free Night: No admission charge for Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Friday, March 19

- Meeting: Board of Trustees, Dixon Conference Center. Committee sessions start at 8 a.m. Board meets at 1 p.m., with time subject to change, depending on length of committee meetings.

Monday, March 22

- Staff Council Social: For all AU staff members represented by the Staff Council, 6 p.m.-9 p.m., Olde Auburn Ale House.

Tuesday, March 23

- AU Theatre: "Anton in Show Business," 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Also Wednesday-Friday and April 6-10. Box Office: 844-4154.



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Training center Pat Deery, left, demonstrates technology in the new Human Resources training center for interim Assistant Vice President Lynne Hammond, center, and Mary Prather, director of Temporary Employment Services and the employment center.

In downtown building

AU opens new classrooms for staff

AU Human Resources has inaugurated two new classrooms for employee training in the university's new employment and training center at 146 N. Gay St., across from Auburn City Hall.

"This is a major breakthrough in the university's ability to provide training and other educational services for its employees," said Lynne Hammond, interim assistant vice president for Human Resources.

"For the first time we have state-of-the-art classrooms specifically designed for the training needs of Auburn employees," added Pat Deery, director of Human Resources Development in AU Human Resources.

The training staff and employment services staff of Human Resources moved into the building on March 1. The building, once home to the city's Hollifield Memorial Library, serves three major functions. Persons seeking staff positions at AU now apply at the North Gay Street site instead of in Langdon Hall, and employees expand their skills and knowledge in the same building. Operations of Temporary Employment Services are also handled out of that building.

Human Resources plans to phase out its employee classes on campus and will hold nearly all employee training sessions in the new training center in the future.

The first class in the facility last week was a session for staff on writing for organizations. Deery said Human Resources Development moved the writing class to the new center when a scheduling conflict arose at another location on campus. Such scheduling conflicts over space on campus will no longer be a problem, he added.

For decades, Human Resources has scrambled to schedule employee training sessions around other users at Foy Student Union, Dixon Conference Center and academic classrooms on campus. The shuffle

of classes from building to building also limited the technology and training materials the office could present for classes.

"We now have resources available to meet the needs of employees in one location, and we don't have to schedule around other users anymore," Deery said. "That gives us a lot more flexibility in scheduling and assembling materials for better training."

The two technology-laden classrooms accommodate up to 20 people each and can be combined into a single teaching area for 40 people. Computer-assisted video and visual-display technologies in the classrooms are similar to advanced technologies used by faculty in the university's newest high-tech classrooms for students, he added.

To reach the facility from campus, Deery recommends that AU employees take Tiger Transit's "aqua" line to a bus stop at the center. "Traffic is congested and parking is limited downtown, just as it is on campus, and Tiger Transit provides fast and easy access," he said.

Ethics forms

(continued from page 1)

The Ethics Commission, citing budget constraints, is asking state agencies, universities and other arms of the state to refer employees to the commission's Web site, www.ethics.alalinc.net. Employees covered by the law are asked to download, print, complete and mail the forms to the Ethics Commission before the deadline.

Failure to comply with the filing requirement will result in financial penalties by the commission and could result in prosecution in state courts by the Alabama attorney general.

Contact the Ethics Commission at the Web site above or by phone at 334-242-2997.



Health designs
 AU Art Professor Ray Dugas holds the latest in a series of seasonal posters he is designing for IBM Global Well-Being Services. IBM is distributing the posters to its world-wide operations to promote physical fitness among its thousands of employees. A member of the Art Department faculty since 1974, Dugas teaches graphic design and has designed numerous posters, logos and other projects.

Reception on Tuesday to honor Pritchett

The Office of the Provost will host a public reception for Associate Provost and Vice President for Graduate Studies John F. Pritchett from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Tuesday at Dixon Conference Center.

Pritchett retires on March 31 from AU after 31 years of service. At Auburn, he has been a professor, department head, dean, associate provost, interim provost and vice president.

Swamidass named head of Walter Center

Paul Swamidass of the AU College of Business has been named director of the Thomas Walter Center for Technology Management in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering by Engineering Dean Larry Benefield.



Swamidass

The Walter Center is a cooperative venture integrating certain technological and management areas of instruction and research in the two colleges. Swamidass, formerly the center's associate director, succeeds James Bryant, who recently retired.

"I am confident that Dr. Swamidass will continue to make significant contributions to the teaching and research efforts of the Thomas Walter Center," said Benefield. "His expertise in manufacturing technology and operations management will help lead the

center in its innovative cross-disciplinary efforts."

"The Thomas Walter Center enables the College of Engineering and the College of Business to engage in programs that are inaccessible to most other universities in this country," said Swamidass.

As director, Swamidass, a professor of operations management, will oversee the center's programs and activities in preparing undergraduate engineering and business students to work in technology-intensive businesses through the Business-Engineering-Technology program.

The center also focuses on studies of the use of technology in industry, research on manufacturing supply chains and commercialization of AU inventions and patents. The center's faculty also collaborate on technology-management projects with faculty at peer universities.

Organizations raising funds for Darden restoration

University and community organizations are participating in a fund-raising effort for restoration of the historic Darden House in Opelika.

The house, built in 1904, was for nearly half a century the home of the first African-American physician in Opelika and Auburn.

For additional information or to make a tax-deductible donation, contact the foundation at 745-5870, or write to the J.W. Darden Foundation, P.O. Box 1581, Opelika, AL 36801.

Education council names Stadler ACE Fellow

Holly A. Stadler, head of the Department of Counseling and Counseling Psychology in the AU College of Education, has been named an American Council on Education Fellow for 2004-05.

The ACE Fellows Program, established in 1965, is designed to strengthen institutions and leadership in American higher education by identifying and preparing promising faculty and senior administrators for responsible positions in college and university administration.

For 2004-05, ACE selected 35 Fellows, who were nominated by the presidents and chancellors of their institutions. Each ACE Fellow will focus on an issue of concern to the nominating institution while

spending all or a portion of the academic year working with a college or university president and other senior officers at a host institution.

Stadler said she will spend two semesters next year at a host school yet to be named.

The Auburn professor will examine ways in which policy becomes practice within a large university system, will work with governing boards and committees and will assist with strategic planning.

Founded in 1918, ACE is the nation's largest higher education association, representing more than 1,600 college and university senior executives and more than 200 related associations nationwide.

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