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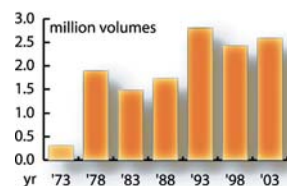
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Auburn libraries'  
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Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues  
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[www.ocm.auburn.edu/  
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# AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 10

## World's Fair

This Chinese parade lion from Taiwan was among the varied displays and exhibits on the Haley Center concourse last week for Auburn's 19th annual World's Fair. The Office of International Student Life and Admissions sponsored the colorful event, which provided cultural displays from up to 40 countries that are home to many of Auburn's 1,000 international students.



## AU warned of fiscal challenges

Despite currently sound finances, AU must act soon to prepare for major economic challenges over the next three to five years, says Executive Vice President Don Large.

In a report to the AU Board of Trustees on Friday, Large said the university must come up with an additional \$29 million next year and similar amounts for the remainder of the decade to offset financial commitments transferred to AU by state government. Those commitments are tied to retiree expenditures, insurance and other expenses formerly covered by the state.

The current main-campus budget is \$437 million. The \$29 million additional commitment for next year is more than twice the \$12.4 million in additional revenue projected for Auburn in the 2005 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

Large, AU's chief finance officer, said the university can meet its financial obligations next year but will need guidance from the board in developing revenue and sending priorities for future years.

The Board of Trustees will return for a special, called session on May 7 to discuss policy options for

confronting the challenges. Interim President Ed Richardson said the May session will provide an opportunity for the board to begin discussions to help Auburn clarify its mission and set priorities while confronting the financial challenges.

Richardson and Large said the university needs to set policies and make decisions pertaining to tuition pricing, enrollment, cost containment and related issues for the next three to five years.

The tuition pricing issue includes decisions on the amount and timing of increases; availability of tuition assistance or waivers for students from low-income families; continuing with a goal of reaching the regional average for tuition, reducing that goal or exceeding the regional average; and increasing tuition for out-of-state students faster than for in-state students.

Other options include increasing enrollment to bring in more tuition or cutting it to decrease costs.

Large said the university could look at space utilization to determine ways to cut facilities costs, and Richardson said AU will examine non-academic programs to determine other ways to save money.

## Changes announced in cabinet-level administrative positions at Auburn

Auburn last week saw two changes in cabinet-level administrative positions and the departure of the university's head basketball coach.

David Housel announced on Tuesday that he will step down as director of intercollegiate athletics next January, and interim President Ed Richardson on Wednesday appointed Debbie Shaw as interim vice president for Alumni Affairs.

Shaw, an AU staff member and administrator since 1983, replaces Betty DeMent, who had worked in Alumni Affairs since 1990 and had been a vice president since 1995. "Auburn is grateful to Mrs. DeMent for her service to the alumni," Richardson said.

Shaw, who holds a doctorate in education from AU, will serve as interim vice president during the search for someone to fill the permanent position.

"I look forward to working with the Alumni Board in the search for a new vice president for Alumni Affairs," Richardson said. "I am optimistic that we will be able to identify a strong candidate who will work for the betterment of both Auburn University and its dedicated alumni.

Housel, who joined the Athletic Department in 1970 and has been athletics director since 1994, announced plans to retire in early 2006. After stepping down from the senior administrative post, he will spend a year assisting the department's and the university's fund-raising efforts.

Richardson said he will announce plans later for filling the athletic director's position.

"I am pleased that David's service to the university as athletic director and his unquestioned dedication to Auburn will continue to benefit the university for the remainder of this year," the AU president said. "His selflessness and loyalty are clearly reflected in his four decades of service to Auburn. I am positive that David will be of great assistance during our fund-raising campaign and know that he will serve well in that capacity until his retirement."

A 1969 graduate of Auburn and 1968-69 Auburn Plainsman editor, Housel spent one year as news editor of the now-defunct Huntsville News and returned to Auburn as a member of the Athletic Department Ticket Office staff in 1970. Except for a few years as a journalism instructor, Housel has spent most of his career with the Athletic Department. He was promoted from sports information director to athletic director in 1994.

In another Athletic Department change, Richardson announced on Thursday that Cliff Ellis had been relieved of his duties as men's head basketball coach. Ellis was 186-125 in 10 years at Auburn, and was 73-87 in SEC games.

Richardson said he appreciated Ellis' contributions to the men's basketball program at Auburn but had concluded that the program needed a change in direction.

## Panel selects two for AU Board, sends names to Senate for confirmation

The AU Trustee Selection Committee last week chose Virginia Thompson, marketing director of East Alabama Medical Center in Opelika, and Alabama Power Co. President Charles McCrary to fill two vacant seats on the Board of Trustees.

Seeking a vote of confirmation, the panel forwarded the nominations to the Alabama Senate, which is halfway through its annual session.

The committee selected Thompson to fill the Lee County seat vacated with the death of Jimmy Samford on Dec. 29. The panel chose McCrary to fill a new at-large position that was created when Ed Richardson resigned as state superintendent of education in January to become interim president of the university.

The education superintendent was an ex-officio member of the AU Board, but an amendment to the Alabama Constitution in 2000 stipulated that the board seat would change to an at-large position when the superintendent at that time left office. The governor is the only remaining ex-officio voting member of the AU Board, which has 10 voting positions from districts in Alabama and three at-large voting positions.



### AAUP award

Gary Mullen, president of the AU chapter of the American Association of University Professors, presented the chapter's 2004 Academic Freedom Award to Associate Professor Judy Sheppard on Tuesday. Mullen cited Sheppard's efforts on behalf of academic freedom and shared governance.

## Upcoming Events

### Continuing

- Art Exhibit: Works from the Noel and Kathryn Dickinson Wadsworth Collection: Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Gilbert Stuart, Mary Cassatt, Andrew Wyeth, others; Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art; through May 21. See [www.julecollinsmith-museum.com/exhibition.html](http://www.julecollinsmith-museum.com/exhibition.html)

### Tuesday, March 23

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

### Wednesday, March 24

- Grand Opening: Arricia Restaurant, AU Hotel, all day.
- Library Book Club: Discussions of Tracy Chevalier's "The Girl With a Pearl Earring," 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., Second Floor Conference Room, Draughton Library.
- Gallery Talk: "William Baggett's 'Alma Mater,'" Catherine Walsh, exhibitions curator, 2 p.m., Smith Museum of Fine Art.

### Thursday, March 25

- 97th Annual Veterinary Medicine Conference, through March 28, Dixon Conference Center.
- Concert: AU Symphonic Band, 12:30 p.m., Goodwin Band Hall.

### Monday, March 29

- Spring Break: No classes; offices remain open. Classes resume Monday, April 5.
- Weaver Lecture: "Governance of Forestry for Sustainability," 3:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

### Tuesday, April 6

- Meeting: Administrative and Professional Assembly, 2 p.m., Foy 217.
- AU Theatre: "Anton in Show Business," 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Same time and location, Wednesday-Saturday. Box Office: 844-4154.

### Monday, April 12

- Concert: AU Concert Band, 6 p.m., Graves Amphitheatre.

## AUreport

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The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during academic terms, except for major holidays or the Monday after a major holiday. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is 4 p.m. on Wednesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9999. E-mail: [summero@auburn.edu](mailto:summero@auburn.edu)



### Faculty officers

Conner Bailey, top right, and Patricia Duffy, inset at right, were elected chair-elect and secretary-elect, respectively, of the AU Faculty and University Senate in electronic voting on March 11-15. Officers shown with Bailey are, from left, Paula Sullenger, immediate past secretary; John Mouton, immediate past chair; Debra Cobia, 2004-05 secretary; and Willie D. Larkin, 2004-05 chair. Larkin and Cobia assumed office on Tuesday.



### Croatia-bound

## Thompson named Fulbright Specialist

Henry Thompson, a professor of agricultural economics in AU's College of Agriculture, has received a Fulbright Senior Specialists grant for work in economics at the University of Zagreb in Croatia.

The Fulbright program offers two- to six-week grants to leading U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at colleges and universities in 140 countries.

Thompson will present lectures on international economics and microeconomics and speak at seminars in Croatia and Slovenia.

"The countries in Eastern and Central Europe are making a transition away from government-managed socialism and toward more open market-oriented economies," Thompson said. "I will also collaborate with colleagues at the University of Macedonia in Greece and the Athens University of Economics and Business."

The Auburn professor said he also plans to finish

work on a new edition of his textbook in international economics.

Thompson, who teaches international economics, mathematical economics and resource and energy economics at Auburn, has a Ph.D. in international trade and energy economics from the University of Houston. He has been at AU since 1987.

Although he is based in AU's College of Agriculture, Thompson's grant assigned him to the economics faculty at the University of Zagreb's Graduate School of Economics and Business.

Created to complement the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program, the Senior Specialists Program seeks to increase the number of faculty and professionals who have the opportunity to go abroad on a Fulbright grant.

The program is sponsored by the State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and managed by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

## Deadline near for Lifetime Achievement nominations

The deadline is March 31 for nominations for the Auburn Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2004-05.

The annual award, now in its fourth year, recognizes extraordinary lifetime accomplishments by Auburn alumni, faculty or administrators for significant achievement in their professional lives or for distinguished human service.

Nominees must have attained prominence in their professional careers and must have demonstrated integrity, stature and capability to such a

degree that the faculty, staff, students and alumni of Auburn will take pride in and be inspired by their recognition, said Liz Peel, director of the program.

Lifetime Achievement Awards for 2003-04 posthumously honored former AU presidents Ralph Brown Draughton and Wilford S. Bailey, Rural Studio co-founder Samuel Mockbee and alumnus Roy Sewell, a leading industrialist and philanthropist of the mid-20th century.

To obtain a nomination form, call 844-1146 or see the Web site [www.aualum.org](http://www.aualum.org).



### New trustees

Three new AU trustees went through orientation on Thursday and attended their first meeting of the Board of Trustees on Friday. The new members, shown outside Samford Hall with interim President Ed Richardson, right, are, from left, Dwight Carlisle of Tallassee, Sarah Newton of Fayette and Charles Ball of Gadsden.

## Garden clubs federation donates funds from sale of home to endow scholarships in horticulture

The Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs has donated \$215,000 to establish an endowed fund for excellence in the AU College of Agriculture's Department of Horticulture.

The gift was made possible by the federation's sale of Hillcrest, a historic home in Montgomery's Garden District that had served as the organization's meeting place since 1962.

Charles Gilliam, chair of the AU horticulture department, said the gift is one of the largest donations in the history of the department.

Of the donation, \$200,000 will be invested as an endowment for the Horticulture Department. Each year, earnings from the investment will go toward scholarships for six students majoring in horticulture and fellowship awards for two horticulture graduate students. The federation gave an additional \$15,000 so that the awards could begin with the 2004-05 academic year.

A portion of the gift is earmarked for faculty development and support.

Under the agreement establishing the fund, qualified horticulture students from Montgomery and Elmore counties will be given priority consideration for the undergraduate scholarships. Nell Copeland,

chair of the federation's board of trustees, said the organization saw the endowment as a way to make a lasting contribution toward creating beautiful landscapes in Montgomery and beyond.

"We wanted to leave a legacy that would have an impact on future generations long after all of us are gone," Copeland said. "We felt that the best way to do that was to enhance the horticulture program at Auburn and help provide learning opportunities for a number of young people who are interested, as we are, in improving and preserving the landscape."

Hillcrest, a Montgomery landmark built in 1916 on South Court Street, was purchased in 1962 by the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs Inc., which recently sold the house. Hillcrest's new owners are renovating the house and reportedly plan to lease the first floor for special events and turn the second floor into a bed-and-breakfast establishment.

"The decision to sell Hillcrest was a difficult one for the federation, but it has also been very rewarding," said Federation President Nelma Ausley. "It has allowed us to make a lasting contribution to Auburn's horticulture program and, at the same time, see the improvements being made at Hillcrest."

## NASA vet, FDA official to speak at veterinary conference

A NASA veterinarian and the director of the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veterinary Medicine will serve as keynote speakers during the AU College of Veterinary Medicine's 97th Annual Conference Thursday-Sunday at the Dixon Conference Center.

Alex Dunlap, a veterinarian and medical doctor with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, will present "NASA's Neurolab: Animal

Care in Outer Space" at 8:10 a.m. Friday. Dunlap will be followed at 9:30 a.m. by Stephen Sundlof of the FDA who will speak on "The FDA and Veterinary Medicine."

More than 2,000 veterinarians, technicians and spouses are expected to attend the Auburn conference that will feature seminars, alumni awards presentations and 10 class reunions. For more information, call 844-3699.

## Education accepting applications for Summer Reading Program

The AU College of Education is accepting applications from parents and guardians for the annual Summer Reading Program.

In the program, advanced undergraduates in the college and graduate students specializing in reading intervention will tutor beginning and struggling readers during June and July.

The Summer Reading Program, which is in its seventh year, is designed for children in the age group from kindergarten through second grade, especially those who are having difficulty learning to read through regular class instruction.

A few places are also available for children in grades three through six.

"Children thrive under the patient, positive, individual attention of a caring teacher," said Program Coordinator Bruce Murray, an associate professor in the College of Education. "We typically see reading gains of slightly over one reading level after seven weeks of one-on-one instruction."

For information, call 844-6934.

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