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Inside

3 AU gets new slate of faculty leaders for ’08

3 Stallworth to discuss Civil Rights Era

4 AAUP award honors champion of arboretum

4 Bronner, Ivey to speak at campus event on April 7

How Auburn Stacks Up

Percent distribution of A’s, C’s and F’s earned by AU undergraduates

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

Gogue cites cuts amid successes; seeks new ideas

In his first State of the University address to the AU faculty, President Jay Gogue on March 11 noted several positive developments while expressing concern about funding.

Gogue, who assumed office in July, also solicited help from faculty on a major endeavor that he said is vital to the university’s future.

The AU president said the proposed education budget before the Alabama House poses a financial danger as the university prepares for the next fiscal year. Under that proposal, Auburn would receive 14.3 percent less in state funding in the fiscal year starting Oct. 1 than it has in the current year.

Adding to the potential financial harm, the reduction in state financial support would come in the face of increased costs to AU for health insurance and Retirement Systems of Alabama.

Noting a wide discrepancy in the proposed allocation of state education funds, Gogue said the average proposed cut for four-year institutions would be 14 percent, with two-year colleges receiving an 8 percent cut and K-12 schools receiving a cut of only 2 percent to 3 percent.

Gogue said AU officials are trying to impress upon legislators the unfairness and potential harm facing the state from the proposed budget. “We’re spending a lot of time on the phone and visiting with members of the Legislature, trying to talk about equity and fairness during this period,” he added.

If the Legislature votes for an equal cut in funding among all institutions, each would receive approximately a 5 percent decrease. “Five percent is a bad

See State of the University, page 2

Orange, blue and green

In the band’s first trip abroad, Aubie led the AU Marching Band through the streets of Dublin on March 17 as special invited guests for the International St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Approximately 200 band members traveled to Ireland for the festivities.
State of the University

Gogue addressing faculty during March 11 meeting

"We need as a university to move in a dramatic way, and have increased the number of security personnel on campus since the attack on Burd."

Referring to security concerns following the recent abduction and murder of Auburn student Lauren Burk, Gogue said security efforts are being stepped up and a security audit last fall will further aid the university and city in these efforts.

Citing several major aspects of the security audit, Gogue said one especially significant aspect involves ensuring that the university receives sufficient police coverage from the City of Auburn. Police quickly made an arrest in the murder case and have increased the number of security personnel on campus since the attack on Burd. Discussing administrative vacancies, Gogue said several searches are under way. Posts will be filled by current senior searches include the vice president for research, dean of the graduate school, and vice president for development and the provost. The AU president said he is optimistic that a new provost will be in place by January 2009.

Colleges

In a sign of the high demand cited by President Jay Gogue in his State of the University address, admissions tour guides have had a busy schedule of leading groups of visiting high school students and their parents through campus this semester.

Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, March 25**

**MEETING**  University Staff Council, election of new chair-elect, discussion of campus security, 9:30 a.m., FoY 217

**Wednesday, March 26**

**FACULTY SEMINAR**  “Active Learning for Undergraduates with Cooperative Learning Enrichment and Roles,” principles from Chickering and Gamson’s “Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education,” 12:15 p.m., call 844-8530

**Thursday, March 27**

**PUBLIC LECTURE**  Historian John C. Hall, “Bartram’s Travels,” Alabama travels of famed 18th century naturalist William Bartram, 3 p.m. Special Collections and Archives, Draughon Library

**Monday, March 31**

**NEXT AU Report**

**Friday, April 4**

**DOUGRAPH LIBRARY**  “Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America,” his history, a collection of papers about Hamilton’s role and vision in the founding of the United States, Special Collections and Archives section, through April 15

**Friday, April 18**

**BUILDING DEDICATION**  Shelby Center for Engineering Technology, on-site, time TBA

**Exhibitions**

**JULIE COLLINS SMITH MUSEUM**  “Alabama Folk Pottery,” through March 29. “Behind the Mask: African Art,” through May 10

Past, present, future

**Programs**

**V**eteran journalist Clarence Stallworth will share his reporting experiences from the Civil Rights Era and afterward at 5 p.m. Thursday at the AU Hotel as part of the Neil and Henrietta Davis Lecture Series in the Department of Journalism.

“The journalists who covered civil rights movement are a treasure of important historical information,” said John Carvalho, director of the department’s journalism program. “Mr. Stallworth and his colleagues were in the middle of a situation that had all the markings of a great story: conflict, impact, constant change. Their professional response to the situation is a model for young journalists.”

Stallworth’s 42-year newspaper career began at the Birmingham Post-Herald in 1948; his early years as a reporter included an incident in which a Ku Klux Klan member threw a hammer at his head during a KKK rally he was covering. He won numerous awards for covering civil rights marches, the Phoenix City corruption clean-up and murder trials and the administrations of Governors James “Big Jim” Folsom, John Patterson and George Wallace.

He was city editor of the Columbus (Ga.) Ledger-Enquirer from 1966-1968, and returned to the Birmingham News as city editor during the racially turbulent years when the city was known as “Bombingham.” As editor, he continued to report, covering international events in Paris, Prague and Cuba, and he wrote an opinion column called “A Day in the Life of Alabama” which was published internationally.

Described by Carvalho as a legendary journalist, Stallworth is a nationally known writing and reporting coach who has conducted more than 100 workshops for journalists all over the United States and Canada, including 35 workshops for the American Press Institute. In addition, he has taught journalism at Samford University, the University of Alabama and the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

The AU civil rights lecture series in the College of Liberal Arts’ journalism program in 1996 honored the late Neil and Henrietta Davis as examples of excellence in journalism. The Davis’s, founded, reported and edited for the nationally respected Auburn Bulletin for more than 40 years.

Expert on autism to discuss systematic training model

An Indiana-based expert on autism will present a public lecture on the subject at 5 p.m. Wednesday in Haley 1203.

Scott Bellini, assistant director of the Indiana Resource Center for Autism, will discuss the social and emotional functioning of youth with various degrees of autism and factors that can lead to beneficial social outcomes.

Bellini, who is an assistant professor of school psychology at Indiana University, Bloomington, will also discuss his social skills training model, “Building Thinking Relationships,” which presents a systematic approach to teaching social skills and measuring the outcomes of social skills programs for autistic youth.
AAUP presents Academic Freedom Award to family of George Folkerts

The AU chapter of the American Association of University Professors presented its Academic Freedom Award posthumously on March 11 to George Folkerts, a long-time faculty member and advocate for the Davis Arboretum.

Folkerts, a professor in the Department of Biological Sciences for 38 years, died Dec. 14. At the spring University Faculty meeting, Folkerts’ wife Debbie, who is an assistant professor in Biological Sciences, and daughter Molly accepted the award on behalf of the family.

In the late 1990s, Folkerts, whose Ph.D. was from Auburn, led a successful communitywide campaign to force reconsideration of a plan to construct an art museum on the arboretum’s grounds.

The grass-roots campaign prompted planners to recommend an alternate site along South College Street. The university adopted that site, which was a more prominent location that won near-universal support.

History Professor Bill Trimble, president of Auburn’s AAUP chapter, called the campaign and its result a “win-win” situation for everyone. “The Jule Collins Smith Museum is the gateway to Auburn. And he saved the arboretum,” Trimble said.

Trimble cited Folkerts’ advocacy for the arboretum as part of the late professor’s commitment to both the community and his academic discipline.

Elsewhere, Folkerts’ colleagues described him as a renowned expert on the ecology of disappearing habitat types and declining species and said he was widely admired for his comprehensive knowledge of plants, invertebrates and vertebrates in the Southeast.

Museum to pair artworks with floral displays

In its third annual pairing of artwork and floral arrangements, AU’s Jule Collins Smith Museum will celebrate spring with its Art in Bloom Exhibition and Extravaganza April 3-5.

The exhibition will connect artwork from the museum’s collection with floral arrangements by designers from across Alabama.

The program includes presentations by Auburn alumni and internationally prominent designer Raymond Waites. Also, the exhibit “Remix Revolution,” on display through May 10, includes some of Waites’ creations as well as sculpture, paintings and other pieces of art he collected during his travels across the United States and abroad.

Waites, a 1963 graduate of AU, is president and CEO of Raymond Waites Design Inc. in New York. His design inspiration derives from a mix of American and global influences. Critics have acclaimed the Alabama native for his intuitive design sense and have identified him as an authority in design in America, Europe and Japan.

Art in Bloom will open at 5:30 p.m. on April 3 with a lecture by Waites and the opening of the exhibition “Remix Revolution.” A reception will follow the lecture. The cost of the evening is $25 per person.

On April 4, a silent auction from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and a live auction from 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. will offer opportunities to bid on items and win prizes at the catered event. There is a $100 per person fee for the activities.

At 10 a.m. on April 5, Waites will meet with museum patrons to discuss his inspirations from cities and countries around the world including Amsterdam, Russia and Finland. Lunch will follow the lecture. The cost is $60 per person.

Bronner, Ivey to speak at WPB event on April 7

David Bronner, chief executive officer of the Retirement Systems of Alabama, and State Treasurer Kay Ivey will be among speakers at the spring symposium of the Women’s Philanthropy Board on April 7.

The symposium, “Today’s Decisions for Tomorrow’s Money,” will be from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the AU Hotel. The host organization is a philanthropic endeavor within the College of Human Sciences.

Other speakers include John Manley, a senior executive of the Smith Barney investment group, and Lauren Bush and Ellen Gustafson, founders of the Feed Projects, Friends of the World Food Programme.

Registration for the symposium is $75 and includes the 12:30 p.m. lunch. For information, contact Sydney James Nakhjavan at 844-9199 or e-mail wpbchs1@auburn.edu.

Bronner, the symposium luncheon keynote speaker, has been chief executive officer of Retirement Systems of Alabama since 1973. RSA manages retirement funds for state workers and education employees, including Auburn’s faculty and staff.

Ivey, a 1967 graduate of Auburn, has had an extensive career in Alabama’s state government and is in her second term as state treasurer.