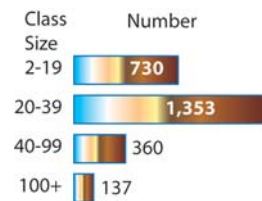


Inside

- 2 Journal names two professors as top authors
- 3 Browning wins top faculty award from Outreach
- 4 Former intern assists tsunami relief in Thailand
- 4 Groccia picked to lead higher education group

How Auburn Stacks Up

AU undergraduate lecture class sections by size of classes



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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

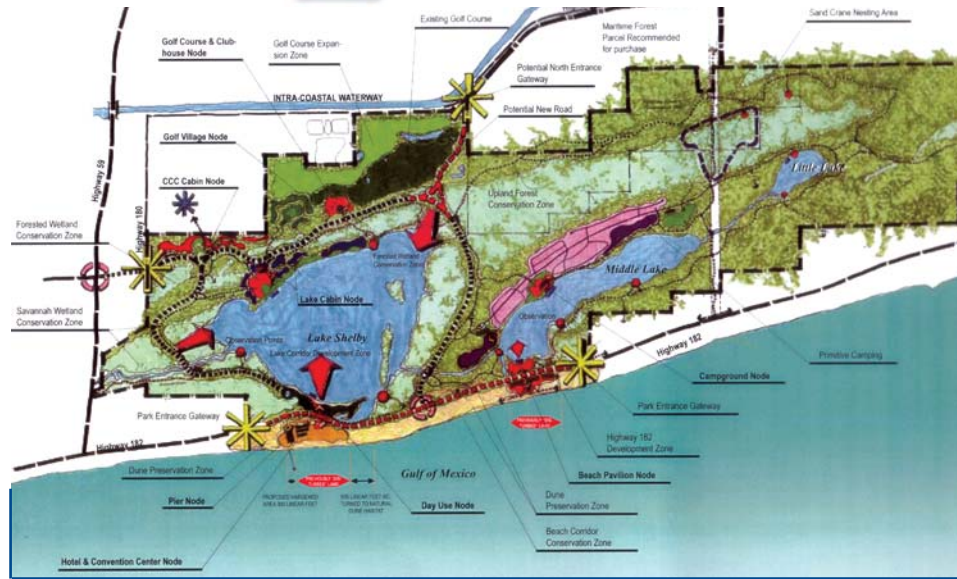
AU

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

report

Gulf Shores

In this site plan from TVS Alabama Inc., the most likely site for a new hotel and convention center at Alabama's Gulf State Park is on the beach side of Highway 182 south of Lake Shelby. The hotel and convention center will be privately financed and operated in cooperation with Auburn's academic program in hotel and restaurant management. The facility will also provide a Gulf Coast base for other AU programs.



Three finalists describe goals

Decision near on new AU provost

Auburn could have a new provost by the end of next week.

At public presentations by the three finalists last week, interim President Ed Richardson said he expects to complete the search and announce a decision next week but, he cautioned, the timetable is a goal and not a guarantee. The provost will begin serving immediately, subject to confirmation by the Board of Trustees at its April 22 meeting.

AU Board bylaws require board confirmation for appointment of the provost, who is second only to the president in matters of academic administration. All deans and the vice presidents for research, outreach and student affairs report to the provost, who is also the academic vice president. The position has been vacant since Thomas Hanley resigned in early February, effective March 1, after less than two years in office.

The new provost will not carry the "interim" designation but will serve a limited term of two to three years, covering the period of a national search for and installation of a president, followed by a national search for a long-term successor as provost.

The selection process for the current, short-term position was limited to tenured members of the Auburn faculty.

Speaking in Broun Hall on Tuesday, finalists Christine Curtis, John Heilman and William Sauser said they will not be candidates for the long-term appointment if they are appointed to the current position.

The three finalists outlined lengthy academic and administrative records and cited similar goals for the Office of the Provost and the university. All three said they will seek consensus in decision-making and will emphasize improving academics, diversity and shared governance.

Curtis, who is a chemical engineering professor, cited her previous experience as associate vice president for research, semester-conversion coordinator, presidential assistant and in other high-level roles for the provost and the president. In all her activities, Curtis said, her driving force has been commitment to academic excellence, attention to the safety and well-being of everyone on campus and creating opportunities for all.

See [Provost candidates](#), page 2

Journal recognizes finance professors among top authors

James Barth, Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance, and John Jahera, Colonial Bank Distinguished Professor in Finance, have been cited as among the most prolific writers in the field of finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the *Journal of Financial Literature* as among the most productive 2 percent of finance scholars in publishing refereed journal articles over the past 50 years.

The article, "Prolific Authors in the Finance Literature: A Half Century of Contributions," includes Barth and Jahera among 367 authors with at least 18 appearances in 72 different finance journals. Barth was ranked at 231 with 22 appearances and Jahera was ranked at 366 with 18 appearances.



Sign of spring

In the on-again, off-again spring of 2005, intermittent warm weather produced a fresh burst of Japanese magnolia blossoms across campus during the past two weeks.

Provost candidates

continued from page 1

"I get the job done," Curtis said, citing her leadership in a variety of major endeavors, including semester transition, massive infrastructure upgrades, the movement toward a pedestrian-friendly campus, an effective transportation system and changes to enhance the academic environment during the weeks of home football games.

Noting that the new provost will be faced with a backlog of major issues that must be resolved quickly, Curtis said, "I understand academic needs and I perform well under difficult circumstances." To address those issues, Curtis said she would draw upon her experience in analyzing problems, working with committees, seeking widespread input and making timely decisions.

Heilman, an AU faculty member since 1973, noted that he spent nearly two decades as a full-time faculty member in public administration before becoming an associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts in 1992. He later served four years as interim co-dean and then dean of the college. Since 2001, he has been senior assistant to the university president.

Heilman said he gained valuable insights for leadership in the Provost's Office through his service in academic and administrative venues. He said the provost will have to span the boundaries between academics and administration, building consensus for programs and goals that show the university controls its own destiny.

The provost will need to act quickly, bringing together leaders from all academic-related areas and addressing the backlog of issues facing that

office, Heilman said. Noting that the university faces many challenges in today's political environment, he cautioned, "A house that is not at one with itself cannot flourish in this environment."

Sausser cited the range of his experience, which spans four colleges and the Office of University Outreach, plus four years at Auburn University Montgomery during his 27 years in the AU System. He is a professor and associate dean for outreach for the colleges of Business and Engineering, and he served from 1988-94 as the university's associate vice president for extension.

He has also taught higher education administration in the College of Education and psychology in the College of Liberal Arts, and he was a Fellow of the American Council on Education with the Office of the President at the University of Nebraska in the early 1990s.

Describing himself as an organizational entrepreneur, Sausser said his blend of experience and professional knowledge in organizational psychology would enable him to quickly resolve the backlog of issues facing the next provost. He said he would then step aside, leaving the way clear for a "world-class" provost to enter the office with a clean slate.

"I will work to have our academic house in order," he said. Noting that deans and faculty leaders had asked for more input with the Office of the Provost during the past year, he added, "I will use the collective wisdom of deans and faculty leaders to enrich the student experience."

Upcoming Events

Monday, March 28

- Spring Break: No classes this week; offices maintain regular business hours.

Tuesday, March 29

- AU Libraries Book Club: Discussion of Alex Kershaw's "The Longest Winter," 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., second floor conference room, Draughon Library.
- Spring Break Baseball: Discounts for faculty and staff with ID. Admission \$2 per person for individuals and groups of four or less; free t-shirts; other discounts. AU vs. Samford, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 1

- Staff Council: Social meeting, 4 p.m.-6:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Spring Break Baseball: Discounts for faculty and staff with ID. (See Tuesday, above.) AU vs. Arkansas, 7 p.m. Also Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Monday, April 4

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, April 5

- Brown Bag Seminar: "Financial Management of Distance Education Programs," Richard Alekna, director of AU Distance Learning Office, noon, O.D. Smith Hall 328. Call 844-3476.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall.

Wednesday, April 6

- Public Lecture: Kim Gutschow, author of "Being a Buddhist Nun: The Struggle for Enlightenment in the Himalayas," 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Thursday, April 7

- Human Resources Seminar: "Healthy Eating," Robert Keith of AU Department of Nutrition and Food Science, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., HR Training Center, 146 N. Gay St. Call 844-7939.



AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder and Diane Clifton, AU Communications. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services.

Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle.

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. 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.

The interlocking AU symbol, shown above and at the top of page 1, is a registered trademark of Auburn University and may not be reproduced without written permission from the AU Office of Trademark Licensing.

Night spot

While only the most dedicated undergraduate students would rank the library as their favorite night spot in the first half of the semester, Draughon Library becomes one of the busier night spots in the Auburn area after spring break. Quiet now, the library usually experiences a surge of use as a study area by undergraduate students as finals approach.



Education professor wins 2005 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach

Philip Browning of the AU College of Education has been named the recipient of Auburn's second annual Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.



Browning

"Phil Browning is a world-class faculty member at Auburn," said David Wilson, associate provost and vice president for university outreach. "His research and outreach have touched the lives of thousands of individuals across the nation."

Wilson added, "He is the epitome of the type of scholar at Auburn that improves the lives of people."

A member of the AU faculty and head of the Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education since 1989, Browning is also the Wayne T. Smith Professor in the College of Education.

In 1991, he initiated a series of "transition conferences" with a startup grant from the Office of the Vice President for Extension, now AU Outreach. The conferences were designed to help those with disabilities make the transition from school to the working world.

Browning was also instrumental in establishing the Auburn Transition Leadership Institute in the College of Education. And since the first seed grant, the Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education has secured more than \$28 million in grants and contracts.

Bill East, executive director of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education Inc., said Browning's outreach programs have long been a model for the nation.

"His transition conferences have been recog-

nized as the best in the nation for many years," said East. "His outreach into the communities throughout Alabama has benefited many individuals with disabilities and their families, and has brought much recognition to Auburn University."

East added, "I have talked with students and families that have a better life because Phil Browning shared his expertise outside of Auburn University to the State Department of Education, local school districts and local communities — ultimately reaching the individuals who need help in transition from school to successful adult living."

Mabrey Whetstone, director of special education services in the Alabama State Department of Education, nominated Browning for the award. "While outreach programs and activities have served as the primary platform from which he has advocated, research and instructional activities have served to strengthen his base and guide his actions," said Whetstone.

Browning holds a doctorate in rehabilitation and special education from the University of Wisconsin. Before joining the Auburn faculty, he was a professor and director of rehabilitation programs at the University of Oregon.

"He is the epitome of the type of scholar at Auburn that improves the lives of people."
Vice President David Wilson

Out of reach of tsunami, former intern aids Thailand relief effort

"Where were you when the wave came?"

It is a question that Courtney Furlong, a recent Auburn graduate, has heard many times.

Furlong graduated in December following a vocational rehabilitation internship with the International Labor Organization in Thailand. She was still in Thailand on Dec. 26, when the tsunami struck southeast Asia.

Immediately after the disaster, American and European tourists who survived the tsunami began flying from the coast to Bangkok. Thammasat University in that city provided shelter for the evacuees, and Furlong joined the relief effort there as a translator between the English-speaking tourists and the Thai natives.

"I only speak a little Thai, so I helped by calling names on the intercom of people who needed to catch their rides to go to the

"There wasn't a single family there that was not affected by the death of a loved one."

Courtney Furlong

airport and giving out information to the tourists," she said.

"Everything was so unorganized because Thailand doesn't really have an emergency system set up," Furlong explained. "They never really have natural disasters – no flooding, no fire problems, no earthquakes, no hurricanes."

She added, "When the tsunami hit, they didn't know what to do. It was pretty much chaos."

In early January, she traveled to the coast, the hardest hit area in Thailand, with a group from the Campus Crusade ministry to a "displaced persons camp," which was filled with residents from nearby Nam Kem village.

At the camp, the group set up tents, handed out sleeping bags, built temporary housing, constructed bathrooms, cooked food, sorted donations, surveyed residents about the possessions they had lost, entertained children and ministered to victims and relief workers.

Furlong said it was hard to watch as volunteers surveyed the village's surviving residents to catalog what they were missing. "I am thankful that I don't speak fluent Thai so I didn't have to do that. It was just too difficult because the people had lost everything," she said. "I remember two kids – one was 9 and one was 15 – just walking around. They didn't have parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nothing. They'd lost everyone and everything."

Furlong said there were approximately 4,000 refugees from Nam Kem at the camp, which she described as "the town of the living dead."



She explained, "These people were just sitting in their tents with everything they owned." She will soon begin coordinating trips through Campus Crusade to travel with Thai students to the country's southern region and help in the clean-up efforts while reaching out to distraught villagers.

"There wasn't a single family there that was not affected by the death of a loved one," she said.

"They all feel really guilty. They said 'If I had done this, I would still have my child' or 'If I had done that, my husband would still be with me.' They all feel like it is their fault that they lost family members."

Acting on a desire to do mission work following graduation, Furlong asked a professor last spring to help her find an internship that could lead to mission-related work. During the internship last fall, she worked with the Thai government to develop vocational assessments to help officials make proper placements for clients with disabilities. During the internship, she absorbed local culture and befriended many Thai students.

Furlong, a rehabilitation services education graduate, now works with Campus Crusade as a missionary and an English tutor at the Grapevine Campus Ministry in Bangkok.

Because she was unable to return home for graduation, Furlong said her parents came from her hometown of Lilburn, Ga., near Atlanta, to visit her during the Christmas holidays. The former intern said she and her family had planned to go to a beach resort on the coast during the last week of December, but the tsunami hit the coast first. "I was excited about going because I hadn't gotten to see the beaches of Thailand yet and they are supposed to be the most beautiful beaches in the world," she said.

When the tsunami slammed into the southern coast, Furlong was at a mall in Bangkok. The region where she was did not feel the earthquake that produced the tsunami or experience flooding from it. She was not aware that anything had happened until she began to receive phone calls from concerned friends.

"They knew we were supposed to visit the coast, so everyone was calling to make sure we weren't there," she said. "And people in America knew more about it than we did."

Higher ed network picks AU professor as leader

James Groccia, director of AU's Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, has been elected 2006-07 president of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education.

Groccia, who is also an associate professor in AU's College of Education, was installed as president-elect on March 20 and will assume the presidency in March 2006. After a year in that post, Groccia will remain with the network's leadership team as past-president in 2007-08.

The organization is a network of academic professionals dedicated to improving teaching and learning in post-secondary education. Founded in 1975, the international network is the world's largest professional organization of its kind, with more than 1,400 members at 400 institutions.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each unit mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.