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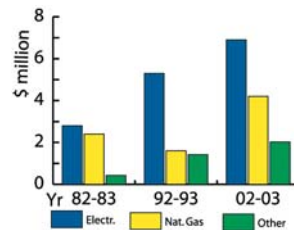
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Source: Planning & Analysis

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AU For the faculty and staff of Auburn University report

Vol. 37 No. 12

Princeton Review lists Auburn among 'America's Best Values'

Auburn University is ranked among the nation's 77 "best value" undergraduate colleges and universities in the 2004 edition of "America's Best Value Colleges," which was released last week.

The publication by the Princeton Review, a New York-based education services company, selected Auburn as one of 77 schools it recommends to parents and students.

The book is a guide to colleges with outstanding academics, low-to-moderate tuition and fees and generous financial aid packages. It includes public and private colleges and universities in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

Auburn was also deemed "one of the best" universities in the Southeast.

"Our choice of the 77 colleges is based on data concerning academics, college costs and financial aid," the publication states. "The data includes both statistics we collect from college administrators and the opinions collected through our student survey of more than 100,000 current college students at the best colleges in America.

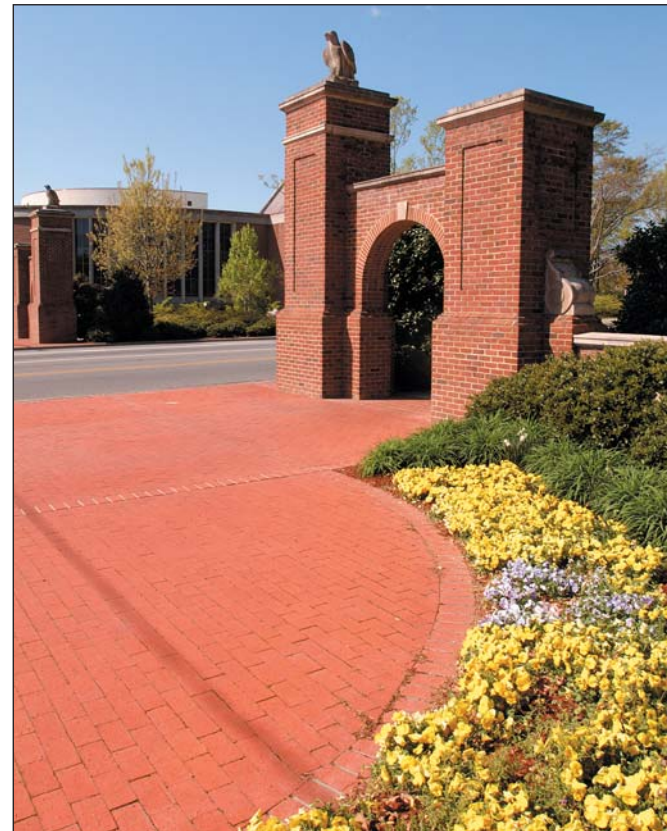
"We take all this data and stir it up in an algorithm based on the idea that bang for your buck means excellent academics, great financial aid and low tuition. It means value. The 77 Best Value Colleges had the best scores according to that algorithm."

The Princeton Review selected the schools on the basis of its analysis of quantitative and qualitative data that the company obtained from administrators at more than 500 colleges and surveys of students attending them.

"We identified over 30 factors by which we rated the colleges in three categories: academics, tuition and tuition GPA: the sticker price minus average amount students receive in gift aid scholarships and grants," said Robert Franek, assistant vice president for admission services at the Princeton Review. "The 77 schools we chose for this book may not be the least costly colleges in America, but they are all great

education deals. We highly recommend them to students and parents seeking the best academic bang for their buck."

The Princeton Review has conducted the survey since 1992, when it first published its annual "Best Colleges."



Spring breaks out

While AU students and faculty were on spring break last week, the university's front gates on Thach Avenue continued to greet campus visitors with this colorful display.

Links to other musical forms

Professor leads revival of spirituals

With passions for music, teaching, and historical tradition and preservation, Rosephanye Dunn Powell, an associate professor of voice in the Department of Music in AU's College of Liberal Arts, is blending those interests into a multimedia package unlike most others found in the classroom.

Powell, who calls the project "Spiritual Renaissance," says her objective is to foster an appreciation for the traditional African-American spiritual among the general public, especially among young African-Americans.

"I use the term renaissance as it relates to rebirth," Powell said, adding that the traditional spiritual is becoming another casualty among lost cultural arts and artifacts. "I want to get this music back into the schools and churches to keep it alive."

Powell's interest in the traditional spiritual was nurtured as a child, where the message of struggle and progress comprising this music was still commonly sung in the churches and practiced among the elders.

Powell said the spiritual, though shaped by slavery, is rooted in the African tradition of using song to communicate about significant social events.

African music, of which the spiritual is an outgrowth, functions in and accompanies every aspect of African society, Powell said. Musical traditions are handed down from one generation to the next, and people simply know from tradition what to sing or play for daily activities and special events.

Spirituals and their secular counterpart, work songs, became the mechanism for expression during periods of struggle and difficulty, Powell added. In the United States, spirituals continued to prevail in importance through the civil rights movement but began to lose their societal impact by the early 1970s. This, Powell said, has prevented most of an entire generation from experiencing the spiritual.

"Many of today's African-American adults and young people simply have had no exposure to this



Rosephanye Dunn Powell of Music Department

music and the traditional history that it contains," Powell said. "They don't know about the journey that has brought them to the present and that it is a duty for this history to be passed on to future generations."

Part of the lesson for many people, she says, is that the spiritual is the source from which modern jazz, blues, gospel, soul and other forms of contemporary music evolved.

To reach a youth culture, the message must be presented as a contemporary one, Powell says. To achieve that objective, she aligns traditional melodies with contemporary instrumentation and background. To listeners, her classically trained but soulful soprano voice weaves the lyrics into a musical tapestry that is unmistakably influenced by traditional African modes and rhythms, jazz, rhythm and blues and gospel.

Libraries Book Club to discuss 'Reading Lolita in Tehran'

The AU Libraries Book Club will meet on April 19, during National Library Week, to discuss a book about a different type of book club, "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books" by Azar Nafisi.

The sessions will be at 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the second-floor conference room of Draughon Library.

"Reading Lolita in Tehran" is on the New York Times Bestsellers List. Nafisi writes about the evolu-

tion of a book club that she held in her own home with seven young Iranian women. The group met clandestinely each week to discuss works of literature that are forbidden in Iran.

Book club sessions are open to anyone interested in discussing current literature. For information, contact Stephanie Morgan at stephanie@auburn.edu or 844-2704.

Ransel to become section chair of national library association

AU Libraries staff member Kerry Ransel will become chair of the Human Resources Section of the Library Administration and Management Association in June. She is currently serving as vice chair and chair-elect.

A division of the American Library Association,

the Library Administration and Management Association provides a national forum for improved practices in administration and leadership of libraries across the U.S. The Human Resources Section is concerned with personnel information, issues and administration.

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

Monday, April 5

- Conference: American Society for Engineering Education, Southeastern Section, Dixon Conference Center, through Tuesday.

Tuesday, April 6

- Meeting: Administrative and Professional Assembly, 2 p.m., Foy 217.
- Meeting: University Senate and President's State of the University Address, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- Public Lecture: "The Significance of Relationships for Children," Jacquelyn Mize, Human Sciences, AU's 2004 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer, 4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- AU Theatre: "Anton in Show Business," 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Same time and location, Wednesday-Saturday. Box Office: 844-4154.

Thursday, April 8

- Art Exhibit Opens: Art exhibit and discussion by AU Architecture Professor Emeritus Richard Millman, 4 p.m., Pebble Hill. Exhibit on display 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m., M-F, through April 30.

Monday, April 12

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

Monday, April 19

- Libraries Book Club: Discussions of "Reading Lolita in Tehran: A Memoir in Books" by Azar Nafisi, 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., second-floor conference room, Draughon Library.

Thursday, April 22

- Grisham-Trentham Lecture: "Growth Without Kay-os," New York fashion designer Kay Unger, 11 a.m., Dixon Conference Center.

AUreport

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Veterinary Medicine honors four faculty for teaching and research

Four veterinary faculty were honored this semester for outstanding teaching and research by AU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dean Timothy Boosinger presented awards to Dan Givens, Henry Baker, Elaine Coleman and the family of the late Allen Heath.

Givens, an assistant professor in the departments of Pathobiology and Clinical Sciences, received the highest teaching honor, the Norden Distinguished Teacher Award.

"In just a few short years, Dr. Givens has developed a highly productive research program while refining his considerable skills as a teacher in the classroom, laboratory and hospital," said Boosinger.

Heath, a professor of food animal medicine who died last year in a traffic accident, was honored posthumously as the Student Government Association Outstanding Teacher.

"I am very proud of our students who made this selection," Boosinger said. "Dr. Heath was loved and

respected by his colleagues and students. His tragic death was a tremendous loss for us all, but his legacy will live on through his students and children."

Heath, a professor of food animal medicine, had been a member of the College of Veterinary Medicine faculty for nine years when he died. He had also obtained his master's degree from Auburn.

Baker, winner of the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence, is director of the college's Scott-Ritchey Research Center.

"Under Dr. Baker's leadership, the center enjoys the reputation of being one of the nation's top research facilities dedicated to improving the health and welfare of companion animals," Boosinger said.

Coleman, an associate professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, won the Dean's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

"She has the ability to effortlessly bridge basic and clinical sciences as she teaches students anatomy and neuroscience," said Boosinger.

College honors local minister for humanitarian service

The AU College of Agriculture has presented its first Humanitarian Award to Clifford Jones, pastor of the Greater Peace Missionary Baptist Church in Opelika.



Jones

The Opelika minister received the Humanitarian Award from Associate Dean Bill Hardy during the 2004 African-American Legacy Program sponsored by the college's Cultural Diversity Committee.

The award recognizes Jones, a retired U.S. Department of Agriculture official, for his involvement in and contributions to the community as a minister and, earlier, as a conservation leader.

Jones served part-time as a Baptist minister at churches in Auburn, Salem and Opelika during a 28-year career with the USDA. He has worked full-time in the ministry since retiring from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service in 1997.



At museum

This work by Edgar Degas is part of a collection of works by leading 19th- and 20th-century artists on display at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art through May 21. Art from the collection of Noel and Kathryn Dickinson Wadsworth includes works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Mary Cassatt, Andrew Wyeth and other major artists. The Wadsworths, who are among the nation's leading art collectors, are AU alumni and major supporters of the museum.

Now Playing

At right, AU Theatre students stage a scene in "Anton in Show Business," a dark comedy about life in the theatre. The play is at Telfair Peet Theatre through Saturday. Student actresses shown are, left to right, Hannah Chancery, Caroline Perreault and Kirsten King. See the Upcoming Events section on pages 2-3 for show times and box office information.



Course shows women how to reduce risk of sexual assault, deter attackers

Not all the courses Kayla Ledbetter takes at Auburn are for good situations, such as a high-paying job in a satisfying career. A course this spring is helping the freshman from Birmingham avoid and prepare for bad situations.

At the suggestion of a friend, Ledbetter squeezed a one-credit-hour course in Rape Aggression Defense, also known as RAD, into the schedule for her major, human development and family studies.

An evening course is also available to faculty, staff and others.

Ledbetter recalled a recent early morning encounter at a Birmingham gas station. She was alone. Two men verbally harassed her. Ledbetter asked for help from the attendant, who walked her back to her car so she could leave safely.

"I realized that if I were to get in a bad situation like that again, I wouldn't know the right things to do in order to protect myself," Ledbetter said. "So, I signed up."

Safe Harbor materials state that one in four women will be sexually assaulted some time in her life. To combat this problem, Safe Harbor and the Department of Public Safety, with a grant from Student Affairs, continue to sponsor the RAD prevention program.

Federal funds are shrinking for this program, but with the help of Student Affairs, Safe Harbor has sufficient support to train 10 new instructors and purchase new equipment.

"They (Student Affairs) are really involved and support our program," said program adviser Andrea Bartels.

RAD provides women with an increased awareness of their risks, confidence in their own abilities and it teaches physical techniques to fight off an attacker. RAD does not teach the use of guns, sprays and other weapons.

The instructors show women how to use their hands, feet, voice and brain. "Ninety percent of self-defense is risk awareness and risk reduction," Bartels said. "Rapists look for an easy target. If you look confident and aware of your surroundings, they will be less likely to attack."

AU has offered RAD classes since 1999 and the classes have carried one-hour credit through the Department of Health and Human Performance since fall 2002. The class is 25 percent lecture, 50 percent physical techniques and 25 percent simulation.

"The students get the opportunity to simulate an attack and practice the techniques they learned," Bartels said. "Both the instructor and the student wear protective gear."

"We have to yell 'NO' when we practice a move," Ledbetter said. "There are a lot of tiny, shy girls in my class, and the yelling really loosens them up."

She added, "It is really weird actually punching and kicking the instructors, but I have built my confidence and would know what to do if I were walking home at night from the library."

Bartels said RAD's positive impact among students has allowed the program to branch out into the community. Evening RAD classes are offered for faculty, staff and the community one to two times a year. Contact Bartels at 844-6334 for details.

The 12-hour RAD course for students will be offered in two sections this summer and four sections this fall. Each class accommodates 40 women.

"We have received nothing but positive feedback," Bartels said. "The class is a very empowering experience, and despite the seriousness of the subject, we make the class fun."

"I have never had brothers, so I didn't know how to fight," Ledbetter said. "Punching someone sounds easy, but if you don't do it the right way, it isn't effective."

Pebble Hill to exhibit works of art by emeritus AU professor

Artist Richard Millman, professor emeritus of architecture at AU, will exhibit a selection of his paintings at Pebble Hill this month.

The show opens with a public reception and artist's discussion at 4 p.m. on Thursday.

Admission is also free to the exhibition, which runs through April 30.

Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pebble Hill, a historic house at DeBardeleben Street and East Magnolia Avenue, is home to the AU Center for the Arts and Humanities.

State academy honors AU professor for research paper

Norman J. Doorenbos, professor of Pharmacal Sciences in AU's Harrison School of Pharmacy, recently received the Emmett B. Carmichael Award of the Alabama Academy of Science.

The award recognized Doorenbos for presenting the research paper that the academy selected as the best published during 2003 in the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science.

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