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How Auburn Stacks Up

Electronic materials in libraries of ARL members from SEC*

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<th>University</th>
<th>ARL</th>
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<th>Ui of Fla</th>
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* Total e-materials in millions; Association of Research Libraries comprised of 113 largest libraries in U.S. & Canada; list excludes private institutions, substitutes AU neighbor Florida State for public SEC members not in the ARL; results not available for Georgia Tech; comparison from 2005-06, latest available comparative data

Source: Association of Research Libraries & Chronicle of Higher Education

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

April in Auburn

The Auburn campus has entered its most colorful season, with dogwoods reaching their peak color and azaleas and many other flowers approaching that point. Samford Park, shown here, was at its seasonal best, along with many other vistas across campus last week.

Federal and state

Grants boost AU biofuels research

An engineering center at Auburn is receiving grants of up to $1 million each from the state and federal governments for research into developing and refining alternative sources of energy from byproducts of rural Alabama industries.

Although separate from each other, the grants are part of efforts at both the state and federal levels to reduce America’s dependence on foreign oil and improve the competitiveness of American industries, said Harry Cullinan, director of the Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, which has received the grants.

The state support is the second half of a $1 million grant to help agricultural and timber producers convert biomass from their operations into liquid fuels for commercial use.

“The vision is to provide the basis upon which a new and prosperous natural resource-based economy can be built in Alabama,” said Cullinan.

“This will reinvigorate Alabama’s established industries while creating new ones, satisfying state and national needs and moving Alabama toward sustainable development,” he added.

The AU-based center is leveraging the state funds with other support from industry and the federal government to support research involving commercial demonstration projects in the state. These include small-scale biomass gasification to provide heat and power for farms and mills, pilot plants to convert biomass to ethanol or other liquid fuels and other projects to help agricultural and forest-related industries convert byproducts of production into alternative fuels.

The first project under the state grant involves conversion of process waste sludge to ethanol at a pulp mill in Alabama.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Energy has designated the Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering for a grant of up to $1 million to

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Alumni Association seeking nominees for its top awards in 2008 and 2009

The Auburn Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its 2008 Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence and Minority Achievement Awards and its 2009 Lifetime Achievement Awards. The Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards, which carry a $1,000 honorarium, are based on outstanding undergraduate teaching. Department heads, deans, alumni and students may submit nominations, and retired faculty will choose the recipients. Nominations will be accepted until April 30. For details and forms, go to www.aualum.org/awards/undergrad-teaching.html.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards recognize Auburn alumni for exceptional achievements in their professional lives as well as for personal integrity and service to the university. Nominations will be accepted through May 30. For details and nomination forms, go to www.aualum.org/awards/lifetime.html, or call 844-1113.

Supporting the alliance between AU and its graduates, the Auburn Alumni Association, a nonprofit organization of more than 100,000 members, is open to faculty and staff as well as alumni and other friends of the university. For information online, see www.aualum.org.

First ‘Final Lecture’

History Professor Joseph Kicklighter, a 2006 recipient of AU’s Leischuck Award for excellence in teaching, inaugurated a new lecture series last week. Kicklighter, who presented the ‘Final Lecture’ to the soon-to-come Graduate College in 2006, was chosen recently in a student vote as Auburn’s best teacher.

Barth edits new book on entrepreneurship


Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 8

FACULTY SEMINAR “The Continuum of Teaching: Good, Better, Best,” Bill Ruskell of Psychology, noon, Foy 203; bring your lunch; contact Karen Brandt, 844-8547.

MULTICULTURAL FILM “The Joy Luck Club,” 3 p.m., Foy 246

JAY SANDERS FILM FESTIVAL Winning entries in the Movie Gallery Student Film Competition, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., auditorium, AU Hotel

FACULTY CHARLERS RECITAL Ray Vasquez and Friends, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Recital Hall

Wednesday, April 9

BLOOD DRIVE Red Cross mobile unit, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Comer Hall parking lot

AU THEATER “Little Shop of Horrors,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peer Theatre; also 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and April 15-19 and 7:30 p.m. April 13; box office 844-4134

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

RECITALS & CONCERTS Roselypha Dunn Powell, soprano, 3 p.m., Goodwin Hall; AU Community Orchestra, 4 p.m., Kiesel Park; Michael Shin, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall

Monday, April 14

NEXT AU Report

Wednesday, April 16

PUBLIC LECTURE “A World Free of Child Hunger,” E.T. York Lecturer David Lambert, formerly of the United Nations World Food Program in Rome, 7 p.m., AU Hotel

Friday, April 18

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

Exhibitions

DRAUGHON LIBRARY “Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made America,” in the library, through April 25

JULIE COLLINS SMITH MUSEUM “Behind the Mask: African Art,” through May 10

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The Ginn College of Engineering center is the academic partner in a $30 million project involving NewPage Corp. The company will invest $21 million in the project, which will involve construction of a complete facility at a paper mill in Wisconsin.

The other partners includeTRL Symonds and the DOE’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee. AU will receive 5% of the development of the site plant to gasify wood wastes, yielding diesel fuel. The applied technology will be especially beneficial to Alabama, where 14 pulp and paper mills across the state are a vital part of the state’s economy, especially in rural areas, noted Cullinan.

He said a successful project will reduce or eliminate an environmental problem while providing an additional revenue source for a manufacturing sector that faces increasing competition from abroad.

“Our project is one of the first bioeconomy projects in the U.S. based at an existing pulp mill, and it will look at the way many more such projects in the future,” Cullinan added.

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Academy confers Fellow status on Auburn professor

Alumni Professor Ram Gupta of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has been chosen as a Fellow of the Alabama Academy of Science, the academy’s second highest honor.

Annually, the academy recognizes several individuals for their contributions to the field of science in Alabama and for their service to the academy. Gupta, a faculty member of the Department of Chemical Engineering, was one of five individuals chosen for the award from among nominees across all science, math, engineering and medical professionals within the state.

He accepted the award at a joint ceremony of the Alabama Academy of Science and the Alabama Junior Academy of Science on March 20 at Samford University in Birmingham.

The four other recipients for 2008 include Harry O. Holstein of Jacksonville State University, Adriane G. Ludwick of Tuskegee University, Ken Marion of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and Michael B. Moeller of the University of North Alabama.

“The academy is a wonderful source for the development of the sciences and future study of the field within the state,” said Gupta. “There are many worthy and admirable nominees as well as selected fellows this year, and I am honored to be among them.”

Gupta has published numerous research papers and holds several patents on nanomedicine and supercritical fluid technology. He is the recipient of the James A. Shannon Director’s Award from the National Institutes of Health, the Young Faculty Career Enhancement Award from Alabama NSF-EPSCoR, the Junior and Senior Research Awards from Auburn Alumni Engineering Council and the Science and Engineering Award from DuPont.

Gupta received his doctorate in chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin and completed two years of post-doctoral work at the University of California at Berkeley. His most recent books include “Nanoparticle Technology for Drug Delivery” and “Solubility in Supercritical Carbon Dioxide.”