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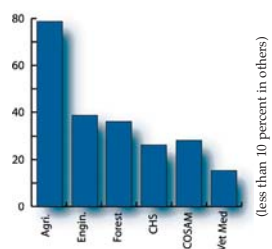
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Percentage of space
classified for research
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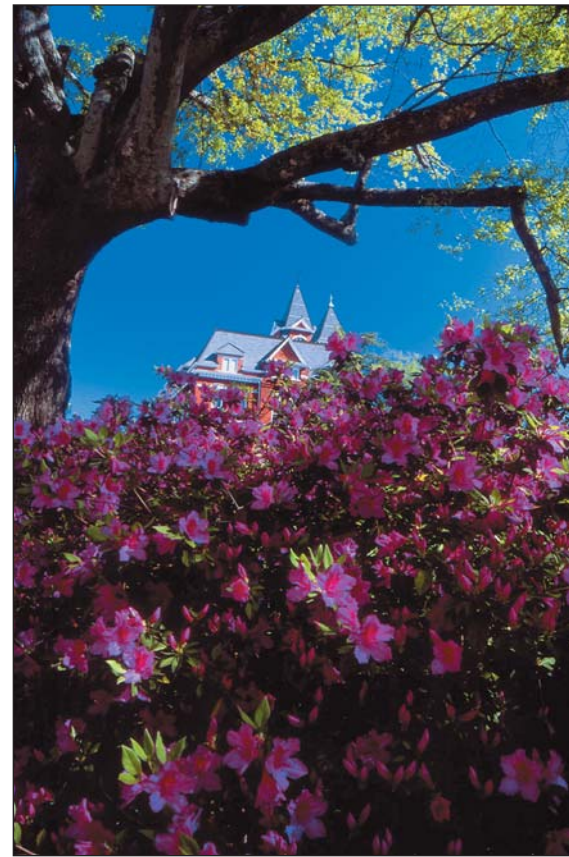
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AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 13



April in Auburn

With azaleas in bloom across campus, visitors are encountering scenes such as this view of Samford Hall from the east side of Martin Hall.

To meet SACS criteria

President to seek changes in board policies

Interim President Ed Richardson said last week he will propose new policies to the Board of Trustees on May 7 to meet accreditation guidelines of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

In his first State of the University address to the University Senate, Richardson said he will recommend a clearer policy over potential conflicts of interest by AU Board members and will ask the board to create an audit committee to review finan-

Four AU graduate programs ranked in top 50 in U.S.

Four Auburn graduate programs are among the 50 best in the United States in their areas of study, according to new rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

The industrial & systems engineering graduate program in AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering was ranked 22nd, while the civil engineering program was rated No. 50 by U.S. News.

The audiology and speech pathology graduate programs within the department of Communication Disorders in AU's College of Liberal Arts were ranked 44 and 50, respectively.

In addition, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering's overall graduate program was ranked No. 78 among all schools of engineering and had six of its nine graduate programs included in the publication's rankings.

U.S. News & World Report compiled the rankings as part of its "America's Best Graduate Schools 2005." The publication ranks graduate programs in business, education, engineering, law, medicine, public affairs and various health disciplines.

AU Engineering Dean Larry Benefield said the
(See *Graduate rankings*, page 4)

cial dealings among trustees. Those changes are necessary, he said, to meet the accrediting agency's concerns about potential conflicts of interest and voting independence of board members.

If SACS approves an extension, the university will report the board's May 7 actions in a response outlining steps AU is taking to address the accrediting agency's concerns over governance and athletics
(See *State of the University*, page 2)

Final vacant positions filled

New trustees to take seats on May 7

Two new members of the AU Board of Trustees, confirmed by the Alabama Senate last week, will take their seats on May 7, bringing the board to full membership for the first time since December.

The Alabama Senate on Tuesday confirmed the appointments of Alabama Power Co. President Charles McCrary of Birmingham and East Alabama Medical Center administrator Virginia Thompson of Opelika to the AU Board. The appointments were effective immediately. Thompson and McCrary will attend an orientation session on May 6 before attending their first board meeting the next day.

The two were selected in March by a committee comprised of Gov. Bob Riley and two representatives each from the Board of Trustees and the AU Alumni Association.

Thompson, director of marketing and community relations for EAMC, fills the seat held by Jimmy Samford, who died Dec. 29. McCrary was selected to fill an at-large seat that had formerly been held by the state superintendent of education as an ex-officio member. Interim AU President Ed Richardson vacated that seat in January, when he resigned as superintendent of education to lead the university.

McCrary and Thompson are the fourth and fifth members to join the board this year. Charles E. Ball of Gadsden, Dwight Carlisle of Talladega and Sarah B. Newton of Fayette were appointed and confirmed to fill three vacancies in February. With the new appointments, the board has a full complement of 14 voting members.

State of the University

(continued from page 1)

issues. The agency in December gave Auburn a year to address those concerns and requested a response by April 22. Richardson has asked SACS to extend the response date to May 14 to enable AU to present the actions as accomplished rather than proposed.

The remaining major concerns listed by SACS in December relate to athletics, an area in which Richardson said he is spending 30 percent of his time. He added that over the next few weeks he expects to alleviate the accrediting agency's concerns about trustee involvement in athletics and demonstrate that the president is in control of that area of governance, as well.

Richardson said board members have been very supportive of his efforts to meet SACS criteria. "I have been greatly encouraged by the trustees' acceptance of the role of the president," he said. "With the right atmosphere, I see very positive movement."

The May 7 board meeting is also important, Richardson said, because it will mark the start of a discussion of issues that must be resolved to ensure the long-term financial health of the university. Setting the stage for that discussion, the University Senate endorsed proposed revisions to the AU vision and mission statements; the revisions could go to the board at the May session.

The proposed changes in the vision and mission statements would place "comprehensive" with "land-grant" in defining the university and would place graduate and professional programs on an equal level with undergraduate programs in describing both vision and mission.

Richardson said he will ask the board to continue the discussion of Auburn's operations on June 11 and at three future meetings this year.

The university must set priorities for its commitments and develop strategies to meet the financial

challenges of the next three to five years, he added.

Some priorities set five years ago by a special commission of which Richardson was co-chair and adopted by the Board of Trustees will probably remain in place, Richardson said. Those include commitments to make faculty salaries more competitive with the regional average for peer institutions and to adequately fund campus maintenance.

Richardson said he also hopes to increase funding for departmental operations but is not as optimistic that goal can be met in 2005.

One reason for establishing priorities over the next two months, he said, is to enable the university to define its priorities to legislators in the summer and fall instead making its first presentation in January, as in the past.

He noted that the financial situation for 2005 is better than first projected. Rather than facing a 5 percent cut in appropriations, education may receive level funding or a small increase next year.

Contributions from alumni and other Auburn supporters are also doing well, Richardson said. "The campaign to substantially increase our endowment is ahead of schedule, and I believe we will reach the established goal," he said. "This is a critical effort to establishing a secure financial future."

Richardson, who has said he expects to serve approximately two years as interim president, urged the faculty leaders to work with him to lay the foundation for the success of the next president.

"If I am to be successful in establishing a pattern of behavior that will be conducive to the attraction and selection of a permanent president, more people will have to put Auburn first," Richardson said.

"This will not be easy or overnight. Putting Auburn first will be mutually beneficial and enable all of us to succeed in our professional endeavors," he added.

Upcoming Events

Art Exhibits

- Works from the Noel and Kathryn Dickinson Wadsworth Collection: Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, others; Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday, through May 21.
- Paintings by AU Architecture Professor Emeritus Richard Millman, Pebble Hill. Hours 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, through April 30.
- Department of Art juried student-art competition, Biggin Hall Gallery. Hours: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. through Thursday.

Tuesday, April 13

- Poetry Reading: Chris Forhan, author of "The Actual Moon, the Actual Stars," 4 p.m., Pebble Hill.

Wednesday, April 14

- AU Theatre: "The Laramie Project," 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Also, same time, Thursday-Saturday and April 20-24 and 2:30 p.m. on April 18. Box Office: 844-4154.

Thursday, April 15

- English Symposium-Benson Lecture: "On Being in Time with Feminism," Robyn Wiegman, director of women's studies, Duke University, 3 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Monday, April 19

- Next AU Report
- 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.

Tuesday, April 20

- Public Lecture: Gordon Sherman, Keystone Leader-in-Residence, College of Education, 11 a.m., Haley 3410-D.

Thursday, April 22

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

Friday, April 23

- Tiger Day Picnic: Annual picnic celebrating diversity, open to all faculty, staff, students and visitors, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Foy lawn.

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

Spring scene

For the past two weeks, the Auburn campus has been abloom with color, such as this scene at Tichenor Hall. Unlike years past, the 2004 spring break marked a clear dividing line between winter and spring. AU students and faculty returned last week from spring break to find a much more colorful campus than the one they left at the end of March. The color is a reminder that the semester is in its final phase, with classes ending on May 3.



History faculty, others assemble online Encyclopedia of Alabama

In a few years, people all over the world will have a single source for everything they may ever want to know about Alabama. That source will be the online Encyclopedia of Alabama.

Still in an early stage of development, the Encyclopedia of Alabama is a major undertaking for scholars in virtually all subjects that describe Alabama, its history, politics, culture, literature, natural environment and unique characteristics, says Jeff Jakeman, the encyclopedia's managing editor.

The online encyclopedia is scheduled for launch in 2007 or 2008, depending on financing and logistics, Jakeman said.

A partnership of the Department of History in Auburn's College of Liberal Arts and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, the project will eventually involve dozens of scholars from public and private agencies, foundations and universities.

The editorial staff from the History Department includes Jakeman, Editor-in-Chief Wayne Flynt and Associate Editor Steve Murray. They are coordinating technology and content plans with faculty and staff in several other offices across campus, including Information Technology, AU Libraries and the Truman Pierce Institute in the College of Education.

Eight other government and private agencies and foundations are participating in the project.

Bob Stewart, executive director of the Alabama Humanities Foundation, is coordinating efforts to raise funds during the developmental stage and for long-term maintenance.

"The Alabama Humanities Foundation is very

excited to be working in partnership with Auburn University to develop an online encyclopedia for the citizens and students of Alabama — not to mention people from across the United States and around the world who are interested in our history and culture," said Stewart.

Historians at Auburn and other universities are contributing material, but the encyclopedia is not limited to historical topics, Jakeman said. "We are looking at literature, popular culture, sports, entertainment and other areas that help define Alabama," he said. "This will be an authoritative reference work that will be very helpful to scholars, government, businesses and anyone who has an interest in the history and culture of Alabama."

The encyclopedia will be a source of information for everyone, not just school teachers, students and university professors, he added. Journalists, business leaders, tourism promoters and even vacation planners will have the information at their fingertips, Jakeman said.

"This will be a very powerful tool for teachers," he added. "It will serve the academic needs of K-12 and the universities. Beyond that, it will offer the people of this state the opportunity to understand and more fully appreciate the rich culture that we share as Alabamians."

Stewart of the Alabama Humanities Foundation added, "The Encyclopedia of Alabama represents an unprecedented collaborative opportunity for scholars, citizens, and educational institutions from across the state to make this resource a reality. The humanities belong to all Alabamians, and the encyclopedia will tell all our stories for generations to come."



Last vestiges
Demolition crews last week finished leveling Noble Hall, the final residence hall on the north end of campus. A transportation technology center for the College of Engineering will eventually occupy the site. Behind the last vestiges of Noble Hall is the College of Business.

Operated by Pharmacy School

Pharmacy offering on-campus delivery

The AU Pharmacy, operated by the Harrison School of Pharmacy, has expanded its services to include free delivery of prescriptions on campus to faculty and staff.

The service is available to any AU employee on campus who has filed the prescription with the pharmacy, which is at the AU Medical Clinic. The prescription may come from any medical doctor off-campus as well as those at the Medical Clinic. Afterward, a patient may call the pharmacy for a refill and get a prescription delivered to any campus office.

"Faculty and staff at the university seem to think we only provide pharmaceutical services to students," said Nancy Kickliter, director of the AU Pharmacy. "We hope to get the word out that we welcome AU employees as patients."

The delivery service will benefit faculty and staff who find it difficult to leave campus and return during the class day, she said. "Imagine never having to fight traffic, lose your parking spot or go out in inclement weather to fill a prescription. We can all use something to make our lives a little easier."

In addition to convenience, Kickliter said, the advantages of the on-campus pharmacy are its affiliation with the Harrison School of Pharmacy, patient counseling by experienced professionals and state-of-the-art dispensing equipment.

Besides a Monday-Friday schedule, the pharmacy is open from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, and a licensed pharmacist is on call seven days a week around the clock.

For additional information, call 844-4641 or visit the Web site at www.auburn.edu/aupharmacy.

Graduate rankings

(continued from page 1)

college's overall ranking in engineering graduate programs was a reflection of a growing emphasis on graduate education within the college.

In the overall engineering graduate rankings, Auburn placed third among SEC-member schools behind the University of Florida (26) and Vanderbilt University (53). Only Florida's industrial engineering graduate program (14) and only Florida's (28) and Vanderbilt's (41) civil engineering graduate programs were ranked above Auburn's.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology was ranked as having the nation's top overall graduate engineering program. Georgia Tech's industrial engineering graduate program was ranked the nation's best and the University of California-Berkeley's civil engineering program was ranked No. 1.

Greg Kowalski, associate dean for academic

affairs in AU's College of Liberal Arts, said the Communication Disorders faculty's commitment to excellence was the key to the high rankings for their programs.

Other ranked AU graduate programs include chemical engineering (56), computer engineering (57), electrical engineering (62) and mechanical engineering (66) in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and clinical psychology (68); and public administration and public policy (76) in the College of Liberal Arts.

The engineering rankings were based on each program's quality, student selectivity, faculty resources and research activity.

The public administration and public policy, audiology and speech pathology rankings were based on peer-assessment surveys.

Barth helps upgrade China's banking system

James R. Barth, the Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance at Auburn University, has completed a project to help prepare China's banking system for the global financial market.

The AU professor was the international team leader of an Asian Development Bank project that provided technical assistance to the Peoples' Bank of China.

The result of the year-long project was the adoption of new banking laws by the Chinese that will improve the bank's legal and regulatory environment for the banking industry.

The project team included legal and regulatory experts from Washington, London, Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong. With the assistance of Barth and his team, China amended its commercial banking law and enacted a new law establishing a separate bank supervisory authority.

Barth's work on the banking reform in China was supported by two AU Chinese graduate students, Chuanlan Liu and Sijia Zhang.

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