Auburn programs move up in latest grad school lists

Auburn’s professional and graduate programs in veterinary medicine and engineering, respectively, were among AU programs that improved their standings among public universities in the recently released U.S. News & World Report “Best Graduate Schools” rankings.

Select programs in education and the sciences at AU also did well in the rankings.

The College of Veterinary Medicine moved up to 14th from 18th nationally for its professional doctor of veterinary medicine degree and it ranked 11th among public universities.

Graduate programs in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering ranked 45th among public universities, up from 46th last year. Overall, the college ranked 74th among public and private institutions.

“Auburn University has focused its efforts to continually increase our standings in the rankings,” said AU Provost John Heilman. “The faculty and administration of the schools are to be congratulated for setting and achieving higher goals each year.”

The College of Education’s graduate program in rehabilitation counseling, in the Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education, ranked 17th overall and 14th among public schools.

The publication also ranked doctoral programs in the biological sciences and chemistry. In the College of Sciences and Mathematics, the doctoral program in chemistry ranked 60th among public schools and 92nd overall, while the doctorate program in biological sciences ranked 105th among 253 total universities. U.S. News only rated chemistry and biological sciences this year, having rated other scientific disciplines in prior surveys.

Specific results in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering saw civil engineering with a rank of 32nd among public universities and 49th overall; chemical

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EU ambassador coming to Auburn to discuss impact of globalization

T he European Union ambassador to the United States will discuss globalization in a public lecture at AU on April 25. 

Ambassador John Bruton will speak at 2 p.m. in 113 Lowder Building on “How Globalization will Impact the Future of EU-U.S. Economic and Political Relations.”

Bruton has served the European Union as ambassador since 2004. He served as prime minister of Ireland from 1994-97, during which time Irish economic growth tripled. Bruton also played a key role in the peace process in Northern Ireland, leading to the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

Earlier, as Ireland’s minister of finance, he helped lead the country out of a major budget deficit crisis in 1989, and as minister of industry he developed and had gained passage of comprehensive industrial development legislation that underpins the country’s current economic growth.

While prime minister, Bruton presided over a successful Irish presidency in 1996 and helped finalize the Stability and Growth Pact, which regulates the eurozone.

For more information, contact Lisa Hartzog at hartzmm@auburn.edu.


Farmers’ market to reopen at AU for weekly sales

The Market at Ag Heritage Park, a grower-only farmers’ market at AU, will kick off the 2007 season Thursday as part of the university’s Earth Day celebration.

The kickoff event, called “Auburn Spring,” will offer fresh spring produce, plants, exhibits and music. Admission to all activities is free.

At Ag Heritage Park on Samford Avenue, the market will be open from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and will feature strawberries, greens, onions, broccoli, tomatoes and other spring produce. In addition, vendors will sell plant bedding, vegetable and landscape plants, baked goods, goat cheese, stone-ground grains and honey.

The market will also feature educational booths with information on sustainability and environmental awareness as well as information from several AU clubs and organizations.

Beginning at 6:30 p.m., Ag Heritage Park’s market space will be transformed into an outdoor music venue featuring bluegrass and reggae music from well-known regional bands BPM and Blue 32. Local residents may bring blankets or lawn chairs and a picnic dinner (or buy dinner on the market grounds) for an evening of music.

The market and the concert are hosted by the AU College of Agriculture. The Market at Ag Heritage Park began in 2004 and is sponsored by the College of Agriculture, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

AU will hold several 2007 spring market days in May, then the weekly market season will begin on June 7 and will be each Thursday from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. through August.

Summer reading

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Teaching in the Summer Reading Program is diagnostic. Tutors begin the program with a comprehensive informal assessment, continually check progress during the sessions and post-test in the final session to measure gains.

Students meet with their tutors 12 times from June 6-July 18 for 45-minute sessions twice a week. Most sessions are scheduled for a 8 a.m. in Haley Center.

Parents receive a literacy report at the end of the program detailing assessment results with recommendations for continued progress.

Tuition for the Summer Reading Program is $70 per child. For applications and information online, see www.auburn.edu/rdggenie/srp.html. Murray may be reached at 5040 Haley Center or by phone at 844-6934.

Earth Day activities set for Thursday

The AU Environmental Institute and the AU Sustainability Initiative will observe Earth Day on Thursday by hosting exhibits, student competitions and music at Foy Student Union.

The Earth Day program starts at 10 a.m. in the Foy Union ballroom with more than 40 exhibitors addressing a variety of environmental issues. Campus-sponsored exhibits will include the AU Solar Car, the River of Words program, Alabama Water Watch and the AU Environmental Awareness Organization. Keep Auburn Beautiful and Friends of the Chewacla and Uphapee Watershed are two of several local participating organizations. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Legacy Inc. and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will also present information displays.

Featured this year are the Eastwood Christian School Biodiesel Project and A-Z Animals’ Bat Ecology Program. The exhibit hall will close at 3 p.m.

The day’s activities will also feature two AU student competitions in the Foy Union Gallery and acoustical music on the lawn just outside Foy’ Union. A poster competition, sponsored by AUEI, will focus on scientific environmental research.

Also, the College of Business is supporting a “Planning for a Sustainable Future” storyboard competition. Auburn students are eligible for cash prizes in each competition. Students will also participate in a recycle-your-garbage-into-art challenge during the day on the concourse near Foy Union.

Reflections on stage

Water on the main stage of Telfair Peet Theatre reflects actors Emily Brown and Daniel Ochoa in this scene from the AU Theatre production of “Metamorphoses.” The drama, based on Greek mythology, concludes Saturday. See the Upcoming Events section inside for show times and box office information.

AU Athletics receives full certification from NCAA

 Auburn received full certification for athletics programs in results reported last week by the NCAA.

AU was among 41 NCAA Division I institutions nationally that qualified for full certification of athletics programs in the current cycle. Five others were certified with conditions.

Certification means that an institution operates its athletics program in substantial conformity with operating principles for Division I. In addition to other requirements, each institution must submit a self-study of its athletics program.

Athletics Director Jay Jacobs said the certification was the culmination of an 18-month process that closely examined the athletics department’s governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity and student-athlete welfare.

“The Auburn family can be proud of our Athletics Department,” said AU President Ed Richardson.

Richardson added, “Jay Jacobs, his administrative staff and our excellent coaches are to be commended. NCAA certification demonstrates their commitment to the highest standards for our athletic programs and our student athletes.”