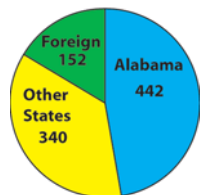


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## How Auburn Stacks Up

Sources of new AU graduate students in summer, fall 2003



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

# **AU** report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

## Presidential adviser

### Board to consider Heilman for provost

Interim President Ed Richardson will recommend to the AU Board of Trustees that it approve the appointment of John Heilman, senior adviser to the president, as the university's new provost.

The appointment of a provost is on the agenda for the AU Board on Friday at Dixon Conference Center. The meeting is scheduled for 12:45 p.m., and the board's executive committee will consider the appointment that morning. As AU's senior academic administrator, the provost is one of a small number of presidential appointments that require confirmation by the board.

Heilman, who holds a doctorate in political science from New York University, has been an AU faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts since 1973 and was promoted to professor of political science in 1993. He has served as main campus coordinator of the Auburn/AUM public administration program, associate dean, interim co-dean

and dean of the College of Liberal Arts. Heilman has been a presidential adviser since 2001.

He was chosen from among 10 nominees and three finalists for the position. The other finalists were Mechanical Engineering Professor Christine Curtis and Associate Dean of Business and Engineering Outreach Bill Sauser.

Richardson's decision to recommend Heilman to the Board of Trustees came after he consulted with faculty leaders, deans, vice presidents and leaders of the Multicultural Diversity Commission and after he considered written comments from faculty and staff who attended the finalists' public presentations.

"I am grateful to all who have supported me in seeking this opportunity, and I especially appreciate Dr. Richardson's confidence in my ability to serve as the university's chief academic officer," Heilman said.



### Changing face of campus

This architect's rendering shows how the new Transportation Technology Center will look when viewed from Magnolia Avenue. The complex of buildings will be between the Textile Engineering Building and the College of Business. U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, who was instrumental in obtaining federal funds to help finance the center, will attend the 10 a.m. groundbreaking on April 25.

## NEH awards fellowship to DeVries for book on Renaissance patron

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a summer fellowship to Joyce DeVries, an assistant professor and art historian in the Department of Art in the AU College of Liberal Arts.

The NEH grant provides a summer stipend to cover research and travel associated with a book DeVries is writing, said Mark Graham, interim head of the Art Department.

"She will actually be in Auburn most of the time writing," said Graham, adding that DeVries will travel to Germany for about two weeks to complete her research. By the end of the summer, DeVries plans to have a draft of her manuscript, said Graham, adding that she will return to the classroom in the fall.

"Joyce's work focuses on issues of women and power," said Joseph Ansell, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts. "The majority of what we know about power and the artistic patronage concerns male rulers. During the Renaissance and

certainly for most of history, there were few women in positions of power."

DeVries' work focuses on the power and patronage of Caterina Sforza, one of the most famous women of Italy during the Renaissance. DeVries is exploring how Sforza commissioned works of art and architecture that helped to establish, maintain and manipulate her public image.

In related activities with the Women's Studies Program, DeVries has introduced the course "Gender in the Visual Arts" in the art curriculum.

This is the second consecutive year an Auburn faculty member has won an NEH fellowship. Penelope Ingram, an assistant professor of English, received one of the highly competitive fellowships in 2004. "It is very prestigious for the College of Liberal Arts to be awarded two NEH fellowships in two consecutive years," said Anna-Katrin Gramberg, associate dean for budget and research in the College of Liberal Arts.

## Board to consider tuition changes, budget guidelines

The AU Board of Trustees is scheduled to consider tuition changes, increases in housing rates, budget guidelines and other agenda items on Friday at Dixon Conference Center.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 12:45 p.m., but the time is subject to change, depending on the duration of committee sessions that begin at 8 a.m. Trustees consider details of agenda items in committees before meeting as a whole for further discussion and to vote on those items.

The board's Finance Committee, second on the morning's agenda, is scheduled to receive adminis-

tration proposals for tuition changes and increases in housing rates for the 2005-06 academic year, which starts in August. The committee will also consider budget guidelines for the 2005-06 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1. The administration will use the guidelines to plan for the upcoming year.

Another board committee, Academic Affairs, is scheduled to meet at 1:30 p.m. Thursday in the President's Office Board Room in Samford Hall for discussions about on-campus housing, the role of faculty, academic program review and academic components of the president's initiatives.

### Spirit of Excellence

Each month, Auburn presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees for outstanding performance. Recipients for March, from left, were, seated, Veronica Bell of the Office of Information Technology and Kenneth Dumas of Building Services and, standing, Peggy Kirby of Liberal Arts and Glenelle Lindsay of Sciences and Mathematics.



## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 19

**DISTANCE LEARNING SEMINAR** "Quality Matters: Inter-Institutional Quality Assurance in Online Learning," 1 p.m., O.D. Smith 328. Contact: Prasanthi Pallapu at 844-3476.

**PROMOTION & TENURE WORKSHOP** Pointers for faculty from Office of the Provost, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.

**CONCERT** "Go For Baroque," AU Community Orchestra, 7:30 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Wednesday, April 20

**HUMAN RESOURCES SEMINAR** "Health, Wellness and Fitness Activities for AU Employees," Bill Jackson of Recreational Services, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., HR Training Center, 146 N. Gay St. See Human Resources A-Train Web site or call 844-7939.

**AU THEATRE** "Comedy of Errors," 7:30 p.m., April 20-23 and April 26-30, Telfair Peet Theatre. Box Office: 844-4154.

Thursday, April 21

**COMMITTEE MEETING** Academic Affairs, Board of Trustees, 1:30 p.m., President's Office Board Room, Samford Hall.

Friday, April 22

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Committee sessions start at 8 a.m.; board meets at 12:45 p.m. but starting time may vary, depending on duration of committee meetings; Dixon Conference Center.

**AU EXPLORE** Open house and outdoor science-themed festival of College of Sciences and Mathematics, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Sciences Laboratory Center.

**TIGER DAY PICNIC** Celebration of diversity, free food and drinks, 11:45 a.m., Foy Student Union Lawn. Rain location will be inside Foy Student Union.

Monday, April 25

**NEXT AU Report.**

**GROUNDBREAKING** Transportation Technology Center, 10 a.m., construction site on North Duncan Drive near Magnolia Avenue.

Tuesday, April 26

**BROWN BAG SEMINAR** "Financial Management of Distance Education Programs," Richard Alekna, director of AU Distance Learning Office, noon, O.D. Smith Hall 328.



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### Celebrating play

Theatre students Mark Holden and Kirsten King helped launch hundreds of balloons last week at Tiger Town shopping center to celebrate AU Theatre's production of Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors." If you find one of the balloons, you can exchange the attached coupon for two free tickets to the play at any available performance between Wednesday and April 30. Tickets also may be purchased at the Telfair Peet Theatre box office. Call 844-4154.



### Sullivan Awards

## Three honored for humanitarian service

Auburn last week honored a faculty member and two students for exceptional humanitarian service.

In a ceremony at Dixon Conference Center, AU officials presented Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards for 2005 to Sandra Bridges Newkirk, an assistant professor of health and human performance; Caesar Garcia, a senior in mechanical engineering; and Kathleen Tillotson, a senior in history.

The awards recognize students and others who exhibit excellence in character, service to humanity, scholarship and other qualities. The university presents the awards annually to at least one AU student and one non-student, usually either a faculty or staff member or an alumnus.

Auburn is one of several Southern universities that present the awards, which are named for a prominent 19th century humanitarian.

Newkirk has been a faculty member since 1966. In addition to her faculty position, she is the university's intramural coordinator. She was also AU's first women's athletics director, a position she held from 1967-76, and Auburn's first women's volleyball coach.

She holds a bachelor's degree in physical education from Purdue University and master's degrees in recreation and guidance and counseling from Indiana University. Newkirk taught physical education in Indiana schools for seven years before she came to Auburn.

In other activities, Newkirk volunteers with the Lee County Crisis Center, Rape Counselors of East Alabama and is a mediator for the Lee County District Court.



### Award winners

AU's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award recipients for 2005 are, from left, Kathleen Tillotson, Caesar Garcia and Sandra Newkirk. They are shown with interim President Ed Richardson.

Garcia, a Louisiana native, has excelled in both academics and athletics at Auburn. An NCAA champion and 2004 USA Olympic diver, Garcia has maintained a near-perfect grade point average and recently was the only student from an Alabama university named to USA Today's College All-America first team. Garcia also recently founded a character development program for third- and fourth-grade students at a local elementary school.

Tillotson, a Florida native with a grade point average above 3.7, has worked as a student recruiter, as transfer orientation leader for AU's Successfully Orienting Students program, as a front desk assistant in the Admissions Office and as senior desk assistant in her residence hall.

She also has held several leadership positions in Delta Delta Delta, her social sorority. In addition, Tillotson has volunteered since high school with programs that work with children with cancer.

## Others may complain about doing dirty work, Hartsfield really digs it

Christy Hartsfield likes to play in the dirt.

As director of AU's Donald E. Davis Arboretum, Hartsfield admits it is the hands-on part of her job that she loves the most.

Planting new native azalea bushes, digging in logs to teach children about decomposers and maintaining a compost pile are some of the tasks that have kept Hartsfield busy lately. On the job since January 2004, Hartsfield has been surveying arboretum visitors about what they like most about the space and developing programs that highlight the arboretum's varying attributes.

Home to more than 250 species of native trees and more than 350 species of native plants, the arboretum operates within the Department of Biological Sciences in AU's College of Sciences and Mathematics. Hartsfield works with a 12-member committee to ensure the mission of the arboretum is fulfilled.

One of her priorities as director, she said, is to "grow" the current collection.

"I want to keep adding trees but we're also adding other plants to fill out the rest of the native habitat – the wildflowers, the understory. We've got quite a few trees in the arboretum but we're still searching out and finding those we don't have," she said.

In addition to adding new plants, Hartsfield wants to increase education and conservation efforts.

"It is a quiet space on campus..."  
 "We want to have many varying types of native fauna so that people can come here and study it." Many university classes use the arboretum as an outdoor classroom, as do area school children, Hartsfield said. "There are so many different kinds of plants in the state of Alabama and each plant is important in its own place in the environment. We want to let people know what exists."

Within its 13 acres, the arboretum has one of the largest collections of native plants specific to Alabama and contains several different areas that represent habitats from around the state. Hartsfield is creating a fen garden – an outcropping of alkaline rocks that only occur a few places throughout Alabama. The fen garden project will add to the other habitats that already occur, including high and dry, low and wet, a long leaf pine habitat, sea oats in sandy dunes and a pitcher plant bog, among others.

"We had some fen plants donated and we're working on creating a seepage bog," she said.

Apart from the diverse collection of plants and



Christy Hartsfield, director of Auburn's arboretum

habitats, Hartsfield said the best thing the arboretum provides visitors is solitude.

"It is a quiet space on campus for anybody to come out and walk or run or just be. It is a place where people can come enjoy the sunshine and be outside for a while."

Hartsfield has a lot of experience with the outdoors. She graduated from AU with a bachelor's degree in entomology and several horticulture classes to her credit. She then gained experience with different landscaping companies and nurseries in the area.

When she decided to return to school, her interests were in industrial design. She completed her master's in AU's industrial design program and taught in that department for two and a half years before being named arboretum director.

Hartsfield has begun several projects to enhance the arboretum. For example, last fall she launched Arboretum Days, which are Saturday-morning sessions before home football games to provide opportunities for elementary-aged children to learn about nature. The sessions have different themes from week to week and feature lessons on water, trees, raptors, animal tracks, bird watching, insects and other nature subjects.

"I had walked around campus on game days the previous year and noticed that there really was not a lot for kids to do, especially early in the morning, until right before the game starts," Hartsfield recalled. She said last year's sessions were such a success that she is planning new sessions for next autumn.

Also, Hartsfield has planned a photo contest for AU's Arbor Day celebration on April 29. The winning photo will be featured in the Arboretum calendar, another new project.

## AU reading program enrolling children for summer

The AU College of Education is accepting applications from parents of children in kindergarten through middle-school for the college's Summer Reading Program in June and July.

Sessions are taught by junior and senior students in the college and graduate students studying reading assessment and intervention.

"Children receive a balanced individual lesson twice a week featuring explicit instruction with plenty of meaningful reading and writing," said Bruce Murray, an associate professor in the College of Education.

Murray, the program coordinator, said the sessions are especially helpful for beginning readers. Kindergarten children gain a head start in reading, and first- and second-graders typically gain a full reading level through the program, he said.

The 12 tutorial lessons of 45 minutes each begin June 8. Cost is \$60 and enrollment is limited. Contact Murray at 844-6934.

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