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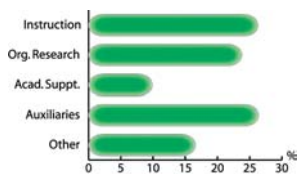
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Source: Planning & Analysis

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AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 14

Return of spring

Spring returned to Auburn late last week after a period of wintry weather. Spring flowers, however, continued to add color to the campus. This week marks a peak in annual spring events, including activities tied to National Library Week and Earth Day. See details inside.



Third Auburn professor selected this year for prestigious Fulbright grant

Virginia O'Leary, a professor of psychology at Auburn, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar in Nepal for 2005 by the U.S. State Department.

O'Leary, who has taught in AU's College of Liberal Arts since 1994, will be in Nepal on a Fulbright Lecturer/Researcher grant from January-July, 2005.

The Fulbright program, named for former U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright, is the most prestigious program of the U.S. government to promote international research, teaching and understanding.

O'Leary is the third AU faculty member selected this year for a grant by the Fulbright Commission of the State Department. The other recipients are Jack Williams of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction and Henry Thompson of the College of Agriculture

In Nepal, an isolated, mountainous Asian country, O'Leary will conduct cross-cultural studies on the changing roles and stereotypes of women in an ancient culture in the early stage of transition to a

modern economy. She will also teach at that country's Tribhuvan University and will lead faculty seminars on research methods in the social sciences.

Among preparations for the trip, she will attend a symposium sponsored by the State Department this summer in Washington, D.C. There, she will meet with other scholars and diplomats familiar with the region, including current and previous Fulbright participants.

O'Leary returned in early April from her ninth trip to Nepal in 11 years. Over the previous two weeks, she led a study-abroad class in cross-cultural social psychology for the AU Department of Psychology. Describing Nepal as a cultural laboratory due to its isolation in the Himalayas, O'Leary said the country's isolation makes it ideal for the study of universal themes in social behavior.

Her first visit to Nepal in 1993 was in fulfillment of a promise she made to herself at the age of 12. (See *Fulbright*, page 2)

Alverson wins Sullivan Award

Assistant Dean of Agriculture Bill Alverson has won AU's Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award in the non-student category for 2004. Student winners are former Student Government Association President Jonathan McConnell and Betsy Hall, an AU graduate student.

AU has presented the awards annually since 1951 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 award from the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation to recognize individual faculty, staff or students who exhibit ideals of "excellence in character, service to humanity, scholarship or other activities" or alumni who perform "conspicuous and meritorious service of any nature to humanity."

"This year's winners all personify the qualities the Algernon Sydney Sullivan awards are designed to recognize — qualities that Auburn University values among its faculty, staff and students," said Vice President for Student Affairs Wes Williams.

Alverson, who has been at Auburn since 1974,

was honored for his quiet but important work in recruiting students to Auburn and counseling them while they are at the university.

"The guidelines for the award suggest that newspaper articles could be appended to support a nomination," wrote Bill Hardy, associate dean of the College of Agriculture, in one of many letters submitted supporting Alverson's nomination. "The kind of work that Bill Alverson does will never appear in the newspaper. He works quietly in the background helping to ensure that our students and many others who enter the doors of the university receive the best counseling available to help them achieve at the highest possible level."

McConnell, a Mobile senior in business administration with concentrations in finance and economics, was SGA president in 2003-04 and is currently interning in the office of U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions.

Hall, a graduate assistant in AU's master of public administration program, volunteers with the Pastoral Institute in Columbus, Ga., and the Lee County Red Cross.

Fulbright

(continued from page 1)

when, enchanted by the book "The Conquest of Annapurna," she vowed to someday visit the seemingly mystical country. To celebrate her 50th birthday, she traveled to Nepal, where she became fascinated by the culture of the people as well as the beauty of the land.

The country soon became a setting for her research interests in psychology. "As a social psychologist, I was already interested in the impact of social setting on behavior," she recalled. "Naturally, I saw many areas of interest in the Nepalese people and their world view."

The people of Nepal, a mix of Buddhists and Hindus in their religious beliefs, display major differ-

ences from one region to another in the roles they assign to women, she notes. In the rural south, women are subservient to men in virtually every aspect of society, but in the mountainous and sparsely populated north, where women and men must work the fields together to eke out a living, women have virtually the same rights and status as men.

In Katmandu, the capital, both cultures come into contact with each other and with pressure for cultural change brought by exposure to attitudes about the sexes in more industrialized countries. O'Leary said a closer examination of these cultures will enable her to expand her studies of how societies adapt to change.

Out with the old

The Harrison School of Pharmacy is losing its old auditorium to create room for a major new expansion of the W.W. Walker Building. Groundbreaking for the new addition will be on May 5.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 20

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

Wednesday, April 21

- National Anxiety Screening Day: Free screening by AU Student Counseling Services and Psychological Services for symptoms of excess anxiety and depression, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Foy ballroom.
- National Library Week Events: Barbecue tasting, 11:30 a.m., Mell Street entrance to Draughon Library. Public workshop on genealogy research, 2 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library.
- Gallery Talk: "Maltby Sykes in Mexico," Catherine Walsh, curator of exhibitions, 2 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Thursday, April 22

- Grisham-Trentham Lecture: "Growth Without Kay-os," New York fashion designer Kay Unger, 11 a.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Public Lecture: "Cybercriminal Behavior," John P. Jarvis of the FBI's Behavioral Science Unit, 12:30 p.m., Haley 3195.
- National Library Week Events: Public lecture, "Alabama Wildlife," Ralph Mirarchi, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Draughon Library auditorium. Bluegrass band Heart Pine, 7 p.m., south side of RBD.
- Earth Day Activities: Public lectures: "Forest Sustainability," Erik Schilling, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 1 p.m.; "Sustainability: The Energy Issues," Norbert Lechner, Building Sciences, 1:45 p.m. Panel discussion, 3 p.m.

Friday, April 23

- Tiger Day Picnic: Annual picnic open to all faculty, staff, students and visitors to celebrate diversity, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Foy lawn. Sponsored by the Center for Diversity and Race Relations and the Office of Multicultural Affairs.
- National Library Week Events: Free book repairs, 9 a.m.-11:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m., first floor, Draughon Library. Pizza Party, 11 a.m., Draughon Library.

Saturday, April 24

- Open House: College of Veterinary Medicine, 27th annual event, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Features tours, exhibits and entertainment.

Monday, April 26

- Next AU Report

Tuesday, April 27

- Littleton-Franklin Lecture: "Global Warming," Stephen Schneider, Stanford professor, books include "Climate Change and Global Survival," 4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

Wednesday, April 28

- Outreach Conference: "Governmental Excellence and Best Practices: Perspectives on Gaming in Alabama," Montgomery. See Web site www.auburn.edu/governmentalexcellence.

AU report

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Now playing

"The Laramie Project" concludes this week with nightly performances through Saturday. The play, which is based on a true story of the violent murder of a homosexual man in Laramie, Wyo., examines the impact of the murder and resulting national media coverage on the community.



Panel, play at Peet Theatre to examine violence against homosexuals in U.S.

The AU Department of Theatre will present the panel discussion "Violence, the Media and the Murder of Matthew Shepard," at 6 p.m. Thursday at Telfair Peet Theatre, Room 126.

The panel, preceding Thursday's AU Theatre production of Moises Kaufman's "The Laramie Project," will examine the issues and events surrounding the death of Matthew Shepard, a gay college student whose brutal murder in Laramie, Wyo., sparked a national media frenzy in 1998.

Panelists include Barry Burkhart, professor and chair of AU's Department of Psychology, a nationally recognized authority on violence, aggression and human sexuality; Judith Sheppard, associate profes-

sor of journalism, an expert in media studies and race-influenced coverage of crime; and Lisa Chaner, associate professor of theatre and director of "The Laramie Project." Scott Phillips, assistant professor of theatre, will moderate the panel.

Admission to the panel discussion is free and open to the public. Tickets are required for those staying for the play.

The panel discussion will be followed by a performance of "The Laramie Project" and a post-show discussion with the theatre cast and crew.

The play will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. For ticket information, call 844-4154.

Earth Day speakers to discuss sustainability

Sustainability will be the theme Thursday, when Auburn commemorates Earth Day 2004 with an afternoon-long program sponsored by the AU Environmental Institute.

Erik Schilling of AU's Center for Forest Sustainability will discuss sustainable forestry at 1 p.m. in Foy 213. He will be followed at 1:45 p.m. by Norbert Lechner, an AU building sciences professor, on the topic, "Sustainability: the Energy Issues."

A panel discussion at 3 p.m., will feature anthropologist Barbara Rose Johnston of the Center for Political Ecology in Santa Cruz, Calif., and Michael Renner, senior researcher with Washington, D.C.-based Worldwatch Institute.

Johnston and Renner will discuss environmental justice and security, exploring law and security issues pertaining to key environmental resources such as water and fossil fuels in the Middle East and Asia.

In a debate that begins at 4:45 p.m., Dinah Payne and Cecily Raiborne, both of the University of New Orleans, will argue opposing views as to whether sustainable development is compatible with human welfare.

Other highlights of the Earth Day observance on Thursday will include a student research poster competition in Foy 217.

In observance of both Earth Day and National Library Week, AU Libraries will present the bluegrass band Heart Pine at 7 p.m. Thursday on the south side of Draughon Library.

AU faculty member exhibits paintings in Birmingham

Paintings by Paula Frances Peek, a faculty member in the College of Human Sciences at Auburn University, are on display through April at Bare Hands Gallery in Birmingham.

Peek is an associate professor of interior design and holds a master's degree in fine art from AU. The 15 paintings in the Birmingham exhibit represent her impressions of aspects of life along U.S. 280 between Auburn and her home in Waverly, 12 miles away.

Gallery times and location of the gallery are online at www.barehandsgallery.com.



Italian style

Italian influences are evident in everything from the decor to the cooking at the new restaurant at the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Shown in the open cooking area are two of the restaurant's chefs, John Melton, left, and Bob Wilson.

Restaurant adds Italian theme, new concept for its customers, students

The AU Hotel and Dixon Conference has opened an expanded, redesigned and renamed restaurant, Ariccia.

The new restaurant is named for the Italian town that is home to the College of Human Sciences' summer program. Ariccia, based on an Italian bistro concept, replaces the old Horizons. It occupies the entire north wing of the hotel's first floor and adds a patio for outside dining.

Ariccia seats up to 150 and serves a variety of Italian and American fare, from pizzas to seafood and steaks. The luncheon menu includes appetizers for \$4.50, pizza for \$8.50 and a buffet sampling of the restaurant's appetizers, entrees and desserts for \$9.95. For dinner, entree prices range from pasta dishes for \$7 to grilled salmon for \$19 and veal for \$35.

Service, not cost, will distinguish Ariccia from other family restaurants in the area, says Alvin Bettcher, the hotel's director of marketing. "We deliberately avoided pricing ourselves out of the local market," Bettcher said. "The prices for most items are about the same as you will pay in any good family restaurant in Lee County."

He added, "What sets Ariccia apart is a quality of food and quality of service that you don't normally find in a family restaurant."

Bettcher said the combination of high-quality service and moderate prices is part of the operating philosophy of the West Paces Group, which manages the hotel as a teaching environment for the College of Human Sciences. With the hotel and conference center now part of the college's teaching program for future hotel and restaurant managers, Bettcher said the management team is developing the facility into a model for the industry.

Although the hotel employs some student workers, those in the academic program will concentrate on the management side of the business, Bettcher said. However, the management team will stress quality of service and a pleasant atmosphere for customers in all contact with students, he added.

"Part of our philosophy is that service makes the difference between a good experience and a great one for guests in any price range," said Bettcher. "We are setting service standards for the company and, through the students in this program, we will be setting standards for the industry."

Meanwhile, the exterior rebricking will be completed over the next few weeks, and the conference center will be redecorated during July. The primary changes there will be cosmetic, with the replacement of carpeting, wallpaper and lighting receiving top priority.

The only structural change will involve the removal of a wall and installation of glass doors to provide access to the pool area for functions in adjacent meeting rooms.

HR schedules seminar to offer advice on retirement planning

AU Human Resources will present "Planning for Retirement," a seminar open to all faculty and staff, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. Thursday in Foy 202.

Cindy Haynes, senior financial adviser with AIG VALIC financial services company, will lead the seminar.

Register online at www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/hrd/index.html or call Judy Edwards at 844-4145.

AU library extends computer service to coffee shop

Timed to coincide with its observance of National Library Week, AU Libraries this week is opening its new Internet Cafe on the ground floor of Draughon Library.

The Internet Cafe adjoins the library's coffee shop, Stack's Cafe, and is designed to be a place for library patrons to relax, use computers and study in a coffee-house atmosphere.

The new cafe has 24 new Sony Vaio computers for students, faculty and staff to use. Wireless laptops — available from the Circulation Desk for use in the building — may also be used in the room.

AU Libraries also sponsors several activities this week. Some are listed in the Upcoming Events section on pages 2-3 of this AU Report.

Information on all campus events for National Library week are on the Web at www.lib.auburn.edu.

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