Role of institute comes through in new name

Auburn’s newest institute has a new name. Established in December to coordinate Auburn’s diverse operations related to natural resources, the cabinet-level unit now carries the title of AU Natural Resources Management and Development Institute and the acronym NRMDI.

AU President Ed Richardson approved the institute’s official name on April 10, after Ratcliff Strategies, a strategic communications company met with focus groups around the state for additional input regarding possible names and the institute’s mission. The institute also received suggestions over its Web site.

The NRMDI grew out of one of six initiatives Richardson suggested for AU in October 2004. A 29-member commission developed a broad set of goals for an institute which would unify AU’s wide-ranging programs in agriculture, forestry and other natural resource areas as they adapt to changing needs of related industries, consumers, the state and the university.

The institute’s mission is defined as “the creation and promotion of innovative natural resources products and services and sustainable practices for the benefit of communities today and for the well-being of generations to come.”

The institute’s leadership team is comprised of Executive Director Larry Fillmer; Richard Guthrie, dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station; Richard Brinker, dean of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; and Gaines Smith, interim director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

The institute was described informally in the early stage of its development as a natural resources institute or center, but Fillmer said that title did not fully convey the scope of its mission.

See New institute, page 2

Board of Trustees to meet on Thursday and Friday

The AU Board of Trustees will hold committee meetings at the AU Hotel on Thursday, followed by a meeting of the full board that afternoon and Friday morning.

Thursday’s committee sessions are scheduled to start at 8:30 a.m. with a joint meeting of the board’s Agriculture Committee and Property and Facilities Committee. Other committees meeting in sequence will be the Finance, Academic Affairs, AUM and a joint session of Student Affairs and Executive committees.

Following the committee sessions, the full board is scheduled to meet briefly at 4 p.m. and return at 9 a.m. Friday for its regular session.

Meeting times are subject to change. For updates see AUDaily or the Board of Trustees Web site.
North Auburn fisheries named for long-time department head

The Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures’ 1,680-acre North Auburn Upper Fisheries Research Station has been renamed the E.W. Shell Fisheries Center in honor of a long-time department head who was instrumental in building AU fisheries into a world-class program.

AU faculty, administrators and guests partici- pated in the naming ceremony at the fisheries unit earlier this month.

Shell was a faculty member in the College of Agriculture from 1959-94, including more than two decades as head of the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures. The Butler County native earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fisheries from Auburn in 1952 and 1954, respectively. After earning a Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1959, Shell joined the Auburn faculty as an assistant fisheries professor, working with Homer Swingle, who had established the fisheries program at Auburn in the 1930s. Swingle Hall now carries his name.

When Shell succeeded Swingle as department head in 1973, he led efforts to expand facilities with specialized laboratories and ponds that enabled the program to expand its role from national to international prominence. The following two decades saw numerous additions to the North Auburn fisheries. These included a fish hatchery and field classroom, fish nutrition and fish processing labs, a fish market building for consumer research and teaching, a fish disease laboratory and a building for fisheries management and ecology.

The additions also included a fish genetics lab, office building and greenhouse complexes in 1990-91 and 70 new ponds ranging in size from 0.05 acre to 10 acres, plus 13 rehabilitated or renovated ponds between 1975 and 1994.

While developing the North Auburn site, the department expanded its graduate education program and became a global leader in freshwater fisheries. David Rouse, current head of the department, says the North Auburn fisheries site was central to the program’s growth in prestige as well as size, and remains central to the department’s operations today.

"In addition to being a hands-on teaching lab for our graduate and undergraduate students, these facilities are used as a research arena by faculty and students. As a teaching site for fish farmers, recre- ational pond owners, processors, marketers and citizen groups interested in protecting the environment and as an educational component for public school students and scout and service groups throughout the region," Rouse said.

AU Report; final edition for spring semester

Upcoming Events

Meeting Administrative and Professional Assembly, 2:30 p.m., Foy 213; includes presentation by Lynne Hammond, assistant vice president for human resources, on AU’s new employee classification and compensation project and appeals process.

Sullivan Awards


AU Board of Trustees, committee sessions start at 8:30 a.m., board convenes at 4 p.m., AU Hotel.

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AU Report; final edition for spring semester

Graduation 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Coleman Gym

Spirits of Excellence

Each month, AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four staff members for exceptional performance. Recipients for March were, from left Hugh Fellows of Engineering Administration, Mary Turner of Human Resources, Scott Greenwood of the Outreach Program Office and, not shown, Linda Smith of Building Services.

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Meetings

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AU Board of Trustees, committee sessions start at 8:30 a.m., board convenes at 4 p.m., AU Hotel.

Public Lecture “The Role that the World’s Largest University Will Play in Impacting the Future of EU- U.S. Economic and Political Relations,” 2 p.m., Lowder 113.

Public Lecture Manuel Martin-Rodriguez, University of California at Merced, “Spanish Exploration of the Southwest During the Colonial Period,” 4 p.m., Haley 2206.


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Old Navy president, finance writer set for AU symposium

The deputy editor of a leading personal finance magazine and the president of a national clothing merchandiser will be among speakers at the fifth annual spring symposium of the AU College of Human Sciences Women’s Philanthropy Board on May 7.

The conference at the AU Hotel from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. will feature Dawn Robertson, who is a College of Human Sciences alumna and president of Old Navy, and Janet Bodnar, deputy editor of Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine.

“The title of this year’s symposium, ‘Information is Power: How to Learn, Earn and Give to be Money Smart Women,’ reflects how the Women’s Philanthropy Board seeks to educate its members, the public and AU students about issues related to women and financial matters,” said June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences.

In her presentation, Bodnar, a nationally recognized expert on family finance, will draw from her book, “Raising Money Smart Kids and Money Smart Women: Everything You Need to Know to Achieve a Lifetime of Financial Security.” Appearing frequently on network television, Bodnar has discussed personal finance on “Oprah,” “The Today Show,” “Good Morning America,” “The Early Show” and other programs.

Robertson, an AU Human Sciences graduate with 30 years retail experience, oversees all aspects of the Old Navy brand, supporting hundreds of stores across North America.

Other speakers include Dan Silverstein, managing director of The Investment Edge in New York; Maru Pichardo, managing director of Pichardo Asset Management in Mexico; Dale Miskell, FBI supervisor special agent in Birmingham; and Vicki Williams, AU class of 1971, president of Anchor Mortgage Services in Montgomery.

Symposium co-sponsors include Alabama Power Co., Moore Wealth Management, the AU Office of Outreach, the AU Hotel and The Flower Store.

Registration is $65, and includes the 12:30 p.m. luncheon; contact Sidney James Nakhjavan at 844-9199 or at wpbchsi@auburn.edu.

Grad student wins national award for presentation

Lisa Pohlman, a graduate student in the AU College of Veterinary Medicine, recently received the Young Investigator Award from the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology.

Pohlman, a resident in clinical pathology and graduate student in the college’s biomedical sciences graduate program, received the award for her platform presentation at the annual meeting of the professional associations in Arizona.

The award recognized Pohlman’s research presentation on the results of her original work in the laboratory of Calvin Johnson, a faculty member in the AU Department of Pathobiology. Pohlman was the first scientist to report a predominance of B-cell immunoblastic lymphoma in the stomach of domestic cats, a finding that may have significance in addressing the causes of this relatively common form of cancer in cats.

Pohlman’s presentation was selected from an international pool of nominees.

Videotapes of Sesquicentennial Lectures posted on Web

The Special Collections and Archives Department in Draughon Library has produced videotapes of speakers in AU’s 2006 Sesquicentennial Lecture Series.

The videotapes and information about the speakers and topics are available online at http://diglib.auburn.edu/150th.

The Systems Department of AU Libraries recorded the lectures and prepared the Web site. In addition to videotapes of each lecture, the site features a narrative history and historic photographs from AU’s first 150 years.

Topics span Auburn’s history from its founding in 1856, through the Civil War era, AU’s transition to a land-grant institution in 1872, post-World War II growth, desegregation, athletics, agriculture and the President’s Home.

Looking up

Planes from the 187th Fighter Wing of the Air National Guard at Dannelly Field in Montgomery fly overhead during the ROTC President’s Day ceremony at AU on April 12.

IMG to offer training in course management software this summer

The Instructional Media Group at AU is adjusting the format of its 2007 Summer Academy offerings to teach faculty and academic support staff how to use the university’s new course management system software.

The software, Blackboard, replaces WebCT, which is widely used computer software for course management in AU schools and colleges. Courses in the older software may be used for only one more year, and any new courses will have to be in Blackboard software after Aug. 1.

During the coming year, faculty will move their course materials from WebCT to Blackboard. WebCT will no longer be available at Auburn as of September 2008.

To aid faculty and academic support staff in the transition, IMG will offer six Blackboard Academy programs and several 60-minute single sessions this summer.

Information is online at www.auburn.edu/img. Contact Kathy McClelland at mccleka@auburn.edu or 844-5181.