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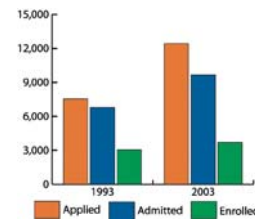
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Source: Planning & Analysis

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AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 16

Proposal would put student center near Haley, add new parking deck

The AU administration will present proposals to the Board of Trustees on Friday at Dixon Conference Center to settle long-standing questions about sites for a new student center complex and a nearby parking deck.

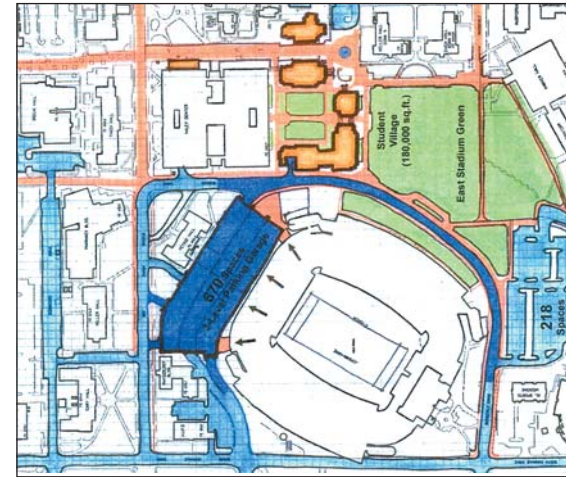
Also on the agenda for the 1 p.m. meeting is a recommendation to increase tuition 9 percent next fall to meet projected budget needs for fiscal 2004-05. The board is also slated to review economic trends and conditions that could affect decisions on university priorities.

Committee sessions are scheduled to start at 9 a.m. All meeting times are subject to change.

The latest recommendation for a new student center complex or student village would place the complex south of Haley Center. The area near the center of campus was favored by students in SGA polls and recommended by at least two university committees.

Three buildings would cover the "A" and part of the "B" parking zones to form a quadrangle with Haley Center, and another new building would be on the site of the current Human Sciences Annex. Those buildings would have 180,000 square feet of floor space, 50 percent more than Foy Student Union, which the complex would replace.

Remaining parking south of the complex would be removed to create a village green as part of con-



Proposed site for new student center is in orange.

tinuing efforts to replace cars with pedestrian areas in the campus core. Streets south and west of Haley Center would also be reconfigured as part of the plan to eliminate their use as through-streets for private vehicles.

The recommendation includes a three-level, 670-vehicle parking deck between Petrie Hall and Jordan-Hare Stadium to replace spaces lost to the student center and add additional spaces.

Fourth faculty member named Fulbright Scholar

Alexander T. Vazsonyi of the College of Human Sciences at AU has been named a Fulbright Scholar in the Central European country of Slovenia by the U.S. State Department.

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. Vazsonyi is the fourth AU faculty member selected this year by the Fulbright Commission for the program.

An associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, Vazsonyi will spend fall semester at the University of Maribor. At the university near Slovenia's border with Austria, Vazsonyi will lecture and continue his research comparing the origins and causes of adolescent problem behaviors across cultures.

Slovenia gained its independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991 after nearly a half century under (See *Fulbright*, page 4)

Campus Forum

Historic ruling was just the first step for Black Belt; still no second step

Editor's Note: May 17 is the 50th anniversary of one of the most historic and far-reaching decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, Brown v. Board of Education. In the following column, David Wilson considers the ruling and its consequences and limitations. Through the Office of Outreach and its affiliated programs, Auburn is involved in more than two dozen initiatives to improve social and economic conditions in Alabama's Black Belt.

By David Wilson, Vice President for Outreach

Fifty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it is unconstitutional for America to operate separate public schools for blacks and whites. Known as the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka decision, the ruling struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine of law that had been in effect for nearly 60 years.



Wilson

The landmark Brown decision in 1954 was celebrated by many as the legal end to Jim Crow practices in Southern and Border States.

I was not yet born in May 1954, when this ruling came down from the court, but over the next 18 years of my growing up in Marengo County in the heart of the Black Belt, nothing really changed.

In 1962, I was a first grader at McKinley School. It was a shabby, old, cold and drafty building on the grounds of Bethel Hill Baptist Church. The school, which had black tarp around it to keep the cold wind out, had one teacher who taught five grades in one large room. In my world, nothing had changed in the eight years since the Brown decision.

Later, I was sent to Marengo County Training School. This was the black school in Thomaston and Marengo High School was the white school. In terms of facilities, these two schools in Thomaston were worlds apart, though in terms of distance, they were only a few blocks apart.

Though the Brown decision was now over a decade old, the State of Alabama had done very little to integrate schools, at least that is the way it seemed to me at the time. Because of external pressures, Alabama did institute something called "Freedom of Choice," where, supposedly, everyone could decide which school they wanted to attend.

When presented with a choice at the time, 100 percent of the white students chose to stay at Marengo High and 99.9 percent of black students chose to stay at Marengo County Training School. Two black students from Marengo County Training chose to attend the white school. We were creatures of habit, not wanting to move out of our comfort zone.

As I ride through the Black Belt now, exactly fifty years after Brown, I see very little that has changed. There are some kernels of progress in places like Demopolis and Linden, but in far too many other places, time has simply stood still. The majority of the counties still have de facto dual systems of secondary education, one public, one private, and one black, one white. The private schools are almost exclusively white and the public ones are almost exclusively black.

The irony is that both systems are about equal in terms of quality of facilities and quality of instruction. Somehow we have to do a better job educating blacks and whites in the Black Belt that working together to promote a stronger K-12 public system is best for all.

There is little incentive on the part of whites to push for tax reform to improve public education since their children attend private schools, and there is little desire on the part of black parents to try to send their children to these private academies, primarily because of the history of racism and discriminatory practices.

Just think what could happen if blacks and whites in many of the counties followed the Demopolis example. Demopolis has perhaps the best public school system in the Black Belt, and most of what has happened there is the result of a few enlightened leaders, including Mayor Austin Caldwell, who is white and who risked racial isolation by supporting efforts to increase revenues to build a good city school system. As a result of their efforts, blacks and whites now go to school together in rather jazzy facilities and some economic development activity is taking shape in and around Demopolis.

As we look to the future in Alabama, we have a long way to go in many areas if we are going to move beyond the Brown decision and embrace a future where separate-but-equal has no place.

We can ill afford to let another half-century pass without correcting the inadequacies of the public educational system in many nooks and crannies throughout this state. No one, especially those in the Black Belt, should have to endure the continuing struggle to gain a competitive education in today's Alabama.

"We can ill afford to let another half-century pass without correcting the inadequacies of the public educational system in many nooks and crannies throughout this state."

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Works from the Noel and Kathryn Dickinson Wadsworth Collection: Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Gilbert Stuart, Mary Cassatt, Andrew Wyeth, 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.

Wednesday, May 5

- Groundbreaking: Addition to W.W. Walker Building, Harrison School of Pharmacy, 10:30 a.m., Thach Avenue.

Thursday, May 6

- Final Examinations: Through Tuesday, May 11, excluding Sunday.

Friday, May 7

- Meeting: Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Committee sessions start at 9 a.m. Times are subject to change.

Monday, May 10

- Final AU Report of spring semester.

Tuesday, May 11

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium

Thursday, May 13

- Family Fun Day: Entertainment and refreshments for AU employees and their families, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m., lawn of President's Home, Mell Street.

Friday, May 14

- Graduation: Ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Coliseum.

Thursday, May 20

- Classes begin for summer term.

Monday, May 24

- First AU Report of summer term. The AU Report will be published every two weeks during the summer.

Monday, May 31

- Memorial Day Holiday: No classes; offices closed.



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On the Web

Instructor Gerry Landers, in background, helps graduate student Mingzhu He of China maneuver through a Web-CT program on English pronunciation. The computer software program is one of the tools AU uses to help foreign-born students master spoken English before they are permitted to teach at Auburn.



Program uses classes, Web to prepare foreign-born GTAs for teaching role

An AU program has gone high-tech with a course to ensure that foreign-born graduate teaching assistants master spoken English as well as their subject matter.

Auburn's Graduate School and the English Department in the College of Liberal Arts have expanded the course, "Classroom Communication Skills for Graduate Teaching Assistants," to include Internet-based computer instruction in addition to classroom and practice sessions.

Bill Flick, director of AU's English as a Second Language Program, says the intensive course in spoken English for graduate instructors, English 1820, has eliminated most complaints about the ability of students and graduate instructors to understand one another.

The course, which has been taught at Auburn since 1994, is the second of two that most foreign-born graduate students complete before they enter the classroom as graduate instructors. The courses are taught by faculty in the English as a Second Language Program, which also offers other courses for students who need more exposure to written English to become proficient in the language.

Flick noted that most research institutions use foreign-born graduate students as instructors, particularly in scientific fields where they frequently excel. "Foreign-born instructors are usually very knowledgeable in their subject area and they are often excellent teachers," he said. "At one time, there were wide variations in the ability of instructors to communicate orally, but for the past decade, that problem has been virtually eliminated."

Flick said foreign-born instructors must demonstrate proficiency with spoken English before AU permits them to teach their first classes.

"The good thing about this course is that graduate instructors learn to use spoken English in an intensive classroom environment, where they also

learn the culture and teaching techniques for the American classroom," he said. "This approach enables us to identify and correct any remaining communication problems, and it gives the graduate students more confidence as teachers."

He added, "The most important result is that undergraduates receive better instruction."

With the addition of computer-assisted instruction using AU's Web-CT software, the advanced class has an added dimension, Flick said. "Web-CT does not replace the classroom experience, but it definitely adds to that experience," he added.

The main advantage of the Web-based teaching materials, Flick said, is the extra practice time the graduate students have for hearing and using the correct pronunciation between class sessions.

One of the program's instructors, Lauren Boone, has used Web-CT to create a set of instructional materials which present the graduate students with model presentations from a variety of instructors. The materials also enable the students to compare their recorded pronunciation of technical terms with model pronunciation on their computers.

CopyCat project wins top award in international design contest

CopyCat copy center has won first place in an international graphics competition.

Headquartered in Foy Union, CopyCat won the top award in the "non-offset calendars" category of the In-Print 2004 awards competition sponsored by the International Publishing Management Association and In-Plant Graphics magazine.

CopyCat won the award for AU Dining's Spring 2003 Terrell Marketplace Calendar of Events, which was designed by CopyCat graphic artist Heather Jackson and printed on the center's Xerox 2060 color printer.

Aerospace team wins top prize in national design competition

The AU Flying Tigers, a student team of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has placed first out of 35 teams in the 2004 Society of Automotive Engineers Aero Design East Competition.

The contest, staged earlier this month in Orlando, Fla., challenged teams to conceive, design, fabricate and test a radio-controlled unmanned aerial vehicle that could take off and land at full cargo capacity.

Auburn's "War Eagle Lifter" earned the award for overall excellence, the traveling trophy and an award bestowed by fellow competitors on the team exhibiting the highest degree of professionalism.

"Our students worked extremely hard to design and build a great airplane and had a lot of confidence in their design," said John Cochran, head of the Department of Aerospace Engineering. They were determined to finish in high standing."

Cochran said a key factor in the Auburn team's success was the lab work some of the members did with UAVs.

"One of the best things about being an engineer is creating something," said graduate student and team captain Adam McLarty. "What the team gained from this experience is the ability to meet an engineering challenge."

Christoph Burger, one of the team's chief designers, added, "I gained knowledge in team guidance and project management, which is a central part of real-world engineering." Burger is a doctoral student from Germany.



Men working

Mell Street between Roosevelt and Thach avenues is the latest street closed to traffic as work crews install new lines for heating and cooling. The pipes will link to central plants that supply steam for heating and chilled water for cooling to campus buildings. The campuswide system replaces older, inefficient units in many buildings.

Fulbright

(continued from page 1)

the Yugoslav brand of communism and became a member of the European Union trading federation on May 1. "With Slovenia undergoing rapid social transformation, it provides fertile ground to understand how societal changes affect human development and adolescent behavior," Vazsonyi said.

By studying adolescent behaviors in different cultural settings, Vazsonyi said social scientists can separate universal characteristics of behavior from those that are unique to their environment. "The goal is to learn more about how adolescent behavioral problems develop across cultures, so that we

can understand and address issues related to those problems," he added.

Vazsonyi, whose father was a native of Hungary, has been at AU since 1996. He holds master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Arizona.

Other Fulbright Scholars from Auburn this year include Virginia O'Leary of sociology in the College of Liberal Arts, Jack Williams of landscape architecture in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction and Henry Thompson of agricultural economics in the College of Agriculture.

Herren receives scholarship to clinic for academic advisers

Susan Noble Herren, an academic adviser in AU's College of Business, has won a summer scholarship from the National Academic Advising Association.

Herren is one of only four people who won the scholarship in a national competition.

She will attend the association's week-long inten-

sive summer program in either Milwaukee, Wis., or Portsmouth, Maine, where she will explore ways to integrate advising more fully into the college's retention planning.

The national association is based at Kansas State University.

Newland to review grant applications for HIH

A unit of the National Institutes of Health have invited M. Christopher Newland of AU's Psychology Department to serve on a national committee to review grant applications.

Newland, an Alumni Professor in the AU College of Liberal Arts, will review grant applications submitted to the Center for Scientific Review of the NIH's Neurotoxicology and Alcohol Study Section for the 2004-07 term.

An AU faculty member since 1988, Newland holds a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Auburn and master's and doctoral degrees in experimental psychology from Georgia Tech.

In addition, he was a postdoctoral fellow in environmental medicine at the University of Rochester.

Newland's areas of research include behavioral toxicology, pharmacology and neurobehavioral consequences of exposure to heavy metals and other contaminants.

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