Healthy Tigers screening helps save a life in addition to $300

Tim Walker of the Office of Information Technology may have initially participated in the Healthy Tigers program last year to save $300 annually on medical insurance premiums.

But what he really saved was his own life.

The screening, which tests blood pressure, glucose and cholesterol, found Walker’s cholesterol to be slightly elevated. In order to be eligible for the $25 per month savings, he was advised to see a doctor about the potential issue.

Walker, who rarely visits a doctor, was reluctant, but he went anyway.

The physician ordered an ultrasound of his abdomen and found an abnormality on his right kidney. A closer look with a CT scan showed it was a tumor.

Tammy Hollis, coordinator of Healthy Tigers, and Walker credit Healthy Tigers with saving his life.

“It’s a simple, quick test that’s especially good for people like me who rarely go to the doctor,” said Walker. “The dangers of high cholesterol and high blood pressure are very real and sometimes can go unnoticed until it is too late. It also helps with your insurance premiums. And, it is free, so why not go?”

Hollis said other Auburn employees have experienced similar benefits from Healthy Tigers. The financial savings may get them to participate, but they are realizing their own health is the real benefit, she said.

“It was designed to make people aware of these values (glucose, cholesterol and blood pressure) so they could keep them under control,” Hollis said.

Approximately 74 percent of eligible employees were screened in 2010 to receive the discount in 2011. For the benefit to count in 2012, all eligible employees and their spouses who are covered under the university’s family plan with Blue Cross Blue Shield are required to be screened by Dec. 31.

Hollis said the staff of the Auburn University Pharmaceutical Care Center plan to provide evening hours and screenings at different campus events, such as the annual Family Fun Day on May 26, to accommodate spouses who are not on campus and could have difficulty getting to the clinic during the day. Both events will be at the Ham Wilson Arena on Donahue Drive.

Staff will also set up screenings at buildings that are not in the vicinity of the W.W. Walker Building if at least 20 employees will be screened.

Just like last year, screenings include a finger stick blood test and blood pressure check. A short wellness questionnaire and height, weight, body mass index (BMI) and percent body fat analysis are all optional.

“We have two priorities,” Hollis said. “The first one is your health and the second is getting you the discount.”

In an effort to better serve program participants, the Pharmaceutical Care Center is setting up an electronic database of screening results. Hollis said the collection will make it more efficient to access patient results to compare them from year to year. All information will remain confidential in the clinic and be protected like any other medical record, she said.

If an employee or spouse is unable to be screened by the Pharmaceutical Care Center before the deadline, their doctor can complete the Healthcare Provider Screening Form. As long as the completed form is returned to the AUPCC, postmarked no later than Dec. 31, Hollis said it will count for the 2012 benefit year.

Additional information, including the form and screening appointments, is available at www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/payroll/healthytigers/signup.html. Direct questions to aupcc4u@auburn.edu or wellnss@auburn.edu or hollite@auburn.edu.

– Amy Weaver

English professor wins Guggenheim Fellowship

Peter Campion, an assistant professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts, has received the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship for Poetry.

Of the nearly 3,000 applications received, 180 recipients were selected by the Board of Trustees for the foundation. Campion is the only Auburn faculty member to receive the prestigious award, and is one of the few selected from the Southeast.

He is editor-in-chief of Literary Imagination: the Review of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics, published by Oxford University Press.

“I feel tremendously honored and humbled to receive an award that some of my heroes in the art – Robert Lowell, Elizabeth Bishop, John Berryman, Robert Pinsky – have also received,” Campion said.

“I’m also grateful for the time that this fellowship will afford. I’m working on my third book now, and do feel buoyed by this good news.”

Campion is the author of two collections of poems, “Other People” and “The Lions,” as well as a monograph on the painter Mitchell Johnson. His interests include contemporary poetry, prosody and the relations between poetry and the visual arts.

In 2009, Campion received the Rome Prize from the Academy of Arts and Letters, which entailed a one-year residency at the American Academy in Rome. His poems and prose have appeared in ArtNews, The Boston Globe, Modern Painters, The New Republic, Poetry, Raritan, Slate and The Yale Review. He recently won a Pushcart Prize.

– Vicky Santos
Family Fun Day set for May 18

Auburn University will hold its 15th annual Family Fun Day for university employees and their families on Wednesday, May 18, at the Ham Wilson Livestock Arena on Donahue Drive from 3-5 p.m.

Free food, beverages and other treats will be available throughout the event at the Alabama Farmer’s Pavilion next to the arena. This will be the first time in the event’s history that it will be held at the Ham Wilson location, which features the advantage of two indoor locations and abundant parking.

Adults and children can compete for prizes, play games, listen to music and participate in more than 20 activities that include Ring Toss, Horse Shoes, Wheel of Fortune, Peg Ball, Golf, Bingo, Nerf Football Throw, Duck Pond, Fishing Booth and the Moon Walk.

More than 75 university offices and community businesses donated multiple prizes that were given away at last year’s event.

Cards will be distributed through campus mail to all on-campus employees. The card includes information about the event and a mailing label required to enter the drawing for door prizes.

Event organizers urge all campus offices to ensure that the cards are distributed to employees and to remind them to bring their cards to the event. Each person must present his or her personalized card at the gift table to receive a Family Fun Day T-shirt.

Approximately 5,000 people attend Auburn’s Family Fun Day each year.

— Kevin Loden

Professor invited to join National Security Forum

Brian Connelly, an assistant professor in the Department of Management in the College of Business, has been invited by Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley to participate in the annual National Security Forum from May 16-20.

Connelly will join 100 civilian opinion leaders from industry, academia, law and government as they engage senior U.S. Air Force officers on strategy and international security issues. Attendees include Secretary Donley, USAF Chief of Staff General Norton A. Schwartz and Commandant of the Air War College Major General Robert C. Kane. The forum, hosted by the Air War College, provides an opportunity for an exchange of ideas among senior military and civilian leaders with a view toward broadening perspectives and gaining a mutual understanding of the U.S. Air Force’s international mission.

Groccia earns Fulbright Scholar grant to teach, study in Estonia this fall

James Groccia, director of the Biggio Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning at Auburn University, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to study in Estonia, where he will serve as a visiting scholar at the University of Tartu this fall.

“Estonia will celebrate its 20th anniversary of independence from Soviet control in 2011 and its higher education system has emerged as a driving force for economic and social change,” said Groccia, an associate professor of educational leadership. “I am honored to be part of this transition at one of the oldest and most prestigious higher education institutions in the region. This experience will greatly inform my work here at Auburn both in the Biggio Center and in the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology.”

As a Fulbright Scholar, Groccia will consult with faculty and administration on programs to enhance university teaching and learning; conduct workshops and seminars on teaching and learning at the University of Tartu and other universities throughout Estonia; and participate in European Union-funded research on the evaluation of teaching.

He has been invited to conduct a workshop on student academic success skills and deliver a plenary presentation on professional and ethical values in teaching at the 200th Anniversary Conference of the Tartu Health Care College.

The Fulbright will also enable him to travel to other Baltic and Nordic countries including Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Finland to learn what those universities are doing to support teaching and learning excellence.

Since 2003, Groccia has taught graduate courses each year as part of Auburn University’s 12-hour graduate certificate, which prepares graduate students from all disciplines for academic careers.

The Fulbright Scholar program is governed by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, a 12-member board appointed by the president of the United States that is responsible for establishing worldwide policies for the program and for the selection of Fulbright recipients.

— Margaret Ann Killam

Campus Calendar

MONDAY, MAY 9
COMMENCEMENT 9:30 a.m., Jordan-Hare Stadium

THURSDAY, MAY 19
FIRST DAY of classes for summer semester

FRIDAY, MAY 27
NEXT Auburn Report First edition of summer semester

MONDAY, MAY 30
MEMORIAL DAY No classes, offices closed for holiday
Sustainability programs gaining larger role in campus operations, academics

Sustainability programs are attaining a higher profile at Auburn University this year through recent developments.

As public attention and budget planners nationwide shifted over the past decade from conserving to consuming resources, Auburn has been developing its sustainability programs beyond recycling products such as paper and glass to rethinking ideas in both operations and the academic arena.

This year, Lindy Biggs, a history professor who led the transition as part-time director of Auburn’s sustainability programs since 2003, is making her own transition from leadership to a supporting role on sustainability.

In February, Mike Kensler, formerly outreach administrator of Auburn’s Water Resources Center, was named director of campus sustainability operations for the Office of Sustainability, the administrative arm of Auburn’s sustainability activities. Meanwhile, Associate Professor Nanette Chadwick of the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, has been appointed director of academic sustainability programs, effective May 15.

Providing continuity is Matt Williams, who began as a graduate intern in 2006 and, after completing his master’s degree, became the office’s first fulltime professional staff member as program manager. Jennifer Morse oversees communications and outreach initiatives for the office.

Previously, Biggs handled both the operational and the academic responsibilities while continuing to teach in the College of Liberal Arts’ Department of History, where she is an authority on the history of technology. While most of her focus is again on teaching history, Biggs will continue as an instructor in Auburn’s interdisciplinary sustainability minor, which she developed in 2007. That minor has grown rapidly, as has a related freshman symposium in the Honors College.

Biggs said she is pleased that sustainability has attained solid academic footing and a more central role in the university’s operations and planning. She attributes the growth of interest in sustainability to individuals across campus who see the field in comprehensive terms. “Sustainability is not the same as environmentalism and it is much more than recycling,” she said. “It involves learning about and developing sustainable approaches to our environment that include sound economic practices and promote social justice at the same time.”

Kensler focuses on sustainability-related policies, issues and practices for the campus, as well as outreach and external training initiatives for the office. In his first months on the job, Kensler has been getting feedback from administrators, faculty, staff and area professionals who are interested or involved in sustainability activities.

“As a major commitment in the university’s strategic plan, sustainability has a broad reach and application at Auburn,” Kensler said, noting that the office offers training to any interested individuals and organizations, on-campus or off. “Outreach is a core mission of Auburn University, and we do have a lot to offer the community in developing sustainable programs.”

Offices, academic programs and student groups across campus are involved in projects that promote sustainability. The diverse range includes energy-efficient buildings such as the LEED-certified Miller Gorrie Center, cleanup and restoration efforts along Parkerson Mill Creek, waste reduction activities at The Hotel at Auburn University, planting of trees and water reduction practices by Landscape Services and other activities, many of which involve student volunteers.

To assist Auburn and external organizations in developing sustainability programs, the office is hosting a workshop May 11-13 that will provide participants with a framework for conducting sustainability-related education and training, as well as planning and decision-making.

At the workshop, the AtKission Group, an international sustainability consulting firm, will provide training on implementing the ISIS Method, a process for identifying areas in which more sustainable practices can improve operations and reduce costs, including a framework for implementing those practices and helping them gain acceptance as part of the organizational culture.

Other activities are in the works, many coming from ideas suggested by persons already involved in sustainability activities on campus, Kensler said. “We will be advocating collaborative, practical programs and policies for the campus. Our strategy is to experiment with low-risk demonstration projects around campus and develop a prototype for a range of applications. Over time, we will highlight programs on campus that can be models for further development and implementation.”

In the academic arena, Chadwick, who previously taught courses in sustainability as well as biological sciences, has been meeting with faculty and administrators across campus, seeking ways to expand the popular sustainability minor to attract a broader cross-section of students across the curriculum.

Every college and school has at least one sustainability class, but some have more flexibility in their curricula than others. Chadwick said some colleges, such as Engineering, already offer several courses related to sustainability, and it may be possible to coordinate the senior projects required by these colleges with the senior capstone projects carried out by sustainability minors.

“Sustainability can be suffused into many fields,” she said. “It is applicable to nearly all fields on campus. There is a lot of interest among students and among faculty from a wide variety of fields. We are working on ways to increase the opportunities for students to include the minor in their studies and more faculty to participate in the program. We have a budget for buyouts to compensate the departments and free up faculty to teach these interdisciplinary courses.”

Balancing the challenges, she said, is a high level of enthusiasm for sustainability courses among students and many faculty and strong support from many administrators at every level from departments, through colleges and schools to the university administration.

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– Roy Summerford

Spirit of Excellence
Auburn University Human Resources has announced Spirit of Excellence winners for February, recognizing exceptional performance by staff members. The recipients, from left, were Karen Spencer of Facilities Building Services, Janet Guynn of the Jule Collins Smith Museum, Vinnie Biles-Hester of the National Center for Asphalt Technology and Tim Watts of the Facilities Mechanical Shop.
Provost Mary Ellen Mazey has released the names of faculty who have been awarded promotion, tenure or both at Auburn University for 2011. The faculty members and each person’s department or school are:

**Associate Professor**
Alejandro Lazarte, Psychology.

**Associate Professor with Tenure**
Elina Dimitrova Coneva, Horticulture; Stephen Enloe, Agronomy and Soils; Manpreet Singh, Poultry Science; Salman Azhar, Building Science; Brian L. Bourdeau and Daniel T. Padgett, Marketing; Harris Hollans, Finance; Margaret Flores and Annette Kluck, Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology; Jane M. Kuehne and Brian A. Parr, Curriculum and Teaching; John Quindry, Kinesiology.

Maria Lujan Auad, Polymer and Fiber Engineering; Robert Dean and Shiwen Mao, Electrical and Computer Engineering; Jin Wang, Chemical Engineering; Latif Kalin, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Veena Chattaraman, Consumer Affairs; Stephen Erath, Human Development and Family Studies.

Chantel Acevedo and Peter Campion, English; Mitchell Brown and Kathleen Hale, Political Science; Pedro Cebollero, Ted McVay, Jorge Munoz Ogayar, Iulia Pittman and Gilda Socarras, Foreign Languages and Literatures; Wendy Deschene, Art.

Ana Franco-Watkins and Jennifer M. Gillis, Psychology; Hyeongwoo Kim, Economics; Christopher Qualls and Adrienne Wilson, Theatre; Jayachandra Ramapuram, Pharmacal Sciences; Toni Alexander, Geology and Geography; Leslie Goertzen and Mark Liles, Biological Sciences; Anne Gorden, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Stuart Loch, Physics; and Elizabeth Spangler, Pathobiology.

**Professor**
Lee I. Chiba, Animal Sciences; Kathy Flanders and Xing Ping Hu, Entomology and Plant Pathology; Kelly Vornauf Bryant, Industrial and Graphic Design; David W. Hinson, Architecture; Norman Godwin, Accountancy; Christopher Shook, Management, Margaret Ross, Education Foundations, Leadership and Technology; David Bevly and Zhongyang Cheng, Mechanical Engineering; Hulya Kirkici, Electrical and Computer Engineering; David H. Timm and Dongye Zhao, Civil Engineering.

Stephen Ditchkoff, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Francesca Adler-Baeder, Human Development and Family Studies; Jim Carr, Psychology; James Shelley, Philosophy; David Zuwiyya, Foreign Languages and Literatures; Luke Marzen and Ashraf Uddin, Geology and Geography; Barbara Wilder, Nursing; and Jonathan Armbruster, Biological Sciences.

**Professor with Tenure**
Linda LeBlanc, Psychology; and Yanzhao Cao, Mathematics and Statistics.

**Tenure**
Terrill Hanson, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures; Gilbert Crouse, Aerospace Engineering; Cherry Jackson, Pharmacy Practice; and Mahmoud Mansour, Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology.

**Associate Clinical Professor**
Lori B. Hornsby, Pharmacy Practice.

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**Run to remember Marie Wooten**

The College of Sciences and Mathematics will host the Marie W. Wooten Memorial 5K Run, Saturday, May 7, at 8 a.m. on the Auburn campus near Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum. The event will also include a one-mile walk beginning at 8:45 a.m.

Wooten, who was dean of Sciences and Mathematics, died Nov. 5, when she was struck by a car while jogging. An avid runner, she had planned to hold a 5K event to raise money for scholarships. Proceeds from this event will benefit the Marie W. Wooten Memorial Scholarship.