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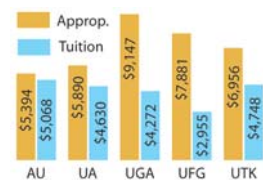
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How Auburn Stacks Up

State appropriations per student, tuition at AU & SEC neighbors



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment from SREB data

AU FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

Vice president to speak at graduation

Vice President Richard Cheney will be guest speaker at graduation on Friday.

AU will award an estimated 2,397 academic degrees at ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

Cheney will speak at the 10 a.m. ceremony. City and university officials are advising participants and guests for that ceremony to arrive early

and expect traffic congestion near the campus. Tight security precautions will be in effect throughout the area during the vice president's visit to Auburn.

Cheney is also scheduled to speak at a Republican fund-raising event at 1:30 p.m. at Dixon Conference Center.

See [Graduation](#), page 2

Plan ahead for detours, parking this summer

An unprecedented number of infrastructure, repair and construction projects will affect traffic and parking on campus this summer.

The Facilities Division traditionally takes advantage of a smaller campus population in the summer to launch upgrades and repairs. Those projects will combine with construction and renovation projects that are under way to cause more road and parking closures than normal.

AU parking officials have made arrangements for additional parking in the gravel lot behind the Alumni Center, where Tiger Transit will provide shuttle service at arrival (7:15 a.m.–8:15 a.m.), lunch

(11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.) and departure (4:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.) times. In addition, a parking lot is in the design stage for the vicinity of the Duncan Drive extension across from the new Forestry and Wildlife Sciences building. The opening date of this lot has not been determined.

Projects that will affect traffic or parking on campus this summer include:

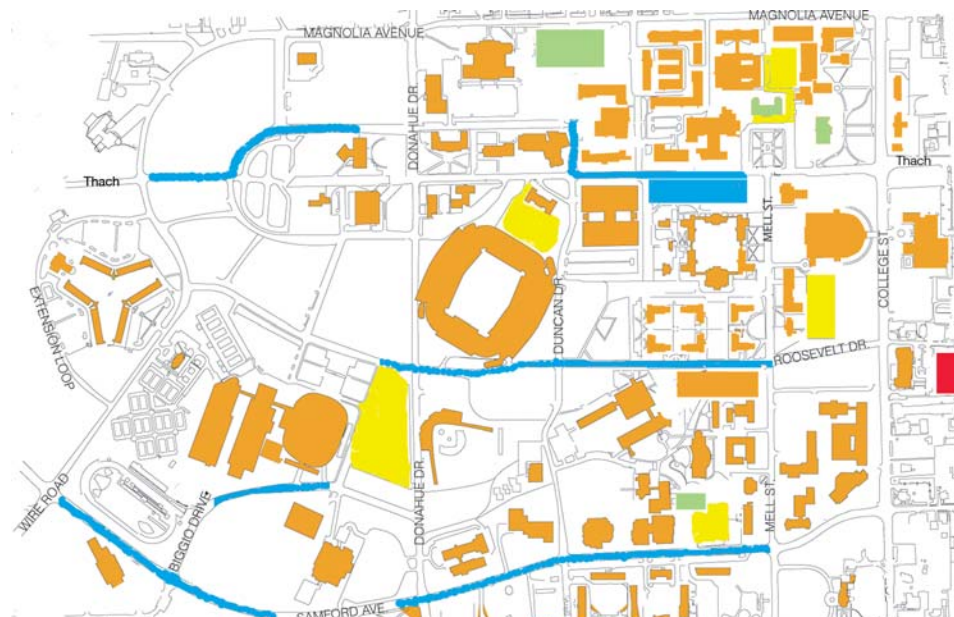
- u Draughon Library parking deck renovation: The parking deck will be closed for approximately 60 days beginning May 16.

- u Ross Hall renovation: Parking is no longer

See [Summer projects](#), page 2

Construction

Parking areas to close either temporarily or permanently are in yellow. Streets affected by construction are in blue. A new parking area is in red. Areas in green are either new construction or are being renovated. The boundaries of work areas may vary from those shown here. Other areas may also be closed at times for construction projects during the summer.



Staff Council

Jenny Swaim, center, of Facilities has assumed office as chair of the AU Staff Council for 2005-06. The Staff Council, which represents 2,400 AU employees, elected Tissie Walker, left, of Telecommunications as chair-elect. John Varner of AU Libraries, right, completed his term as chair and, as past chair, will assist Swaim this year. Walker will lead the organization in 2006-07.



Graduation

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Students in the colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts, Sciences and Mathematics and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences will receive their degrees in the 10 a.m. ceremony.

Graduates of School of Nursing and the colleges of Agriculture, Business, Education, Human Sciences and Architecture, Design and Construction will receive degrees at 2 p.m.

In total, AU will award 2,000 bachelor's degrees, 333 master's degrees, 61 doctorates and three specialist degrees.

The College of Liberal Arts will award the most undergraduate degrees with 543, followed by the College of Business with 439 and the Samuel Ginn

College of Engineering with 257. The College of Education will award 209 undergraduate degrees, the College of Architecture, Design and Construction 138, the College of Sciences and Mathematics 127, the College of Human Sciences 105, the College of Agriculture 100, the School of Nursing 64, and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences 18.

Also, the Harrison School of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine will hold ceremonies Tuesday at the Student Activities Center. Pharmacy will award 92 degrees at 1 p.m. and Veterinary Medicine will award 91 degrees at 6 p.m.

Summer Projects

continued from page 1

allowed on the north side or on the side of Ross Square near the building. Traffic flow will be interrupted periodically and the parking areas will remain closed until July 2006.

u Transportation Technology Building construction: Duncan Drive is permanently closed, and parking in the old Noble Hall lot and at the corner of Duncan and Dormitory is no longer available.

u Storm sewer installation: Parking in the lot between Petrie Hall and Jordan-Hare Stadium will be closed through June.

u Coliseum storm sewer work: Two rows of parking and an entrance on the north end of Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum are currently affected. Additional parking in the coliseum lot will be lost following Friday's graduation, effective through July.

u Biggio Drive storm sewer work: Biggio Drive, including the intersection of Biggio and Coliseum Drive will be closed until June for work between

Donahue and the Coliseum at the rear of Watson Field House.

u Building Science Facility construction: The parking lot between Goodwin and Swingle halls will close permanently this month.

u Thach Avenue storm sewer work: North Thach Circle and West Thach Avenue will be closed May through June.

u Roosevelt Drive heating and cooling infrastructure work: Roosevelt Drive will be closed from Jordan-Hare Stadium to beyond the coliseum parking lot entrance off Roosevelt. The street will be closed May through July, and the coliseum parking lot entrance will be closed in July.

u Wire Road utility work: The work will take place in June and July, but planners say traffic will not be affected.

u Samford Avenue utility work: The work will be in August and September. Traffic routes will

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 10

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Payroll & Employee Benefits, Ingram 212. No appointment needed.

Wednesday, May 11

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION Ceremony honoring AU employees for achievements and length of service, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

Thursday, May 12

CHAUTAUQUAN ECHOES Ghost stories by Alabama author and storyteller Kathryn Tucker Windham, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Friday, May 13

GRADUATION Ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Coliseum.

Monday, May 23

FIRST AU Report of summer. Start of two-week production schedule for summer. Return to weekly production on Aug. 22.

SUMMER TERM classes begin. The date listed in last week's AU Report was incorrectly drawn from the 2006 academic calendar.

Thursday, May 26

CHAUTAUQUAN ECHOES Open Mic Night, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Monday, May 30

MEMORIAL DAY observed; no classes; offices closed.

Monday, June 6

FREE SCREENING Speech and hearing problems, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., AU Speech and Hearing Clinic, Haley 1199.

Tuesday, June 7

MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall.



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Focus on improving finances

Commission recommends institute to set new direction for agriculture

The President's Commission on Agriculture is recommending that Auburn create a new institute to set a new direction for AU's agricultural research and extension programs.

Previewing for the University Senate last week a report that the commission will present to interim President Ed Richardson on Monday, Commission Chair John Jensen said the proposed institute is modeled after one at the University of Florida. Jensen said the proposed institute would focus on programs and strategies to improve the financial position of the Alabama Agriculture Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Those units, which are two of four divisions in the AU System, would be placed under an AU vice president in the proposed institute along with the College of Agriculture and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, both of which have large numbers of faculty with dual appointments in AAES or ACES.

The commission has dropped plans to recommend the transfer of other academic units to the institute in its proposal. Richardson, who also addressed the University Senate on Tuesday, said he is interested in pursuing the idea of an institute but is not prepared to consider moving academic programs around as part of that initiative.

Richardson will evaluate the commission's recommendations and present a report at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees on June 17.

The study of agricultural programs was one of six major initiatives that Richardson announced last October for development during the past academic year and presentation to the board in April and June. The other studies involved a new research park, the university-owned airport, an AU-affiliated hotel at Gulf State Park, the relationship between AU campuses at Auburn and

Montgomery and establishment of a review process for academic programs.

Jensen, former interim dean of the College of Agriculture, chaired the 29-member commission, which drew its members from the agribusiness sector. Jensen said the future of these groups is closely linked to the future of agricultural research and extension at Auburn. A common objective of all the commission members, he said, was to find a way to reverse a steep decline in agriculture extension and research faculty and programs over the past two decades.

He noted that federal funds for agricultural research and extension over that period have declined while AAES and ACES have struggled to meet AU salary increases without the benefit of tuition increases that have helped finance salary increases for instructional faculty when other funds were unavailable.

The proposed institute would seek to reduce expenses by consolidating comparable administrative functions for AAES, ACES and the College of Agriculture. On the revenue side, the institute would seek to expand programs through self-funding strategies such as increasing development efforts, charging fees for services, finding profitable uses for marginal lands, developing intellectual property and exploring potential partnerships with the private sector.

The College of Agriculture receives financial support from AAES for 60 full-time equivalent faculty positions and from ACES for 30 positions. The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences receives support for 20 positions from AAES and six positions from ACES. AAES and ACES support 10.8 positions in Human Sciences. Sciences and Mathematics and Veterinary Medicine also receive some financial support from AAES.

Link with the past

While AU explores new directions for its agricultural programs, the old red barn off Samford Avenue provides a link with Auburn's agricultural past. Alabama agricultural interests are supporting AU efforts to develop a museum with the barn as the centerpiece to celebrate the university's and the state's agricultural heritage.



Special projects

Graduate student Whitney Skinner discusses her project with Tsai Lu Liu, an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Design, who challenged his students to design toys for disabled children. One of 15 students in the class, Skinner developed a modular playcenter that can be used indoors or outdoors and is wheelchair accessible.



For students, professor

Class projects hit close to home

As an industrial design student, Jeffrey Jones admittedly put a lot of heart into his final class project at Auburn.

Jones was one of 15 students to participate in an assignment from Tsai Lu Liu, an assistant professor of industrial design, to design and create toys and products for disabled children. A native of Hartselle, Jones developed a universal marker – the Abili-Painter – for people with fine motor disabilities, which are dysfunctions in the area of the brain that control the planning of hand-muscle movements.

Jones said he didn't have to look far to find his inspiration for the project. His twin brother suffers from a disability that has left him without fine motor skills on one side of his body.

The Abili-Painter marker has a strap and is contoured to the hand for easy gripping. To change the pen's color, the user taps the marker tip on a palette that holds different colored tips. Use of the pen only requires up and down movement from the shoulder instead of more coordinated, complex movements that are required with other markers.

"This assignment really touched close to home," Jones said. "Everybody's heart really got into these projects."

The assignment touched close to home for Liu, as well. His 9-year-old son suffers from cerebral palsy. "It is difficult to find toys for him," Liu said. "They are either poor designs or too expensive."

The AU faculty member said he challenged his students to develop products that could be used and enjoyed by everyone – disabled and able-

bodied alike. This would increase the market for the products while reducing production costs.

Liu said the students spent time at the project's outset watching and playing with disabled children to form ideas. "For most students, this is the first time they have interacted with someone who is disabled," he said. "I think they were really touched by what they've seen."

The projects ranged from a hand-operated race bike and a hand-operated seesaw for children with lower

body disabilities to a wheelchair-accessible activity center and ergonomic dining utensils for people with impaired fine motor skills.

The project was sponsored by Taylor Pursell, CEO of NFT Industries in Birmingham, who will develop some of the designs for commercial use. All proceeds from sale of the products will go to Unlimited Play, a non-profit organization in St. Louis that is trying to raise \$750,000 to build a playground that will be accessible to all children, including those who use wheelchairs or walkers.

Except for one graduate student, the students in Liu's class are all seniors and will graduate from AU on Friday. "This project was especially meaningful for them because it is their last," Liu said.

"I thought this project was really rewarding not only because it is our last one but because hopefully these products will really make a difference for someone else," said graduating senior Graham Wimberly of Birmingham.



Family Fun Day set for May 19

AU has scheduled its ninth annual Family Fun Day for 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on May 19 at the President's Home on Mell Street.

Approximately 4,000 people attend Family Fun Day each year. The festival treats university employees and their families to music, games, activities, food and prizes.

Participants will receive free Family Fun Day T-shirts, while supplies last. Chennon Roberts, 13-year-old daughter of Carla "Jeanie" Roberts of Veterinary Medicine, created the design, which is shown above.

The festival is the work of campuswide volunteers coordinated by Albert Snipes of AU Human Resources.

Auburn employees will receive an invitation card through campus mail. The card provides information about the event and a mailing label that enables each employee to enter a drawing for door prizes.

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