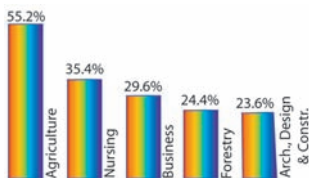


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How Auburn Stacks Up

AU colleges, schools with largest percent increase in freshman applicants, 2006 to '07



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

Graphic Design program moving to CADC

Auburn University's graphic design program, formerly part of the Department of Art in the College of Liberal Arts, has a new home. Following approval by the Board of Trustees at its April 27 meeting, the program will now be part of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction's Department of Industrial Design.

"The move better aligns students in the graphic design program with other designers whose work has more of a commercial orientation," said Sharon Gaber, associate provost for academic administration.

Both colleges as well as the Office of the Provost supported the move.

"From both a pedagogical and philosophical perspective, graphic design is strategically aligned with the disciplines in the CADC. Further, graphic

design and industrial design are accredited by the same national accrediting group," said CADC Dean Daniel Bennett.

Administrators from both colleges agreed that the change will be beneficial to everyone involved.

"We believe that the move to the College of Architecture, Design and Construction will permit the graphic design program to grow and flourish in order to reach its full potential," said Constance Relihan, senior associate dean for academic affairs for the College of Liberal Arts.

The program's relocation includes a physical move that will take place this summer from Biggin Hall, home of the Department of Art, to Wallace Hall, home of the Department of Industrial Design. The English as a Second Language program, which formerly shared Wallace Hall with Industrial Design, will take over the vacated space in Biggin.

All of the graphic design program's equipment and seven professors will also move this summer. The physical move will be complete by the time fall semester classes begin Aug. 16.

Students enrolled in the graphic design program were introduced to their new advisers in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction this past spring and will officially change colleges when fall semester begins. Freshman students enrolled in the pre-graphic design program will transfer colleges during a five-year phased transition.

As of spring semester, there were 79 students enrolled in the graphic design program and another 135 students enrolled in the pre-graphic design curriculum.

Gaber said minor curriculum changes will be made, in the short term, so that current graphic design courses move to the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Required fine arts courses will stay in the Department of Art. Other curricular issues will be reassessed in three to five years.

The idea for the move began about eight months ago and was initiated by the graphic design faculty, with the guidance and input of Dean Anne-Katrin Gramberg of the College of Liberal Arts and Bennett. The Department of Art faculty voted in favor of the relocation as did the faculty in the Department of Industrial Design.



Philpott celebrates 90th birthday

AU's 11th president, Harry Philpott, celebrated his 90th birthday May 6 and was honored with a party May 5. Philpott, who served from 1965 to 1979, awarded more than one-half of the total number of degrees given by the university in its 123-year history at that time, presenting 47,823 of the total 92,255 earned degrees.

Family Fun Day scheduled for May 30

Auburn University will hold its 11th annual Family Fun Day for university employees and their families at the President's Home on Mell Street from 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30.

Attendance often tops 5,000 at the annual spring event, which features games, music, children's activities and free food and beverages.

"The university's objective for this event is to show its appreciation to the many employees who have given their talent, dedication and loyalty toward making AU the great institution that it is," said Sonya Dixon, chair of the Family Fun Day organizing committee.

Adults and children can win prizes, play games, listen to music and participate in more than 20 activities, including ring toss, horse shoes, Wheel of Fortune, peg ball, golf, nerf football throw, bingo, basketball shoot, roll ball, dice throw, bean bags, duck pond, petting zoo, fishing booth,



cup throw, animal balloons, find toys in the sand and the moon walk.

This will be the sixth consecutive year the event has been held at the President's Home. With limited parking in the immediate area, Tiger Transit will provide shuttle service to the site from the core of campus, with stops at Haley Center and the Coliseum.

"More than 75 university offices and community businesses donated multiple prizes to be given away at the event last year, and we expect to have that many participate again," Dixon said.

Cards with information about the event are going through campus mail to all employees; each card contains a mailing label that the employee may use in a draw-

ing for door prizes.

If you would like to volunteer to help at this year's Family Fun Day, contact Victoria Tate at 844-4747 or tatevic@auburn.edu.

AU Federal Credit Union to change locations

The Auburn University Federal Credit Union is selling its building to Auburn University and will break ground this fall for a new building at the northwest corner of South Donahue Drive and East University Drive. AU's Board of Trustees on April 27 approved the purchase of the credit union's building on West Magnolia Avenue for \$875,000.

The new location will accommodate a building nearly twice the size of the existing credit union facility, which was built in 1994. Expected to be completed by January 2009, the plans call for a 16,000-square-foot, two-story structure with more drive-up lanes than at its existing one-acre lot. The new lot

will cover 3.62 acres to provide for additional parking and for growth of the credit union's business.

Auburn University will use the existing credit union building for administrative purposes for 10-15 years, until the university expands along West Magnolia Avenue. "We will renovate it after the new credit union building opens and we plan to occupy it by summer 2009," said John Mouton, senior advisor to the president in the Office of Campus Planning.

The credit union will maintain full service operations at its current location until the new facility is complete.

Hubbard contributes to fundraising campaign

Alabama State Representative and House Minority Leader Mike Hubbard (R-Auburn) recently donated \$28,000 to Auburn University in support of an endowed scholarship. The scholarship will benefit students in the College of Human Sciences with preference given to those from Lee County.

The gift honors Hubbard's wife, Susan Hubbard, associate dean of AU's College of Human Sciences. She is a full professor and previously directed the college's Hotel and Restaurant Management program prior to her promotion to associate dean last year.

The gift is part of a pledge Rep. Hubbard made following a recent pay increase passed by the Legislature.

"I opposed the legislative pay raise but at least I can take the increase and do some positive things in my district," said Hubbard, who represents District

79 in the Alabama House. "In funding an endowed scholarship to help students get an education at Auburn University, I've tried to take a negative situation and turn it into something positive."

Hubbard says he will donate the remainder of the legislative pay increase to Auburn United Methodist Church, where he and his family are active members.

The "It Begins at Auburn" Campaign encompasses all colleges and schools as well as the AU libraries and museums, athletics and Auburn University Montgomery. Endowments for student scholarships, faculty, programs and unrestricted dollars make up 58 percent of the campaign's goal. In addition to endowments, the campaign also will focus on facilities and equipment; campus beautification; research; and current operations. The campaign has raised more than \$479 million, or 96 percent of the goal.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 22

CEREMONY to mark the naming of the Auburn University Center for the Arts and Humanities after former AU first lady Caroline Marshall Draughon, and to commemorate Draughon's life and work, 4 p.m., lawn of Pebble Hill, a reception will follow

Wednesday, May 23

WATER INITIATIVE MEETING A campus-wide faculty meeting will solicit input on direction and foci for the AU Water Resources Center, 9 a.m., Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Bldg., Room 2217

Monday, May 28

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY Offices closed

Thursday, May 31

THE MARKET AT AG HERITAGE PARK 3 p.m. - 6 p.m. Contact Katie Jackson at 844-5887 or smithcl@auburn.edu for more information

Monday, June 4

NEXT AU Report

Thursday-Friday, June 14-15

WATER RESOURCES CONFERENCE national experts will discuss issues related to water policy, irrigation, watershed issues and water conservation, AU Hotel

Art Exhibitions

BIGGIN GALLERY May 21 - July 27 "Love Isn't Always Enough," Department of Art adjunct faculty exhibition 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

JULE COLLINS SMITH MUSEUM June 9 - September 1 "Alabama: Nature, Industry, Art" exhibition



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Are your medicines affecting fish?

AU seeking to improve wastewater treatment

Synthetic chemicals designed to help human health may be having unintended consequences downstream from wastewater treatment plants, according to an Auburn University researcher. The problems can include fish with both male and female characteristics and the creation of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms.

Willie Harper, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, is looking into how synthetic, or man-made, chemicals are broken down by wastewater treatment plants and the possible effects on the environment. He says pharmaceutical and personal care products, such as aspirin, antibiotics and birth control pills, contain chemicals that can pass through treatment plants either unaltered or only slightly degraded.

"These chemicals serve their intended purposes and then are passed through the human body into the wastewater," said Harper, who has been studying wastewater treatment for 15 years. "We are studying how well they are broken down by bacteria at the treatment plant and we want to create new technology for use in wastewater treatment. We want to prevent problems downstream."

Chemicals that act as endocrine disruptors are designed to affect hormonal stability, such as in birth control pills to prevent pregnancy. However, after the chemicals pass through the body, a residue can remain intact even after going through a wastewater treatment plant.

"These chemicals can affect fish by disrupting their endocrine system. If this happens, then they develop abnormally," Harper said. "Some synthetic chemicals can 'feminize' a male fish, giving it female characteristics. Some male fish have been found with ovaries."

In September, fish were found in the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., that had both male and female attributes. While scientists are concerned about this situation and others, Harper says the first step is to learn the fate of chemicals as they pass through the treatment process.

"The treatment plants are doing a good job to clean the water based on current regulations, but they are not designed to remove certain chemicals

to even safer levels," he said. "We want to help treatment plants address these concerns."

Using National Science Foundation grants, Harper has set up three small-scale treatment plants where he can control the treatment process and the kind and amount of chemicals being treated. His lab, like large plants, removes chemicals through activated sludge treatment in which biomass, or biological material, is used to remove pollutants.

Harper's AU research group was one of the first in the world to show that the biomass particle size is a critical factor in the adsorptive removal of steroidal compounds. As these clumps of microorganisms get smaller, he says, they have more surface area and thus they provide more sites for removal of synthetic chemicals. "Biomass particle size can be controlled by practitioners both at the design stage and at the operating stage," Harper said. "The information we have provided will be of interest to water pollution control facilities that are concerned about pharmaceutical compounds."

"We were also one of the first groups to show the specific degradation mechanism of how the active ingredient in birth control pills is broken down."

These research results may be useful to chemical engineers and pharmacologists in the design of synthetic chemicals that degrade well during treatment, or for identifying chemicals that will be persistent. The results also should help regulators development water quality criteria.

Harper's group is also addressing the possibility that antibiotic residues help create antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms. Along with Mark Liles of Biological Sciences, Harper is investigating the idea that biological wastewater treatment plants are a source of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms.

"We want to learn more about the reservoir of antibiotic-resistant mechanisms available to the activated sludge microorganisms," he said.

This is a major public health issue, he says, and it has become more important as water quality surveys have revealed the broad range of antibiotics present in water after it goes through wastewater treatment plants.

"Antibiotics are designed to kill infections. However, if they get into the environment, they can cause naturally occurring microorganisms to develop antibiotic resistance. We would then have a microorganism that is much more difficult to kill," he said. "We have already found evidence that some activated sludge microorganisms are extremely resistant to a broad variety of common antibiotics. We need to direct more research into this issue."

Water research will be highlighted June 14-15 during AU's Water Resources Conference hosted by the newly created Water Resources Center. The center, part of AU's Natural Resources Management & Development Institute, has an interdisciplinary team of more than 50 faculty who specialize in various types of water research.



Assistant Professor Willie Harper is conducting research at Auburn University to help remove synthetic chemicals at wastewater treatment plants before they flow downstream to possibly affect fish.

Faculty-Staff campaign garners record participation

Faculty and staff volunteers were asked by their colleagues across campus to help ensure that the "It Begins at Auburn" Campaign really does begin at Auburn. They answered with a record 55 percent participation, an increase of 12 percent from last year.

"The dedicated efforts of AU's faculty and staff made this possible," said Bob Martin, assistant vice president for development. "Almost every division increased their participation percentage for this year as compared to last year."

Seven divisions reached 100 percent compared with three last year. These divisions include: President's Office, Treasury Services, Development Office, Office of Communications and Marketing, School of Nursing, AU Libraries and Alumni Affairs.

"The success of this campaign surpassed all of our expectations," said Bob McGinnis, vice president for development. "I sincerely thank all individuals who participated in this campaign. Your support will form the basis of the remainder of the university-wide campaign and will encourage significant gifts from our alumni and friends this year and into the future."

This year's Faculty Staff Campaign ran from March 8 to May 4 and involved dozens of volunteers from all colleges, schools and divisions. Campaign co-chairs were Dwight Wolfe of Veterinary Medicine, Greg Williams of Athletics and Paula Sullenger of AU Libraries. The purpose was to make a statement to alumni and friends that a significant percentage of faculty and staff support the university.

"The goal of the campaign was participation," said

Martin. "All gifts, of any size, counted toward each division's competitive participation rate. Donors could target their funds to help ensure the success of their colleges, schools or programs or designate other uses that support the university's mission and help strengthen the university."

Contributions for the Faculty Staff Campaign are a part of the larger, nationwide fund-raising "It Begins at Auburn" Campaign, which has raised approximately \$479 million toward the overall goal of \$500 million in private support for AU.



Dave Brackett, seated, team captain and assistant professor in the Harrison School of Pharmacy, has his head shaved by HSOP Dean Lee Evans, left, to motivate his division to contribute to the Faculty Staff Campaign.

Tiger Transit adds GPS technology for better service

Auburn University students no longer have an excuse for being late to class thanks to new technology being utilized by the university's Tiger Transit bus system.

Known as the Transit Visualization System, the technology allows students to view the buses in motion and the routes in real time on a detailed map displayed on the Internet or a Web-enabled cellular phone. "It keeps students from having to stand out in the rain or wait for the bus in bad weather," said Rex Huffman, manager of transit services at AU. "It also assists management with seeing where the buses are and how the drivers are operating on their routes."

Each of the 41 Tiger Transit buses is outfitted with a Global Positioning System unit that relays its location to a central server. The server then transmits the location to a map on the Internet or cell phone, all in three to five seconds time.

Huffman said the system has already proven successful, with the online map logging more than 6,000 hits on the first day of operation alone.

The map also has a section where Huffman and other administrators can post announcements, for example alerting students when a bus is out of commission or telling them of a route change. The announcements feature could also be used to quickly disseminate a message to students regarding inclement weather or a campus emergency, Huffman said.

Transit officials at AU began researching a GPS

system about a year ago and traveled to North Carolina State University to view their system in operation. Impressed with what they saw, Huffman said AU decided to contract with TransLoc, the same company that NC State uses, to provide the GPS service. He said AU is only the fourth university to install the burgeoning company's technology. In addition to AU and NC State, Emory University and Yale University also use the TransLoc GPS technology on their campus transit systems. Other universities are slated to come online this fall.

In addition to the GPS system, Huffman said students can expect a few more changes to the Tiger Transit system beginning this fall. Two routes that currently service Wire Road will be combined into one. Tiger Transit will also be discontinuing its airport route because of low ridership. Those resources will be reallocated to a new route that will service residents on Opelika and Shelton Mill roads. The new route will also include a "by request" stop at Colonial Village Mall.

"We are readjusting our resources to provide better coverage," he said.

Tiger Transit continues to see an increase in the number of riders that utilize the service. Three years ago, the system was operating 17 buses and today it's running 41, Huffman said. Currently, the transit system averages 50,000 riders a week and 200,000-210,000 riders a month.

HHP majors spend summer as volunteer counselors

Health and Human Performance teacher education majors will participate as volunteer counselors at Camp Abilities, a nonprofit organization that conducts a one-week developmental sports camp each summer for children who are blind, deaf or multiply disabled, in Tucson, Ariz. The camp provides a one-on-one instructional environment for each child while they participate in various sports and recreational activities. Campers vary in visual ability, age, economic status, ethnicity and level of physical skill.

Auburn students reside at the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind for the week, which includes a one-day orientation. Each is responsible for a child with a visual impairment during the entire time as a counselor.

"Nothing could have prepared me for how amazing this experience was," said Sheri Brock, an assistant professor in the department, who supervised students at Camp Abilities while also conducting research. Jeanine Fittipaldi-Wert, a doctoral student in the department and assistant director of Camp Abilities, was also instrumental in planning, research and fundraising efforts.

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