

May 24
2004

Inside

Page 2

Dean: Change approach to medical care

Page 3

AU starts survey for update of job classifications

Page 4

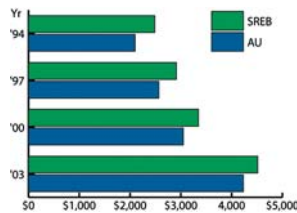
AU professor's cancer research shows promise

Page 4

Art museum publication wins national award

How AU Stacks Up

AU in-state tuition vs. average for SREB region



SREB = Southern Regional Education Board
Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues @

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

AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 18

Street closed

Thach Avenue between Foy Union and the west side of Haley Center is closed to traffic due to installation of pipes for heating and cooling of campus buildings and other infrastructure improvements. Thach will remain closed when the work is complete, and crews will rebuild the street to accommodate pedestrians instead of vehicles.



Some closings to be permanent

Traffic rerouted on campus streets

Drivers this summer will face construction hurdles across much of campus as work crews close streets and parking lots for extended periods to make infrastructure improvements.

Streets most affected by the work in late spring and throughout the summer are Mell, Thach, Duncan and Dormitory. The Facilities Division is coordinating the laying of pipes for centralized heating and cooling, installation of conduit for other utilities and repaving of the streets.

The infrastructure lines will extend to the site of a facility planned for the northwest sector of campus to supply chilled water for cooling and hot water for heating to buildings in that quadrant. Additional lines will connect that plant with two others in a loop to provide heating and cooling for most campus buildings.

Baker Melson, assistant vice president for Facilities, notes that the detours this summer, besides being more numerous, are different from the temporary disruptions of the past. When the current work is complete, some of the detours will become permanent to make the core of campus safer and more enticing for pedestrians, he said. Melson noted that the changes are consistent with the university's goal of making the core area more pedestrian-friendly.

As workers finish several weeks of infrastructure

installation along Mell Street, they are turning their attention to Thach Avenue. Mell will be repaved and permanently reopened, but Thach between Foy Union and the west side of Haley Center will be converted into a pedestrian way as part of the plan to make the campus safer, quieter and more attractive.

In addition to the installation along Thach Avenue, new infrastructure lines this summer will extend along part of Duncan at the Harrison School of Pharmacy and turn west on Dormitory.

Thach Avenue is the second major east-west connector to be permanently closed to vehicles in less than two years. Roosevelt Drive, which has been closed for a year due to construction of the new Science Center, will also be converted into a pedestrian way. With both corridors closed, east-west traffic is routed to Magnolia and Samford avenues.

During the 2004-05 academic year, AU will erect vehicle checkpoints on Samford Avenue, and all private vehicles will be directed south to Lem Morrison Drive during peak hours for classes. Planners describe that future action as an attempt to improve safety for the thousands of students crossing the thoroughfare between residence halls and classroom buildings during class hours.

This summer, the north end of Duncan Drive will (See *Rerouting*, page 3)

Campus Forum

Health care costs can be contained through patient-centered therapy

By R. Lee Evans, Dean
Harrison School of Pharmacy

In recent decades America's health care system has become a victim of its own success.

Improvements in medical care, pharmaceuticals and technology have helped to redefine "old age" in



Evans

this country, where more people than ever are living productive, healthy lives well into their 80s and 90s and, increasingly, beyond 100. And, those who refuse to give up unhealthy habits are using the health care system to delay the consequences of their own bad choices.

There is a downside, however, to this increased longevity fostered by the best health care system in the world. America lacks the universal health care of other leading industrialized nations, but we are universal in our complaints about health-care costs.

We spend more on health care in order to live longer, with the obvious result that we will spend still more over the course of a longer life. We could save a great deal of money on health care in this country if we all died quickly at a young age, but that is not an option I am prepared to recommend. No, we need to look for other ways to ensure that health care is effective, accessible and affordable.

Efforts to contain the cost have been compared to efforts to reduce the size of a balloon by squeezing it at one end or the other. As insurers, employers, government and families try to contain the cost in one area, bulges appear in other costs. The latest cost bulge is pharmaceuticals; previously it was physicians' care and hospitalization.

Most people recognize that their local pharmacist does not set drug prices or share in any significant way with the pharmaceutical companies that control pricing. Yet, because they are in the front lines of America's health care system, pharmacists see the hardship that the rising cost of health care places on American families.

Even though few consumers and medical professionals welcome these price increases, most seem to recognize that there are some legitimate reasons for a continuing rise in spending for prescription drugs. For instance, pharmaceutical companies invest heavily in research and development of today's wonder drugs and must recover their investment to support continuing research on still newer treatments. Of course, consumers and insurance companies have very different ideas from the manufacturers concerning what constitutes a fair price.

Still, the current focus on the cost of pharmaceuticals overlooks the success of modern prescription drugs in reducing the need for costly hospital stays

and, in many cases, helping to prolong life. Even as we acknowledge the benefits of today's pharmaceuticals and grudgingly accept the rising costs for most aspects of medical care, Americans face the reality that our nation's health care system has major problems. The system can and should be changed to improve communication, hold down costs and provide better access to many patients and higher quality of care to many others.

Some in the medical community, including educators, are responding to the challenge with a new philosophy that returns the focus to the patient. We are seeing the early stage of a shift toward the team concept for medical care. In this concept, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, hospital and emergency staffs, insurers, employers and others present a united front, addressing the needs of patients, particularly those with high-risk medical conditions. In this concept, which is at the forefront of today's health professions education, all health care professionals work in concert with one another on behalf of the patient.

Comprehensive, patient-centered therapy involves collaboration among the physician, pharmacist, therapists, nutritionists, other medical professionals and the patient to help the patient gain control of the situation. This involves working more closely with the patient to establish an optimal mix of medication, nutrition, therapy and lifestyle changes. Besides assisting the patient toward a healthier, more productive life, such intensive involvement early in the illness can save money for insurers and consumers by reducing the need for emergency room care and hospitalization for neglected or poorly managed conditions.

This is an often-professed concept and is common practice in many other professions, but it represents a sea-change for a health care community bound by traditions of segmentation and poor communication. Yet, tests are showing that intensive therapy can dramatically reduce the long-term, overall costs of medical treatment for many patients, particularly those with high-risk, high-maintenance diseases such as severe asthma, diabetes and heart disease.

At Auburn University's Harrison School of Pharmacy, we have introduced the concept of intensive therapy into the full range of our education program. Pharmacy schools are not alone in adopting this new concept for health care education, but we are at the forefront of the movement. However, for the concept to benefit a large segment of the population, we will have to see major changes in the medical community's iconoclastic attitudes toward patient care. The continuing rise in the cost of medical care and the response of the insurance industry could prompt those changes.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Art Exhibit: "Maltby Sykes in Mexico," works from the late 1930s and later by the legendary Auburn art professor, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through June 4.
- Art Exhibit: Unique impressions of tools and household items by Philadelphia artist Mike Geno, Biggin Gallery, through June 18.

Tuesday, May 25

- Goodwin Lecture: "Genetic Approaches to the Study of Host-Pathogen Interactions," Phillippe Gros of McGill University in Montreal, 1:30 p.m., Greene 121, Veterinary Medicine campus.
- Special, Called Meeting: Administrative & Professional Assembly, 3:30 p.m., Comer 207. Discussion of proposed policy restricting personal relationships between administrators, faculty or staff and subordinates or students.

Monday, May 31

- Memorial Day Holiday: No classes; offices closed.

Friday, June 4

- Art Exhibit: "Works by Gary Chapman," paintings by the chair of the UAB Art Department, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Aug. 29.

Monday, June 7

- Next AU Report.
- Screening: Free screening at Speech and Hearing Clinic, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., Haley 1199. Children must be accompanied by parent or guardian.
- Art Exhibit Lecture: Gary Chapman, head of UAB Art Department, discusses his paintings, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Tuesday, June 8

- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium

Friday, June 11

- Meeting: Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Committee sessions TBA.



AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Mitch Emmons, AU Research; and Haden Brown, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services. Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle.

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Except for major holidays or the Monday after a major holiday, issues appear every other Monday during summer term and each Monday during fall and spring semesters. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is 4 p.m. on Wednesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9999. Electronic mail: summero@auburn.edu



Spirit of Excellence, 2004

Spirit of Excellence winners as Employees of the Year at AU for 2004 are, from left, Louis Jones of Facilities, Danna Bradford of Photographic Services, Kenneth Jordan of Budget Services and Warren Dow of Facilities. They are shown with Lynne Hammond, right, assistant vice president for Human Resources.

Surveys to aid in job classifications

Does your job description fit your current duties? Is your pay comparable to that of others with similar duties?

As part of a larger project to answer those questions, AU's Office of Human Resources will conduct a survey of approximately 3,500 AU personnel over the next 10 weeks.

The project will include an analysis of positions that fall under the categories of University Staff, Administrative and Professional, and some Non-Tenure Track positions, including those in the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service.

The survey will consist of questions about job responsibilities, necessary knowledge and skills for the job and various characteristics of the position.

Information provided by each employee will be reviewed by that employee's supervisor, the top administrator of the unit and Human Resources personnel.

The information will then go to Hewitt Associates, a human resources consulting firm, to help create an up-to-date job description for the position.

"The job questionnaire is an important step in the

overall success of the project, and our goal is to attain 100 percent employee participation," said Chuck Gerards, director of classification and compensation in AU Human Resources.

"The questionnaire provides employees with an opportunity to tell us about the work that they do every day so that we can develop a sound classification and compensation system."

He added, "It is crucial that each person complete the questionnaire so that accurate decisions about classification and performance can be made. The information will enable the university to develop a sound and equitable classification and compensation system."

The project will take 18 months to complete. Human Resources officials estimate the analysis will result in approximately 800 job classifications. Although some employees may move into higher pay brackets as a result of the study, officials caution that classification is only one factor in employee pay.

For more information, see the Web site www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/compensation/ccp.

Rerouting

(continued from page 1)

be closed periodically for storm drainage improvements. It will be closed permanently next winter. Site preparation for the Transportation Technology Center, which will extend over that section of Duncan, is scheduled to start early next year.

Noble Hall, a 1950s-era dormitory, was razed this spring, and the parking lot behind that site is closed for construction of an underground retention basin for storm-water runoff.

In December, the AU Medical Clinic is slated to

move to a new facility on the south side of campus, and the 1930s-era Drake Clinic will be razed. A second underground retention basin is planned for the vicinity of the old medical clinic.

Officials say the basins should eliminate frequent flooding in the area during heavy rains. The two underground basins will connect to lines that will divert periodically heavy runoff from the area between Magnolia Avenue and Jordan-Hare Stadium to creeks south of campus.

NIH reviewing test results

Cancer treatment shows promise

Results from research by an AU pharmacy professor are being analyzed by the Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health after showing promise for reducing the harshness of some cancer treatments.

Forest Smith, an associate professor in the Harrison School of Pharmacy, is developing synthetic organic compounds for treating cancer. One of his developments has advanced through two phases of screening by the NIH and is being readied for evaluation as a treatment for a form of leukemia known as chronic myelogenous leukemia, or CML.

Smith, an expert in the area of synthesis, is creating an analog, or a variation, of compounds that are known to be leading cancer fighters. The goal is to reduce the harshness of treatment on the patient.

Current cancer treatment compounds are indiscriminant in the cells that they kill, Smith says.

"We create new building blocks of these synthetic compounds," he says. "Our objective is to develop compounds that are more specific in their cell targeting and, therefore, less harsh on the patient."

By creating compounds that target specific DNA within cell groups, Smith says toxicity to the patient can be significantly reduced while increasing the treatment's effectiveness.

If these new cancer-fighting compounds prove successful, Smith says the treatment may be administered as an oral vaccine, an injection or other method. "We already know that these compounds are effective in killing cancer cells," Smith said. "We now have to learn more about how humans will respond to them."

Dean wins national pharmacy award

Lee Evans, dean of AU's Harrison School of Pharmacy, has received the seventh annual Saklad Memorial Lecture Award of the College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists.

Evans received the award recently during the international organization's annual meeting in Chicago.

The Saklad Memorial Lecture Award is presented annually to a senior psychiatric pharmacy practitioner who has achieved a level of professional distinction and demonstrates a continuing dedication to the practice of psychiatric pharmacy.

The award is named for the late Judith J. Saklad, who was nationally recognized as an innovator of pharmaceutical care for children and adults with mental disorders, developmental disabilities and mental retardation.

The award citation said Evans "represents the qualities and ideals of professional enthusiasm in addition to possessing a passion for optimizing patient care."

During the conference, Evans presented a lecture titled "Psychiatric Pharmacy in Context: Perspectives of a Clinical Paper Pusher."

Museum wins award for publication design

The American Association of Museums has presented an award in its annual museum publications design competition to AU's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

In the national competition, the Auburn museum won second place for the design of its quarterly newsletter by AU Art Professor Dana Ezzell Gay. The competition drew more than 950 entries.

The Auburn museum's newsletter competed

against publications from such nationally known institutions as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, in New York, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.

Haden Holmes Brown, assistant director of the AU fine art museum, says publications are essential for the success of a new museum. "For many people, the first image of an art museum at Auburn University is created from a publication that we have sent them or they have picked up."

Theatre head directs revival of musical in Cincinnati

Worth Gardner, head of the Department of Theatre in AU's College of Liberal Arts, directed the successful revival of his play "Sing Hallelujah" this month in Cincinnati.

Gardner co-wrote the musical with a colleague in Ohio, Donald Lawrence, in 1986, while they worked together at the Cincinnati Playhouse in the Park, where the AU professor was artistic direc-

tor from 1985-91. The musical, a celebration of gospel music, played to large audiences throughout its original run.

The AU faculty member agreed to return to the Ohio city to direct the new production of "Sing Hallelujah," for its premiere on May 15.

With the play running through June 27, Gardner was scheduled to return to campus Monday.

HR unit to host seminar for home buyers

The AU Office of Human Resource Development will present a seminar on the advantages and disadvantages of home ownership at 9 a.m. June 10 at the HRD Training Facility on North Gay Street.

In the two-hour session, "Buying Your First Home," Lynn Adams of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Alabama will discuss credit considerations, obtaining a mortgage, home shopping tips, the role of the realtor and closing activities.

To attend, submit the regular HRD registration form or register at the Web page www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/hrd/index.html. Contact Kelli Henderson at 844-7939 for more information.

AU Bulletins available at Foy Union

Copies of the 2004-05 AU Bulletin are available at the Foy Student Union information desk for faculty and staff to pick up during regular business hours.

When that supply is exhausted, copies will be available at the Admissions Office in Martin Hall.

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each unit mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.