The AU administration is preparing for leaner operations and proposing a 12 percent increase in tuition this fall to help offset a 12 percent cut in state appropriations for the coming fiscal year.

President Jay Gogue told the University Senate last week that every part of the university will have to make sacrifices due to the smaller operating budget. But, he added, “We have been in operation more than 150 years and expect to be in operation another 150,” he said.

Other universities, including the University of Alabama, have responded to the state budget cuts for the 2008-09 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1, by raising tuition 12 percent or more and announcing plans to eliminate a large number of staff and faculty positions in the coming year.

Gogue said he thinks Auburn can find other ways to cut costs without layoffs. Rather than specify ways to cut costs, the AU president said he will leave those decisions to administrators who are responsible for the operations of their units.

The administration’s tuition proposal is included in recommendations scheduled for the Board of Trustees meeting on June 27. The board’s decision on tuition for the coming year will be a major factor in guidelines the administration will use in developing a budget for 2008-09.

In its recent special session, in response to sharply falling state revenues, the Alabama Legislature included a $293.7 million appropriation to the AU System as part of a $6.3 billion appropriation for education in 2008-09. The AU System saw its allocation fall by $42.9 million from the current year. Of the system total, the Auburn campus is scheduled to receive $190.6 million, a reduction of $27.7 million in operations and maintenance.
The Agricultural Experiment Station will receive $5.5 million loss on the main campus next year. One-third of the annual budget for the main campus, costs for state mandates will raise the total financial funding. Cuts in earmarked funds for designated AU continued from page 1

Mary Florence Woody, former dean of the School of Nursing at AU, was inducted into Healthcare Hall of Fame. Woody spent much of her nursing career in Atlanta, where she worked at Emory University and Grady Memorial Hospital. She came home to her native Alabama in the spring of 1979, when she accepted the position of dean of the School of Nursing. By September of that same year, Auburn’s first class of nursing students was enrolled. In less than six months, Woody was able to develop curriculum, renovate Miller Hall, hire faculty, secure private and federal monies and obtain state permission as well as student and wide community support for the school. After the first class graduated, the school was granted national accreditation at the highest level.

On the national level, the American Academy of Nursing honored Woody as a “Living Legend” in 1997.

Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, June 17**

**AUDIO CONFERENCE “Promoting Faculty Careers for Women,” noon**

Library

**Wednesday, June 18**

**AU THEATRE “The Complete History of America (Abridged),” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; also Thursday-Saturday; optional Dinner Theatre. Tickets available at box office and at telfairpeet.com and through tickets.com.**

**Thursday, June 19**

**FARMERS MARKET**

The Market at AU Heritage Park, 3 p.m.-6 p.m., West Samford Avenue across from Athletics Center; also June 26

**COLLECTORS’ TALK, WINE TASTING**

Lynn Barstis Williams and Stephen J. Goldfarb, the collectors of “Imprinting the South,” 5 p.m.-6 p.m., Julie Collins Smith Museum

**Sunday, June 22**

**MATHEX**

“The Complete History of America (Abridged),” 2:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre, see June 18 listing

**Friday, June 27**

**MEETING Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel, see www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees**

**Monday, June 30**

**Next AU Report**

JULIE COLLINS SMITH MUSEUM “Auburn Collects: Imprinting the South,” images related to Southern culture, history and landmarks, through Aug. 23; “American Classics: Selected Photographs of America by Walker Evans,” stark images of rural poverty during the Great Depression of the 1930s, through Aug. 23

JAN DEMPSEY COMMUNITY ARTS CENTER “Letters & Numbers,” paintings and typographic works of AU graphic design program and sculpture by artist June Corley, through July 6

BIGGIN GALLERY “Boundary Conditions,” an exhibition of water-color paintings by Cynthia Camlin and a growing wall installation by Hannah Israel, through July 6

AU Report/Editor: Roy Summerville, Contributing editors and writers: Mike Clardy, Kate Wilder and Charles Martin, AU Communications, Photography: Jeff Ethridge and Melissa Humble, AU Photographic Services; (page 7) School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; and (page 8) Walker Evans.

Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Dew dre Dowdell

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear every Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff on campus offices located on the campus of Auburn University. For permission to publish in a print or electronic format, contact information@auburn.edu.

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Caroline Marshall Draughon Center launches book series

The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in AU’s College of Liberal Arts has announced the creation of Pebble Hill Books, an imprint series published in collaboration with the University of Alabama Press.

The recently released first book in the series is “In the Path of the Storms: Bayou La Batre, Coden, and the Alabama Coast,” by writer Frye Gaillard and artists-in-residence Sheila Hagler and Peggy Dennissen. The book’s publication is a result of a community history project funded by the Kettering Foundation of Ohio and undertaken in collaboration with the Truman Pierce Institute in the AU College of Education.

Collegiate Learning Assessment documents value-added effect

In its first two years of use at Auburn, a prominent measure of student ability, the Collegiate Learning Assessment, has placed AU in the top 30 percent of participating institutions nationally for gains in critical thinking, problem solving and written communication skills.

A scientifically selected sample of Auburn students showed an average gain equivalent to 125 points on the 1,400-point SAT scale or an increase from 24 to 27 on the 36-point ACT scale between freshmen and seniors in 2007. Those gains show how much higher the senior class scored than the freshman class; the Class of 2009 will be the first for which AU will be able to evaluate the progress of a class that was tested both as freshmen and as seniors.

The CLA findings are in line with expectations and confirm that Auburn students are making strong gains in these key skills, said Drew Clark, director of institutional research and analysis. Citing the university’s new initiative to improve students’ writing skills, Clark said the CLA is one of several analytical tools to help the university broadly evaluate the academic strengths and needs of its students. The information will prove valuable to faculty as they update Auburn’s academic programs. Clark said, “The CLA enables the institution to set measurable goals, though it cannot tell us what techniques to use to meet those goals.”

Clark said the CLA produces information that is not available elsewhere. Departing from the easily quantifiable multiple-choice formula of most standardized tests, the CLA requires students to demonstrate both knowledge and problem-solving skills in courses that require both writing and reading. The Web-based assignments may include developing a policy recommendation and writing a memorandum on a subject. To accomplish the task, a student must evaluate the credibility and relevance of information, analyze and make up to support a recommendation.

Dixon Dorms

Students taking classes and professionals participating in workshops at AU’s Silon Dixon Center near Andalusia have access to new lounge. The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences recently expanded student housing at the center with five four-room cottages at a cost of $1.2 million. Most of the construction cost was covered by a gift of $950,000 from the Solon and Martha Dixon Foundation.
Toomer’s oaks

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break up compacted soil around the roots, add organic matter and fertilizer around the base and treat for insects.

“We hope to improve the condition of the Toomer’s oaks through this work,” said Horticulture Professor Gary Keever, who is helping the AU Facilities Division develop a long-term care plan for the iconic trees. “These are not old live oaks; if we can provide better growing conditions, they could live much longer.”

The trees have been a fixture at the junction of the campus and town for more than a century, and live oaks often live for 400 years or more. In addition to the stresses common to urban trees, the Toomer’s oaks are further endangered by their most dedicated advocates — tens of thousands of football fans who celebrate victories by tossing rolls of toilet paper over the trees after every victory in Jordan-Hare Stadium. Several times in recent years, celebrants have set fire to the paper, causing further damage to the trees.

The morning after each celebration, cleanup crews wash away the toilet paper with high-pressure hoses. This knocks many leaves and buds off the trees, putting additional stress on them.

In an unintended but beneficial side effect of the post-celebration cleanups in 2007, the damage was partially offset by water reaching the roots of the trees during some of the driest conditions on record.

Keever said the inadvertent watering paid dividends the following spring, when the trees put out substantial new growth.

However, the horticulture professor noted that high-pressure hosing is not the best way to water trees, even during a drought. If football fans could find an alternative to draping the trees in toilet paper, the Toomer’s oaks could rapidly be restored to good health and a long life, he said.

Despite signs of decline over the past decade, Keever said the trees are far from being candidates for the chipper, as evidenced by a flush of dark green foliage. The larger tree has even shown signs of recovery from a gaping wound incurred a few years ago, when a vehicle crashed into it.

AU foresters are growing young trees from acorns harvested from the two oaks, but Cathy Love of Campus Planning and Space Management said replacement trees would probably not last long in that vicinity unless conditions change. “If there were no change in the tradition of rolling Toomer’s Corner, we would have many of the same problems with new trees,” she said.

Love and Keever said various groups and individuals are looking for a long-term solution that would preserve both the trees and the tradition. In the meantime, they said, the university is taking steps, such as the current treatment, to improve growing conditions for the trees.