AU students, faculty hit the road for studies abroad this summer

While most of their fellow students are enduring another hot Southern summer in their hometowns or on campus, more than 440 Auburn students have spread out around the world this summer as part of AU’s Auburn Abroad program.

Approximately 340 of those students are participating in 17 faculty-led summer programs through their colleges and schools or AU’s Human Odyssey program in such locales as London, Paris, Rome, Vienna and scenic, historic villages and cities across Europe, Asia and the Americas.

The remaining Auburn Abroad students are in non-AU programs and activities they organized with help from their professors and Auburn’s Office of International Education.

Another 200 or so will study abroad for a semester or more during the next academic year.

“International study is a life-changing experience for hundreds of Auburn students every year, and it is far more attainable than most people realize,” said Jim Ellis, director of the Office of International Education.

Ellis said he expects the number of Auburn Abroad students to grow considerably as more students learn the benefits of international study. He noted that the new Spirit of Auburn scholarships offer recipients the opportunity to include a special study abroad program during their time at Auburn.

Assistant Director Deborah Weiss said students almost always return excited about their adventures after a summer, a semester or a year abroad. Most return with a much greater appreciation of other cultures and a renewed commitment to their education, she said, adding, “For a lot of people, it really is the opportunity of a lifetime.”

Through Auburn Abroad, students get academic credit for their studies abroad while experiencing the language and culture of their host countries. Plus, Weiss noted, many graduate schools and employers give preference to applicants with international experience.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Percent of freshmen receiving federal grant aid, 2004-05*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Ala</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Fla</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td>U Ga</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss St</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U Tenn</td>
<td>20%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

Summer school

Many AU students are taking classes or doing other academic work far from campus this summer. Kacy Schmidt, a senior in communication in the College of Liberal Arts, was among those who studied in Italy last summer as part of an Auburn Abroad program.

“Anyone can go abroad for international studies and benefit from it, regardless of their major, their family income or their career plans,” said Weiss, who heads the Auburn Abroad program.

Weiss noted that six AU colleges are providing faculty-directed study abroad programs this summer, and others offer international programs during
Auburn Abroad

continued from page 1

the academic year. Ellis added that faculty expand their other academic horizons, as well as those of their students, by organizing an international educa-
tion experience.

The College of Liberal Arts has the fullest sched-
ules of international programs this summer. The
college’s Department of Foreign Languages and
Literatures is sending 103 AU students abroad this
summer for programs in Paris; Vienna; Taormina,
Italy; Salamanca, Spain; and Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Open to students from all AU colleges and schools,
the department attracts students from a variety of
majors for academic credit in these programs, which
offer basic and intermediate courses in the language
of the host country, as well as history and cultural
studies in those countries and regions.

AU’s Human Odyssey program, meanwhile,
has campuseswide appeal for its international option
through world history classes in Italy, for which
participants sign up during Camp War Eagle.

Also sponsoring programs this summer are the
College of Architecture, Design and Construction,
with programs in Taiwan and across several European
countries; the College of Business, with London internships and a program in
the Czech Republic, with programs in Taiwan
and Hungary; Human Science,
with its Acrica, Italy, and program for a multi-
country European program; and Veterinary Medi-
cine, which has students in Japan and Venezuela.

Besides helping students with the logistics of
international study, the Office of International Educa-
tion in Hargis Hall helps faculty and academic units
organize programs in other countries for periods of
study ranging from four to six weeks in the summer
to a full semester or an academic year. Ellis said
the longer terms, especially, help faculty achieve their academic goals for their students and give the students more through education on the world stage.

Over the course of a year, AU has Auburn Abroad
programs in 26 countries. Ellis noted that with
Alabama’s emergence as a major economic player
in world markets, faculty interest in international
programs has spread across the curriculum.

While the logistics of dealing with U.S.
and foreign government agencies may have deterred
some faculty members in the past, Ellis said the
International Education Office can make the process
much more manageable. “They do not have to do it
alone,” he said. “We are here to help.”

For faculty as well as students who are interested in
international academic programs, the key point,
Weiss said, is to start early. Even with assistance
from the International Education Office, faculty
need a year to 18 months to identify a school, college
or university affiliate in the host country, develop
a program for themselves and their students, work out
the logistics, get documents processed and get
the first class organized.

Students usually don’t need as much lead time
to join an established program, but Weiss said this
summer and early fall is the best time to begin
preparing for study abroad in 2008. An early start
is especially beneficial, she said, for students who
want to apply for financial assistance from one of
a large number of scholarships available from orga-
nizations such as Rotary International, U.S. govern-
ment agencies, private donors and the university.
In addition, passports and visas can take several
weeks or months to obtain.

Often financial aid is available for extended stays
of a semester or academic year; enhancing their
international academic experience, she added.

“Students who say they cannot afford to study
abroad either have not looked into the scholarship
opportunities or they waited too long to apply,”
Weiss said. “If they start the process at least 12
months in advance, they have a better chance of suc-
cess for next year.”

AU receives $1 million boost for biofuels research

the first class organized.

In an on-site briefing at the AU-owned facility,
Airport Director Bill Hutto and state Rep. Mike
Hubbard helped the university and local
media representatives.

Officials predict major impact on local
economy from upgrade of AU airport

We have needed a better facility for economic
development and recruiting,” said the state legisla-
tor, who has helped secure funding for numerous
AU programs and initiatives, including more than
$2.5 million in grants and budget allocations for the
airport during the past four years. “I am excited to
see the progress on the expansion, which has been a
priority of mine.”

“It’s a great investment in our area’s future,”
Hutto said. “The new facilities will also bring a new
image to the area. Our current terminal was built in
1950 and one of our hangars has been in use since
the late 1930s.”

AU President Ed Richardson said, “Upgrading
the airport facilities is crucial to attracting industry,
creating jobs and providing academic opportunities
for Auburn students, staff and faculty. Mike Hub-
bard continues to deliver state support and funding
for airport construction so that it will continue to
contribute to the economic success of Lee County
and East Alabama.”

A new government and media representa-
tives got a preview earlier this month of
the complete makeover AU’s Auburn
Abroad Office at G.W. “Gus” and No Glory: An
Alabama Coach’s Memoir of Desegregating College Athletics,
4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

Friday, June 29

MEETING AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel

Monday, July 30

CLASSICS END for summer term (full semester)

Thursday, July 31

FRAILS for summer term (full semester), through Aug. 2

Saturday, August 4

GRADUATION CEREMONY 2 p.m., Coliseum

AU Report Editor Roy Summerville. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder and Charles Martin, AU Communications; and Jamie Cearse, Agriculture. Photographs:
Jeff Hodges and Melissa Hubble, AU Photographic Services.
Executive Director of Communications & Marketing: Debbie Doxova.
The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and
every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of the first week after major U.S. holidays. 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
Tuesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to
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E-mail: summero@auburn.edu.
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B iofuels research at AU has received a $1 mil-
ion annual boost through a contract between
Auburn’s Alabama Center for Paper and
Bioresource Engineering and the Birmingham-based Masada Resource Group LLC.

The project will involve faculty from the AU-
based center and the Department of Chemical
Engineering in collaboration with AU’s Center for
Bioenergy and Bioproducts, which is dedicated to
exploring renewable energy technologies and
catalyst to the economic success of Lee County
and East Alabama.”

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National association honors Extension for marketing, communication projects

Staff members of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and other units at Auburn have won five ACE Awards for excellence in marketing and educational communication from the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences.

Extension representatives received the awards last weekend in Albuquerque, N.M., at the 2007 ACE annual conference in conjunction with the National Extension Technology Conference.

Glenda Freeman, an editor with Extension Communications, won the Pioneer Award for the Southern Region. The award honors individuals who have made significant contributions to their profession and to the organization and who are in their first 10 years of membership.

Maggie Lawrence, a communications and marketing specialist with Extension, won a Silver Award in the Electronic Media: Audio, Programs and Spots category for a show broadcast on Troy University Public Radio, Backyard Wisdom.

Bruce Dupree, Extension design specialist; Carol Whatley, director of Extension Communications; and Glenda Freeman won a Silver Award in the Graphic Design, Print Advertisement category for an advertisement featuring the 1930s-era Walker murals in the 2006 Auburn Football Illustrated.

Mary Ferguson Huddleston, design specialist with AU’s Office of Communications and Market-

Dean to take part in Oxford Round Table talks

AU Dean of Students Johnny Green has been invited to participate in the Oxford Round Table discussion July 22-27 on “Separation of Church and State: The Decline and Fall?” in St. Anne’s College at Oxford University in England.

The purpose of the Oxford Round Table is to promote human advancement and understanding through improvement of education. The Round Table meets periodically, with each session being comprised of a small, select group of leaders from the public and private sectors of several countries.

Round Table organizers invite key individuals throughout the world to participate on the basis of their ability to add significantly to the discussion.

Before individuals are selected, they go through several screenings, starting with nomination from previous participants. Other steps include recommendations to Round Table directors in higher education and public school leadership roles and a review of recognized presentations and awards by state and national organizations, followed by invitations to individuals from a successful organization, university or school district.

New professorship to honor former CADC professor

More than 550 donors have contributed a total of $300,000 for the Bob Aderholdt Endowed Professorship in the Department of Building Science.

Aderholdt died in May, shortly after retiring from AU’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction, where he taught for 27 years.

“This new professorship to honor Professor Aderholdt is a true testament to his wonderful Auburn legacy,” said Dan Bennett, dean of the college. “It is a poignant demonstration of the love and respect that so many felt for Bob. The fact that the professorship was endowed by donations from more than 550 people in a period of only six weeks shows the very strong support for that legacy by the Building Science and CADC students, faculty and alumni.”

A prominent and popular member of the Building Science faculty for nearly three decades, Aderholdt was influential in the Alabama Legislature’s creation of a fund in 1991 to support construction education in the state.

Joe Molnar, a professor of rural sociology in AU’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, has been elected president of the Rural Sociological Society.

The RSS is a professional social science association that promotes studies to help improve the quality of life in rural areas.

Molnar will serve a three-year term, beginning as president-elect in 2007-08, president in 2008-09 and past-president in 2010. He is the RSS representative to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was elected an AAS fellow in 2005.

In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities at Auburn, Molnar serves as coordinator of the AU Office of International Agriculture. A member of the Auburn faculty for 31 years, Molnar received his Ph.D. in sociology in 1976 from Iowa State University, and he holds master’s and bachelor’s degrees in sociology from Kent State University.