

## Inside

- 2 Faculty leaders cite cooperation, progress at AU
- 3 Benefactors add \$4 million to gift for art museum
- 4 Two promoted to key positions in AU Outreach
- 4 AU Bookstore to stay open during latest renovation

### How Auburn Stacks Up

Non-resident tuition and fees for 2004-05



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

[www.ocm.auburn.edu/au\\_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html)

# IAI report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY



### Summer camp

Teachers and students from area schools are pursuing science studies at AU this summer in the Youth Experiences in Science program of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Shown here, biology teacher Stan Arington of Auburn High School helps Opelika native Emma Isaacson identify microscopic marine creatures.

### For concerts, plays

## Performing arts may get new venue

A performing arts center could be in Auburn's future.

Saying that it is time for AU to start thinking about a modern facility for concerts, plays and other live performances, interim President Ed Richardson introduced the concept of a performing arts center to the AU Board of Trustees on June 17.

He noted that while Peet Theatre and the Goodwin Music Building serve academic functions, they have limited parking and neither can accommodate large crowds. Although Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum and the Student Activities Center sometimes host performances, those buildings lack the acoustics and design characteristics of a true performing arts center.

The Office of Campus Planning and Space Management is working with the College of Liberal Arts to gather information on Auburn's needs and options for a performing arts center.

Noting that the arts enjoy strong community support, Richardson said there is widespread interest on campus and in the city for a performing arts center. He suggested that the university and the city government work together to de-

velop a center that could meet the needs of both.

John Mouton, assistant to the president for planning and facilities, said the city's growth and changing demographics indicate that Auburn may soon be able to support a performing arts center.

Mouton presented examples of successful designs for performing arts centers in comparable university communities. Size and mission of the centers varied but all shared the common characteristic of being specially designed for that purpose rather than as multi-use facilities.

In a 1991 report, the College of Liberal Arts cited a need for a center for the visual and performing arts. Over the next decade, AU accomplished half the goal with construction of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art on South College Street.

Interim Liberal Arts Dean Joe Ansell said last week a performing arts center would bridge a cultural gap in the community. "Other large universities either have a performing arts center on campus if they are in a rural area, or have access to one if they are in a major metropolitan area," he said. "Hopefully, we will be in position soon to develop a performing arts center here."

## Campus Forum

# Faculty leaders: Talk of disconnect unwarranted in current environment

By Officers of the University Senate

Conner Bailey, Willie Larkin, Richard Penaskovic, Patricia Duffy and Kathryn Flynn

Is Auburn University plagued by disconnectedness? Numerous times this year (most recently at the June meetings of the Board of Trustees), Interim President Ed Richardson has used this term to describe Auburn University. Dr. Richardson's continued emphasis on this theme leads us to wonder if we are working on the same campus.

At the heart of AU are its academic programs. What evidence is there that these are disconnected? We have a core curriculum that provides a common foundation in our instructional programs. We have a vibrant Human Odyssey program that brings together scholars from the sciences and humanities in the classroom. We have curricula which undergo frequent revisions to meet emerging societal needs. In many parts of campus faculty and students work as members of cross disciplinary teams, demonstrating willingness not only of faculty but administrative support systems to work collaboratively.

Is there a disconnect between athletics and academics? Anyone who attended the University Senate meeting of April 2005 would discount this as a problem. At that meeting Virgil Starks, point person for efforts by the Athletics Department to encourage academic achievement by student athletes, reported on progress being made in this arena. AU's Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics has eight faculty members, including the committee chair. These faculty play important roles in setting athletic policy at AU. The relationship between athletics and academics at AU is complex and important, but the term "disconnected" is not well applied.

What of the relationship between faculty and the Board of Trustees? We have come through painful years of acrimony but are emerging into what we believe is a period of increased cooperation and genuine efforts at understanding. Faculty are represented on board committees and sit on the board itself. There was a time when the word "disconnect" clearly fit, but that time is past.

The University Senate reflects the strong connections that unite this campus. The Senate is the one place where virtually all campus groups share a common forum. Elected representatives from academic departments meet with representatives from the A&P Assembly, the Staff Council, the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Council. Senior administrators also are part of the senate, as the president appoints nine senators from the ranks of vice presidents and

deans. The president regularly meets with the senate, discusses issues of the day, and is available for questions from anyone in attendance. At times rough and tumble, at other times more subdued, the University Senate is a key institution for maintaining the channels of communication that keep this campus connected.

Recently faculty have responded positively to Dr. Richardson's initiatives on establishing a strategic plan and establishing criteria and timelines for periodic reviews of academic programs. Faculty officers are working closely with the provost and others in the central administration on a number of issues, and we believe we have a greater measure of shared governance within the academic realm than has been the case in some years.

As we look beyond campus, we see a flood of first-year students coming to Auburn this fall, AU having well exceeded its target enrollment. We seem to have established a strong connection to prospective students and their families. AU has established similarly strong ties with Governor Riley, who has highlighted the importance of the state's research universities in promoting economic growth. We might add that the City of Auburn has become an enthusiastic partner in developing AU's Research Park.

Despite all this evidence of progress, Dr. Richardson continues to think of this campus as fundamentally disconnected. Worse, he pitched this view not only to the University Senate and to the Board of Trustees but also to the Steering Committee of the capital campaign when they were on campus in mid-June. These volunteers are working to attract half a billion dollars in endowments. Why would the interim president go out of his way to argue we are disconnected to this group?

There is much room for improvement on this campus, but even more that is good. Dr. Richardson's persistent claim that AU is seriously disconnected does not serve our university well, and may both delay and damage our ability to attract a strong pool of applicants for our forthcoming presidential search. Who would want to become the leader of Disconnect U.?

◆◆◆  
Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by AU faculty, staff and administrators of issues in higher education that are of special interest to the campus community but which are infrequently discussed in the commercial news media. Views in each Campus Forum are the independent expressions of the writers.

## Upcoming Events

Tuesday, June 28

**CLASSES BEGIN** for mini-semester III of summer term.

**ART EXHIBIT AND OPENING** reception for artist Dawn Gavin, 4 p.m.-6 p.m., Biggin Gallery. Works on display through July 22. Gallery open 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except July 4.

Thursday, June 30

**MEETING** Staff Council, 10 a.m., Foy 217.

Monday, July 4

**INDEPENDENCE DAY** holiday. No classes; offices closed.

Thursday, July 7

**CHAUTAUQUAN ECHOES** AU Summer Band conducted by Johnnie Vinson, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Monday, July 11

**NEXT** AU Report.

Tuesday, July 12

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

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

Wednesday, July 13

**FREE HEARING SCREENING** at AU Speech and Hearing Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., Haley 1199. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No appointment is necessary.

Thursday, July 21

**CHAUTAUQUAN ECHOES** AU Summer Choir conducted by Tom Smith, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.



AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services; and Martha Barker, College of Sciences and Mathematics

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. Issues appear each 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 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. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu.

The interlocking AU symbol, shown above and at the top of page 1, is a registered trademark of Auburn University and may not be reproduced without written permission from the AU Office of Trademark Licensing.

# Benefactors add \$4 million gift for support of fine art museum

A Houston couple whose \$3 million gift in the late 1990s was instrumental in establishing an art museum at Auburn University has donated another \$4 million to help the museum expand its programs and collections.

Although the first gift helped bring a 50-year dream to life for devotees of the arts at Auburn, the long-term impact of the latest gift could be just as great, say AU officials.

The initial gift to Auburn from Albert J. Smith Jr. was a 50th anniversary surprise for his wife, Jule. The gift provided momentum for other alumni contributions, enabling the university to design and build a museum that had been a decades-long dream of art lovers across Alabama.

In recognition of the Smiths' pivotal role in 1998, AU named the new museum the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Since the museum opened in 2003, it has quickly attracted attention for both the quality of its art and

the beauty of its travertine

stone building. The 40,000-square-foot building houses rare collections of Audubon prints, Irish Belleek porcelain and other valuable collections.

Of special note in the art world is the collection of 36 pieces from the historic "Advancing American Art" collection, which the land-grant institution purchased after the U.S. State Department pulled the paintings from an international tour in 1947, the same year Albert Smith graduated from Auburn. For more than 50 years, there was no place on campus to display this important group of mid-20th century art.

Albert Smith, noting that the initial gift prompted other friends of Auburn and the arts to support construction of the museum, said he and Jule hope that the new gift will have the same rallying effect as the first one. "Jule and I feel that our leadership gift a few years ago has helped the museum evolve into one of the best things that has happened to Auburn in many years," he said. "It means a lot to us and to many other people who love Auburn."

Smith said he wants the Auburn museum to maintain its early momentum. "There aren't many museums in the country that have developed as fast with such a high level of quality as this one," he said. "We want to be sure the resources are there for it to continue growing and getting better. And



Jule and Albert Smith

we hope that this gift will encourage others to continue their support as well."

Interim AU President Ed Richardson said the Smiths' latest gift will have a major impact on the fine arts at Auburn. "Albert and Jule Collins Smith are inspirations for the entire Auburn family," Richardson said. "They set the example for giving that made it possible for Auburn to develop an art museum that is a source of pride for us all."

Richardson added, "Now, with this latest gift and the example they are setting for others, Al and Jule are ensuring that the museum will continue to grow and flourish. Their influence will be felt for generations to come."

Michael Panhorst, director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, said the Smiths' gift will enable the museum to expand its art collections and programs for students and the community. "Albert and Jule Smith led a handful of benefactors who saw the potential for fine arts at Auburn University," he said. "Their support and influence with other art patrons enabled Auburn to develop one of the finest art museums in the South."

He added, "We are especially grateful for this latest show of support from the Smiths because it will enable us to work toward our goal of making the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art into one of the finest museums of its type in America."

Although they have lived in Texas for more than five decades, the Smiths have deep roots in

See [Museum gift](#), page 4



### Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees for exceptional service. Recipients for May were, from left, Paula Dale of Information Technology, Elizabeth Foote of Facilities, Rosa Jackson of the Graduate School and Florel Stenson of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

## Veal, Cook promoted in AU Outreach

Vice President for Outreach David Wilson has announced the promotion of Don-Terry Veal from associate director to director of AU's Center for Governmental Services, effective Aug. 1.

Veal, a member of the Governmental Services staff since 2000, holds a Ph.D. in public administration from Northern Illinois University. He will succeed James Seroka, who will return to a full-time faculty position in the Department of Political Science. Seroka has headed the outreach unit since 1998.

Wilson also announced the promotion, effective

Oct. 1, of Royrickers Cook to assistant vice president. Cook, currently special assistant to the vice president, will be responsible for AU Outreach's role in AU's initiatives at Gulf State Park and in West Alabama. He holds a Ph.D. in public policy and public administration from Auburn.

Also, AU Outreach has changed the name of the Office of Outreach Information and Marketing to Office of Outreach Information and Program Certification. Ralph Foster will continue to head that office. Wilson said the name change reflects the current responsibilities of the office.

## Museum gift

continued from page 3

Alabama and strong connections to Auburn. Albert Smith grew up in Montgomery. A U.S. Navy veteran, he graduated from Auburn in 1947 with a degree in mechanical engineering. At Auburn, he met and married Jule Collins, who was born in Auburn and grew up in Lowndesboro and Montgomery, where her father, Albert Hamilton Collins, a former Auburn faculty member, was Alabama State Superintendent of Education.

After their marriage, the Smiths moved to Texas, where Albert became a pioneer in the construction of privately owned and operated generating plants for sale of electricity to public utilities and large industrial users. In Houston, Smith and a partner

created and built Power Systems Engineering, later PSE Inc., into a major player in the cogeneration industry.

Now retired, the Smiths divide their time between Houston, where their three children and extended families live, and Auburn, where Jule returned to AU and earned her degree in sociology in 1999. The Smiths were recently honored in a ceremony by the Houston Symphony for their lengthy support of the arts in that city. Providing a link between that city and Auburn, they also led a delegation of art lovers from Auburn on a fine arts excursion to Houston in April.

## Ag Heritage Park to host farmers' market vendors on Thursdays

AU's Ag Heritage Park will host a farmers' market on Thursday afternoons this summer.

Starting June 30, consumers may purchase locally grown produce from area farmers at the park on Samford Avenue. The market will be open

on Thursdays from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. through the end of September.

The farmers market is a cooperative venture of the College of Agriculture, Lee County Extension and area agricultural and business organizations.

## Bookstore in Haley Center to remain open during renovation

The AU Bookstore in Haley Center will undergo renovation from early July through September.

While the bookstore will be open during this period, most of the space now allotted to the General Book section will be closed until October. However, many of the department's services, including special orders for customers, answering book inquiries, furnishing books for special displays or author signings, will be available at all times.

Certain categories, including the Auburn Author section, will remain on the sales floor.

### Correction

The June 20 AU Report misstated the cost of tuition for 2005-06. Tuition will be \$2,400 per semester for in-state students and \$7,200 for others.

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.