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How Auburn Stacks Up

Percentage of new freshmen receiving student loan aid

- Auburn: 33%
- U Ala: 36%
- U Fla: 23%
- U Ga: 26%
- Miss St.: 44%
- U Tenn: 39%

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

Independence Day

College Street and Magnolia Avenue in downtown Auburn will be lined with American flags and the AU campus will be closed on July 4 in observance of Independence Day. Auburn Civitan volunteers place the flags along the city streets on the national holiday to celebrate the nation’s birthday and honor those who gave their lives in defense of America.

Academy of Honor to induct Atkins

AU Professor Emerita Leah Rawls Atkins will be inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in an Aug. 20 ceremony at the State Capitol. Atkins, who earned her Ph.D. from Auburn, has been one of the state’s leading historians for four decades. She also was the first director of the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, which she led from 1985-95. The center is the cultural outreach arm of AU’s College of Liberal Arts.

Final report to Board

AU president cites capacity for progress

In his final official report to the AU Board of Trustees, President Ed Richardson said Friday the university has accomplished most of the goals and initiatives he outlined in the first year of his presidency and is poised for rapid advancement under his successor.

Richardson, who retires on July 15, attributed progress during the past three and one-half years to hard work by many individuals and a commitment to unity from all sectors of the university family.

Citing the progress of the capital campaign and looking to the university’s future, he said, “Our capacity is greater than some would predict.”

Richardson took office in January 2004 with Auburn under probation by its regional accrediting agency. Board members cited his leadership in getting the getting probation lifted by the end of the first year, as well as clearly establishing the administrative authority of the president, significantly improving the university’s finances and launching a series of academic and administrative initiatives.

Noting extensive progress toward several goals, Richardson urged the board to continue exploring ways to strengthen the relationship between the main campus and AUM, including aligning academic calendars and extending Tiger Transit service to Auburn Montgomery.

Richardson commended the board for making a major commitment to improving scholarships for high-achievers. He also urged the board to seek a way to reward students whose high school records are less distinguished but who have outstanding work habits and academic potential.

The AU president’s report came during a busy session for trustees. Among highlights, the board:

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Building at AU renamed to honor leader in aerospace engineering

AU dedicated the newly renamed Charles E. Davis Aerospace Engineering Building on June 23 in honor of a leading figure in America’s aerospace industry. Widely known as “Buddy” rather than Charles, the Auburn alumnus has played a critical engineering role in the development of the missiles and aircraft for national defense and space exploration.

The building, which houses the Department of Aerospace Engineering, will now be called the Charles E. Davis Aerospace Engineering Hall, or simply Davis Hall. Davis and his wife Charlotte recently committed a $4 million gift to the College of Engineering, the third largest individual gift in the college’s history.

Engineering Dean Larry Benfield said the gift will enable the Department of Aerospace Engineering to expand its third dynamics and advanced simulation lab capabilities, relocate the wind tunnel facilities and expand the college’s hardware-in-the-loop simulation program.

“This gift will certainly have far-reaching implications for future generations of aerospace engineering students, and in turn, significant developments certainly will be made for the aerospace industry,” Benfield said.

Buddy Davis is a 1959 Auburn graduate whose work with the Thor rocket, the Harpoon missile and the KC-10 aircraft aerial refueling platform played a vital role in the evolution of U.S. defense systems. He also had a lead role in the Apollo rocket program, and his design work is still evident in the assembly, training and launch pad systems used in the space program.

Outreach grants go to six faculty initiatives at AU

The Office of the Vice President for University Outreach has awarded more than $100,000 in competitive Outreach Scholarship Grants to six faculty initiatives bringing Auburn University’s efforts toward improving the quality of life for individuals, organizations, counties and towns throughout the state of Alabama, “by adding projects selected for funding, the amount, principal investigators and descriptions are:

- Providing Diagnostic Services to Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders: A Training, Tele-Health, and Service Demonstration Project; $19,995; Jennifer Gillis of Psychology; deliver low-cost Diagnostic and follow-up services to students and their families.

- An Outreach Project involving AU’s Harrison School of Pharmacy and the University of South Alabama BreathMobile Program to Improve Asthma Care in Public School Children; $10,000; Karen Marlowe, Allison Chung and Jennifer Copeland: of the School of Pharmacy; support activities of a mobile asthma clinic in Mobile County.

- Improving the Basic Literacy Skills of Incarcerated Males in Two Alabama Correctional Facilities; $19,995; Margaret Shippen of Rehabilitation and Special Education; improve reading skills of inmates at correctional facilities in Bibb and Elmore counties.

- Water Education for Alabama’s Black Belt; $15,000; Ming-Kuo Lee and Lorraine Wolf of Geology and Geography; provide water resources education to public schools.

- The Design Seed Outreach Project; $20,000; Tsai Liu of Industrial Design; facilitate the design and manufacturing of products to support economic development in the Black Belt region of Alabama.

- KEMET (Knowledge and Excellence in Mathematics, Equilibrium and Technology) Outreach; $15,000; Octavia Tripp of Curriculum and Teaching, Cheryl Seals of Computer and Software Engineering; support the KEMET-Mercy of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, Garnetta Lovett of Art and Design; and Erinn Alfred of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology, Rehabilitation Counseling; to develop a comprehensive academic enrichment program for African-American students in the state’s Black Belt.

Portraits of former first ladies unveiled at President’s Home

A former AU president and the son of a former president and first lady returned to the President’s Home last week to join community members in the unveiling of portraits of three former Auburn first ladies.

First Lady Neil Richardson welcomed President Emeritus Harry M. Philpott back to the President’s Home for portraits unveiling of three of her predecessors, including Pauline Moran “Folly” Philipott, who was first lady from 1965-80, during Philpott’s presidency.

Ralph Draughon Jr., son of former president Ralph Brown Draughon and First Lady Caroline Marshall Draughon, also returned for the unveiling of a portrait of Mrs. Draughon, who was first lady from 1947-45.

The ceremony also honored Annie Smith Duncan, who was first lady from 1935-47, during the presidency of her husband, Luther Noble Duncan.

Neil Richardson also announced the forthcoming publication of her book, “A Family Home: The President’s Mansion at Auburn University,” with proceeds going to Draughon Library.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilker and Charles Martin; AU Communications; and Karen Rankin, Outreach. Photography: Jeff Ethridge and Mekhon Hambly. AU: Photographic Services and CCA College of Engineering.

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- Gave the go-ahead for construction of a new 9,600-seat basketball arena to replace Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum, which was completely in 1969 and would require tens of millions of dollars to renovate. The arena is projected to cost $92.5 million, with about two-thirds of the funding coming from a bond issue to be financed from athletic revenues. The remainder would come from private contributions.

- Authorized the administration to introduce a phased in on-campus dining plan for students, starting with the freshman class in 2008. In that class and in classes that follow, students in on-campus housing will pay $995 per semester for meals, and those living off-campus will purchase $300 worth of food-service provider, Chartwells, effective July 1.

- Adopted an interim policy for faculty dismissal in cases of misconduct. The board is scheduled to consider a permanent policy in November, after the University Senate and the administration develop recommendations pertaining to issues related to academic performance.

- Authorized the administration to proceed with improvements to the AU-owned Opelika-Pitts Airport, including construction of a new terminal.

- Authorized development of the first phase of an Equine Center on the west side of Shug Jordan Parkway. An anonymous donor has committed $3.5 million toward construction of the $7 million center.

- Approved the budget, funding plan and schematic design for a north-south pedestrian walkway to connect the Hill residence halls south of Samford Avenue with the Roosevelt pedestrian walkway and north past Haley Center.

- Elected Paul Spina to succeed Earlon McWhorter as AU Office of Trademark Management and Licensing, 06 Samford Hall.
July 16 deadline set for correcting office listings in directories

Is your office listed correctly in the AU Telephone Directory? If not, now is the time to correct the listing.

To update or correct listings for departments and programs in the first section of the campus telephone directory, notify the office of the dean or vice president for your school, college or division. These offices are working with the Office of Communications and Marketing to ensure that listings for campus offices, colleges and schools are correct and up to date for the 2007-08 AU Telephone Directory, which will be printed and distributed this fall.

The corrections and updates, which apply only to the front of the book, are due at OCM by July 16. Faculty, staff and students may correct or update their individual listings online through AU Access.

In submitting changes to the departmental listings, the contact persons for each division, college and school are:

- Auxiliary Services, Susie Hall; Alumni, Rita Whitman; College of Agriculture, Kelly Terry; College of Architecture, Design and Construction, Maureen Deery; College of Business, Cynthia Philip; College of Education, Sandy Davis; College of Engineering, Angie Lemke; College of Human Sciences, Phyllis Harris.
- College of Liberal Arts, Serlester Williams; College of Sciences and Mathematics, Regina McGinty; College of Veterinary Medicine, Sherry Powell; Development, Wanda Sperow; Enrollment Management, Mary Ruth Smith; Executive Vice President, Dannis Christian; Graduate School, Linda Hatchett; Intercollegiate Athletics, Brenda Headley.
- President’s Office, Beth Weed; Provost Office, Kerry Ransel; Research, Jean O’Donnell; School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Pam Beasley; School of Nursing, Linda Spencer; School of Pharmacy, Brinda Lisano; Student Life, Nita Hornsby; University Outreach, Gail Gauntt.

Huettel named to lead international society

Robbin Huettel, a professor of plant pathology and nematology in AU’s College of Agriculture, has been elected president-elect of the Society of Nematologists for 2007-08. She will serve as president of the organization in 2008-09.

The society is an international association formed to advance the science of nematology. Nematodes, or roundworms, are the most numerous multicellular animals on earth. Many species are parasites of insects, plants, animals and humans. Other species live in soil or in freshwater or marine habitats and feed on bacteria, fungi and other nematodes. There are nearly 20,000 described species of nematodes.

Friedman to discuss views on economy

Author Thomas Friedman, a three-time Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for The New York Times, will discuss globalization in a speech at Auburn this fall.

Friedman, author of “The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century,” will speak at 4 p.m. Oct. 2 in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum as part of AU’s Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series. Merchant Capital, an investment and merchant banking company headquartered in Montgomery, is co-sponsoring the lecture.

A nonfiction best-seller, “The World Is Flat” examines international trade and economic trends for the 21st century. In the book and frequently in his New York Times columns, Friedman discusses the rapid worldwide economic and social changes since the mid-1990s that have followed removal of political and trade barriers as well as ongoing advances in communication as national economies become increasingly interconnected.

Friedman, who has served as a visiting professor at Harvard, holds a master’s degree in modern Middle East studies from Oxford.

Winning photography

Laura Steele, who graduated from AU in May, tries to catch a stream of data in this promotional photo for the Ginn College of Engineering. By Jeff Etheridge of the Office of Communications and Marketing, the picture recently won second place nationally in the “Portraits and People” category in judging by the University Photographers Association of America. Etheridge also won first place in the “Posters” category for a poster for AU Theatre, and OCM received a special commendation for “Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky,” a hard-cover book celebrating AU’s sesquicentennial in 2006.

CHS faculty member honored for initiative to strengthen families

Francesca Adler-Baeder of AU’s College of Human Sciences recently received a Strengthening Alabama Families Award from the Alabama Fatherhood Initiative in Montgomery.

An associate professor of human development and family studies, Adler-Baeder was one of 15 individuals and organizations recognized for outstanding contributions and commitment to the goals of the Alabama Fatherhood Initiative.

Adler-Baeder was a leader in efforts at AU and statewide to establish the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative, with organizational support from AU, the Children’s Trust Fund of Alabama, 11 Family Resource Centers and Mental Health Centers. The initiative provides educational, support, resources and services to develop improved methods of reducing family strife and dysfunction.