New aviation center
The university’s new aviation center will be housed at the Auburn University Regional Airport, which is the main aviation hub for the cities of Auburn and Opelika and Lee and neighboring counties.

New center created for aviation program at Auburn University

Auburn University is elevating its aviation program by establishing a center that will serve as a focal point for instruction, research and outreach and support the aviation and aerospace industries. The center will strengthen academic and research programs, recruit industry to Alabama, improve flight operations and training and collaborate with other colleges and universities, particularly in workforce development efforts.

“We’re building a more robust, visionary aviation program that creates opportunities for students and fosters economic development in the state,” said Bill Hutto, director of the Auburn University Regional Airport and a member of the aviation faculty in the Harbert College of Business.

Auburn Provost Tim Boosinger named Hutto as director of the center, which will be located at the airport. The center will oversee Auburn’s flight school and work closely with the Harbert College of Business on the professional flight management and aviation management degree programs. Students will see more opportunities to follow industry trends, changes and priorities and interact with potential employers.

“Auburn will support state leaders in recruiting new aviation and aerospace industry, retaining industry already in Alabama and renewing industry through research and innovation,” said Seth Hammett, a member of the new center’s steering committee.

Woodard named VP for student affairs

Auburn University President Jay Gogue has named Bobby Woodard as the university’s new associate provost and vice president for student affairs, effective Aug. 4.

Woodard, who was selected after a nationwide search, comes to Auburn from East Carolina University, where he served as associate vice chancellor for student involvement and leadership. Woodard has more than 15 years of experience as a student affairs director and educator and has managed a variety of student affairs units.

University Senate gives departmental award to Mechanical Engineering

The Department of Mechanical Engineering in Auburn University’s Ginn College of Engineering has been selected as the inaugural recipient of the University Senate Departmental Award for Excellence in Education.

The award, totaling $30,000 over three years, was administered on behalf of the Office of the Provost through the Biggio Center and the University Senate Teaching Effectiveness Committee.

“This award for excellence in education provides a structure to foster and sustain a university-wide culture of teaching excellence,” said Donald Mulvaney, chair of the Teaching Effectiveness Committee.

Mulvaney continued, “Not only does it recognize departments that are engaged in sustained efforts to promote teaching excellence, it is envisioned that the award will have a long-lasting impact as it nourishes collegiality, collaboration and the development of an academic community that values and prioritizes exemplary teaching and learning.”

Proposals from 11 academic departments from across campus were submitted in January to the committee. After a review, four departments were selected as finalists and invited to provide a full proposal development. Each department presented a plan outlining future teaching and learning enhancement activities.

“I am proud of Mechanical Engineering’s outstanding group of faculty members for their contributions to

See Excellence in Education Award, Page 3

Under Bobby’s leadership, we look forward to vibrant, robust programs and services that promote students’ personal growth and development,” Gogue said.

As the university’s senior student affairs officer, Woodard will provide support and advisement to enrich the Auburn student experience and promote student success.

His areas of responsibility will include 12 departments, where he will lead more than 100 fulltime

See New vice president, Page 2
Slight revenue increase

Budget for 2015 to include faculty, staff pay raises

Under budget guidelines authorized by the Board of Trustees on June 27, Auburn University will continue the recent pattern of a two-step process for faculty and staff salary improvement this fall.

The board approved the guidelines for the administration and schools and colleges to use as the university prepares its operating budget for the 2014-15 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1. The completed budget will come before the board on Sept. 5 for review and a vote on adoption.

With a budget totaling more than $1 billion, the guidelines cover priorities for distribution involving less than $25 million in new and reallocated revenues for the coming year. Of the new and reallocated funds, approximately $19.8 million will go to the main campus, $3.06 million to Auburn Montgomery, $880,000 to the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and $1.25 million to the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

State appropriations to Auburn University are slated to increase by approximately $2 million to $245 million in 2015. However, continuing a pattern of recent years, the fiscal 2015 state appropriation is $92 million below the pre-recession funding of $337 million in fiscal 2008.

For the main campus in the coming year, projected new and reallocated revenues include a $1.94 million increase in state appropriations, $5.85 million in reallocations within the existing budget and $12 million in additional tuition.

New and reallocated revenues at AUM are set at $106,000 in increased state appropriations, nearly $1.96 million in internal reallocations and $1 million more in tuition.

New revenues for AAES are budgeted at $210,000 from the state, and $670,000 will come from reallocation of internal funds. For ACES, the increase in state appropriation is set at $223,000, with reallocation of approximately $1 million.

For the main campus, the primary cost increases projected for 2015 are two salary-and-benefits pools of $5 million each. These merit-based distributions will follow the same pattern as in the current budget, with funds on Oct. 1 for a permanent increase averaging 2 percent for eligible fulltime employees and a 2 percent pool for a supplemental one-time payment to employees in December. Some colleges and schools may add to these amounts through their internal budgets.

Salary-related distribution priorities for the main campus include $715,000 for faculty and staff promotions and $50,000 for matching professorships.

Other main campus priorities for new spending include approximately $2.7 million for academic programs, $2.3 million for new operational and capital costs, $1.6 million for debt service, $1.5 million for deferred maintenance, $350,000 for insurance and bonds, $300,000 for university systems maintenance and $250,000 for public safety.

Administrators and staff worked with advisory committees for each division in assembling the budget guidelines. For the main campus, a 26-member Budget Advisory Committee included representatives of the University Senate, Administrative and Professional Assembly, Staff Council and Student Government Association, as well as several deans, department heads, other faculty and administrators and the provost and the executive vice president.

In other action, the board selected Trustee Jimmy Rane of Abbeville for an additional term as president pro tempore. Rane has been a member of the board since 1999 and was reappointed in 2012 for a seven-year term as a trustee.

Urban Sustainability Accelerator

City, university working together on Downtown Master Plan

The City of Auburn and Auburn University are working together to implement elements of the city’s upcoming Downtown Master Plan and several other downtown-related projects, as part of the one-year, grant-assisted Urban Sustainability Accelerator program of Portland State University.

Throughout the year, city and university officials will coordinate with experts affiliated with the program on downtown alleyway improvements, the intersection of Samford Avenue and College Street, parking improvements, pedestrian safety enhancements along South College Street downtown, rain gardens and a feasibility study of the daylighting of local streams. Other projects may emerge during the course of the year.

The Urban Sustainability Accelerator initiative provides personalized consulting services to help cities implement sustainability projects. In addition, a team of city and university employees will collaborate with other cities with similar projects and environments so that each of the cohort cities can learn from one another’s experiences.

“Catalysts and network weavers can really make a difference when it comes to acting on and implementing exciting plans,” said Mike Kensler, director of the Office of Sustainability at Auburn University. “The Urban Sustainability Accelerator program is serving that role for the City of Auburn/Auburn University partnership: providing expertise and innovative ideas and nurturing the cross-sector partnership between the city, the university, the business community and citizens. We very much appreciate being selected to participate in this program, and over the next few years the people of Auburn will see results in delightful improvements to downtown.”

Kensler noted that the project continues a long history of collaboration between the City of Auburn and Auburn University. In recent years the collaboration has yielded projects of value to both the university and the city, including the series of midblock crossings on Magnolia Avenue, the Auburn University Research Park, the Yarbrough Tennis Center and annual downtown events.

“The partnership between Auburn University and the City of Auburn has always been strong, and I’m excited for this chance for us to work together to improve downtown Auburn as the gateway to both downtown Auburn and the Auburn University campus,” said Auburn Mayor Bill Ham Jr.

The Urban Sustainability Accelerator program is offered in the Nohad A. Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University. Program funding includes support from the Summit Foundation and the Institute for Sustainable Solutions at Portland State University.

“We are excited to be partners with a city and university team that have a good working relationship and a shared vision for a more economically and environmentally vibrant downtown,” said Robert Liberty, director of the Urban Sustainability Accelerator program.

– Mike Clardy

New vice president

Continued from Page 1

employees who serve more than 25,000 undergraduate and graduate students.

“Every student, administrator, trustee and faculty member I have met possesses a sense of pride for this school that is contagious,” said Woodard. “I am extremely excited for this opportunity and look forward to having my family join the Auburn Family.”

Woodard holds a bachelor’s degree in exercise and sport science from East Carolina University. He obtained his master’s degree in educational leadership at the University of Central Florida and his doctorate of philosophy in student affairs administration from the University of Georgia.

– Chelsea Payne
At Camp War Eagle

New students getting fun-filled welcome to campus

Each summer, faculty and staff at Auburn University see students cheerfully sharing a “War Eagle!” as they work their way around campus guiding visitors on tours. At times, these students even perform an Auburn-themed skit or lead a group in a hearty Auburn cheer as they carry a sign bearing the likeness of a recent pop culture icon.

This is Camp War Eagle in action, and those orange and blue-clad students are counselors welcoming Auburn’s incoming freshmen and their families to campus and to college life.

At each of the 10 summer sessions, the counselors assist new students with the registration process and facilitate group discussions called Tiger Talks on topics to prepare freshmen for their Auburn experience. Along with the tours, cheers and skit performances, Camp War Eagle staff and the Student Government Association host a pep rally for students and parents to promote the Auburn spirit and celebrate the Auburn Family.

And that sign with Justin Timberlake’s face on it? That is the group identifier, made by a Camp War Eagle counselor, to make it easy for the campers to find their respective group and counselor as they work their way around campus over the two-day session.

Counselors go through two rounds of selection interviews as well as months of preparation leading up to the summer camps. They attend 14 weeks of training sessions, take Auburn knowledge tests and participate in regular weekly skit practices, all in preparation for the arrival of the university’s newest students and their parents.

But the counselors say it’s all worth it to be a part of the Camp War Eagle experience.

“Being able to be that person who can ease new students’ nerves and answer all their questions about Auburn, I think that’s been the best part about being a camp counselor,” said John Ahn, a junior studying biomedical science.

Christian Lloyd, a sophomore in chemical engineering and Camp War Eagle parent counselor, said she loves the enthusiasm of the parents and their desire to understand what to expect of their students’ Auburn experience.

Camp War Eagle may be a learning experience for Auburn’s incoming freshmen, but the counselors say participating in the program teaches them something, too, and in some ways changes their perspective on their own Auburn experience.

“I’ve always heard so much about ‘leave Auburn better than you found it,’ and I kept thinking, ‘How do I do that?’” said camp counselor Dae Jackson, a junior studying journalism. “I have friends who are starting campus organizations and things like that, and I wondered, ‘How do I leave my mark?’ I think I’ve found that in Camp War Eagle because I know the students we are affecting are our legacy, and they’re going to come in and leave Auburn even better than they found it.”

– Carol Nelson

Happy campers
Incoming freshmen and their camp counselors arrive for the Camp War Eagle pep rally at Jordan-Hare Stadium.

Foundation pledges $400,000 per year to assist Alabama 4-H

The Alabama 4-H Club Foundation has announced that it will give $400,000 annually to support the 4-H Centennial Youth Initiative and the expansion of 4-H, which has more than a century of service to the youth of Alabama.

Established in 1956, the foundation supports statewide 4-H youth education programs delivered by the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and generates private funds to meet youth educational needs. The initiative will emphasize character values, goal setting and personal exploration.

“Alabama 4-H reached more than 100,000 young people this year,” said Gary Lemme, director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, which is headquartered at Auburn University. “This gift will enable Alabama 4-H and CYI to have a significant impact on the lives of our young people.”

Lemme called the foundation’s gift transformative for Alabama 4-H, which is the state’s largest youth organization. “I believe this is the largest 4-H Club Foundation commitment to the future of 4-H in our history other than buildings at the 4-H Center,” he said. “I know in my years at several land-grant universities, I have never experienced this level of partnership between a 4-H Club Foundation and a state Extension system.”

Lemme said he expects the extra funds will allow the hiring of up to eight more agents.

Excellence in Education award

Continued from Page 1

the department throughout the years, but also for their pursuit of knowledge and progression of teaching methods that was reflective in the award proposals,” said Mechanical Engineering Chair Jeff Suhling.

The award-winning presentation was coordinated by Sushil Bhavnani, the Henry M. Burt Jr. Professor of Mechanical Engineering. The department is home to more than 1,150 students. The award provides funding at $10,000 per year for a three-year period during which the Department of Mechanical Engineering will introduce faculty development activities to enhance the continued advancement of effective practices in teaching and learning.

“We plan to implement a five-pronged approach to augment current teaching and learning initiatives. These have been chosen based on feedback from stakeholders including undergraduate students, graduate students, employers, parents and faculty,” Bhavnani said.

The five new programs include student-produced learning modules in introductory courses; student-led tutoring in upper-level classes; faculty-led flipped segments of courses; establishing closer ties with industry through internships and guest lectures; and enhancing undergraduate research pathways.

– Morgan Stashick