Auburn sets new record in Faculty Staff Campaign

With a participation rate of 72.41 percent, Auburn University faculty and staff set a new participation record for employee financial support of the university during last spring’s 2012 Faculty Staff Campaign.

The 2012 participation rate represents an increase of more than 1.25 percentage points over 2011 participation and an increase of more than 30 percentage points since the campaign’s inception in its current form during the past decade.

This year’s campaign included eight units that achieved 100 percent participation: Office of Alumni Affairs, Office of Development, and School of Nursing (all for the seventh consecutive year); Office of Communications and Marketing (for the fifth consecutive year); Office of the Associate Vice President for Business and Finance and the Office of Vice President for Research (both for the second consecutive year); and the Office of Alumni and Development Support Services.

In addition, 12 units increased participation over 2011 levels: College of Agriculture, Athletics Department, College of Business, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Office of Enrollment Services, Office of the Executive Vice President, Facilities Management, Office of Information Technology, College of Liberal Arts, Office of the Provost, College of Sciences and Mathematics and College of Veterinary Medicine.

Jane DiFolco Parker, vice president for development, attributed the campaign’s success to the more than 150 volunteers who led their units’ campaign efforts. She emphasized that it is the philanthropic support of employees through the campaign that contributes to Auburn’s success.

“Each Auburn employee has an effect on the quality of our students’ learning experience and on the quality of work life for all other employees. But when our coworkers give of their personal, financial resources to support Auburn, their donations magnify the positive impact of their roles as members of the Auburn community by creating scholarships, strengthening our academic programs, and expanding Auburn’s reach,” Parker said. “The philanthropic support of Auburn employees sends an extremely powerful signal to alumni and others about the importance of supporting Auburn University.”

Based on the currently available data, Auburn’s employee giving remains the highest among SEC institutions and among the highest nationally when compared with its peers. Employees can learn how their unit’s participation compared to others in the campaign by visiting https://develop.auburn.edu/facultystaffcampaign.

— Michael Tullier

Warrington named to lead business development in tech transfer office

Doug Warrington has been named the director of business development in the Office of Technology Transfer at Auburn University. He started in that position June 25.

“We are exceedingly pleased to have Doug as a member of our team in the Office of Technology Transfer,” said John Weete, assistant vice president for technology transfer and commercialization. “He has the experience and skill set to move our new commercialization initiative forward.”

Warrington has held management and executive positions for several biotechnology companies across the country serving diverse markets that range from software to agriculture. He has a technical background with an undergraduate degree in agriculture from the University of Delaware as well as a business background with an Executive MBA from Auburn. Weete said Warrington’s experience with start-up ventures has honed his strategic planning skills and ability to develop complex business strategies.

The Office of Technology Transfer is responsible for managing the intellectual property portfolio for the university. Its professionals assess, protect through patenting and copyrighting, market and license discoveries by university faculty and students. Also, the office facilitates the commercialization of intellectual properties by licensing them to established or start-up companies.

The purpose of the new commercialization initiative is to focus on forming more start-up companies based on Auburn-owned technologies.

See Tech Transfer: Warrington, Page 3
Auburn professor wins national award for study of drug courts

Kathleen Hale, an associate professor of political science in the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts, was honored recently by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals, NADCP, at the association’s annual conference in Nashville.

Hale was named one of three recipients of the organization’s media awards, which are given annually to individuals or outlets that have demonstrated outstanding coverage of drug courts or the national association. Other recipients included Moni Basu of CNN and Bill Rankin of The Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

“I am honored to receive this prestigious award recognizing my research and its connection to the practical world of public administration and public policy,” Hale said.

“The NADCP is a prototypical example of how a nonprofit organization can bring about sustainable change through the kinds of information it develops, the networks and relationships it builds and the institutional infrastructure it creates. The evolution of this organization and its efforts demonstrate how nonprofits can create space for innovation to take hold and flourish. Particularly important, this research demonstrates the critical role of nonprofit organizations in creating capacity for government and communities to meet new challenges.”

Her book, “How Information Matters: Networks and Public Policy Innovation,” published by Georgetown University Press, looks at the NADCP and its work within a national organizational network as an example of how a nonprofit organization can forge successful public and private partnerships that initiate significant policy change and innovation, reflecting a change in approaching public policy decisions and engaging local communities.

The NADCP was critical to Hale’s study, which followed the adoption of drug court programs across the country, as a significant policy innovation, shaping outcomes for drug offenders. The NADCP began in 1994 with 12 local judges and now includes more than 27,000 multidisciplinary justice professionals and community leaders.

“Hale argues that the combination of a strong local and effective community collaboration and coordinated national leadership from NADCP has led to the sustained growth and success of drug courts nationwide,” said Christopher Deutsch of the NADCP. “But her book also offers a blueprint for future public and private collaboration.”

Deutsch added, “Hale demonstrates that the drug court experience provides an important model for future policy design and implementation, and highlights critical linkages between nonprofits, government and policy success. ‘How Information Matters’ is essential reading for policymakers, drug court professionals, elected officials, public administrators and nonprofit leaders.”

Hale joined the political science faculty in 2006. She teaches courses related to nonprofit management and intergovernmental relations and coordinates Auburn’s Elections Administration program with the Election Center of Houston. Her research is making a difference in the role of government, the role of nonprofits and how the two shape public policy.

The 2012 NADCP Annual Conference was reportedly the world’s largest ever conference on substance abuse, mental health and the criminal justice system, with more than 4,300 state and federal justice leaders, celebrities, judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, clinicians, police, probation officers, veterans, business owners, drug court graduates and family members from around the world in attendance.

Hale was also recently named a College of Liberal Arts Engaged Scholar for excellence in teaching and research related to the college’s Community and Civic Engagement initiative.

— Carol Nelson

Jule Collins Smith Museum named ‘Best in Bama’

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University was recently voted “Best of Bama” in the art museum category in Alabama Magazine’s online competition.

Voters named their favorites in categories including dining, sports, shopping and arts and entertainment, and the results are published in the July/August edition of the magazine.

“What an honor to be chosen by popular vote as the best art museum in Alabama,” said Museum Director Marilyn Laufer. “We believe that art changes lives and we work hard in every way to make that happen for our diverse audiences.”

In 2013, the Jule Collins Smith Museum will celebrate 10 years of service to university and the community through exhibitions, educational programming and expanding permanent collections. The museum opened in 2003 and is the only university art museum in Alabama.
Director Samuel Fowler said organizers hope to bring and revitalizing rural economies.

An Alabama Irrigation Summit in Montgomery on Aug. 15 will bring together farmers, policymakers and water-use experts to discuss irrigation’s immense potential for enhancing Alabama agricultural output and revitalizing rural economies.

Auburn University’s Environmental Institute has taken the lead in organizing the meeting. Institute Director Samuel Fowler said organizers hope to bring these key players closer to a long-sought goal of developing a comprehensive strategy for the widespread adoption of irrigation technologies and practices and also removing barriers that have historically hampered this adoption.

Fowler said the summit will also provide farmers with information about how Alabama’s new state income tax credit can be used to adopt irrigation technologies and practices. He added that agricultural lenders, whose support will be critical to building an irrigation infrastructure, will also be included as key participants in the dialogue.

The meeting will be from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Richard Beard Building, 1445 Federal Drive, Montgomery.

Sponsors of the summit are the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, the Alabama Irrigation Initiative, the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries, the Alabama Farmers Federation, Alabama Ag Credit, Alabama Farm Credit and the Alabama Office of the State Climatologist.

In addition to remarks by some of the state’s principal agricultural leaders and researchers on water- and irrigation-related issues, the summit will feature a panel discussion by producers, who will share their experiences regarding irrigation use on the farm.

Fowler said the Alabama irrigation story is a tragic one of missed opportunities. He noted that although the state receives approximately 55 inches of rainfall annually, row-crop production has declined by millions of acres within the past half century.

The state’s rural localities have suffered acutely from this decline, Fowler said. While row-crop farming typically generates an estimated $500 to $900 per acre each year within local rural economies, the timber farming and conservation set-asides that have replaced it in many rural localities within the past 50 years generate less than $100 an acre.

Following a decade-long, comprehensive investigation into this issue, a team of researchers representing several Alabama universities concluded that the agricultural sector’s failure to make full use of its rainfall and irrigation potential accounts in large measure for its loss of competitiveness in row-crop production compared with neighboring Southern states.

“While Alabama has fewer than 120,000 acres of row-crop irrigation, the neighboring states of Georgia and Mississippi each have well over a million acres under irrigation,” Fowler said.

With adequate levels of irrigation adoption, there is no reason why Alabama could not compete favorably with the region of the country most prized for its row-crop output – the West and Midwest, he said.

Fowler said crop models, experimental research plots and the successful use of irrigation on some Alabama farms have demonstrated that with adequate levels of irrigation, Alabama farmers can compete effectively with the West and Midwest.

“This will require some long-term policies,” Fowler said. “Alabama has lost its agriculture over a 50-year period, and we won’t recover it overnight. We have to fully understand the past and why the agricultural system failed before we can correct it.”

Fowler and other organizers of the summit have expressed the hope that the event will provide a context within which these questions can be framed and ultimately answered.

— Jim Langcuster

Schemera appointed to CVM position

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine has named Bettina Schemera as associate director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Health. The Auburn University of Veterinary Medicine has named Bettina Schemera as associate director of the Division of Laboratory Animal Health.

“Dr. Schemera brings a wealth of experience from private practice and from her role as an attending veterinarian in the program,” said interim Dean Calvin Johnson. “We are very fortunate to have her as associate director of Laboratory Animal Health.”

Schemera received her doctor of veterinary medicine degree in 1984 and a Ph.D. in 1987 from Justus Liebig University Giessen in Germany.

For 15 years she served as a small animal practitioner and surgeon in Santiago, Chile, where she owned a veterinary practice.

In 2005, she became unit veterinarian for the Scott-Ritchey Research Center and the Southeastern Raptor Center at Auburn University. In 2008, Schemera was appointed as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Laboratory Animal Health.

“Dr. Schemera has a strong work ethic and a commitment to excellence which make her a valuable asset to the animal resource program at the College of Veterinary Medicine,” said Laboratory Animal Health Director Pat Rynders.

Technology Transfer: Warrington

Continued from Page 1

Fifteen start-up companies have been formed and are in operation based on technologies developed at Auburn.

“Doug Warrington will work closely with the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation in facilitating the formation of start-up companies,” said Weete, executive director of the foundation.

“His work will involve working closely with faculty and student inventors, forming management teams, assisting with business plan development and identifying sources of investment capital. We hope that many of the new companies will locate initially in the Auburn Business Incubator that is located in the Auburn Research Park, both of which are managed by the ART, thus creating jobs and providing opportunities for our graduates locally.”

The Auburn Research and Technology Foundation is a university-affiliated, non-profit corporation that was formed to support the mission of Auburn University, particularly in research and economic development. The university and the foundation work together to advance the commercialization of Auburn technologies.
Veterinary Medicine’s Pugh named Food Animal Continuing Educator of the Year

Attendees of the recent 84th Annual Western Veterinary Conference voted David Pugh of Auburn as Food Animal Continuing Educator of the Year. The award recognizes the recipient’s expertise, communication skills and outstanding commitment to the veterinary profession.

A veterinarian with the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Equine Source Plasma Program, Pugh is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Microbiologists, the American College of Theriogenologists and the American College of Veterinary Nutritionists.

Engineering’s Hartfield presents lecture at Korea’s Agency for Defense Development

Roy Hartfield, the Walt and Virginia Woltosz Professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, gave an invited presentation on supersonic and hypersonic air breathing propulsion to engineers at Korea’s Agency for Defense Development in Daejeon, Korea, this week.

Hartfield discussed ramjet and scramjet engine performance, design and evaluation as part of a visiting foreign professionals program. The Korean agency is responsible for planning and conducting defense acquisition, including research, development, testing and evaluation.

Veterinary professor named research ambassador in Germany for academic year

The German Academic Exchange Service has selected Haroldo Toro of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine to serve as a research ambassador for study and research in Germany for the 2012-13 academic year.

Toro is a professor of avian diseases in the Department of Pathobiology at Auburn. The German Academic Exchange Service is a private, publicly funded, self-governing organization of higher education institutions that promotes international academic relations and cooperation by offering mobility programs primarily for students and faculty, but also for administrators and others in the higher education realm.

Religious studies professor named editor of Rahner Papers on theology and philosophy

Richard Penaskovic, professor of religious studies in the Department of Philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts, has been named editor of the Rahner Papers at the annual meeting of the Karl Rahner Society in St. Louis.

The society promotes the study of Rahner’s writings in the fields of theology and philosophy. As editor, Penaskovic will review and edit papers presented at the annual meeting of the Karl Rahner Society, publish occasional translations from German Rahnerians into English and collaborate with scholars whose papers came out of their dissertations. Penaskovic will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Karl Rahner Society Steering Committee.

Ring the Auburn Report

July 13, 2012

The Auburn Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Interim Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Camille Barkley. Auburn Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Communications and Marketing contributing editors, writers and photographers: Mike Clardy, Charles Martin, Carol Nelson, Neali Vann, Amy Weaver, Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Humble. Other contributors are based in colleges and schools throughout the university.

Issues of the Auburn Report appear every other Friday year-round, except for some semester breaks and extended holiday periods. Due to campus holiday schedules, the Auburn Report is published once in November and two consecutive weeks in early December. The publication schedule is online at www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/2012AURarchives.html. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is noon on Monday before publication. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to the Auburn Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9984. Electronic mail: summero@auburn.edu.

The Samford Tower and interlocking AU logos in this publication are registered trademarks of Auburn University and may not be reproduced without written permission from the AU Office of Trademark Management and Licensing, 303 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849.

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

The Auburn Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each university office mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. The Office of Communications and Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.