AU recently celebrated the successful conclusion of the “It Begins at Auburn” Campaign, which raised a record $608.9 million, exceeding the goal by nearly $109 million.

All colleges and schools and athletics exceeded their individual goals in the six-year campaign, which concluded March 31. The university celebrated the campaign’s success on June 27 with a casual dinner thanking donors.

“This is the largest campaign in the university’s history, and the largest in the state’s history,” said AU President Jay Gogue. “I am proud of the Auburn family for making it such a huge success. Every gift, whether one dollar or one million dollars, shows the strong connection that our alumni, friends, staff and faculty feel for their university.”

More than 75,000 donors contributed in the form of pledges and deferred and outright gifts. Of the total donors, 50,000 were alumni, with the remainder consisting of corporations, foundations and friends of the university. By June 2007, nine months ahead of schedule, the campaign had already passed its goal of raising half a billion dollars.

The campaign, which ran from 2002-08, produced 117 gifts of $1 million or more, totaling more than $286 million, or 47 percent of the campaign total.

An additional 29 percent of the campaign’s gifts came as donations of $100,000 to $999,999. Of the nearly $609 million pledged or contributed to the university throughout the campaign, $191 million was for student support, $36 million for faculty support, $72 million for facilities and $310 million for programmatic support. Endowed dollars account for 32 percent of the campaign’s total.

“The success of this campaign would not have been possible without the efforts of the faculty and staff, the development office, the deans of our colleges and schools, and the 653 volunteers who led the effort,” said Samuel Ginn, campaign co-chair and a member of the AU Board of Trustees. “Private funding must continue at even greater levels and Auburn University needs to build its endowment at an even stronger rate.”

Campaign Co-chair Sally Jones Hill said regional campaigns, the first of their kind for AU, also contributed to the success of the larger campaign, with $64 million raised among the 28 regional efforts across the country. “The regional campaigns brought Auburn alumni and friends together from as far away as California and New York,” she said. “The momentum they built for the university will continue for years to come.”
AU expands bike paths, programs to make campus bicycle-friendly

Bicyclists will find a more welcoming environment at Auburn University this summer as the university implements the third stage of its transition from the traffic-clogged campus of a decade ago to a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly environment.

The rapid rise in gasoline prices is making bicycles a more attractive alternative to the automobile for short trips at Auburn and nationally. However, even before fuel costs escalated in 2008, campus planners and a university committee were developing a network of bike paths and taking other actions to make the campus more conducive to bicycle traffic.

Previous stages in the transition included expansion of the Tiger Transit bus system and replacement of streets with pedestrian ways in the center of campus. In addition to new bike paths, plans and efforts to revitalize bicycling at Auburn include a new one-mile paved walkway and bike path.

The one-mile paved walkway and bike path, wide enough for both walkers and riders, is the model for a section of the 1.6-mile bicycle facility along Wire Road from southwest of the Veterinary Medicine complex on Samford Avenue to south of Samford Ave.

A new bike lane along Wire Road was removed during the 1980s to make room for an additional traffic lane. The lane will be restored to serve bicyclists.

The Wire Road path will be separate from the main road in some places and have guardrails at other locations to increase safety. Federal funds through the Alabama Department of Transportation will cover two-thirds of the $1.4 million cost, and the university will pay for the remainder.

Portion of Thach Avenue, are also part of the new research park. Pedestrian ways on campus, along Samford, Mell and Donahue, as well as the university will pay for the remainder. Portion of Thach, are also part of the network of bike paths.

Campus Calendar

Thursday, July 17

FARMERS MARKET: The market at Ag Heritage Park, 3 p.m.-6 p.m., West Samford Avenue; also Thursday, July 24.


Monday, July 28

NEXT AU Report

Saturday, August 9

GRADUATION 2 p.m., Beaud-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum

Exhibitions


The Thach multi-use path will extend to the new student housing on the west side of campus over the next two years, and other plans call for bike paths along the Otey Trail loop road from Wire Road at Lem Morrison to cross Samford Avenue and eventually connect with Highway 14. Other routes, including a bike path along the Otey Trail, are scheduled for construction.

Auburn Report Editor Roy Sanniemer. Contributing editors and writers: Mike Clardy, Katie Wilder and Charles Martin, AU Communications; and Sally Credille, Engineering.

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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 Wednesday during the summer.

AU Political Science faculty member presents at White House conference

Mitchell Brown of Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts recently presented her research on faith-based and community organizations as they provide services at a White House conference in Washington, D.C.

An assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, Brown presented at the White House National Faith-Based and Community Organizations Conference Wednesday.

The conference, “Innovations in Effective Compassion,” highlighted strategies and evaluations of the work of faith-based and community organizations.

Brown presented the chapter she wrote for “Innovation and Compassion: successful programs in Faith-based,” edited by Pamela Joshi of RTI International and published by the Government Printing Office, on the faith-based initiatives. Her presentation focused on the orientation and capacity building that is occurring during the implementation of the Rural Pilot Program.

Brown’s research is based on the evaluation of the Rural Development Administration’s Faith-Based and Community Organization Pilot Program (FBOCP). Through her research, Brown has collected data on more than 150 faith-based and community organizations providing services in rural areas across the country, and also focused on eight of the 18 case-study organizations in Tennessee, Arkansas, Wyoming and Idaho.

The Other Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University, or OLLI at Auburn, received the Distributed Program of the Year Award from the National University Alumni Association (NUAA) for its program from the Association for Continuing Education, “Innovations in Effective Compassion,” edited by Pamela Joshi of RTI International and published by the Government Printing Office, on the faith-based initiatives. Her presentation focused on the orientation and capacity building that is occurring during the implementation of the Rural Pilot Program.

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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. The Office of Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.

Professional association honors staff members from Auburn

Two Auburn staff members were recognized in June by the Southern Region of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources during the organization’s annual conference in South Carolina.

Patrick Deery, director of human resource development in the Office of Human Resources, was recognized for five years service on the organization’s Board of Directors and for leadership of the association’s marketing and communications activities.

Chris McClendon, manager of human resources with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, was elected as the Chair-Elect for 2008-09, effective July 1. She had previously served on the Board of Directors as the secretary-treasurer.

The Southern Region of CUPA-HR is a professional association that serves member institutions and human resource professionals in 11 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia.

Pharmacy faculty help ABC News earn network honors for investigative report

An ABC News program featuring faculty from AU’s Harrison School of Pharmacy has won the 2008 Edward R. Murrow Award for investigative reporting.

Named for one of the leading figures in the history of electronic journalism, the award from the Radio-Television News Directors Association recognizes excellence in that field. One of several awards to ABC, the investigative reporting award honored the network for “Brian Ross Investigates: Prescription for Error,” an examination of dispensing errors in the health care industry, which aired in March 2007.

Faculty in the Harrison School of Pharmacy’s Center for Pharmacy Operations and Design provided professional expertise and testing for the program.

Emily Myers, director of the social work program in the College of Liberal Arts, has been named the state’s Social Worker of the Year for 2008 by the Alabama Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

She received the award recently at the state NASW meeting in Tuscaloosa.

A faculty member in the Department of Anthropology, Sociology and Social Work, Myers teaches and conducts clinical research in aging, adoptions, HIV/AIDS, addictions and community practice.

Her outreach efforts include service on the East Alabama Services for the Elderly board and as a founding member of East Alabama AIDS Outreach. She also assists the East Alabama Medical Center in outreach activities.

As a private, independent practitioner of social work, she conducts adoption home studies and assists an adoption support group through the Alabama Post Adoptions Connections.