Magnolia detour
Normally one of Auburn’s busiest streets, Magnolia Avenue along the north side of campus has seen much less traffic this summer due to construction near the College of Business. The city project involves reducing the hillside and moving underground utilities as well as widening and rebuilding that section of street to improve sight lines and turn lanes around the Donahue entrance to campus. The work is scheduled for completion in late August.

Death of trustee, end of term for another leaves Auburn with two seats to fill on governing board

The recent death of John C.H. “Jack” Miller of Mobile leaves the Auburn University Board of Trustees with a vacant seat as the search begins to fill another seat, the one held by Paul Spina of Hoover, whose term expires in September.

An Auburn trustee since 2000, Miller died on July 11 after a lengthy battle with cancer. One of Alabama’s most prominent attorneys, he was the founder and chairman of the Mobile-based law firm Miller, Hamilton, Snider and Odom, which merged with Jones Walker in 2008.

As a trustee, Miller was an advocate for high academic standards and spearheaded efforts to improve students’ writing and reasoning skills. The Auburn Board of Trustees in June named the university’s newly-established writing center in his honor. In 2007, he received an honorary degree from Auburn in recognition of his career achievements, public service and leadership in initiating programs such as learning communities and the writing center at the university.

“Jack brought energy, innovation and an insightful focus to academic quality and scholarship,” said Auburn President Jay Gogue. “He will be missed. The thoughts and prayers of the Auburn family go out to his family and many friends.”

“Jack was a one-of-a-kind individual,” said Sarah Newton, president pro tem of the Board of Trustees. “Whether in his legal career, volunteer work, community involvement or service as an Auburn trustee, he approached everything he did with a purpose and resolve that helped others around him to improve and grow. His leadership and strategic vision on academic excellence, especially in strengthening writing skills, will be felt on our campus for many years.”

Richard Penaskovic, who was faculty adviser to the board in 2007, said Miller saw quality of writing as a key measure of academic quality. “As chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees, he was very concerned that Auburn University students sharpen their critical thinking skills and improve their writing so that they could successfully compete with their peers at other S.E.C. schools,” Penaskovic said. “Not many people know this but Jack subscribed to The Chronicle of Higher Education to keep up with recent trends in academia. Jack himself was, above all, an intellectual, one for whom the life of the mind was very important.”

On the Auburn Board, Miller represented Alabama District 1, which is comprised of seven southwest Alabama counties, including Mobile.

Miller’s death leaves the board with vacancies in two of its 12 appointed positions as of Sept. 2, when the term of Paul Spina of Hoover expires. Spina, who represents District 6 in central Alabama, may serve for up to one year beyond his term’s expiration until someone is appointed and confirmed to fill the seat.

The Auburn Board consists of one trustee from each congressional district as they were constituted in 1961, a trustee representing Lee County, three at-large trustees and the governor as an ex-officio member.

Gov. Bob Riley issued a call for nominations to the District 6 position on July 6. District 6 comprises eight counties south and southwest of Birmingham. Applicants must be a resident of one of those counties and less than 70 years of age when appointed to the board.

In a letter announcing the search, Riley said trustee candidates should be “leaders who are forward-looking, service-oriented and dedicated to furthering Auburn’s instruction, research and extension missions.”

See Trustee search, page 2
Talks explore ways to strengthen ties between Auburn, Korea University

An emerging partnership between Auburn and Korea University got a boost this month with a visit to Auburn by a delegation from the Korean institution.

The Korean delegation was led by Sang Min Lee, who earned a doctorate from the University of Florida and has taught at the University of Lee, who earned a doctorate from the University Korean institution. with a visit to Auburn by a delegation from the and Korea University got a boost this month
out outreach initiatives to coin-

Korea-Auburn partnership
Sang Min Lee, upper right, of Korea University, discusses with Auburn faculty members and Outreach Assistant Vice President Royrickers Cook, left, the emerging partnership between Auburn’s College of Education and Korea University.

Lee led a delegation from the institution in Seoul this month to lay the framework for closer ties between the two universities.

"These partnerships are so important to us," said Frances Kochan, dean of Auburn’s College of Education. "In this world, with so many struggles, it’s a joy when we can come together and be one."

Suh and John Dagley, an associate professor of counseling psychology, ignited the College of Education’s interest in building a partnership with Korea University. The two faculty members initially explored outreach initiatives to coincide with the influx of Koreans brought to West Georgia and East Alabama by the arrival of Kia and Hyundai plants, suppliers and other related businesses.

The partnership with Korea University includes proposals for exchanges of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty. Auburn students could soon have the opportunity to complete short-term service learning projects in Korea while working in conjunction with Korea University and Seoul schools.

Semester-long teaching practica and internships based at Korea University are among the initiatives for Auburn students. Similarly, Korea University students would have the opportunity to complete coursework at Auburn and receive valuable classroom experience through a practicum and internships in local schools.

— Troy Johnson

Trustee search
continued from page 1
A committee consisting of Riley or his representative, two members of the Auburn Alumni Association’s Board of Directors and two current Auburn trustees will review applications and interview candidates beginning Aug. 18. Sarah Newton and Gaines Lanier will represent the Board of Trustees, and Nancy Fortner and Bobby Poundstone will represent the Alumni Association.

Candidates who wish to be considered should submit a letter of interest and relevant background information by Aug. 10 to the Auburn University Trustee Selection Committee, Attn: Grant Davis, 105 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849.

Nominees must be confirmed by the Alabama Senate before they can be seated. Unless called into emergency session by the governor, the Legislature begins its next session on Jan. 12, 2010.

NSF grant supports Qin’s research to improve teaching of computer security

Xiao Qin, an assistant professor of computer science and software engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has been named primary investigator for a $150,000 National Science Foundation grant to aid in the teaching of computer security.

Qin and three collaborators are developing QoSec, an extensible middleware framework for computer security course projects. Qin uses a novel middleware-based approach to teaching undergraduate students how to develop large-scale secure software. QoSec features an interface that expedites teaching students the rapid development of security-critical software.
University to receive $14 million in federal stimulus grant funds

Auburn will receive $14.4 million in federal stimulus funds through a newly announced grant for construction of a science, technology and commerce research facility.

The competitive grant is from the U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology. It will aid Auburn researchers working on standards, measurements and forecasting related to food safety, bioenergy technologies, aquaculture development and sustainability, and water and environmental quality.

“The innovations coming out of the new center will advance national priorities that benefit key sectors of the economy and the public in Alabama and beyond,” said Auburn President Jay Gogue.

He said Sen. Richard Shelby and other members of the Alabama congressional delegation had endorsed funding for the center as part of efforts to ensure that the state plays an important role in achieving federal research goals.

The 68,000 square-foot center, to be located in the Auburn Research Park, will have 21 research laboratories for five major multidisciplinary research groups.

Research areas will include ecosystem health forecasting and marine aquaculture; biodiversity ecosystem maintenance; enhancement of commercially important marine species; sensors for detecting biological and chemical contaminants in water; biofuels that support large-scale commercialization; and advanced food safety sensors, including those that monitor and forecast plant and animal health.

“The grant is recognition of the expertise of Auburn researchers and scientists,” said John Mason, Auburn vice president for research. “Bringing research clusters from across campus together in this facility will foster new discoveries on a larger scale that are transferred into the marketplace at a much faster pace.”

— Charles Martin

Biggin Gallery exhibits creative endeavors of prison inmates

“Art on the Inside,” an exhibition of 31 drawings and photographs by students of the Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project, is on display at Biggin Gallery through Monday, July 27. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The exhibition is presented by the Department of Art in the College of Liberal Arts and the Department of Psychology’s Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project.

The Alabama Prison Arts + Education Project evolved from the efforts of a group of artists, writers and scholars to promote the life-changing possibilities of knowledge and creative development.

The project, which received its first funding from the National Endowment for the Arts in 2003, has grown from a single poet teaching in one prison to more than 35 writers, artists, scholars and visiting writers teaching in 12 correctional facilities in Alabama.

Grant funds research against spread of life-threatening infectious diseases

An Auburn faculty member has received a $424,000 National Science Foundation grant for research in the fight against infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and anthrax, as well as staph infections.

Evert Duin, an assistant professor of biochemistry in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, is focusing his research on the steps that biological cells use in making a group of lipids, called isoprenoids. These are fatty substances that are essential for the survival of all organisms.

“The basic idea is to understand how these enzymes convert one compound, the substrate, into another, the product,” Duin said. “If we understand how the enzymes do this, we can design and make inhibitors that mimic the original substrate, but contain modifications that cause the enzyme to stall.”

Duin said he hopes to make discoveries that work on all harmful organisms, but says finding just one pathway-and-drug combination to combat a specific disease, such as malaria or methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) infections, would be a major advancement worldwide.

Duin is coordinating his work at Auburn with research groups at the University of Illinois and the Medical Center of the Universities of Marburg and Giessen in Germany.
Campus News Briefs

Institute placed in Office of Research

President Jay Gogue has announced that the Natural Resources Management & Development Institute will report directly to the Office of the Vice President for Research, effective July 1.

Gogue said this assignment is made to improve coordination of research program activities across various units at Auburn University.

Larry Fillmer will continue in his role as executive director of the Natural Resources Management & Development Institute. Additionally, Fillmer and the staff of NRMDI will provide special assistance to the Office of the Vice President for Research on a range of interdisciplinary research initiatives. The efforts include developing externally funded programs and management plans for attaining the research goals outlined in the current Auburn University Strategic Plan.

Beale named consortium coordinator

David Beale, a professor of mechanical engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has been appointed by the Office of the Vice President for Research to serve a three-year term as the Auburn campus coordinator for the Alabama Space Grant Consortium.

The consortium includes seven universities in Alabama that have doctoral programs in space-related fields. NASA’s Marshall Space Flight Center is also a partner, providing the universities the opportunity to use NASA technologies to further their research programs.

As campus coordinator, Beale will be responsible for the NASA mission on campus and will report to John Gregory at the University of Alabama in Huntsville who is the Space Grant director.

Work by Dugas featured in book

Ray Dugas, Alumni Professor of Graphic Design, has been selected by LogoLounge to be featured in Animals and Mythology, the second book in their new Master Library series.

This is the second consecutive year Dugas’ designs have been published in the book. “I’m honored because LogoLounge is very reputable, and they have produced many great publications,” said Dugas. “It’s an important book because it is a reference source for graphic designers.”

Dugas has more than 90 illustrations and logos on the company’s Web site and 10 of his logos were selected for the book project this year. Last year, his designs for the Charles Robert Muncaster architecture firm and Corley Brothers Construction Company were featured in the book under the Initials and Crests theme.

The Master Series is a collection of logo designs by outstanding artists from all over the world. Each book centers on a specific theme; this one being Animals and Mythology, which according to the company’s Web site, will be published next year.

McClendon to lead HR association

Auburn staff member Chris McClendon was recognized recently by the Southern Region of the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources during the organization’s annual conference in Louisville, Ky.

McClendon, manager of human resources with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, was elected as the chair for 2009-10, effective July 1. She had previously served on the Board of Directors as the Chair-Elect.

The Southern Region of CUPA-HR is a professional association that serves member institutions and human resource professionals in 13 states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia and Virginia.

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Auburn Report

July 24, 2009

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