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AU Summer Enrollment 2000-2003



Source: Office of Planning & Analysis and
Office of Student Affairs.

Updates between issues
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[www.ocm.auburn.edu/
au_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html)

AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 36 No. 15



Sounds of summer

A sure sign of summer in Auburn is an outdoor concert at Pebble Hill. Shown here, Thomas Smith, professor and chair of the Music Department, leads the AU Summer Choir and the AU Gospel Choir in a recent late afternoon performance for music lovers from campus and town.

Louisville dean

Hanley named provost at Auburn

AU President William F. Walker on Friday named Thomas R. Hanley of the University of Louisville as Auburn's new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The provost is the chief academic officer at Auburn. The deans of all 12 AU colleges and schools, University Libraries and the Graduate School report to the provost, as do the offices of Multicultural Affairs and Information Technology and the vice presidents for research, outreach and student affairs.

Meeting in special session Friday, the AU Board of Trustees authorized the president to make the appointment, ending a search that began last fall, following the appointment of Walker as president in June 2002.

Board of Trustees bylaws require board approval for appointment of the chief academic officer, chief financial officer and athletic director. Other cabinet appointments are made directly by the president.

Hanley is leaving his post as dean of engineering and professor of chemical engineering in the Speed Scientific School at Louisville to assume the Auburn position.

"The position of provost is central to Auburn's academic mission," said Walker. "Dr. Hanley has an outstanding record as an educator and academic leader, and we look to him to provide immediate leadership as we chart the university's course for the future."

The AU president noted that Hanley was among finalists recommended by the search committee and (See *Provost*, page 3)



Hanley

New program for teaching enhancement

Groccia to direct Biggio Center

James Edward Groccia, an authority on college teaching and faculty development, has been named director of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at Auburn University.

Groccia, formerly assistant dean of the graduate school and director of the Program for Excellence in Teaching at the University of Missouri, will take over Auburn's new program on Aug. 11, according to Linda Glaze, AU assistant provost for academic affairs.

Since President William Walker announced the creation of the Biggio Center in May 2002 with a \$10 million endowment from the estate of insurance executive Alvin A. Biggio, the university has been assembling resources and establishing an organizational structure for a center that will help faculty enhance their instructional skills.

The final stage, this spring, was a nationwide search for a director. Groccia's national reputation for leading Missouri's program bodes well for the Auburn program, Glaze said.

"Dr. Groccia has knowledge and experience with all aspects of development for faculty, staff and

graduate teaching students," she said. "At the University of Missouri-Columbia, he coordinated a very successful program, and he is one of the leaders in professional development, evidenced by his scholarship and participation in national conferences on teaching and learning."

Director of the Missouri program since 1995, Groccia is also coordinator of that university's New Faculty Teaching Scholars and Preparing Future Faculty programs and member of the graduate faculty of UM's Program for Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

At Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, he served from 1992-95 as director of the Center for Curricular Innovation and Educational Development and from 1984-92 as director of the Counseling and Student Development Center.

Groccia holds a doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Tennessee, where he served as associate director of the Office of Student Development Services and director of the University Counseling Center.

Bad writing wins 'dark and stormy' award

AU faculty member Mark Silcox has demonstrated the funny side of bad writing. Silcox, an instructor in the Department of Philosophy, won the top award in the science fiction category of the 2003 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest.

The annual contest, hosted by San Jose State University in California, challenges the creativity of

"Colonel Cleatus Yorbyville had been one seriously bored astronaut for the first few months of his diplomatic mission on the third planet of the Frangelicus XIV system..."

writers worldwide by encouraging them to do their worst with opening paragraphs of hypothetical novels.

Since 1982, the contest has preserved the memory of 19th century novelist Edward George Bulwer-Lytton.

The once-prominent English writer's mildly distinguished career

was overshadowed by the disastrous opening lines in his 1830 novel "Paul Clifford." The first words of that novel, "It was a dark and stormy night..." entered popular culture in the 1960s through the efforts of Snoopy, the dog of a writer in Charles Schulz's "Peanuts" cartoons.

If the English writer had put a period after "dark and stormy night," he would have faded into obscurity.

Fortunately for fans of atrocious writing, Bulwer-Lytton penned the following immortal lines: "It was

a dark and stormy night; the rain fell in torrents — except at occasional intervals, when it was checked by a violent gust of wind which swept up the streets (for it is London that our scene lies), rattling along the housetops, and fiercely agitating the scanty flame of the lamps that struggled against the darkness."

In a spirit of fun, the thousands of despairing writers in the annual San Jose State contest try to reach — or sink to — the literary standard established by Bulwer-Lytton.

The judges this year ruled that Silcox came closest in the science fiction category to the Bulwer-Lytton standard with: "Colonel Cleatus Yorbyville had been one seriously bored astronaut for the first few months of his diplomatic mission on the third planet of the Frangelicus XIV system, but all that had changed on the day he'd discovered that his tiny, multipedal and infinitely hospitable alien hosts were not only edible but tasted remarkably like that stuff that's left on the pan after you've made cinnamon buns and burned them a little."

Although the contest drew entrants from as far away as Australia, another Alabama writer, Mariann Simms of Wetumpka, claimed the top prize for worst fiction writing for an entry that begins: "They had but one last remaining night together, so they embraced each other as tightly as that two-flavor entwined string cheese that is orange and white..."

All the winning entries are on the Web at www.bulwer-lytton.com/

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 5

- Meetings: AU Libraries Book Club, discussing "Seabiscuit: An American Legend," 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., Systems Classroom, first floor, Draughon Library. Contact: Stephanie Morgan, 844-1714 or stephanie@auburn.edu

Tuesday, August 12

- Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.

Monday, August 18

- Next AU Report.
- Seminar: "Small Business Development and Marketing," 152 Lowder Business Building, 6 p.m. Contact: Small Business Development Center, 844-4220.

Wednesday, August 20

- First day of classes for fall semester, 2003-04 academic year.

Monday, August 25

- Seminar: "How to Apply for a Small Business Loan," 152 Lowder Business Building, 6 p.m. Contact: Small Business Development Center, 844-4220.

Friday, August 29

- Meeting: Board of Trustees, 1 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Committee sessions TBA.

Monday, September 1

- Labor Day holiday. No classes; offices closed for the day.

Tuesday, September 9

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.

AU report

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing Writers: Charles Martin, Veterinary Medicine, and Karen Nesbitt, Engineering. Photography by Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, AU Photographic Services.

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Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849-5109. Telephone 334/844-9999. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu

Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU recognizes outstanding performance with Spirit of Excellence awards to four staff members. Award recipients for July were, clockwise from left, Kim Fleming of Agriculture, Michael McGhar of the E.V. Smith Research Center, Mary Lynn Saidla of Engineering and Donald Thomas of the Department of Public Safety.



At College of Veterinary Medicine

Diabetes research fund to honor Fyffe

A new fund for diabetes research at AU will honor the memory of athletics announcer Jim Fyffe, "Voice of the Auburn Tigers" for 23 years. Fyffe suffered from diabetes and died suddenly of a brain aneurysm in May.

The Jim Fyffe Diabetes Research Fund at Auburn University will honor the longtime broadcaster by supporting graduate students conducting diabetes research and by providing funding for diabetes research projects. Several members of the campus community worked with the Auburn Network and Fyffe's widow, Rose Fyffe, to establish the fund.

"In talking with the university and his family, we felt this would be a great way to honor Jim and help others who are searching for a cure to this disease," said Jon Cole, vice president of Auburn Network.

Donations will support research in the College of Veterinary Medicine's Boshell Diabetes and Meta-

bolic Diseases Research Program, which studies diseases that affect both humans and animals.

The program is funded through an endowment from the National Diabetes Association, formerly the Diabetes Trust Fund, in honor of its founder, the late Buris R. Boshell, a noted physician and diabetes researcher who attended the veterinary college before enrolling in medical school.

"Nothing would honor Jim more than having this diabetes research fund named for him," said Rose Fyffe. "He hated the disease, although he lived with it as successfully as he could. Diabetes finally took his life, but it didn't take his spirit. He will live on as long as these wonderful researchers are out there trying to find a cure."

To make donations to the Jim Fyffe Diabetes Research Fund, contact the AU Development Office at the Auburn Alumni Center.

Provost

(continued from page 1)

won favorable reviews from faculty during a campus visit in late April. In June, Walker visited the Louisville campus and conducted further study which, he said, reinforced the recommendations of the search committee and on-campus interviews.

Hanley holds three degrees in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech, culminating with a Ph.D. in 1972. He also earned an M.B.A. from Wright State University in Ohio in 1975.

At the University of Louisville, Hanley was responsible for an annual budget of more than \$23 million for six departments and four centers consisting of 95 faculty, 60 staff and 2,100 students.

Before going to Louisville, Hanley held a joint appointment as a professor and chair of chemical engineering at Florida State University and Florida A&M University from 1985-91. He served as professor and head of chemical engineering at Louisiana

Tech from 1983-85. Other career posts include Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana, Tulane University and the U.S. Air Force Materials Laboratory.

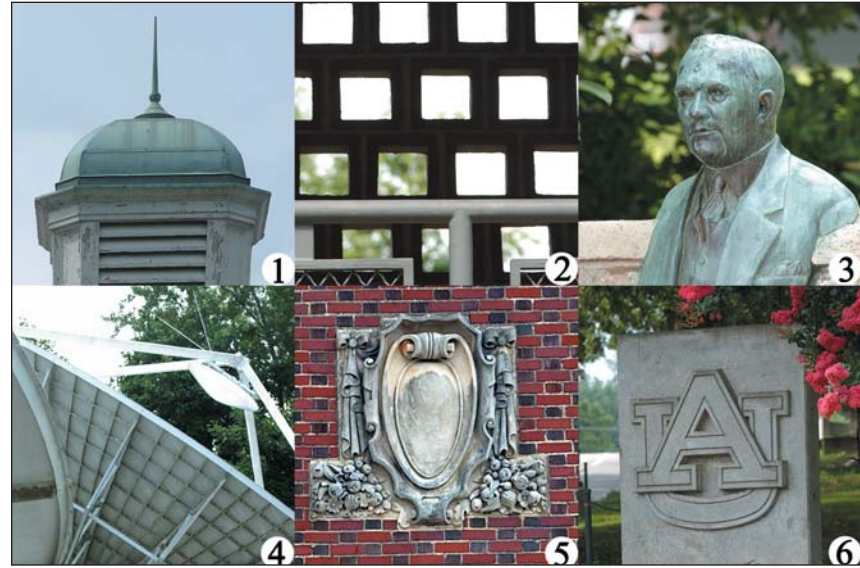
Walker was AU's provost when the board named him interim president in February 2001. John Pritchett, who was associate provost and dean of the Graduate School at the time, has served since then as interim provost.

"I want to thank Dr. Pritchett for guiding our academic program through this period of transition," Walker said.

"Dr. Pritchett's leadership over the past two and a half years made it possible for Auburn to continue its progress, implement new initiatives and respond rapidly to changing conditions. Auburn today is a stronger institution because of his efforts."

Where are they?

Continuing the quiz first presented in the July 21 AU Report, here are more scenes to test your familiarity with the Auburn campus. The scenes at right may seem familiar, but can you recall where you saw them? How many can you identify? Answers are upside-down below at right.



Grenell named to international fellowship of experts on small business development

The IC² Institute, an international think tank for economic development, has named Keenan Grenell, AU's interim assistant provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, as a senior research fellow at the institute.



Grenell

Grenell, who will remain fulltime at his Auburn post, will join up to 230 academic, business and government leaders in the global network of IC² fellows. Members include Nobel laureates, National Medal of Technology winners and CEO's of major corporations.

The IC² Institute, with headquarters at the University of Texas in Austin, is a think tank in which members support the research and outreach of each other while expanding the base of knowledge about job and wealth creation and new theories of capitalism. The IC² name evolved from a shortened description of the group's main interests: innovation, creativity and capital.

The center's work is important to all current and prospective small business owners, and is especially relevant to minority small business leaders, said Grenell, who has conducted extensive research and outreach activities in minority entrepreneurship.

Members consult with each other and organize specialized and international conferences, work-

shops, seminars and discussion to promote research and outreach in development and entrepreneurship "IC² is about connecting ideas, people and resources," said Grenell. "Through this seat, Auburn is assured a seat at the table with global thinkers when development issues affecting businesses, communities, regions and countries are discussed."

The Auburn faculty member has worked with IC² members in the past as founder of the African-American Entrepreneurship Summit, which AU has hosted annually for nine years with sponsorship from the College of Business and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Grenell predicted that his IC² fellowship will lead to more international support for the entrepreneurship conference.

"The Summit's team has worked tirelessly over the past nine years to make entrepreneurship within the African-American community a national priority," he said. "This appointment further legitimizes the Summit's role in this quest."

While assisting IC² colleagues with studies in their disciplines and geographical areas, Grenell said he expects to draw on the talents of those leaders for initiatives at Auburn, including the I-85 Corridor initiative and the work of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

Solar car team finishes 12th in race along Route 66

AU's solar car, Sol of Auburn, placed 12th out of an original field of 30 vehicles in the American Solar Challenge cross-country race on July 13-23.

The Auburn team received three awards in the contest: The Spirit of ASC Team Award, the BP Solar Headquarters Award for "most together team" and the Energizer Bunny Perseverance Award.

The teams competed along old U.S. Route 66 from

Chicago to Claremont, Calif., over the 10-day competition.

From the original starting field of 30 teams, five failed pre-race, on-site scrutiny, and five failed to qualify, leaving Auburn's team among the remaining 20.

The Auburn team completed the 2,233-mile trek in just under 91 hours of driving time.

State deadline is Aug. 29 to register to vote on Sept. 9

Five weeks remain until the Sept. 9 state-wide referendum on Gov. Bob Riley's tax and accountability package, but new voters must meet an earlier deadline before they may cast their ballots.

For new residents and first-time voters in Alabama, the deadline for voter registration before the referendum is Aug. 29. Lee County voters may register at the Voter Registration Office at the Lee County Courthouse, 215 South 9th St., Opelika.

Information about the referendum and voter registration, including a downloadable, mail-in form, is on the the Alabama Secretary of State's Web site at www.sos.state.al.us/election/2003/

Additional information about the referendum is at the governor's Web site at www.governor.state.al.us/

Answers to photo questions
 1. Drake Health Center. 2. I. Drake Health Center. 3. Bibb Graves C.D.V. 4. Satellite up-bust outside Chemistry Building. 5. Back of Ramford Avenue. 6. AU marker at Bay Hall. 6. AU marker at Biggio Drive and Donathue.

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