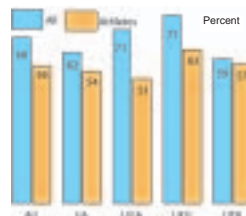


Inside

- 2 Mouton: Look to long-term benefits of construction
- 2 Unique field trip gives students taste of career
- 3 AU presenting 1,200 degrees at graduation
- 4 Author describes family's refusal to yield to adversity

How Auburn Stacks Up

Six-year graduation rates, SEC institutions



Students entering in 1997-98
Source: Chronicle of Higher Education,
<http://chronicle.com/stats/ncaa/>

A report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Eagles to soar above Raptor Center's new amphitheatre



Roy Crowe of AU's Southeastern Raptor Center holds golden eagle Nova in front of a 25-foot flight tower in the center's new amphitheatre. Nova is one of several birds of prey the center will use for classes at the new 300-seat open-air facility adjacent to the College of Veterinary Medicine. The demonstration facility was built with a \$400,000 gift from Carol Clark of Princeville, Ill.

Guthrie named head of College of Agriculture and Experiment Station

Richard L. Guthrie has been named dean of the College of Agriculture and director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station at Auburn, effective immediately.



Guthrie

AU Provost John Heilman announced the appointment on Wednesday, following an internal search that included public presentations by the top candidates. "The College of Agriculture and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station will be in good hands with a leader of Dr. Guthrie's caliber," said Heilman. "He has a lengthy record of achievement within the college and the experiment station and has earned a tremendous amount of respect as an academic leader within the college, throughout the university and among agricultural leaders in Alabama and internationally."

Guthrie, formerly associate dean emeritus and professor emeritus, had served as acting dean and director since coming out of retirement in May to lead the college and its research arm during the search for someone to serve for a longer-term appointment.

He succeeds Michael Weiss, who has assumed full-time duties with the faculty.

The new agricultural dean and director retired from AU in 2003 after 20 years on the College of Agriculture faculty. He came to Auburn in 1983 as professor and head of the Department of Agronomy and Soils, after nearly 20 years experience with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Soil Conservation Service. Early in his career, he served as an Extension Soils Specialist at AU in 1974-75 and as state soils specialist with the USDA at Auburn from 1975-78.

Guthrie served as acting dean of the college in 1985-88 and as associate dean from 1988-2003. Active in international agricultural research and extension, he was a Fulbright Scholar to Thailand in 1988 and has managed agricultural projects in Haiti and Mali.

Since 1986, he has served as liaison for an academic interchange agreement between the AU College of Agriculture and Hubei Academy of Agricultural Sciences in China.

He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Auburn and a Ph.D. in soil science from Cornell University.

Mouton says summer construction hassles will yield long-term benefits

The signs of construction on Auburn's campus are plenty: cranes and equipment, construction fences, detours.

But with all the short-term hassles come long-term advantages, says John Mouton, adviser to the president. In June, Mouton was named by interim President Ed Richardson to lead all aspects of Auburn's construction and physical plant programs, including the Facilities Division.

Although construction can sometimes be disruptive to campus, Mouton said there are many benefits to renovation and construction projects. "New buildings like the Science Laboratory Center give us state-of-the-art teaching facilities and our students are in a better environment to learn."

In addition to a better learning environment, new construction provides much-needed space to grow, he said.

"With the Building Science Building, we did a study there and we're building the amount of space that was recommended," Mouton said. "By Building Science moving out of Dudley Hall, the School of Architecture will be able to occupy their old space."

He said renovations and new construction can also enhance research opportunities. "If we build new research space, such as the new Transportation Technology Center, it becomes easier to attract top research faculty when we have the types of facilities they need."

Hotel and Restaurant Management

Field trip gives students taste of new career

Have you ever wondered how culinary experts can taste wine and immediately tell you the year, country and grape?

Four faculty members and 15 students from AU's College of Human Sciences discovered the answer on a recent epicurean tour through northern California. As a part of the college's hotel and restaurant management program, Susan Hubbard, Carol Dillard, Hans Van Der Reijden and Peter Schoch accompanied students on the trip in June.

The group visited the Ritz-Carlton San Francisco, the Culinary Art Institute at Greystone, the Beringer estate and vineyards and several other vineyards, hotels and restaurants. They toured facilities, sampled food and wine and attended lectures on wine tasting, food and wine pairing, cultivation methods and quality hotel management.

Martin O'Neill, an associate professor in the hotel and restaurant management program, said he



Because each project is unique and will ultimately meet different needs, many items are considered before a decision is made to refurbish an existing structure or construct a new facility.

"Sometimes you can renovate a building and get 'state of the art,'" Mouton said. "Wilmore Labs is a good example of a state-of-the-art building in an old skin. But most of the time if you truly want state of the art you have to do what we did with Forestry – start out with that mission and build a new building."

He said there are indirect benefits to building new facilities on campus. "One benefit is that we take out of service a building that is by comparison to the rest of our portfolio not a good building. In some cases when we build a new building, we can renovate the building that is being vacated and satisfy a space need that we have."

"I think what a lot of people don't realize is that we are building to satisfy a space need that has existed for a long time and not necessarily to deal with recent growth."

Mouton said he has been working since his new appointment in June to implement a new managerial philosophy and streamline some processes already in place. "This will enable us to focus our attention on issues of critical concern," he said. "Our responsibility is to design and build high-quality, long-term buildings. To build better buildings, we have to streamline these processes."

helped develop the tour because he wanted to provide his students with firsthand experience of their industry.

"It's one thing to attend a lecture about wine and how it is central to the hospitality industry, but a lot of times it will just go over your head," said O'Neill. "With this tour, we could create something that would provide a living, breathing experience for our students. We wanted them to take the theories they've learned in classes and see those theories being applied in the real world."

"As a graduate student, the epicurean tour provided me with a wonderful hands-on approach to wine tourism, wine making and marketing of wines," said Jason Koenigsfeld.

Another participant, Brad Colonna, a senior in hotel and restaurant management, said he found that the trick to being able to "take apart" wine is lots and lots of practice. "You have to look at the wine, its color, sediments in the glass and rim variation in the color. The darker the wine, the older it usually is," said Colonna.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 9

BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Payroll & Employee Benefits, Ingram 212.

Monday, August 15

INTERNATIONAL MOVIE "A Talking Picture," 6 p.m., Foy Student Union Ballroom.

Wednesday, August 17

FIRST DAY of classes for fall semester.

Monday, August 22

FIRST AU REPORT of fall semester. Return to weekly publication.
FREE HEARING SCREENING AU Speech and Hearing Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m., Haley 1199. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No appointment is necessary.

Monday, August 29

AU REPORT

Tuesday, August 30

LITTLETON-FRANKLIN LECTURE "Our Inner Ape," primatologist and author Frans deWaal, 4 p.m., Science Center auditorium.

Monday, September 5

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY No classes; offices closed; no AU Report.

Monday, September 12

AU REPORT

Friday, September 16

BOARD OF TRUSTEES Committee sessions are scheduled to start at 8 a.m. and the board is scheduled to meet at 1 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Meeting times may change; for updates, see www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees.



AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder and Laura Watkins, AU Communications. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services; and College of Veterinary Medicine and College of Agriculture.

Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle.

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Tranquility

In the midst of one of the busiest areas for construction on campus this summer, water lilies provide a tranquil scene in the Centennial Garden pool in Ross Square. Jeff Etheridge of Photographic Services captured this scene while photographing the construction work at Ross Hall, on Cater Lawn and along Thach Avenue and other nearby streets.



Sharon Gaber to serve year as acting associate provost for academic affairs

AU Provost John Heilman has announced the appointment of Sharon Gaber of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction to a one-year position as acting associate provost for academic affairs.

The appointment, effective Aug. 1, is half-time, with Gaber continuing her duties in Architecture, Design and Construction, where she is associate dean.

In the Provost's Office, Gaber will address immediate issues facing the university during the coming academic year. Among her duties, Gaber will work on matters related to an analysis of department productivity and academic affairs aspects of interim President Ed Richard's initiatives for Auburn in 2005-06.

"Dr. Gaber will be an invaluable asset to Auburn University as we address these major issues of importance to this university during the coming

year," said Heilman. "In the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, she has demonstrated a level of administrative skills and planning expertise that will also be very beneficial for the university."

Besides serving as associate dean in the college, Gaber, an AU faculty member since 2002, is a professor and has been program chair for the community planning program. She also was recently elected as the south-central regional representative for the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning.

Gaber served in 2001-02 as associate to the vice chancellor for research at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

She holds a bachelor's degree from Occidental College, a master of planning degree from the University of Southern California and a Ph.D. from Cornell University.

AU awarding 1,200 degrees at graduation

Auburn is awarding approximately 1,200 academic degrees at its summer commencement ceremony at 2 p.m. Monday, Aug. 8, in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

Of the new diplomas, 870 are bachelor's degrees, 258 are master's degrees, 57 are doctorates, 11 are specialists' degrees and four are professional degrees (three from the School of Pharmacy and one from the College of Veterinary Medicine).

The College of Liberal Arts will award the most undergraduate degrees with 280, followed by the College of Business with 247 and the College of

Human Sciences with 74. The College of Architecture, Design and Construction will award 63 degrees, the College of Education 62, the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering 55, the College of Agriculture 44, the College of Sciences and Mathematics 38, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences four, the School of Nursing three, the James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy three and the College of Veterinary Medicine one.

Auburn has awarded more than 200,000 degrees at its main campus since its founding as East Alabama Male College in 1856.

Living with Down syndrome

Auburn author finds inspiration in family's refusal to set limits

Family has always been important for Embry Burrus, a speech therapist at Auburn.

But until a few years ago, the Columbus, Ga., native did not see anything inspirational about her adoring, fun-loving older sister and taciturn, determined mother. Only in the late 1990s, after she earned her master's degree from Auburn and changed careers in her late 30s, did Burrus recognize that the two women who had greatly influenced her life could be an inspiration to others in similar circumstances.

Although born with Down syndrome, Embry's sister Margaret had thrived under the guidance of Augusta, their mother, who refused to bow to low expectations for either daughter. The manner in which the mother, now 86 years old, succeeded in building a normal, happy life for both daughters despite sometimes trying circumstances is the subject of the Auburn faculty member's new book "Mama and Margaret," published by PublishAmerica of Baltimore.

Embry, now an assistant clinical professor in AU's Department of Communication Disorders,

"Now I feel like I can relate to the families on a different level."

— Embry Burrus

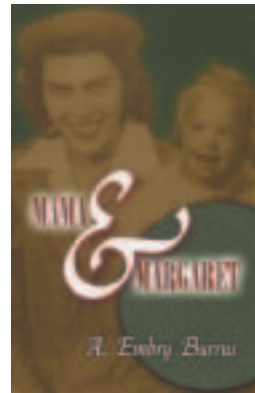
was 9 before she realized that Margaret, who was two years older, was different from other children. An account in her book describes the revelation: Angered by taunts of her sister from young boys in a neighborhood to which they had recently moved, Embry seethed until her mother explained that the difference did not matter. "Margaret can learn to do anything, honey," her mother said, "she just might be a little slower at it than most people."

Reassured, Embry adopted her mother's protective approach toward Margaret, refusing to recognize barriers to her older sister's learning and development. With the support of family, and a wide network of friends, Margaret set her own pace for learning; in the process, she continued her mental and emotional development far beyond the expectations of others. The result, as chronicled in the 190-page book, is a happy, highly capable, well-adjusted adult with a child-like sense of wonder toward life.

The men of the family linger in the background of the memoir. Embry describes their father, Felix, as a conflicted but dedicated provider who was distant in a manner common to men of his genera-

tion, and their older brother, Jake, as caring and protective. Both, however, disappeared from the scene early in the girls' lives: Their father died in 1983, and their brother, 11 years older than Embry, left home while the girls were still young.

Life with Margaret indirectly influenced Embry's



career transition from secondary education to speech therapy, but the effect was so gradual that Embry did not recognize it until she began writing about her family.

After a promising start in 1998, the project stalled for several years until Embry returned to Auburn as a clinical faculty member at AU's Speech and Hearing Clinic.

Friends suggested she

break the logjam by taking a creative writing course taught for University Outreach by Mary Carol Moran, who is now teaching in the public schools in Jacksonville, Fla.

As Burrus polished her writing skills in the class, she rededicated herself to pursuing her family's story. While their permanently protective mother slowly warmed to the project, Margaret, as always, jumped at the chance to spend more time with her sister.

As the book came together over the past two years, Burrus noticed herself gaining a better understanding of relationships she had long taken for granted and, in the process, reshaping her attitude toward working with children with Down syndrome and other medical conditions that are commonly regarded as disabilities. Although she was always comfortable working with children with disabilities, Burrus admits that she sometimes found herself expecting less of others than she had expected from her own sister.

"Working on the book made me realize that children with Down syndrome should not have limits imposed," she said. "Let them reach as far as they can, and they may surprise you with what they can accomplish."

She added, "I have learned to appreciate what parents and families deal with when a child has disabilities. I thought I knew, but I had only scratched the surface before. Now I feel like I can relate to the families on a different level."

"Mama and Margaret" is available in Auburn at the University Bookstore in Haley Center and online at Amazon.com and aeburrus.com.

It's time to update telephone directories

It is time for offices across campus to update information for the 2005-06 AU telephone directories.

The Office of Communications and Marketing has distributed copies of information from the front sections of last year's directory to the offices of vice presidents and deans for review by those offices and departments that report to them.

The review concerns the "Campus Offices" and "Colleges and Schools" sections and related material on pages 3-21 of the 2004-05 directory. The information includes names, office addresses and phone numbers of campus offices. Report changes on those topics to the office of your dean or vice president for inclusion in the 2005-06 directories.

These changes involve only the front sections of the directories. To change an individual listing in the faculty/staff section, submit a Personnel Data Form from your department's administrative office to Human Resources.

The 2005-06 directories will be distributed in late October.

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