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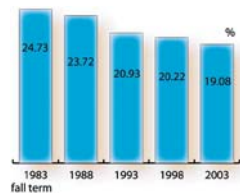
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Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues
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[www.ocm.auburn.edu/
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AU report

For the faculty and staff of Auburn University

Vol. 37 No. 24



Parker Falls

As the bottom floor of Parker Hall flooded from the back last week, the water exited through the front, flowing over these steps on its way to even lower ground. Although the campus lost its e-mail service for most of the day, the mainframe computers were not touched by the water, and damage to the building and its contents was described as relatively light.

E-mail users lose service for hours

Rain, drain failure blamed for flood

Facilities and Office of Information Technology officials blamed heavy rain and a collapsed drain for flooding last Tuesday that disrupted the university's computer network for most of the day.

About 3.5 inches of rain fell in about an hour that morning. Water poured into the ground floor of Parker Hall when a collapsing corrugated metal drain near Chilled Water Plant 2 west of Duncan Drive was unable to handle runoff from the heavy downpour, said Baker Melson, assistant vice president for Facilities. "With that much water falling that fast, we would have had some flooding, anyway," said Melson. "The 80 percent collapse of the drain made matters that much worse."

Water ran into the Chilled Water Plant, causing minor damage to furnishings but not harming the equipment, Melson said. However, the adjacent former dry streambed quickly became a lake, blocking traffic on Duncan Drive and sending water surging along the depression south of Allison Hall toward the southeast corner of Parker Hall.

Rich Burnett, executive director of the Office of Information Technology, said the high water mark on the south side of the building was about four feet above the bottom, with water rising 8 to 10 inches up the glass on the lowest windows.

"We had to shut everything down and get out of there until the water let up," said Burnett.

The water rushing into the building did not reach the elevated floor on which the mainframe computers sit in Parker Hall. Burnett said the power connections were shut down before water reached electrical wiring for the computers.

After the deluge, OIT staff and Facilities crews worked into the night to clear out the water, dry critical areas and restore and monitor power in the building. Most affected by the shutdown were campus e-mail users. Some computer services were rerouted through equipment in other buildings, and the network was fully online by 11 p.m., after an outage of approximately 14 hours.

(See *Flooding*, page 2)

Experts urge AU community to take precautions against West Nile virus

Surveillance teams have discovered mosquitoes infected with West Nile virus on the Auburn campus. Although they say the risk of illness is remote for most people, the experts recommend that everyone take steps to further reduce the risk.

West Nile is a mosquito-borne virus that causes ailments ranging from mild flu-like symptoms to a lethal inflammation of the spinal cord and brain. It typically affects horses, humans and a wide range of bird species, though other mammals also have been documented with the virus.

West Nile virus activity was first detected in Alabama in 2001, with the peak year for activity in terms of dead birds and human and horse cases in Alabama following in 2002. Last year, a significantly lower number of cases were reported in Alabama.

"We began our West Nile campus surveillance program the first week of May and first detected the virus in mosquito collections on July 14," said Entomology Professor Gary Mullen. "Since then, five additional collections of mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile Virus, indicating active transmission of this virus among mosquitoes and birds in the local area."

And with the recent heavy rains, Mullen said, the mosquito population likely will increase in the coming weeks.

Flooding

(continued from page 1)

"Everyone worked hard to get us back online, and I was especially impressed with how fast Facilities responded," Burnett said. "They were there, clearing out the water almost as soon as the rain let up."

Although one computer classroom sustained moderate water damage, most other damage was relatively minor, affecting mostly furniture and carpet or other flooring, said Melson. The damages

The campus surveillance is conducted primarily along the south side, along South Donahue, near the Wire Road-Shug Jordan Parkway intersection and at the AU Horse Unit on Wire Road, across from College of Veterinary Medicine. Mullen said all of the WNV-positive mosquitoes his research team has identified have been the Southern house mosquito.

Known scientifically as *Culex quinquefasciatus*, the Southern house mosquito is a common backyard pest that usually breeds around standing polluted water, bites primarily at night and is limited to a short range of flight.

Detection of West Nile Virus does not mean the public should be alarmed, Mullen said. "The good news is that, even under epidemic conditions, only 20 to 30 percent of individuals infected with West Nile Virus from a mosquito bite develop apparent symptoms, generally nothing more than a low fever," he said, adding that only one in 150 cases of infection results in severe neurological disease.

Mullen advises everyone to take precautions to avoid, or minimize, mosquito bites. Such precautions include the use of insect repellent that contains DEET; wearing long sleeves, long pants and socks when outdoors; and avoiding outdoor activities in the pre-dawn and early evening hours.

will be repaired and ruined materials replaced quickly, he added.

The drain that collapsed was on a list for replacement in the near future and was immediately moved to the top of the list.

When the waters receded, a Facilities crew dug out the collapsed drain, leaving an open culvert to carry away rainwater until workers can install a concrete drain in about a month, he said.

Duncan flooded
Duncan Drive became impassable last Tuesday when heavy rain and a collapsed drain caused a lake to form in the low area. At the other end of the lake, water flowed through Parker Hall before finding its way into other drains for underground storm water runoff lines.



Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Museum: "Works by Gary Chapman," paintings by the chair of the UAB Art Department, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Aug. 29.

Tuesday, August 17

- Photo Exhibit: "Black Classical Scholars," Exhibit Lounge, Foy Student Union, through Sept. 16.

Wednesday, August 18

- Classes Start: First day of classes for fall semester.
- Art Exhibit: Paintings by internationally prominent artist Cheonae Kim, Biggin Gallery, through Sept. 10.

Thursday, August 19

- Artist's Talk: Visiting artist Cheonae Kim, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, 5 p.m. Limited seating; call 844-1484.

Monday, August 23

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, August 24

- Theatre: "Charlie Brown," Telfair Peet Theatre. Other performances Aug. 25-29 and Sept. 1-3. Call the Box Office at 844-4154 for show times and ticket prices.

Monday, August 30

- AU Report.

Tuesday, August 31

- Public Lecture: "Classica Africana: The Origins of Black Classicism," classics scholar Michele Ronnick of Wayne State University, 7 p.m., Exhibit Lounge, Foy Student Union.

Monday, September 6

- Labor Day Holiday: No classes; offices closed; no AU Report.

Tuesday, September 7

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.

AUreport

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: David Granger, AU Communications; and Jamie Creamer, Agriculture. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services; and (page 1) Office of Information Technology.

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Spirit of Excellence
Each month, AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four staff members for outstanding performance. Recipients for July were, from left, Daffny Pierce of Air Force ROTC, Jennifer Harris of Chemical Engineering, Shawn Harrelson of the Facilities Electrical Shop and Tim Glisar of the Facilities Mechanical Shop.

Moody's gives Auburn good rating for sale of general, athletic bonds

In an assessment of the university's financial strength, Moody's Investors Service has assigned an Aa3 rating to AU's 2004 \$78.6 million general fee revenue bonds and an A1 rating to the university's two series of 2004 athletic revenue bonds totaling \$27.8 million.

The Aa3 rating is the highest for any academic institution in Alabama, matching the bond rating for the State of Alabama.

"These ratings reflect the investment community's increasing confidence in the financial status both of the university and its athletic department," said Don Large, AU executive vice president. "The Board of Trustees' strong fiscal oversight of scarce resources during the 1990s to the present was instrumental in our success."

The 2004 general fee revenue bonds are secured by revenues from all tuition and fees charged to students, except athletic and special building fees. Proceeds will be used to fund various campus improve-

ment and renovation projects. The 2004 athletic revenue bonds are secured by Athletic Department revenues, including university-wide, mandatory student athletic fees, sporting event ticket sales and media broadcast rights.

Moody's has also reaffirmed its ratings on several existing AU bond issues, including Aa3 ratings on three general fee bond issues and A1 ratings on two athletic revenue bond issues, a housing refunding bond issue and a student facilities bond.

Moody's cited five AU strengths for both the new ratings and the affirmation of older bonds' ratings. These included AU's strong student market position in the "vibrant" Southeast; the "expected conclusion of probationary status" with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools; adequate financial resources relative to debt; excellent operating performance; and solid debt service coverage from pledged revenues.

Waggoner named special counsel to president

Jon Waggoner, an attorney specializing in corporate law and commercial transactions, has been named special counsel to interim AU President Ed Richardson.

Waggoner will advise the president on the university's Gulf State Park Hotel and AU Research Park projects and other technology-transfer and commercially related issues.

"Jon's expertise will make him a valuable asset to the university," Richardson said. "As we explore opportunities to generate new sources of revenue through public/private partnerships like the Gulf State Park Hotel and AU Research Park, his addition to the staff will allow the university timely, in-house

and cost-effective counsel on issues that arise from these ventures."

Waggoner comes to Auburn from the Atlanta office of the law firm of Miller, Hamilton, Snider & Odom L.L.C. He is a 1992 AU graduate and was president of the AU Student Government Association in 1991-92. He is a member of the dean's advisory council for the AU College of Liberal Arts.

Waggoner received his law degree from the University of Alabama School of Law and clerked for Perry Hooper, former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, before moving to Atlanta.

He is licensed to practice law in Alabama, Georgia, New York and Florida.

Going abroad?

Traveler learns value of new benefit

Sacit "Sarge" Bilgili was about to return home to Auburn from a conference in his native country of Turkey this summer when he learned the value of a new health benefit for AU faculty and staff traveling abroad.

The AU poultry science professor and extension specialist had participated in an international conference in Istanbul and was in the Turkish countryside, expecting to be back in Auburn within a few days, when he began experiencing chest pains. Medical tests at a provincial hospital pinpointed the source of the chest pains — two partially blocked arteries. The problem facing Bilgili involved neither the type nor quality of care: a fully equipped metropolitan hospital in Istanbul could remove the blockages and insert stents to keep the arteries open.

However, the 50-year-old professor was aware that international red tape can sometimes cause life-threatening delays for travelers stranded abroad with serious medical conditions. Bilgili says he was spared the red tape and other delays by a supplementary medical insurance plan. Earlier this year AU adopted the plan by MedEx Assistance Corporation of Baltimore for faculty and staff who travel abroad on university business, including conferences like the one Bilgili attended.

When he became aware of his medical condition, Bilgili called a MedEx emergency phone number and soon found himself in an ambulance on his way to the larger hospital, where doctors were waiting to perform the surgery. The doctors and facilities were comparable to those in large U.S. cities, he noted. Under other circumstances, he could have been airlifted to another country or even back to the U.S.

Since foreign hospitals do not bill Blue Cross for the expense of treating patients from the United States, MedEx also offered to advance the Auburn professor funds for the hospital bill until he could be reimbursed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Alabama, AU's medical insurance administrator. Bilgili made other arrangements but said the option could be a life-saver for others in similar circumstances.

After traveling abroad for years without incident,

Bilgili said he is relieved to have the automatic coverage for health emergencies. "I wouldn't go anywhere without it now," he added.

Jim Ellis, director of the Office of International Education, says AU began insuring its international travelers with a MedEx plan in January to fill a gap in health insurance and cut through the red tape for faculty and staff who attend conferences, lead student tours or otherwise represent AU abroad. Faculty qualify automatically for the free coverage when the Office of the Provost processes their Request for Authority to Travel (RAT, UBO 55-04) documents. Staff in administrative units qualify when the Office of the President processes their forms.

"The cost is minimal to the university because very few travelers will need MedEx services, but when the need arises, the service can literally be a life-saver," said Ellis.

Faculty and staff who travel frequently or have the potential of traveling abroad on short notice, such as foreign-born residents who may need to catch a quick flight due to the illness of family members in their native land, may purchase annual coverage for themselves and members of the immediate family. Requests are handled on a case-by-case basis, and rates are \$3.36 per month for the person and \$1.15 per month for each additional family member.

Ellis said faculty and staff should not assume they are covered simply because they are traveling abroad on an academic trip. They have to file the correct documents and make sure the documents are processed before they leave, he noted.

Bilgili noted one other important asset for international travelers. He saved critical time by contacting MedEx over an international cellular phone he carries whenever he travels abroad. Ellis said his office has several cellular phones with global roaming which are available for occasional travelers to use while on university business.

For more information on MedEx, travel phones or other travel-related topics, contact the Office of International Education at 844-5766.

Exhibit in Foy examines contributions of 19th century African-American classical scholars

A photographic exhibition profiling groundbreaking African-American classical scholars in education following the Civil War will be on display in the Exhibit Lounge of Foy Student Union from Aug. 17-Sept. 16.

Organized locally by the AU Center for Diversity and Race Relations, the exhibition focuses on the lives of and social impact of 12 African-American men and women who taught Greek or Latin at the college level in the last half of the 19th century and

whose achievements helped pave the way for future generations of African-Americans.

The exhibit's creator, Michele Valerie Ronnick, a classics scholar at Wayne State University, will present a public lecture, "Classica Africana: The Origins of Black Classicism," in the Exhibit Lounge at 7 p.m. on Aug. 31.

For more information on the exhibit, call the Center for Diversity and Race Relations at 844-2976 or visit www.auburn.edu/cdrr.

Purchasing, Accounts Payable combined

The AU Business Office has merged Purchasing and Accounts Payable into one department, Procurement and Payment Services.

The combined office in Ingram Hall will better position the University to address emerging business trends such as delegated purchasing authority, complex contractual arrangements, purchasing card administration and new technology, including the Banner system, said Shawn Corrigan Asmuth, executive director of the office.

Phone numbers and e-mail addresses formerly assigned to both units remain in effect for the near future.

OIT HelpDesk moves office to Library

The Office of Information Technology's HelpDesk has moved from the L-Building to the first floor of Draughon Library.

Telephone and e-mail access to the HelpDesk are unchanged.

Telephone numbers are 844-4944 for faculty and staff and 844-9400 for students.

The e-mail address is www.helpdesk@auburn.edu.

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