New software helps students stay on track for graduation

Auburn University is implementing Auburn DegreeWorks, a software program designed to help students and their advisers monitor progress toward graduation.

The program provides a comprehensive set of web-based tools assisting with academic advising, degree audit and course planning for students and their advisers to use in determining curriculum requirements.

Auburn DegreeWorks supports academic advising by combining the university’s degree requirements and a student’s completed coursework into a format that enables students to visualize those courses completed and what courses remain.

The software program provides information on current curriculum, recommendations, academic standing, a GPA calculator and a list of conditions the student must meet for graduation. Students are alerted to unmet conditions when they log in, and advisers can enter notes when meeting with students, providing a progress report and course planning assistance. Exceptions and class substitutions can also be documented in the program.

“Auburn DegreeWorks will benefit students by providing them with a quick and clear sense of the progress they are making toward completing all their degree requirements,” said Constance Relihan, associate provost for undergraduate studies. “It will also help them understand how their degree progress would be affected if they changed their major.”

The system enables students to view degree requirements if they are interested in changing majors, and see courses that do and do not transfer, providing a “what if” analysis for those considering the change.

“Let’s say you’re a mechanical engineering major and you want to change to civil engineering. What the ‘what if’ tab will do is allow you to see what exactly you need to do in order to complete this new degree,” software engineering student Antoinne Morris explained.

Morris continued, “It will have all your credits lined up for what you’ve already taken in mechanical engineering and will add on to that the credits you need for civil engineering. If you had a class in mechanical that transfers to civil, it will show that as well. It allows you to easily see what you would have to do if you decide to change your major.”

Auburn DegreeWorks also offers real-time advice and counsel to students with a 24-hour virtual adviser, but in no way takes the place of a student’s personal adviser housed within his or her college.

Student Affairs gets new assistant vp

Kimberly Frazier has been named the assistant vice president for student affairs at Auburn University. In her new role, Frazier will oversee Student Counseling Services, Campus Recreation, Health Promotion and Wellness Services and the Medical Clinic.

With more than 20 years higher education experience in academic and student affairs, Frazier has worked with residence life and student activities, specifically, in leadership, orientation, Greek life, student media and multicultural affairs.

In her previous roles, she has collaborated with others in a range of programs including health promotion and wellness, student recreation, counseling, disability and community service and enrollment management.

“Frazier’s qualifications, innovative ideas and passion for student programs will further strengthen our mission and goals,” said Vice President for Student Affairs Ainsley Carry.

“We are excited to welcome her to our Auburn Family.”

In addition to her experiences as an administrator and faculty member, Frazier serves as a national collegiate speaker on the subject of student success, presenting keynote addresses on topics of health and wellness, and students in transition. She is an advocate for students and student services and is active in professional organizations, including the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, Southern Association of College Student Affairs and the American College Personnel Association.

“My philosophy is that students come first,” said Frazier. “I want every Auburn student to know that they are the driving force behind each student affairs initiative at the university.”

Before coming to Auburn, Frazier served as an assistant professor of higher education and first year experience at Kennesaw State University. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Clemson University, a master’s degree from Winthrop University and a Ph.D. from Georgia State University.

— Chelsea Payne

Getting head start on fall

While most Auburn students were returning to campus for the start of fall semester classes this week, many — the football team, band members and members of Greek organizations, among others — had already settled in for a busy fall. Among the early arrivals, the Marching Band’s percussion section, shown practicing here, was audibly getting into the swing of things.

See Auburn DegreeWorks, Page 2
McCauley, Stephens named to key positions in Office of Development

Key leadership appointments in Auburn’s Office of Development have been announced by Jane DiFolco Parker, vice president for development and president of the Auburn University Foundation. Karen McCauley has been named associate vice president for operations and Angie Stephens has been named associate vice president for constituent development.

McCauley and Stephens have served in their respective positions on an interim basis since May 2011.

McCauley provides leadership for the Annual Fund and the offices of Trusts, Estates and Gift Planning; Donor Relations; Research and Records; and Corporate and Foundation Relations. Stephens leads the Office of Development’s fundraising efforts on behalf of Auburn’s colleges, schools and other constituency units. In this capacity, she will continue to work closely with the deans and directors of those units in advancing their fundraising goals.

They join Rob Wellbaum, who recently assumed the role of associate vice president for principal gifts and campaign director after serving as interim vice president from February 2011 to March 2012.

Auburn DegreeWorks

Continued from Page 1

“Auburn DegreeWorks will help advisers focus their discussions with their students on concerns and issues by decreasing time advisers need to spend posting grades to students’ curriculum check sheets,” Relihan said.

John Raines, an academic adviser in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and member of the Auburn DegreeWorks committee, led the rollout of the program for testing in the college.

Raines said he expects the software to significantly strengthen his ability to assist his students. “The data will be more concise and the students will have access to the same information we have,” Raines said. “We’ll both be on the same page from the get-go, which will give me time to be more of help to the student.”

Students can log on to Auburn DegreeWorks through AU Access. For more information, go online to www.auburn.edu/checkmystatus.

— Carol Nelson

Weimar helped athletes prepare for Olympics

As a lifelong sports enthusiast, Wendi Weimar was watching everything from soccer to gymnastics as athletes chased gold medal glory during the just-concluded 2012 Summer Olympic Games. As a scientist, however, Weimar notices nuances imperceptible to the typical TV viewer.

Weimar, an associate professor and director of the Sport Biomechanics Lab in the College of Education’s Department of Kinesiology, has worked with a number of Olympic athletes to refine their techniques and training methods to achieve faster times and better finishes. Several members of Auburn University’s 28-member Olympic contingent – comprised of 24 athletes and four coaches representing 13 countries – have enlisted Weimar’s assistance in recent years.

“I’ve been a sports fan my whole life, but the Olympics have taken on a new fervor for me,” Weimar said. “Not only am I rooting for the American athletes, but I’m also rooting for [Auburn University] athletes that I know.”

Weimar’s connections to former and current Olympians began several years ago when former Auburn swimming head coach and current U.S. Olympic team assistant David Marsh inquired as to whether she could help some of his swimmers improve their times. Marsh quickly saw value in developing a better understanding of sports biomechanics, the study of the body’s muscular, skeletal and joint actions.

“He asked us to work with them from a biomechanics and martial arts perspective,” Weimar said. “I took several of his swimmers and we worked on balance, breathing, fighting spirit and those types of things. We branched out more into biomechanics and took cameras into the pool and did in-the-water analysis with the swimmers and coaches.”

— Troy Johnson

Campus Calendar

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18
FINAL DAY Visiting exhibition “Facing South: Portraits of Southern Artists by Jerry Siegel,” 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

MONDAY, AUGUST 20
FREE SCREENINGS Speech and hearing disorders, 1-4 p.m., Auburn University Speech and Hearing Clinic, Haley 1198; no appointment necessary; children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23
FARMERS MARKET Selection of locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and other farm products, The Market at Ag Heritage Park, 3-6 p.m.; also Aug 30, final market day of the summer

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31
NEXT Auburn Report

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 3
HOLIDAY No classes, offices closed for Labor Day
Hanly Funderburk, who served as Auburn University Montgomery’s first chancellor and as Auburn University’s 12th president from 1980-83, died Aug. 4 in Montgomery at age 81.

“Dr. Funderburk had a lifetime of service to higher education in Alabama and Kentucky,” said Auburn University President Jay Gogue. “Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends at this difficult time.”

Born in 1931, in Carrollton, Funderburk received a bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences from Auburn University in 1953. After serving two years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, he returned to Auburn, where he earned a master’s degree in plant physiology in 1958.

Having earned a Ph.D. in plant physiology from Louisiana State University in 1961, Funderburk joined the Auburn faculty as an assistant professor and was later awarded an Alumni professorship. In 1967, he became the assistant dean of the Graduate School.

In 1968, Funderburk was appointed vice president and chief administrator of the newly created Auburn University Montgomery, with the responsibility of establishing a degree-granting institution. He served in this position until 1978 when he became the school’s first chancellor.

“It is a sad day for the Auburn Montgomery family. As the first chancellor of Auburn University at Montgomery and a staunch advocate for its growth and development, Dr. Hanly Funderburk laid the foundation for what today is a strong and diverse academic institution. He set the standard against which his successors are measured,” AUM Chancellor John Veres said in a statement.

Auburn University Montgomery offered its first class in the fall of 1969 in temporary facilities on Bell Street and moved to its current location in east Montgomery in the fall of 1971. Funderburk guided most of the initial planning and development at AUM during its formative years.

Funderburk was appointed president of Auburn University in 1980. He returned to Auburn Montgomery in 1983 as a professor and director of AUM’s Office of Government and Community Affairs.

On January 1, 1985 Funderburk was selected as the eighth president of Eastern Kentucky University and served there until his retirement in 1998, when he returned to Montgomery.

Former President Funderburk dies in Montgomery

Ramirez becomes fourth Auburn person in 2012 to receive NSF graduate fellowship
Campus News Briefs

New policy requires 25-foot smoke-free buffer around buildings on campus

A new campus smoking policy went into effect on campus with the start of fall semester on Aug. 16, requiring tobacco users to move at least 25 feet away from buildings to smoke.

The new policy creates a smoke-free area around the perimeter of buildings. For more information about the policy, go to https://fp.auburn.edu/studentaffairs/healthandwellness/headlines.aspx?i=94.

Veterinary Medicine’s Vodyanoy named to FacultyRow’s SuperProfessors list

Physiology Professor Vitaly Vodyanoy, director of the biosensor laboratory at Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named to the 2012 list of SuperProfessors by FacultyRow.

A professional and social network for academics, FacultyRow’s platform is comprised of faculty throughout the United States and a select group of academics known as SuperProfessors. Launched in 2011, SuperProfessors highlights achievements of leading academics and their respective areas of expertise. There are 4,000 professors with pending applications for the official 2013 list. FacultyRow has more than 91,000 members in 103 countries.

Extension entomology projects receive national recognition, in top 1 percent

Ayanava Majumdar, Auburn University Extension entomologist, recently received the 2012 Search for Excellence in Crops and the Achievement Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents during the Annual Meeting and Professional Improvement Conference.

Majumdar was one of several honorees who represented the top 1 percent of the membership selected by their peers. These awards recognize the outstanding quality of vegetable and peanut Extension projects he manages statewide assisted by a team of regional Extension agents and Extension coordinators in Alabama. Last March, Majumdar received the Southern Region IPM Center’s Future Leader Award for high program impacts.

Roberts and Ortiz to receive President’s Awards from national organization

Christopher Roberts, Uthlaut Professor of Chemical Engineering and dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and Vincent Ortiz, Ruth W. Molette Professor and chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, will receive the 2012 President’s Awards from NOBCChE, the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

Ortiz and Roberts will receive the awards at the organization’s annual conference in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 28. They will be recognized for initiating the Technology Education Partnership between Auburn and NOBCChE and for providing increased opportunities and a more receptive environment for underrepresented students in the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Chemical Engineering.

Dawn Boothe of Veterinary Medicine to receive scientific achievement award

Dawn Boothe of Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine has been named the 2012 Hill’s Jack Mara Scientific Achievement Award recipient by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care in recognition of her contributions to veterinary pharmacology.

Boothe is a professor and director of the clinical pharmacology and analytical laboratory at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine. She will receive the award during the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Symposium, Sept. 8-12 in San Antonio, Texas.

Auburn Report

August 17, 2012

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