Fortune 100 company to locate in Auburn’s new research park

Northrop Grumman Corp., a Fortune 100 company, will be the first tenant in the new Auburn Research Park south of AU’s main campus.

The global defense and technology company has confirmed to City of Auburn and AU officials that it will locate one of the corporation’s new National Work Force Centers in the 156-acre research park. A coalition of university and government entities is developing the site west of South College Street.

With 120,000 employees, the $30 billion corporation provides services and products in four business areas: information technology, systems support and technical services; electronics; aerospace; and ships.

The company has described the National Work Force Centers, such as the one planned for Auburn, as part of a new initiative to provide high-quality, cost-effective technology centers in the United States as an alternative to off-shoring.

“Northrop Grumman is a home run for the Auburn Research Park,” said AU President Jay Gogue. “Its commitment demonstrates the potential the park holds for fueling economic growth in the state and academic and entrepreneurial opportunities for Auburn faculty and students.”

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham said the Northrop Grumman agreement is the culmination of a collaborative effort among AU, the City of Auburn, the city’s Industrial Development Board and the State of Alabama to attract research and high-technology companies. “This announcement is the very reason city officials knew it was imperative the city play a role in the development of the Auburn Research Park,” he said.

AU Provost Emeritus Paul Parks, chair of the Industrial Development Board, said, “For many years, the highly successful partnership between the Industrial Development Board and AU has allowed the City of Auburn to recruit technology-based, value-added manufacturers.”

Parks added, “That same partnership has now resulted in the development of the Auburn Research Park and the recruitment of Northrop Grumman Corp., an outstanding research-based company.”

Gov. Bob Riley and State Rep. Mike Hubbard of Auburn were instrumental in securing a $10 million state commitment for the research park.

A non-profit organization, the Auburn Research and Technology Foundation, is overseeing development of the Auburn Research Park. Workers are in the final stage of infrastructure development of the site and the first building is scheduled to open in the fall of 2008.
Cancer claims life of former AU president

William F. Walker, the former professor, dean and provost who served as AU’s president from 2001-04, died Aug. 7 of complications from cancer. He was 69.

Walker came to Auburn in 1988 as dean of the College of Engineering, and 11 years later was promoted to provost. He was named interim president in February 2001, succeeding William L. Mize, and was elected to president in June 2002. He served until January 2004.

As AU president, Walker led efforts to ensure the university’s financial soundness, focus its sense of mission and accountability, and improve communications among faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Board of Trustees.

“We mourn the loss of an important member of the Auburn family,” said AU President Jay Gogue. “Our thoughts and prayers are with Dr. Walker’s family and friends.”

Before coming to Auburn University, where he served as president, Walker earned his bachelor’s degree and his doctorate in mechanical engineering from Rice University, where he served as dean, and as a professor from 1965-88. At Rice he was a faculty member from 1965-88. At Rice he was a faculty member from 1965-88 and as a person.”

I believe Randy’s experience and leadership are exactly what we need to build on the strong record of accomplishments accrued under Ray Brown,” said Larry Benfield, dean of the Samuel Ginn Col-
lege of Engineering.

West holds a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Florida. Before coming to Auburn, West worked as a research engineer for the Florida Department of Transportation and for APAC Inc. in Atlanta, where he was director of materials, plants and quarry services.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, August 23

Discover Auburn Lecture
Mike Jernigan, author of “Auburn Man: The Life and Times of George Petrie,” 3 p.m., Special Collections and Archives Department, Draughon Library

Monday, August 27

Next AU Report

Thursday, August 30

Committee Sessions
AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel

Friday, August 31

Meeting
AU Board of Trustees, time TBA, AU Hotel

Monday, September 3

Holiday
Labor Day, no classes, offices closed

Tuesday, September 4

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

Wednesday, September 5

Study Abroad Fair
Displays and information on opportunities for international travel and study, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., lobby, Haley Center

Tuesday, October 2

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

Littlenor-Tolston Lecture
Thomas Friedman, New York Times columnist and author of “The World is Flat,” 4 p.m., Coliseum

Tuesday, October 9

Meeting
University Faculty, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

Art Exhibit

Federal agency awards $875,000 to AU rehab counseling programs

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded two grants totaling $875,000 over five years to Auburn College of Education faculty members Rebecca Curtis and E. Da-

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The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of the first week of classes. The AU Report is distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is 4 p.m. on Tuesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334-750-0700. E-mail: au-report@tigermail.auburn.edu.

Auburn’s Academy for Lifelong Learners program in Auburn University Outreach received a $100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation.

The program, known locally as AUL, will become part of the foundation’s national network and will be renamed the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Auburn University or OLLI at Auburn. The grant was one of several this year from the Osher Foundation to advance the interests of lifelong learning through universities.

Lifelong Learning program gets grant, new name

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The AUL program was organized in 1998 by Mary Burkhardt, who conceived the program after attending a 1998 conference on programs for retirees. Now retired herself, Burkhardt still serves as the program’s coordinator through the Outreach Program Office.

The program serves more than 250 members in East Alabama. For information on the Web, see www.olliauburn.org.
Magazine ranks AU 45th among public institutions

 Auburn is ranked 45th among public universities nationwide in an annual survey released Friday by U.S. News & World Report. The ranking marks the 15th consecutive year the magazine has ranked AU among the nation’s top 50 public universities.

“The people of Alabama can be proud that three of the state’s institutions rank in the top tier of national universities, and the Auburn family can be proud that AU has enjoyed this distinction for 15 continuous years,” said AU President Jay Gogue.

“The U.S. News & World Report assessment is another helpful tool that Auburn will use as we prepare a new strategic plan and continue to strengthen our instruction, research and extension programs.”

The undergraduate program of Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering is ranked 57th nationally overall and 34th among public universities that offer doctoral programs in engineering, moving up from 60th and 35th, respectively, in the previous year. Larry Benefield, dean of the college, commented that “this is the second consecutive year the college has moved up in the rankings, a trend reflected in graduate rankings as well.”

Also moving up in the undergraduate rankings was the AU College of Business, which rose to 48th from 51st last year and 57th in 2006.

To establish its rankings, U.S. News categorizes colleges and universities primarily by mission and, in some cases, region.

“The U.S. News ratings are based on indicators that some prospective college students may value, such as general reputation or selectivity,” said Drew Clark, director of AU’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. “But AU also uses assessments that provide direct information on equally important indicators of quality, such as how much students are actually learning and what kind of college experience they have.”

Time running out for ID cards

With the change to Banner ID numbers instead of Social Security numbers as unique identifiers, all students, faculty and staff must have new ID cards made. Old ID cards will not be valid after Aug. 29.

For employees, a new ID card will be required to access certain buildings and rooms, to check out library books or to use their TigerCard account. For students, a new ID card will be required to get into football games and other sporting events, obtain a parking pass or use their TigerCard account.

There will be no charge for ID cards made by Aug. 29, but after that date there will be a $25 charge for any new card made. For information regarding dates, times and locations for having a new card made, see the Web site www.auburn.edu/tigercard.

Former HHP Department in Education is renamed Kinesiology Department

The College of Education’s Department of Health and Human Performance has changed its name to the Department of Kinesiology, which refers to the scientific study of human movement.

“Everything we do in teaching, research and outreach is directed toward intervening in the lives of those with whom we interact to enhance health or performance,” said acting Department Head Mary Rudisill. “Kinesiology is broad in scope and represents all areas of instruction within the department and therefore more accurately describes our activities.”

The department has 306 exercise science majors, 104 health promotion majors and 76 physical education majors. Approximately 60 graduate students are enrolled in kinesiology-related programs.

Fulford rejoins university in Governmental Affairs

S herri Fulford, who worked for approximately 30 years at AUM and AU’s Governmental Affairs Office, has returned to AU as director of that office.

In her current role, she will maintain AU’s contacts with state government, working directly with members of the Legislature and other state officials in Montgomery and across Alabama.

Fulford started last week on a one-year appointment after suspending her retirement from AU. The university will begin a search later this year to fill the position on a permanent basis.