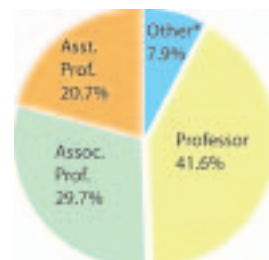


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### How Auburn Stacks Up

Faculty distribution at AU by rank, 2004-05



\* Other = Instructor & Visiting  
Numbers rounded to nearest 10th  
Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

[www.ocm.auburn.edu/au\\_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html)

# FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report



### Coming and going

With the start of classes last week, students were discovering the new, exterior entrance to the AU Bookstore on the first floor of Haley Center. Previously, students had to enter the bookstore through the building's lobby.

### Association honors Jolly

Curtis Jolly, a professor and interim chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in the AU College of Agriculture, has been named one of the nation's 10 outstanding black agricultural economists.

The recognition came recently during the American Agricultural Economics Association's 2005 meeting in Rhode Island. Jolly and nine other honorees were selected on the basis of their contributions in the areas of teaching, research, extension and administrative duties.

## U.S. News rates AU 38th in latest national ranking

Auburn is ranked 38th among public universities nationwide and as Alabama's top university by U.S. News & World Report.

In the annual survey released last week, Auburn is ranked among the nation's top 50 public universities for the 13th consecutive year. This year's ranking was AU's best in the survey since 1999, when it also ranked 38th, and was a four-spot improvement over last year, when U.S. News ranked Auburn 42nd among public schools.

"Obviously the Auburn family was pleased to learn that AU has improved its national standing," said interim President Ed Richardson. "These improvements are the result of hard work by the faculty, staff and administration and the commitment by the Board of Trustees to establish and support long-term improvements. I remain optimistic that further improvements will be forthcoming."

AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering was ranked 67th nationally overall among engineering schools with doctoral engineering programs. The college was ranked 40th in the same category among engineering schools at public universities.

The newsstand book, "America's Best Colleges," which contains the U.S. News college rankings, goes on sale this week. Most of the rankings and some of the articles from the book will also be in this week's issue of U.S. News & World Report weekly newsmagazine.

To establish its rankings U.S. News categorizes colleges and universities primarily by mission and, in some cases, region. The indicators the magazine uses to define academic quality fall into seven categories: academic reputation among its peers, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and (for national universities and liberal arts colleges) the graduation rate performance, or the difference between the proportion of students expected to graduate and the proportion who actually do.

## Professor gets new view of higher education in year as ACE Fellow

Last year, as she approached her 30th year as a university faculty member and her 10th year as a professor and department head in AU's College of Education, Holly Stadler began a quest for a broader perspective on higher education.



Stadler

Returning this summer from a year as an American Council on Education Fellow at the University System of Maryland, Stadler says she gained that perspective and much more. The American Council on Education, which represents 1,800 universities, associations, organizations and corporations, is the nation's largest education association. One of 35 faculty members selected from around the United States for the ACE fellowship program, Stadler spent the 2004-05 academic year working with the chancellor of a multi-campus university system, visiting executives of other systems and attending national conferences of executives and trustees of major U.S. institutions, including Auburn.

"Before I left, I thought I had a grasp of how institutions are run, but I wanted to learn more about how state systems are governed," said Stadler, who is head of the Department of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology and School Psychology in the College of Education at AU. "I gained that and a lot more." Stadler said she became more aware of how connected all parts of higher education are to one another. "I developed more of a global perspective during the past year. No matter where you are, it is easy to become narrowly focused when you are on one campus for 10 years."

Working with a multi-campus system and meeting the leaders of large institutions and systems from around the nation, the AU professor said, she became more aware of the universal nature and complexity of major issues in higher education. "It did not take long to see that policy issues are seldom as simple or clear cut as they sometimes seem."

At the University System of Maryland, Stadler assisted with budgeting, capital planning, development of legislative funding requests, academic

program development and other activities in which Chancellor William E. Kirwan was balancing the interests of 11 degree-granting and two research institutions. The activities often involved working with task forces of faculty, administrators and professionals from several campuses and evaluating issues to determine their effect on individual campuses, the system and the state.

Stadler found issues of similar complexity as she visited executives at six other university systems and participated in the annual conferences of ACE, the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges and the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

In meeting and working with presidents, chancellors and trustees who displayed a wide range of leadership styles, she saw common traits in the most successful administrators.

"The most successful were able to put people at ease and conveyed a sense of personal integrity and humility," she said. "They were people you felt that you could trust. They were outspoken when they needed to be and discreet at other times."

She added that the occasional flameouts invariably displayed the opposite traits.

Institutions often have more in common with one another than many people realize, Stadler said. For instance, she began her fellowship thinking that Auburn was unique in having a lot of interim administrators. Over the course of the year, she changed her view. "I realized that people are in interim positions all around the country. There is a lot of movement in executive positions in higher education."

Stadler said her observations during the fellowship year led to a refocusing of her administrative interests. She added, "I certainly plan to approach issues from a more global perspective from now on."

## Mullen honored for career contributions to entomology

Thirty-plus years of significant contributions to the study of mites and ticks have earned AU Entomology Professor Gary Mullen recognition from the International Journal of Acarology.

The journal presented Mullen its Acarology Research Award during the publication's 30th anniversary celebration this summer in Columbus, Ohio. Presenters acknowledged Mullen's research contributions relating to mites and ticks of medical and veterinary importance, including his work with ticks and Lyme disease in Alabama.

## Upcoming Events

### Continuing

**EXHIBITION** "Kationic II," abstract art by Kyle Braund, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday through Sept. 8, Telfair Peet Theatre Gallery.

**EXHIBITION** "Construction," drawings on wood by Cedar Lorca Nordbye, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday through Sept. 16, Biggin Gallery.

### Friday, August 26

**DEDICATION** of new Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 3 p.m., South Duncan Drive.

### Monday, August 29

**NEXT** AU Report.

### Tuesday, August 30

**LITTLETON-FRANKLIN LECTURE** "Our Inner Ape," primatologist and author Frans de Waal, 4 p.m., Sciences Laboratory Center auditorium.

### Friday, September 2

**OPEN HOUSE** newly renovated Veterinary Medicine Library, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Cary Hall.

### Saturday, September 3

**EXHIBIT** Scottish American cultural display, noon-4 p.m., tent near Parker Hall.

### Monday, September 5

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

### Tuesday, September 6

**MEETING** University Senate, 3 p.m. Broun Hall auditorium.

### Wednesday, September 7

**RESEARCH ORIENTATION** for new faculty, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Also available Thursday, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.



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### New look

The formerly well-worn interior of Mary Martin Hall has been spruced up in keeping with the building's new mission as the center of activities for Student Financial Services. The renovated building now provides one-stop shopping for AU students to handle most matters related to financial services.



## Federal grant aids program to boost economy, quality of life in Black Belt

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a \$460,000 grant to an interdisciplinary team of faculty at Auburn for a program to benefit small landowners and residents in substandard housing in Alabama's Black Belt and beyond.

The project is an outgrowth of work that began with efforts by rural sociologist Conner Bailey in the College of Agriculture and Mark Dubois of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to help small landowners find a market for their timber. A breakthrough came when the research team, with two additional members, linked their efforts to the work of AU's Rural Studio to improving housing in rural West Alabama.

Recognizing that few logging operations serve the needs of forestland owners with tracts of less than 50 acres, especially in West Alabama, which contains some of the poorest counties in the United States, Bailey and Dubois reasoned that some families living in substandard housing may own

land with standing timber which could be transformed into building materials for their own needs and those of their neighbors.

Architecture Professor Bruce Lindsey, who is co-director of the Rural Studio, helped the researchers promote harvesting and wood processing technologies that would be suitable for small, local landholdings and, in the process, would produce valuable construction materials for projects of the Rural Studio. Also, agricultural economist Valentina Hartarska is helping develop harvesting and processing activities that will be economically self-sustaining through use of locally available materials to meet local needs.

The project is an outgrowth of a pilot project funded by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and focused on West Alabama. The USDA-funded project will extend the geographic focus to include other regions in Alabama and the South where forestland is divided into small tracts.



### Spirit of Excellence

Each month, AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees for outstanding performance. Recipients for June were, from left, Kathy Ford of the Office of Information Technology, Jeff Etheridge of Photographic Services in the Office of Communications and Marketing, James Barnes of Facilities and Gail Butcher of Admissions.



### Professor-turned-artist exhibits works on campus and downtown

Since retiring as an emeritus professor from the AU College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999, Kyle Braund has established a new career as an artist.

The Australian native, who taught at AU from 1976-99, paints in an abstract expressionist style influenced by early 20th century European and American artists such as Picasso, Chagall and Pollack.

Many of his paintings, such as "Hepcat" at left, are on display through Sept. 8 at Telfair Peet Theatre Gallery on campus and Taylor's Bakery in downtown Auburn. The exhibitions are sponsored by the Auburn Arts Association.

### Discount on season tickets

## Theatre season starts with musical

**AU** Theatre kicks off its 2005-06 season with the musical comedy "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" on Sept. 27-30 and Oct. 4-9.

In a half-price discount for season tickets, the purchase of two tickets for \$100 will include free tickets to the season's four other shows: "The Shape of Things" in November, "Daunce" in January, "The Blue Bird" in March and "Metamorphoses" in April. Individual tickets are \$20 each per play.

A popular Broadway musical in the late 1970s and a major Hollywood motion picture starring Dolly Parton and Burt Reynolds in 1982, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" presents a lively, irreverent look at the last days of a venerable Texas institution with a shady reputation. The establishment known as the Chicken Ranch closed in 1973, after approximately 140 years in business, during a morals crusade led by a local television celebrity.

All shows start at 7:30 p.m. except for a matinee on Oct. 9, which starts at 2:30 p.m. For reservations and ticket information, call the Box Office at 844-4154 from noon-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

The second play in the series, "The Shape of Things," which runs Nov. 9-18, is a dark comedy by contemporary playwright Neil LaBute, who also directed the movie version of the play in 2002. As in other works by LaBute, such as "Nurse Betty" and "In The Company of Men," the play examines a person's cynical attempt to manipulate a lonely admirer for selfish reasons.

"Daunce," on Jan. 26-29, is an annual production of contemporary dance presented by the Theatre Department and the Music Department.

"The Blue Bird," on March 8-18, is a family-oriented production from early 20th century Dutch poet and playwright Maurice Maeterlinck. In the play, two small children go through a series of adventures in strange, mystical lands in search of a fabled "blue bird of happiness" that will grant all their wishes.

The final play of the season, "Metamorphoses," April 18-22, is a modern look at Greek mythology by Mary Zimmerman, a professor at Northwestern University, who won a Tony award for the play.

Online, see <http://media.cla.auburn.edu/theatre>.

## Morgan named president of association

Virginia Morgan of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has been elected president of the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences for 2005-06.



Morgan

Morgan, co-leader of Extension Communications at AU, assumed the association presidency in June at the organization's annual meeting in San Antonio.

The association represents 700 professional communicators in agricultural, natural resources, life and human sciences and related fields in the

United States, Canada and six other countries.

Morgan, who has been a member of the association for 13 years, has served as vice president, chair of the Development Fund Committee and co-chair elect of the Leadership and Management Committee. She also has served as a facilitator for workshops at the regional and national levels.

A communications specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System since 1992, Morgan has served as co-leader of the ACES Communications Department since 1999. She holds a bachelor's degree from Auburn, a master's from Appalachian State University and a doctorate in human resource development from Vanderbilt.

## AU lecture series to present evolution authority

**F**rans B.M. de Waal, an authority on evolution, will inaugurate the 2005-06 Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series at AU on Aug. 30.

One of the world's best-known authorities on the social intelligence of monkeys and apes, de Waal will speak on "Our Inner Ape" at 4 p.m. at the auditorium of AU's new Sciences Laboratory Center in the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

The speech topic is also the title of a new book in which de Waal examines the evolutionary basis for aggressiveness and cooperation in human nature.

De Waal is director of the Living Links Center at Emory University and is one of the most prominent primatologists in the world.

The Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series is the oldest major lecture series at Auburn. Founded in 1966 and sponsored since 1968 by the John and Mary Franklin Foundation of Atlanta, the series also honors Mosley Professor Emeritus Taylor Littleton, who coordinated the series for many years.

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