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Total organized
research at AU from
1982-83 to 2002-03



Source: Planning & Analysis

Updates between issues
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[www.ocm.auburn.edu/
au_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html)

IAU report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY



A corner in time

Ever wonder what it would be like to turn a corner and find yourself back in another time? Trice Megginson of Photographic Services captures that sensation in this composite photograph that updates a classic early 20th century view of Toomer's Corner with a recent photo of the historic intersection where the AU campus meets downtown Auburn.

President says AU will place more emphasis on diversity initiatives

Interim AU President Ed Richardson has announced steps to make diversity initiatives a higher priority on campus.

The initial changes include strengthening the role of the provost in most efforts toward diversity enhancement and establishing an ombudsman position in the President's Office to address diversity matters that fall outside established channels.

Richardson said the steps are part of a larger effort to institutionalize diversity, inclusiveness and responsiveness among the university's core values.

"Auburn University has over the past few years taken a number of initiatives that are instituted to strengthen diversity as a core value," Richardson said. "It is now time to organize and focus those multifaceted efforts.

"Given that our purpose is to educate, and promoting diversity is an educational endeavor, the university's chief academic officer, the provost, has led our efforts," he said.

"As president, I am reaffirming our commitment

to diversity and am reaffirming the provost's role in leading that effort," Richardson said.

"Further, I am disseminating the diversity plan that was developed by the Diversity Leadership Council and asking the provost to take that plan into account as he moves forward on these issues."

Provost Thomas Hanley will have overall responsibility for diversity efforts and will work with other administrators to implement them. He is proceeding with national searches for two positions that will play a major role in diversity efforts. The associate provost for academic affairs, among other duties, will have operational responsibility for advancing diversity at Auburn.

In addition, an assistant provost will support the recruitment and retention of minority faculty, staff and students and will coordinate the work of several groups and offices involved in diversity enhancement.

Working closely with Hanley and the two new
(See *Diversity*, page 2)

Forestry researcher wins grant for study of land use in China

An AU forestry researcher has received a \$1.65 million grant to study ecosystem and land-use changes in China.

Hanqin Tian, a professor of ecology in the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, has received the grant from NASA's Interdisciplinary Science program to investigate Chinese ecosystem sustainability during the next three years.

"China's expanding economy, which is the fastest growing in the world along with continued population growth, will lead to continued land transformations in the next decades, including dramatic urbanization," Tian said.

"While we have a qualitative sense that land transformations across China have affected and will continue to affect the ability of China's ecosystem to provide people with essential goods and services, our challenge now is to quantify exactly how the provision of key goods and services has changed."

Tian said China is an interesting country to many Americans because of its dramatic increase in economic growth and its population of 1.3 billion people. Many countries, including the United States, could benefit from the findings of a study of how the country has sustained development, he said.

"NASA is interested in understanding the earth's development as a whole," he said. "Likewise, many

international organizations are interested in what is happening in China."

Using satellite data from NASA, field studies from China and an ecosystem computer model, Tian will study the changes from 1980 to the present. "We will use techniques that have been used in the United States and the Amazon Basin and apply these techniques to China and Asia," Tian said.

"It is an important phenomenon in Asia," he said. "We will look at land conversion from cropland to urban use and deforestation."

As part of the urbanization study, Tian said he will look at factors such as air pollution and overall air quality and how these factors have changed as urbanization has increased.

Tian, the study's principal investigator, is working with scientists from Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, the University of Montana and Boston University. The U.S. scientists have also formed a partnership with the Chinese Academy of Science, which is an umbrella organization supporting scientists from many participating Chinese institutions working on the project.

Tian said the project is one of only 59 proposals selected this year for funding by the NASA program, which received 348 proposals for funds.

AU faculty member participating in NGA panel

An AU College of Human Sciences faculty member will be a featured speaker at a Web-transmitted panel presentation for the National Governors Association on Tuesday.

One of four panelists, Francesca Adler-Baeder, an assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, will discuss the "Family Connections in Alabama" project, which is

a pilot marriage education program for low-income single parents.

The panel discussion "Supporting Health Marriages and Strong Families," will be transmitted at 3 p.m. over the Web site of the National Governors Association's Center for Best Practices, <http://www.nga.org/HealthyMarriages>.

Diversity

(continued from page 1)

administrators will be the vice president for student services, assistant provost for undergraduate affairs and assistant provost for graduate affairs.

"Diversity is a priority for the entire university," said Hanley. "In addition to the team in the Provost's Office, deans and department leaders will establish goals and work as a team to make sure that diversity is central to the university's mission."

Hanley said he will work closely with the deans to ensure that diversity planning is central to the plans for their colleges and schools and that those goals are pursued as part of the daily and long-range activities in those areas.

The president, meanwhile, accepted a University Senate proposal to appoint an ombudsman and establish a hotline for whistleblowers. The proposal, which originated with the Multicultural Diversity Commission, would provide a two-year trial period for the ombudsman. The President's Office is developing plans to implement the proposal.

Additionally, the Office of Human Resources has assumed responsibility for all matters that have traditionally been handled by the Office of Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity. That office's staff now reports to Human Resources.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Art Exhibit: Paintings by Cheonea Kim, Biggin Gallery, through Sept. 10.
- Photo Exhibit: "Black Classical Scholars," Foy Union Gallery, through Sept. 16.
- Art Exhibit: "Auburn Collects," eclectic works from the private collection of William Dunlop, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Nov. 14.

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

- Orientation: Research orientation for new faculty, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium

Wednesday, September 8

- Orientation: Research orientation for new faculty, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Human Resources Development: "The Healthy Employee: Herbal Medicine," Pharmacy Professor Norman Doorenbos, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., AU Human Resources Training Center, North Gay Street. Staff may register online at Human Resources Web site or call 844-7939.

Monday, September 13

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, September 14

- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.
- Meeting: University Faculty, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.



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Taste of hunger

Nejla Orgen of Student Affairs was among the majority of students, faculty and staff who were served a small tortilla at a "hunger banquet" on Thursday to symbolize the food on which the majority of the world's population must subsist. Serving the meal is Scott Ketting, a faculty member in the College of Human Sciences.



For U.N. agency

AU leads campaign against hunger

The World Food Programme, one of the world's largest humanitarian agencies, has selected Auburn University to establish a worldwide model for a student-led "War on Hunger."

The Rome-based United Nations agency has asked AU faculty and students to establish a model that colleges can use to increase awareness of global hunger and poverty. The agency assists 80 million people in 80 countries with feeding programs, reforestation projects and infrastructure improvement.

An AU student organization, the Committee of 19, kicked off its campaign Thursday with a "hunger banquet" to illustrate the plight faced by 800 million people around the world. At the "banquet" 55 percent of participants were fed one tortilla each, 30 percent ate beans and rice and 15 percent were served a three-course meal.

"This is a monumental cause that has excited a lot of students," said Student Government Association President Bradford Boney, who is chair of the Committee of 19. "This is the first time that students on any campus have organized to help the United Nations in its fight against world hunger, so we want to make as much of an impact as we can."

The "banquet" was the first in a series of activities at Auburn to draw attention to the plight of millions who are unnoticed by much of the developed world, said June Henton, dean of AU's College of Human Sciences. "Hunger is not about an inadequate food supply, but about social inequities, conflict and war, political issues and other factors that prevent people from having access to food," she said.

"We all know that hunger is a massive and complex problem," said Henton. "It is essential that students also understand that hunger is interrelated with many of our own national issues, such as peace and security, health care and the environment."

She added, "Hunger is a critical concern that must be addressed in our pursuit of a sustainable world, a

world that protects the natural environment and enhances human health and well-being for present and future generations."

Auburn's initial contact with the U.N. agency came through the College of Human Sciences, which presents its International Quality of Life Award to a global leader each year in a ceremony at the U.N. headquarters in New York.

James Morris, executive director of the World Food Programme, told Henton that a student-led campaign provides fresh hope for hunger-relief workers. He said the Auburn efforts could invigorate a WFP student campaign that is still in its formative stage. "Your ideas have the potential to make life better for so many," Morris said. "We are eager to be a very good partner for you. We will give it our best."

Henton said the timing appears right for a student movement against one of the world's most daunting challenges. "We are witnessing a resurgence of student interest in world affairs," she noted. "Students are looking for ways to make the world a better place, and they are responding enthusiastically to this call to action."

Auburn's Committee of 19 takes its name from a World Food Programme request that donors contribute 19 cents a day to help feed a hungry child in any of the world's poorest nations.

The student campaign will be officially launched at a benefit concert on Oct. 15 featuring "Nashville Star" Brad Cotter, an Opelika native. The concert will be followed on Oct. 16 with a ceremony at the AU vs. Arkansas football game.

After two years, organizers say, they will document the Auburn "War on Hunger" model in a report that other colleges and universities can use as a template for hunger initiatives on their own campuses and communities.



Brick by brick
Construction workers are applying a brick exterior to the largest of three buildings in AU's new Sciences Center. Many core curriculum subjects will be taught in the complex, which will house laboratories, classes and offices for the College of Sciences and Mathematics and science-related disciplines in other colleges and schools.

First gift of its type

Advisory council endows faculty position in College of Business

The AU College of Business Advisory Council has contributed \$300,000 to endow a new professorship in the college.

"We are proud to be the first advisory council on campus to provide a professorship and would challenge other groups on campus to raise a professorship and help Auburn continue to provide competitive salaries and attract quality faculty," said Jim Jager, president of Birmingham-based New South Research and past president of the advisory council.

This is the first advisory council at AU to endow a full professorship. The council's more than 50 members began with an initial gift of \$10,000 two years ago and have raised the additional funds to create the full endowment.

While many council members give to the college individually, as a whole they decided that together they could make a lasting and substantial impact on the college and the university. "Our group looked at the College of Business and considered where there was the greatest need," Jager said.

"While we were challenged by the thought of raising the professorship, we gathered our resources

and undertook the project with the Auburn spirit," he added.

Endowed professorships provide salary supplements and funds for research and travel to conferences and seminars.

"The College of Business Advisory Council Professorship is a strong tangible measure of the commitment of Auburn alumni and friends to helping the College of Business achieve even greater recognition," said John Jahera, who made the creation of professorships a top priority during his recently concluded period as interim dean.

"Council members already provide strong financial support on an individual basis but this professorship reflects their efforts over and above what they have done individually," Jahera added.

"This professorship will allow the college to provide a significant salary supplement that will enable us to retain or attract a leading scholar in business."

The 2004 edition of U.S. News and World Report rated AU's College of Business 53rd overall in the country and 33rd among public universities.

Lien named top poultry science professor in U.S.

Roger Lien, an associate professor of poultry science in AU's College of Agriculture, has been named the nation's top university poultry science professor for 2004 by the Poultry Science Association.

Lien received the national association's Land O'Lakes/Purina Teaching Award during the group's recent convention in St. Louis. The sponsors present the award and its \$1,500 cash prize annually to a member who has demonstrated outstanding success as an instructor over a period of years.

In addition to teaching three undergraduate

courses in AU's Department of Poultry Science, Lien is undergraduate program coordinator. He also assists with student scholarship and internship programs and is adviser to the student Poultry Science Club.

Lien also won an Auburn Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award this year and College of Agriculture Dean's Award for Advising Excellence in 2003.

The PSA is a professional organization of 3,500 educators, scientists, extension specialists, administrators and producers in the poultry industry.

Autism Center receives grant to support its work for three years

The Autism Center in the AU College of Education has received a three-year grant for \$188,000 from the Alabama Department of Education.

The funds are part of a State Improvement Grant to Alabama by the Office of Special Education Programs in the U.S. Department of Education.

Auburn established the Autism Center in the Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education in August 2003 to serve persons with autism spectrum disorder, commonly known as ASD, in Alabama and the Southeast.

College of Education faculty members Robert Simpson and Caroline Gomez are co-directors of the center.

Citing autism rates as high as 1 in 250 children, Simpson said, "There is a sense of urgency relative to our vision as prevalence rates for autism have increased dramatically."

Gomez added, "The financial support provided through grant funds will provide much-needed assistance in translating the center's vision into a model demonstration site for best practice and for providing outreach consultation for families, teachers and related professionals."

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