Auburn developing contingency plans in case flu outbreak spreads on campus

Auburn University has been closely monitoring the H1N1 influenza outbreak and planning for the possibility of increased cases of the illness during the 2009-10 academic year.

This week, Provost Mary Ellen Mazey issued a request for all faculty members, instructors and graduate teaching assistants, with the aid of administrators and staff in each individual’s department and college or school, to prepare contingency plans for completing courses if they or their students catch the flu. Faculty members are asked to inform their classes in writing that they have a contingency plan in case of high absenteeism due to influenza.

Even if the virus has a limited effect locally, officials say contingency plans will enable infected persons to isolate themselves when they first get sick instead of making themselves sicker and spreading the virus by reporting to class or work to avoid falling behind.

Mazey said faculty members must provide their department heads or chairs with copies of their contingency plans along with a copy of the course syllabus. “That way,” she explained, “in the event that you are absent because of illness or other emergency reasons, the department can work with the students to continue the course work.”

National estimates vary widely concerning the eventual impact of this worldwide and potentially virulent strain of influenza. Locally, the impact so far has been mild. As of Monday, the Auburn University Medical Center had treated approximately 100 cases of H1N1 flu on campus since mid-August. Numbers were not available for persons treated elsewhere in Lee County.

The H1N1 strain is similar in symptoms and severity to seasonal flu, but is causing a greater disease burden in individuals younger than 25 years of age and is likely to spread faster this fall and winter because few people have immunity to it.

This new strain was first detected in the United States last spring, when initial news reports inaccurately dubbed it as “swine flu.” The virus spread slowly in the northern hemisphere during the summer, picking up again during the past month as schools and universities began their fall classes.

See Influenza precautions, page 2

Airport renewal

Separated by a few miles from the main campus, the Auburn-Opelika Robert G. Pitts Airport is fast taking on a new, more upscale look with construction of a new terminal, a new access road and other surface improvements, as well as a new hangar and the recent runway extension. Since ground was broken for the new terminal in June, construction crews have erected the frame for the building, which will replace a facility that has served the university-owned airport for more than half a century.

Birmingham businessman

Selection panel nominates Campbell for seat on Auburn Board of Trustees

The Auburn University Trustee Selection Committee unanimously selected Randy Campbell of the Birmingham suburb of Shoal Creek on Aug. 26 to fill the Board of Trustees District 6 position currently held by Paul Spina of Pelham.

Campbell, one of the most prominent Auburn students of the 1980s, is president of Campbell Financial Partners and Harlan Partners, both in Birmingham. He graduated from Auburn in 1984 with a bachelor’s degree in industrial operations management, has served as co-chair of the Birmingham region for the “It Begins at Auburn” capital campaign and is a member of the Planned Giving Advisory Council and the Auburn Athletic Advisory Council.

As a student, he was quarterback for the football team from 1981-83 and received the Cliff Hare Award, the highest award presented to a student-athlete. Also, he was an assistant coach under Pat Dye in 1992.

District 6 on the Board of Trustees encompasses eight Alabama counties south and west of Birmingham. Spina’s term expired on Sept. 2 but the Alabama Constitution provides for a trustee to retain the seat for up to one year during the selection process for a successor.

Gov. Bob Riley, chair of the Selection Committee, will send Campbell’s nomination to the Alabama Senate, which must confirm the selection before the new trustee can be seated. Unless called into special session, the Legislature will convene for its 2010 session in January.

The District 1 seat, which represents Southwest Alabama on the Board of Trustees, is also vacant, following the recent death of Jack Miller of Mobile. The Trustee Selection Committee is scheduled to begin interviewing candidates for that seat on Sept. 18.
History scholar Giustino receives Fulbright grant for Czech studies

History scholar Cathleen M. Giustino of the College of Liberal Arts has been awarded a Council for International Exchange of Scholars Fulbright Research Scholarship for work in Prague during the 2009-2010 academic year.

An associate professor at Auburn, Giustino will be affiliated with the Institute of Art History of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic. While there, she will gather research materials for a project book that involves a study of collective memory and confiscated cultural property, including castles, chateaux, art and antiques in communist Czechoslovakia.

Giustino said she is particularly interested in examining popular reception of the network of museums that communist officials established in sequestered architectural monuments and then filled with exhibitions designed to display the domestic lives of Bohemia’s aristocracy during various periods of history. The study seeks to establish a new venue for the exploration of the effectiveness of communist state efforts to engineer society and win legitimacy through leisure, entertainment and related forms of cultural programming.

Giustino said she hopes her work will advance the understanding of how communist regimes in the former Warsaw Pact held power for as long as they did and why, in the current post-socialist age, a segment of the population in former east bloc countries expresses considerable longing for a return to the past.

For her Fulbright research, Giustino will work with archival materials in the National Archive of the Czech Republic and regional archives, museums and historic monuments throughout the country. She has worked extensively in Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in the past, including from 1990-93 under a previous Fulbright grant, and has received awards from the International Research Exchange Board and the American Council of Learned Societies.

At Auburn, Giustino teaches courses on modern Germany, 20th-century Eastern Europe and modern European cultural politics.

She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and is author of “Tearing Down Prague’s Jewish Town,” a study of the politics of architecture and design in Prague around 1900. She serves on the editorial board of Habsburg, a Web-based list dedicated to the history of the Habsburg Monarchy and its successor states. She also is co-editing a collection of articles titled “Socialist Escapes: Breaks from the Everyday in Eastern Europe, 1945-1989.”

Influenza precautions

continued from page 1

Vaccine for the H1N1 strain is projected to be available in Alabama in mid-October at the earliest.

Most health experts advise the public to help slow the spread of the influenza strain by taking extra steps beyond the normal response to flu-like symptoms. Guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention advise persons with a flu-like illness (fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue) to self-isolate by staying away from classes and work and limiting interaction with other people, except to seek medical care, for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Medical authorities ask those on campus with a flu-like illness to seek medical care at the Auburn University Medical Clinic, where they can receive appropriate treatment and assist the university with monitoring the severity of the flu on campus. Persons who suspect they have the flu virus should seek medical care promptly if they have underlying medical conditions that may put them at increased risk of severe illness from flu, are concerned about their illness, or develop severe symptoms such as increased fever, shortness of breath, chest pain or pressure, or rapid breathing.

Authorities advise students who are diagnosed with H1N1 influenza to notify their resident director or resident manager in order for appropriate accommodations to be made if they live reside on campus and are unable to return home.

Individuals with underlying medical conditions that may put them at increased risk of severe illness from flu (such as compromised immune systems due to cancer, HIV, history of organ transplant or other medical conditions) are also encouraged to register with the Program for Students with Disabilities to ensure that any necessary accommodations are considered. Persons who are unsure whether they have such an underlying medical condition should consult with their personal physician.

To minimize the risk of contracting the flu or making it worse if you do catch it, doctors advise taking simple but often neglected precautions, such as covering your cough, frequent hand-washing and minimizing exposure to persons with flu-like illness.

Visit the Web site www.auburn.edu/emergency for updated information on the campus response to H1N1 flu and links to current flu resources.

— Roy Summerford

Flying the colors

In a morning ritual each class day, ROTC students raise the United States and Alabama flags over the campus in Samford Park. At other times, university staff members raise the flags. The event will take on added significance next Friday, Sept. 11, the anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the U.S.
Senior administrators return to classroom to lead students in book club discussions

Eight present and former Auburn University administrators, including President Jay Gogue, are stepping back into the classroom this fall as part of a new program sponsored by the university’s Honors College.

Set up as a special section of the Honors Lyceum, the program is open to the more than 1,700 students enrolled in the Honors College and is comprised of courses that are structured like book clubs with instructors choosing the books to be read, leading discussions and making assignments.

In addition to Gogue, others leading book clubs include Daniel Clay, associate dean in the College of Education; George Crandell, associate dean of the Graduate School; Constance Relihan, senior associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts; Patricia Duffy, assistant provost for undergraduate studies; and David Housel, former Auburn athletics director. Paul and Paula Bobrowski, dean of the College of Business and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, respectively, are teaming up to teach a club.

Approximately 80 students are enrolled in the courses. They will earn one credit hour and work toward a final semester grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory.

History Professor James Hansen, director of Auburn’s Honors College, said he hopes students take away much more from the book clubs than just a grade.

“These book clubs can give students the opportunity to learn how to discuss issues of contemporary relevance thoughtfully, not just with their peers, but with individuals very senior to them who have a wide range of personal and professional experiences,” Hansen said.

Students will also get hands-on time with some of the university’s top decision makers. “These folks are highly talented researchers and teachers who normally don’t get to spend time in the classroom anymore. It is good for the students to see that even administrators, deans and their university president care passionately about their education and want to be a vital part of it,” he added.

The Honors College has left most of the details of the clubs to the individual instructors. Each instructor was asked to pick one or two favorite books or books they thought the students would find of special interest during the semester. Students attending Gogue’s class are reading “Travel as a Political Act” by Rick Steves; according to the syllabus, participants will discuss “outsourcing of jobs, globalization, cultural differences and similarities, traveling abroad and the development of international relationships.”

The clubs will meet once per week throughout the semester. The decision as to where the classes would meet was left to the individual instructors. As a result, students are getting to meet in some unconventional classrooms.

Gogue’s group is meeting in the president’s conference room in Samford Hall. Crandell gathers his class in the graduate school conference room in Hargis Hall. Some instructors have even chosen to go beyond campus and hold class in their homes.

So far, Hansen said, response to the new book clubs has been “amazing” and he hopes the program grows. “I’d like to extend it to notables beyond the university by asking them to come and lead clubs,” he said. “I want to make it a form of outreach to connect the university to the community.”

Hansen said he also hopes to be able to open the clubs to Auburn students who aren’t enrolled full-time in the Honors College program.

— Katie Wilder

NSF grant helps East Alabama teachers, students bolster math skills

Part of a $1.5 million grant recently awarded by the National Science Foundation’s Robert Noyce Scholarship Program will enable elementary mathematics teacher-leaders in East Alabama to pursue advanced degrees and professional development opportunities through Auburn’s TEAM-Math program’s teacher leader academy.

The Teacher Leader Academy for Elementary Mathematics Specialists complements the academy for secondary math specialists TEAM-Math initiated in January. Both teacher-leader academies will supplement the professional credentials of 36 educators representing 14 high-needs school districts in Alabama.

Gary Martin, TEAM-Math director, said the program will extend far beyond those who participate directly because the 22 elementary and 14 secondary Teacher Leader Academy fellows will return to their schools to help colleagues and students improve their math skills.

“It’s multiplicative,” said Martin, a professor of mathematics education in the College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Teaching. “That gives us a really strong reach.”

Under the direction of Martin and Marilyn Strutchens, a professor of secondary mathematics education and 2008 Distinguished Diversity Researcher, TEAM-Math has worked closely with East Alabama school districts to improve math education since 2003 with an initial $9 million NSF grant.

— Troy Johnson
U.S. News again places Auburn among nation’s top 50 public universities

Auburn is ranked in the top 50 among public universities nationwide for the 17th consecutive year in the recently released annual survey of U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine’s “Best Colleges and Universities” publication for 2010 ranks Auburn 39th among national public universities. Auburn ranked 20th among land-grant institutions and 88th in the nation among both public and private schools.

Auburn tied for 11th among the 24 members of the Southern Regional Education Board, which consists of the largest public universities in 15 contiguous states.

The publication also ranks a limited number of academic programs. For 2010, it ranks the undergraduate program of Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering 64th nationally overall and 36th among public universities that offer doctoral programs in engineering. Rankings of other programs are released at various times during the year by U.S. News & World Report.

“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 Auburn’s Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. “But Auburn 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.”

To establish its rankings, U.S. News categorizes 1,400 colleges and universities primarily by mission and, in some cases, region. The magazine then gathers data from each on up to 15 indicators of academic excellence, assigning each a weight that reflects the magazine’s judgment about how much each measure matters.

The indicators the magazine staff uses to rate 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.

The newsstand book, “America’s Best Colleges,” which contains the U.S. News college rankings, may be ordered from www.usnews.com or purchased at area bookstores.

Veteran architecture professor, co-founder of Rural Studio dies


An Auburn alumnus and a member of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction faculty since 1989, Ruth and the late Samuel Mockbee founded the college’s internationally famous Rural Studio in West Alabama in 1992. In recent years, Ruth created the college’s Design-Build graduate program. During his career at Auburn, he also served as department head and interim dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

He was the recipient of more than 20 teaching and design excellence awards, including the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award for service to humanity.

In addition to a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Auburn, Ruth held a master’s degree in architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Before joining the Auburn faculty 20 years ago, he practiced architecture and taught at Mississippi State and the University of Tennessee.

Raptor center resumes educational birds-in-flight programs on Fridays preceding home football games

Auburn’s Southeastern Raptor Center will host educational, birds-in-flight raptor programs this fall on Fridays before home football games.

The program, “Football, Fans and Feathers,” begins this Friday, Sept. 4, at 4 p.m., the day before Auburn’s home football opener against Louisiana Tech. A variety of birds such as hawks, falcons and eagles will be free-flown from flight towers. Education specialists will inform the audience about each bird and their role in nature.

Shows will also be held Sept. 11, 18 and 25; Oct. 16 and 30; and Nov 6, with each beginning at 4 p.m. The Nov. 27 show will begin at 9 a.m. on the day of the Alabama game.

Programs take place in the 350-seat Edgar B. Carter Educational Amphitheater on Raptor Road off Shug Jordan Parkway. Directions are available at www.auburn.edu/raptor. Admission is $5 each, and children under age 3 are admitted free. Admission is $3 a person for school groups of 25 or more; those groups should contact the center ahead of time by calling 844-6943.

The Southeastern Raptor Center, part of the College of Veterinary Medicine, has a mission of rehabilitating injured or orphaned raptors and educating the public. All birds used in the educational programs are non-releasable due to prior injuries or human imprinting. Any bird capable of surviving in the wild must be released, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which permits Auburn to house the birds.
For biofuels project

U.S. agency awards Auburn $4.9 million grant

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded Auburn University a $4.9 million grant to develop new production systems to collect woody biomass from pine plantations for making bioenergy.

Auburn's Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts will lead the project, “High Tonnage Forest Biomass Production Systems from Southern Pine Energy Plantations,” as part of a consortium that includes central Alabama company Corley Land Services, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and companies from the U.S. and Canada.

“This is a very important grant that will allow us to further develop research into ways of producing more biofuel,” Auburn President Jay Gogue said. “It will help our nation find alternatives to oil and will boost the economy in areas of Alabama that rely on our forests for jobs.”

The center will work with faculty in the university’s Department of Biosystems Engineering and School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and, in addition to Corley Land Services, the USDA Forest Service’s Forest Operations Research Unit and TigerCat, a leading manufacturer of forestry equipment. Other collaborators include Barnes Enterprises, Blue Ox Forestry and Dixie Pellet.

“We'll work with leading producers of forest biomass for energy in Alabama to design and demonstrate a high-productivity system to harvest, process and transport the material,” said Steve Taylor, center director. “All of these groups are very close collaborators with Auburn on many research efforts that support the forest products industry and keep our nation’s forests healthy.” He noted that the production process involves harvesting pine trees, allowing them to partially dry, chipping them and transporting the material by tractor-trailers to a biorefinery that may process it into cellulosic biofuels.

Specific project objectives are to improve the design of tree-length harvesting machines to increase productivity and minimize their environmental impacts; assemble a high-productivity, lowest-cost harvesting and transportation system for biomass; and demonstrate and document the performance of this system at an industrial scale. Auburn faculty will work with equipment designers on machine improvements and will develop and implement new sensors and GPS-based systems to help improve the performance of the forest-harvesting machines and to improve the quality of the final biomass product.

“This grant really validates our systems approach to bioenergy, starting at the beginning of the process with emphasis on feedstock production, harvesting, processing and transportation, and finishing with the ultimate conversion either to renewable electricity or biofuels — all the while keeping an eye on costs, environmental impacts and community concerns,” said Larry Fillmer, executive director of Auburn’s Natural Resources Management & Development Institute.

The project is one of five projects nationwide funded by the Department of Energy for biomass logistics research and is the only project selected to work in Southern forests.

“This award clearly demonstrates how strategic interdisciplinary research partnerships can yield significant interest at the national level,” added John Mason, Auburn’s associate provost and vice president for research.

— Charles Martin

Art museum to present independent film about struggle for civil rights

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will present a free screening and discussion of the independent film “Dare Not Walk Alone” with Producer/ Director Jeremy Dean as part of the Southern Arts Federation’s Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 15.

Following a screening of his documentary, “Dare Not Walk Alone,” Dean will discuss the film and his work as a filmmaker.

The award-winning film about the Civil Rights Era centers around a June 18, 1964, incident in which a white hotel owner in St. Augustine, Fla., poured acid in a swimming pool filled with black and white youth conducting a civil rights demonstration. Photographs of this horrific incident were on the front page of every major newspaper around the world and broke a filibuster in the Senate, leading to passage of the Civil Rights Act of that year.

With rarely seen news footage and revealing interviews, the film describes the St. Augustine incident and its pivotal role in American history. The film also looks at the aftermath of desegregation and the grim realities of life today on streets where those campaigns were fought.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of the Southern Arts Federation, a not-for-profit regional arts organization making a positive difference in the arts throughout the South since 1975. The Southern Arts Federation is supported by funding and programming partnerships with the National Endowment for the Arts and the state arts agencies of nine Southern states, including Alabama. Special support for Southern Circuit is provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
Achievements

Professor Emeritus William H. Holley of the Management Department in Auburn’s College of Business was installed as president of the National Academy of Arbitrators at the academy’s 62nd annual meeting in Chicago.

He is the first person from Alabama and the fifth from the South to hold the position.

Holley, who retired from Auburn in 2001 after 32 years on the faculty, is now a labor and employment arbitrator. He is also a member of the board of directors for the Auburn University Retirees Association.

Auburn Professor Mary K. Boudreaux is the recipient of the 2009 Pamela Wells Sheffield Award for service and commitment to Auburn University. The award will be presented in a pre-game ceremony Saturday at Auburn’s home football game against Louisiana Tech.

A faculty member of Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine for 23 years, she directs the Veterinary Scholars Program, overseeing the activities of veterinary students working in research laboratories during the summer.

Boudreaux and husband Calvin Cutshaw have established an endowment honoring former Auburn clinical pathologist Pat Teer ’59, who died in 2003, and recently began to endow an award in honor of the late Joe Spano, another clinical pathologist who served the university for many years.

Professor helps school administrators connect with students

As a high school teacher early in his career, College of Education faculty member Paris Strom found that student voices weren’t often heard in discussions involving school disciplinary policies, curriculum changes or instructional methods.

Strom, an associate professor of educational psychology in the Department of Education Foundations, Leadership and Technology, is trying to change that culture by using student opinion to improve school effectiveness.

Following up on “Polling Students About Conditions of Learning,” a research collaboration with Robert Strom and Charlotte Wing of Arizona State University, Strom devised polls in 12 categories to help middle school, junior high and high school administrators better understand student perceptions of learning conditions.

The surveys, available at www.LearningPolls.org, enable administrators to make better-informed decisions by incorporating student opinions. Students can be polled about one or more of these topics: Internet learning, tutoring, time management, cheating, stress, cyberbullying, peer support, career exploration, dress codes, frustration levels, boredom and student responsibilities.

The polling enables officials at individual schools to assess student attitudes about a broad range of issues, to understand trends and to make sound policy decisions based in part on the survey results. For example, a student poll about Internet learning may enable administrators to find ways to better integrate technological tools as learning resources. Other polls may be used to help shape disciplinary standards for cheating or enable school officials to better understand why some students are reluctant to seek tutoring assistance.

“The reason why these polls are important is because, at each school, you have to assess the norm,” Strom said. “These polls, at this point in time, are not intended to assess a national norm. They are intended for use by schools, individually, to assess their sites. It demonstrates to the kids that, ‘we’re asking you because we care.’”

Strom said it is important for superintendents, principals and teachers to communicate effectively with students because technological innovations have created as many barriers as opportunities. With the explosion of iPods, cell phones, text messaging and social networking Web sites, teenagers understand more about technology than many of the adults teaching them and have shown a heightened preference for the Internet as source for learning.

Strom explores the latter issue in depth in the book “Adolescents in the Internet Age,” co-authored with his father, Robert, a professor of educational psychology at Arizona State. The book is in press at Information Age Publishing.

Strom, who once taught in public high schools in Arizona, said he and his research partners were pleased with the response rates of the polls administered in that state. Strom said that between 60 and 90 percent of the students in the rural Arizona schools where the polls were administered participated.

Strom said he and his research partners work with principals and superintendents to develop the polls and administer them. Teachers serve as poll proctors for the students, who typically complete the surveys in computer labs. Students receive a password and entry code, guaranteeing anonymity and ensuring that they vote no more than once. Strom said the construction of the polls also enables administrators to learn how student responses vary along the lines of age, gender and ethnicity.

— Troy Johnson
Auburn Theatre’s season starts this month with new look at ‘Intimate Apparel’

Auburn University Theatre will kick off its 90th season on Sept. 24 with “Intimate Apparel,” the first of seven productions scheduled for the 2009-10 season.

Directed by Theatre Professor Heather May, “Intimate Apparel” will run Sept. 24-25 and Sept. 29-Oct. 3 at 7:30 p.m. on the main stage of Telfair Peet Theatre. A matinee is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Sept. 27.


Set in New York City in 1905, the six-character play follows a 35-year-old African-American seamstress, Esther, on her quest for love, happiness and fulfillment. Known for sewing exquisite corsets, Esther has customers ranging from wealthy women to prostitutes. While living in a New York boarding house for unmarried women, Esther finds strength as she faces the strains caused by class, racial, ethnic and religious boundaries. The production includes adult images and situations.


In addition, a Broadway benefit concert, “Auburn Pops!,” will be presented April 30 at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds from the concert will benefit scholarships for Auburn students majoring in art, music or theatre.

Admission to all plays is free for Auburn students with a valid student I.D. Public admission is $20, while admission for senior citizens, faculty and staff is $15. The price for grade school and high school students is $10.

Tickets are available at the Telfair Peet Theatre Box Office weekdays from noon to 5 p.m., by phone at 844-4154 or online at www.auburnuniversitytheatre.org.

— Natalie Nettles
Psychological Services Center offers parenting skills training on campus

Auburn University Psychological Services Center is offering a parenting skills group for parents with children aged three to ten years old.

If you would like to learn skills to improve your relationship with your child and learn how to use effective discipline strategies with them, you are invited to call and sign up. This group will meet in Cary Hall, and participants pay a one-time $20 fee.

To sign up or for more information, call 844-4889 or e-mail aupsc@auburn.edu.

At start of fall semester, colleges move headquarters; department transferred

With the start of fall semester, headquarters operations for two colleges have moved to new locations and an academic department has a new administrative home.

Among physical moves of college headquarters in the early part of fall semester, the University Honors College has moved from Draughon Library to the second floor of Cater Hall.

Also, all adviser and administrative offices in the College of Liberal Arts, including the dean, have moved from Haley Center to the third floor of Tichenor Hall. The college’s Department of Communication and Journalism is moving back to its previous home in the recently renovated Tichenor Hall.

Meanwhile, Provost Mary Ellen Mazey has announced the administrative transfer of the Department of Economics to the College of Liberal Arts. Formerly in the College of Business, the Department of Economics had been administered through the Provost’s Office since fall 2008.

The department’s move is a return for economics, which was part of the liberal arts curriculum at Auburn before the creation of the School of Business, now College of Business, in 1967.

Governor proclaims day for college football fans to show school colors

Auburn football fans will have several opportunities to show their colors this fall by participating in upcoming loyalty programs: All Auburn All Orange, and College Colors Day.

Events begin on Friday, Sept. 4, with College Colors Day, a national movement in conjunction with the kick-off of the college football season. College Colors Day promotes higher education and celebrates the achievements, spirit and traditions of colleges and universities.

Gov. Bob Riley has officially proclaimed Sept. 4 as College Colors Day in Alabama. In observance of the day, Auburn fans are being encouraged to wear their orange and blue on College Colors Day to show support for the Tigers.

President emeritus of MIT to present public lecture at Auburn on Sept. 22

Charles M. Vest, president of the National Academy of Engineering, will present a public lecture at Auburn on Sept. 22 as part of the Samuel Ginn Distinguished Lecture series.

Vest, who is president emeritus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will speak on “Engineering Education and the Challenges of the 21st Century” at 2 p.m. in the Hartley Auditorium, 1103 Shelby Center.

In his lecture, the former MIT president will discuss the impact that globalization and the changing nature of science and technology have on higher education, research, development and innovation, as well as the ways that educational systems can prepare to meet the challenges they face.