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How Auburn Stacks Up

Faculty distribution by educational level, fiscal year 2004-05



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

IAI report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Quilts as art

After a national tour to critical acclaim, the "Quilts of Gee's Bend" exhibition has opened at AU's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. The quilts are prominent examples of African-American folk art by women in Alabama's Wilcox County. In related activities, AU's Women's Studies Program has conducted several major projects and studies and scheduled a series of public events. For information online, see www.auburn.edu/geesbend.



Funding picture improving for AU

Continuing improvement in AU's finances will enable the university to provide faculty and staff pay raises and increases for operating budgets across campus starting Oct. 1, Auburn officials said Friday.

Under the 2005-06 AU System budget approved by the Board of Trustees on Friday, AU System funding will increase \$46.3 million to \$664.1 million. Of that amount, the main campus is budgeted to receive a \$36.5 million increase to \$497.4 million.

Other units will receive proportionately similar increases to \$52.4 million for the Cooperative Extension System, \$53.7 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station and \$60.6 million for Auburn University Montgomery.

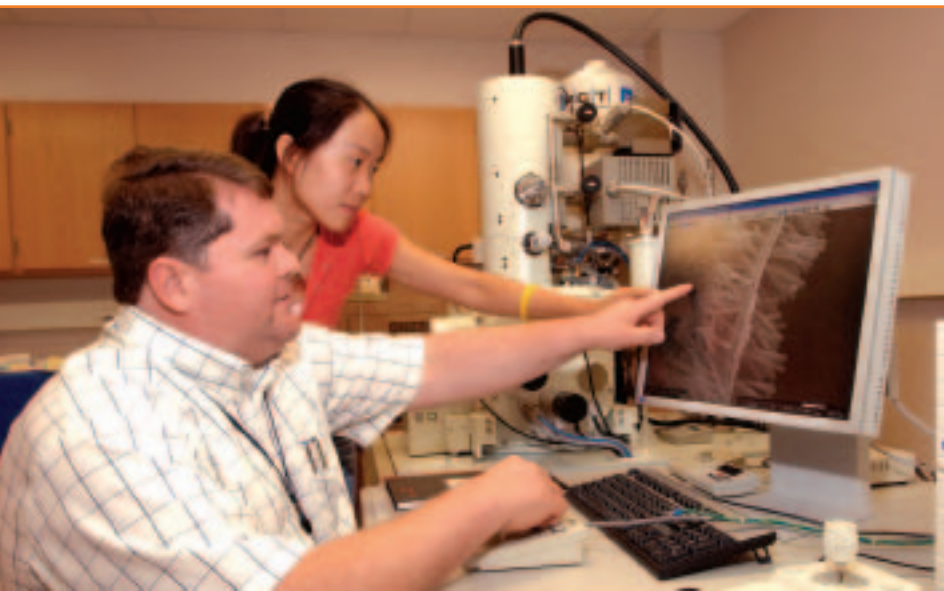
Interim President Ed Richardson said state revenues for education have increased much faster than most analysts predicted a year ago, when some analysts warned of possible proration. The state allocation includes \$18.8 million in new funds for the main campus. Rather than contracting, the state's economy is continuing to expand, offering cautious hope for more economic improvement in Auburn's finances next year, Richardson added.

The other factor in AU's financial improvement is the board's commitment to set tuition near the regional average. A combination of the latest tuition increase and a record enrollment this year is projected to add \$7.3 million to AU's budget.

Executive Vice President Don Large said the changes in AU's tuition policy enabled Auburn to become more competitive with its peers in the Southeast and provide need-based scholarships to more students, including a \$1 million additional allocation in the new budget.

Adhering to guidelines established last spring, the budget includes a 4 percent increase in funding for salary and wage increases. The increases, which will vary for each individual, will be based on merit decisions for faculty and a combination of merit and across-the-board increases for staff.

In other action, the board hired an executive search firm to assist in the search for a new president. The board selected John H. Kuhnle, managing director of Korn/Ferry International Education Practice, to work with campus groups to set a timetable and conduct the search.



Nanotechnology

Assistant Professor Bart Prorok of the Mechanical Engineering Department demonstrates for Graduate Research Assistant Liwei Wang one of two new, ultra-sensitive microscopes in the materials engineering program that faculty from several disciplines are using for nanotechnology research. Nanotechnology is an emerging field that involves work with materials beside which microscopic items would appear gigantic.

Theatre Department gets interim head, offers students free tickets

Dan LaRocque, head of performance for AU Theatre, has been named interim chair of the Department of Theatre in the College of Liberal Arts.



LaRocque

The appointment comes amid changes in the schedule for 2005-06, including a later start to the season, the addition of a new play, moving a play from fall to winter and the offer of free season tickets to students on a first-come, first-serve basis.

LaRocque, a faculty member since 1990, succeeds Worth Gardner, who resigned as department chair after three years and is returning to professional theatrical production.

"While we are disappointed at the departure of a talent such as Mr. Gardner from the Theatre Department, we are thankful that another highly respected theatrical professional, Dan LaRocque, has stepped forward to lead the department this year," said Liberal Arts Dean Anne-Katrin Gramberg. "We have a strong faculty in the Theatre Department, and, under Dan's leadership, they will continue to build on the department's reputation for quality of graduates and stage productions."

LaRocque, who holds a master's degree in fine arts from the University of Washington, has extensive credentials in both theatre and academia. Before joining the AU faculty, he taught at the University of the South and Iona College.

LaRocque has served as a regional chair for the Kennedy Center American College Festival and on the festival's national committee in Washington, D.C. He also has appeared in professional theatres throughout the country and acted in television

productions, and his one-act play "Man, Woman, Flower" has been produced in New York and Los Angeles.

In other changes, to introduce theatre to students in all disciplines, AU Theatre is providing free season tickets for this year's productions to all students on a first-come, first-serve basis. Gramberg said the department and college are able to provide free student tickets this year with support from the President's Office.

The Theatre Department is also adding the play "Defying Gravity" by Jane Anderson as the first production in the 2005-06 season. The play which examines the interaction of seven fictional characters following the 1986 space shuttle Challenger disaster, will run at Peet Theatre on Oct. 18-23.

The second play of the season will be Neil LaBute's "The Shape of Things" on Nov. 8-13. The two plays will then run in repertory on Nov. 15-18. Curtain times are at 7:30 p.m., with all Sunday performances at 2:30 p.m.

With the new fiscal year starting Oct. 1, the play originally scheduled to start the season on Sept. 27, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," has been moved to April. Other productions in the upcoming season include the modern dance review "Daunce" in January and "The Blue Bird" in March.

For information on tickets and schedules, contact the box office at 844-4154. Online, see <http://media.cla.auburn.edu/theatre/home.cfm>.



Upcoming Events

Continuing

MUSEUM EXHIBITION "Quilts of Gee's Bend," handmade quilts from Alabama, nationally acclaimed folk art, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Dec. 4.

Tuesday, September 20

PUBLIC LECTURE "Antebellum Artisans and the Gee's Bend Quilts," Angela Lakwete of History Department, 4 p.m., JCS Museum.

Wednesday, September 21

OPEN HOUSE Women's Studies Program, 9 a.m.-11 a.m., Haley 3227.

PUBLIC LECTURE Celeste Ray, author of "Highland Heritage: Scottish Americans in the American South," 7 p.m., Foy Exhibit Hall.

STUDY ABROAD FAIR information and exhibits on opportunities for study in other countries, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Haley Center lobby.

Thursday, September 22

FACULTY SEMINAR on detecting plagiarism, first session, Jean Liddell, AU Libraries, 2 p.m., second floor instruction lab, Draughton Library. Register online at www.auburn.edu/oit/training.

Saturday, September 24

AGRICULTURE FESTIVAL Taste of Auburn and Ag Roundup, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Ag Heritage Park. See story, page 4.

Monday, September 26

NEXT AU Report.

Tuesday, September 27

PUBLIC LECTURE "From the African Loom to the American Quilt," author and folklorist Gladys-Marie Fry, JCS Museum, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, September 28

FACULTY SEMINAR "Evaluation of Teaching: Overview and Options," James Groccia, director, and Don Mulvaney, faculty fellow, Biggio Center, noon-2 p.m., auditorium, Draughton Library.



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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 or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. Copies are 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 Wednesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9999. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu.

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Johnson named department head in College of Veterinary Medicine

Calvin Johnson has been named head of the Department of Pathobiology in the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Johnson

"He has done an excellent job as a teacher and researcher, and will now be instrumental as department head," said Veterinary Medicine Dean Timothy Boosinger. "He grew up in Auburn, went to school here, and has had many accomplishments in his career."

Johnson joined the Auburn faculty as a professor in 2003 after 11 years at the University of Florida, where he was associate chairman of its Department of Pathobiology.

"It was a career goal to return to Auburn," said Johnson. "I have enjoyed being back for two years and am looking forward to helping the pathobiology faculty continue their pursuit of excellence. We have very talented faculty with many diverse scientific and educational interests."

A 1979 graduate of Auburn High School, Johnson earned a bachelor's degree in 1983 and a veterinary degree in 1986, both from AU. Johnson

earned a Ph.D. in veterinary immunology from North Carolina State University in 1992.

He succeeds interim head Byron Blagburn and former department head Lauren Wolfe.

"I hope to follow the strong leadership that they established in the department," said Johnson, who has been a mentor for 45 graduate students, residents and veterinary students.

"Working with students is a point of emphasis for me," he added. "I enjoy introducing them to research and to the opportunities in pathology."

Johnson's primary research areas involve the pathogenesis of feline immunodeficiency virus infection and veterinary immunology. He is chair of the college's research advisory committee and a member of the admissions committee.

His awards include the college's 1996 Young Achiever Award given to outstanding members of the class celebrating their 10th anniversary.

Johnson is a diplomate in the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and is a member of its education and recruitment committees. He has served as a reviewer for several journals, including Veterinary Pathology and the Journal of Infectious Diseases.

Hurricane relief effort

Auburn veterinarians caring for animals hurt, displaced by Katrina in Louisiana

Teams of AU veterinarians are traveling to Baton Rouge on a rotating basis to assist Louisiana veterinarians in the care of animals affected by Hurricane Katrina.

"Nine of our veterinarians will help provide shelter and care for pets that have traveled with their owners from flooded areas and for rescued animals," said David Whitley, head of the Department of Clinical Sciences in AU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

The first group of AU volunteers departed last Monday and was to return on Saturday. Teams will be dispatched weekly until the veterinary situation is stabilized, college representatives said.

The AU teams are going to Baton Rouge in response to a request to veterinary schools in the region from Michael Groves, dean of the Louisiana State University School of Veterinary Medicine. The teams are assisting LSU veterinarians, the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association, the Louisiana Animal Control Association and the Louisiana Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

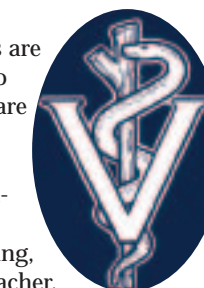
Auburn veterinarians are providing care for dogs and cats at LSU's Parker Coliseum and at the

Lamar-Dixon Expo Center in Gonzales, La., where animals are being sheltered. They are also helping provide veterinary care for horses at the LSU veterinary campus.

Auburn's veterinary volunteers include Julie Waldrop, Herris Maxwell, Soren Rodning, Jennifer Taintor, John Schumacher, Mary Lynn Higginbotham, Jeffery Simmons, Lisa Tieber Nielson and Earl Gaughan. They will be joined by other volunteers and travel in groups of three to six for each trip, with the number being determined at the time.

Public donations can be made to the Louisiana Veterinary Medical Association by calling 1-800-524-2996 or (225) 928-5862. A donation form is also available at its Web site at www.lvma.org.

Checks or money orders can be made payable and sent to the Dr. Walter J. Ernst Jr. Veterinary Memorial Foundation (write Disaster Relief Fund on the memo line), 8550 United Plaza Blvd., Suite 1001, Baton Rouge, LA 70809.



AU receives two national awards for fund-raising

AU recently received two national awards recognizing successful fund-raising efforts by Auburn's Office of Development.

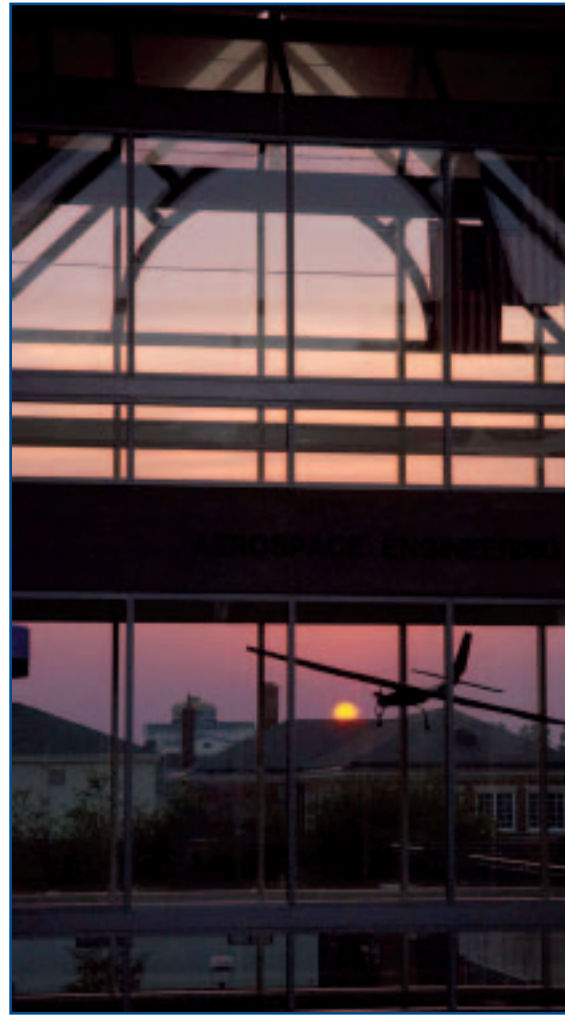
Auburn was the only university to receive awards for 2005 in both categories of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education's Circle of Excellence Program.

At its annual meeting in Miami, CASE presented AU with awards for Overall Fund-Raising Performance and Overall Fund-Raising Improvement Award among public research and doctoral institutions by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

In selecting Overall Fund-Raising Performance winners, judges recognize institutions that show solid program growth, breadth in the base of support and other indications of a mature, well-maintained program.

In selecting Overall Fund-Raising Improvement winners, judges find significant program growth across three years of data. Institutions are evaluated among 22 peer groups on the basis of size and type of institution.

Each year since 1959, CASE has recognized exceptional development programs. The awards program recognizes Overall Performance and Overall Improvement in educational fund-raising programs based on data from the Council for Aid to Education's "Voluntary Support of Education" survey and on the basis of evaluations by a panel of experts in the field.



Twilight flight

A model plane suspended from the portico of the Aerospace Engineering Building appears to take flight over Wilmore Labs in this twilight scene. Cooler nights following the passage of Hurricane Katrina far to the west of Auburn brought more colorful skies to the Plains on several evenings.

Faculty meet to discuss books about teaching

A faculty group is beginning its second year of meetings to discuss books on ways to improve teaching effectiveness.

The Biggio Book Group will meet in November in Draughon Library's second floor conference room to discuss "What College Teachers Do" by Ken Bain. The book was published in 2004 by Harvard University Press.

"All the books present philosophical perspectives and provide practical, pragmatic information based on research," said James Groccia, director of AU's Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning.

"Virtually all faculty like to read, and most are constantly looking for the most effective ways to enhance teaching skills," Groccia added. "The book group provides an opportunity for faculty to come together and share their ideas and thoughts with

one another after reading some outstanding books about pedagogy."

Last year, the discussions regularly drew faculty from Veterinary Medicine, Engineering, Pharmacy, Liberal Arts and periodically from other colleges and schools.

The meetings, which are informal and open to all faculty, will be from 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on Nov. 9 and noon-1:30 p.m. on Nov. 10 for discussion of Bain's book. Faculty may attend either or both sessions, and participants bring their lunch to the noon meetings.

The book group will also meet in February and April to discuss other works on teaching enhancement. The Biggio Center offers coupons for 50 percent off on purchase of the books through AU Bookstore. For information, call 844-8530 or send e-mail to biggio1@auburn.edu.

Agricultural festival set for campus on Saturday

Auburn's College of Agriculture and its Agricultural Alumni Association will host their Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag Roundup on Saturday at Ag Heritage Park.

The annual event, held across Samford Avenue from the AU Athletic Center, offers visitors a wide range of traditional and exotic food items that are grown or processed in Alabama.

Those items include sweet potato fries, collard greens and cornbread, fried catfish, chicken, pork, all-beef burgers, roast lamb, goat sausage, satsuma oranges, kiwi fruit, pecans, boiled peanuts and other usual and unusual foods.

Activities include musical entertainment, and displays will include a miniature syrup mill and cotton gin and Old Nancy, an antique steam tractor. A special children's section will feature a petting zoo, pumpkin painting and face painting.

Festivities are from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and will conclude one hour before the start of AU's homecoming football game. Admission is \$5, with children 6 and under admitted free.

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