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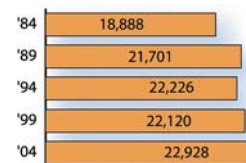
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How AU Stacks Up

AU enrollment
pattern, fall 1984
to fall 2004



Source: Institutional Research
and Assessment

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 FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

AU United Way seeks \$135,000 for local needs

The United Way campaign for 2004 is under way at AU with a goal of \$135,000 to assist more than 30 charities and social service organizations in East Alabama.

The AU campaign began Sept. 8 and is part of the Lee County United Way campaign, which started on Aug. 25 and as of last week had raised 30 percent of its \$965,000 goal.

This year's campus goal is \$10,000 more than the goal in 2003, but campaign coordinator Susie Hall noted that the AU campaign surpassed that goal with more than \$131,000 in donations. "The goal is a little more this year, but the needs continue to grow," said Hall, who is executive assistant in the Office of Administrative Services.

"Most people on campus know others in our area who are less fortunate than ourselves, and those are the ones that United Way agencies are set up to help," she added.

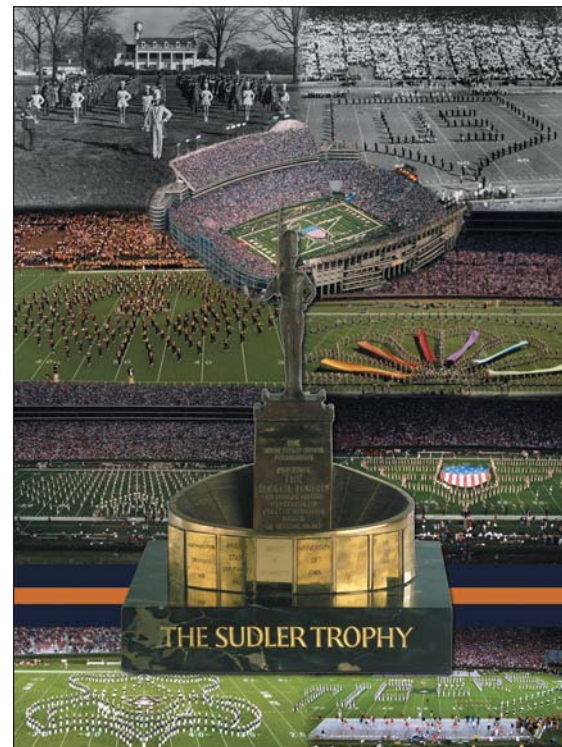
United Way contributions are important to many people in the local area, Hall said, because the money supports local charities and social services. Of the money raised at AU and elsewhere in Lee County, more than 90 percent remains in the local (See *United Way*, page 3)

Governance criteria

SACS committee visiting Auburn this week

A delegation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools will visit Auburn this week to assess AU's compliance with governance criteria set for Auburn by SACS last December.

A committee is scheduled to visit from Tuesday-Thursday to review documents and interview administrators and representatives from faculty, students and other AU constituencies regarding the university's commitment to meeting the criteria.



Top marching band

The AU Marching Band received the Sudler Trophy in a ceremony at Saturday's football game. The award is presented annually to the nation's top marching band by the John Philip Sousa Foundation, which is named for the legendary marching band leader of the late 19th century. Shown above are historic scenes of the AU Band on a poster commemorating the award.

The compliance review team will issue its report in October and members of the regional accrediting agency will vote in December on lifting or continuing the probation for another year.

The governance criteria cited by SACS are posted online at www.auburn.edu/administration/special-reports/sacsdocuments.html.

AU has implemented several major changes to its (See *SACS review*, page 2)

AU professor teaches, learns from Middle Eastern education leaders

An AU faculty member recently spent a week in Spain leading educators from the Middle East and North Africa in an examination of the challenges they face in that volatile region.

Paul Starr, a professor of sociology in AU's College of Liberal Arts, organized and taught classes in "Navigating Organizations" for approximately 25 secondary education leaders from countries along the southern and eastern Mediterranean as part of an Education Leadership Institute of the University of the Middle East Project. He also assisted other internationally prominent educators in teaching related subjects.



Starr

The University of the Middle East Project is a Boston-based non-profit, independent organization that brings together educators and policy makers from the Middle East and North Africa in a non-political environment for study of problems confronting their region.

Starr, who has taught six years at three universities in the Middle East during a 35-year career, organized and taught sessions in Spain for the education leaders, who must navigate stringent bureaucratic oversight from powerful government officials in their home countries. Drawing upon his background in sociology, he organized classes to help the Arab, Israeli and Palestinian educators operate effectively in governmental power structures that could inhibit their educational efforts.

"These were all very dedicated, highly accomplished individuals who were looking for ways to improve education within systems that exercise a great deal more control than we face in this country," said Starr, who has been an AU faculty member since 1975.

Starr noted that political instability poses problems for educators in some countries along the east-

ern and southern Mediterranean, and economic problems often complicate efforts to provide quality education in several countries. However, he said, conflicts between nations or religions never interfered with the working relationships among the institute's students.

"This was one of the few opportunities for them to work together, and they did so harmoniously," Starr said. "They saw each other as colleagues facing common problems, and they would get together in class and on their own to look for solutions."

He added that even when Israel is not included in the mix, countries of North Africa and the Middle East differ culturally and politically from one another far more than most Americans realize. Each country has its own culture, and most of the violence that Americans hear about is confined to a few countries, he explained.

The mix of Israelis, Arabs, Palestinians and others in the institute helped participants view their individual challenges from a broader perspective than they could get in their home countries, he said.

Starr taught at American University in Beirut and Cairo in the 1970s and at Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates in 2000-01 and has been a Pew Faculty Fellow in International Affairs at Harvard. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara and conducted post-doctoral studies at Harvard, the University of California at Berkeley, Oxford and Sussex University.

Still, he said, the classes in Spain were as much a learning experience for him as for those in his classes. "I saw educators who are working under very different conditions than what we face in this country, and some are working under extreme conditions," he said. "Yet these are very talented, educated people who are determined to succeed. I learned as much from them as they did from me, and I was inspired by the whole process."

SACS review

(continued from page 1)

governance structure and processes and added trustees in steps toward meeting the SACS criteria for governance.

Many of the changes were recommended by interim President Ed Richardson, who assumed office in February and has defined his first priority as lifting the SACS probation.

The AU Board adopted new regulations that strengthen the president's administrative authority and limit the role of the board to policy-making.

The board also established new financial reporting criteria for its members and established a committee to oversee compliance.

Meanwhile, Gov. Bob Riley appointed and the

Alabama Senate confirmed five new members to the AU Board of Trustees, restoring the board's membership to 14.

The governance review is separate from a review of Auburn's academics and support areas that was concluded earlier this year. Each SACS member institution must conduct a comprehensive review and be inspected by a visiting SACS team every decade to continue its membership.

The committee conducting that review in February issued a favorable report, which is available online at www.ocm.auburn.edu/sacsreaffirmation/index.html.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Art Exhibit: "Faces in the Hood," 12 paintings on automobile hoods by urban environment artist Tyree Guyton, Biggin Gallery, runs through Oct. 8.
- Art Exhibit: "Auburn Collects," eclectic works from the private collection of William Dunlop, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Nov. 14.

Thursday, September 30

- Library Book Club: Discussion of Edward Jones' Pulitzer Prize-winning "The Known World," 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., second-floor conference room, Draughon Library.

Monday, October 4

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, October 5

- AU Theatre: "Galileo," 7:30 p.m., Oct. 5- 8 and Oct. 12-15, Telfair Peet Theatre. Matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 10. Box Office: 844-4154. Details at www.auburnuniversitytheatre.org

Thursday, October 7

- Meeting: AU Board of Trustees, Dixon Conference Center. Committee sessions start at 8:30 a.m. AU board meets at 12:45 p.m., but starting time may vary, depending on duration of committee meetings.

Friday, October 8

- Mid-semester: 37th class day.

Saturday, October 9

- Annual Meeting: Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m.

Tuesday, October 12

- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.



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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 biweekly in summer, except on Labor Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Memorial Day and the Monday following Thanksgiving. 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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Library at night

This early evening scene of Draughon Library is among images of Auburn in "Twilight on the Plains," the 2005 AU calendar produced by Photographic Services. The calendars are on sale at Photo Services in the L Building, the AU Bookstore in Haley Center, Anders and J&M bookstores and Tiger Rags.



Two departments get new names

Two departments in the College of Sciences and Mathematics have new names this semester.

The college's Department of Chemistry has been renamed the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and the Department of Mathematics has merged with the Department of Discrete and Statistical Sciences to form the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

The name changes, which were approved by the Board of Trustees last spring, were in response to changes in the disciplines, said Sciences and Mathematics Dean Stewart Schneller.

"Chemistry and mathematics have both been traditional disciplines for a number of years, but the disciplines have transformed as times have

changed, as the needs of students have changed and as research has changed," Schneller said.

With advances in computing and other technologies offering new opportunities in research and scholarship, biochemistry and discrete and statistical sciences have emerged as well-defined academic disciplines.

While biochemistry developed alongside chemistry in the same department at Auburn, AU spun off the disciplines that became discrete and statistical sciences from mathematics in the mid-1980s. The merger brings those disciplines back together after nearly two decades.

The heads of those departments said the name changes give the academic units a clearer identity.

United Way

(continued from page 1)

area for services to needy families, the disabled, youth groups, sick or injured persons and others with special needs.

Donor support reaches these groups and individuals through such community organizations as the East Alabama Food Bank, the Achievement Center and Auburn Day Care Centers and local operations of organizations such as the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Biggio group to discuss books on higher education

The Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning is organizing a book group for members of the university community interested in books about higher education.

The center will host meetings in Foy 213 at noon and 5 p.m. on Oct. 20 for discussion of Ernest Boyer's "Scholarship Reconsidered."

The book reports on a study funded by the

The campus campaign is organized around leadership teams that reach out to colleges, schools and all other units at Auburn.

United Way volunteers on campus have been distributing pledge cards to faculty and staff during the past two weeks. Hall said the campaign can reach its goal by Thanksgiving if most donors return their pledge cards promptly but is prepared to continue through the semester, if necessary.

Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Based on that study, Boyer proposes a broad definition of scholarship that integrates discovery, teaching and application.

For information about book purchase and discount, contact Isabelle Thompson by e-mail at thompis@auburn.edu.

Student's internship takes wild turn with 'Croc Hunter' Irwin

Lindsey Harris may not look like a typical pioneer but the Auburn student has been where no other college student has been before. The conservation major was chosen as the first intern ever accepted to work at the Australia Zoo.

The zoo has been made famous by its owner Steve Irwin, otherwise known as the Crocodile Hunter. Irwin is famous for wrangling crocodiles, snakes and other animals for his show on the Animal Planet network.

"I've always liked Australia, and I was looking for an opportunity to work there because I really like marsupials," Harris said.

She coordinated the trip through AU's study abroad program. In addition to her internship, Harris took classes at Australia's University of the Sunshine Coast, located about an hour north of Brisbane.

On her behalf, a representative from the Australian university approached the zoo about an internship for Harris. The zoo declined initially, however, saying they didn't accept interns due to Irwin's and the zoo's worldwide popularity.

"They are always getting requests from people who want to work there just to be close to Steve. It is just easier for them to say no," she said. But Harris's resume made zoo officials take a second look. She had already spent four years working for Zoo Atlanta, near her hometown of Roswell, Ga., and she displayed a genuine interest in working with animals through her biological sciences curriculum.

"I had to write a lot of essays about why I wanted to work with the animals and let them know that it wasn't just because I was impressed with Steve," she said, adding. "They wanted to make sure I was legitimate."

Harris worked for six months at the zoo while taking classes. During her internship, she did behavior studies on Tasmanian devils and gray kangaroos. Occasionally, she was asked to help with crowd control while Irwin gave a demonstration to visitors or taped a segment of his "Crocodile Hunter Diaries" television show.

"It was really exciting and wild. People fly from



Lindsey Harris and friend at Australia Zoo

all over the world just to see Steve, so not only did I get to work with animals but I also had to play bodyguard."

She also got to assist Steve during the taping of "Croc Week," a series of live shows broadcast on the Animal Planet network.

Harris concedes she loves to travel and her experience in Australia only sparked her desire to see other places around the globe. This winter she will travel to Antarctica on an ecotourism cruise, spending 12 days aboard ship while studying wildlife and animal conservation.

"I want to look at the impact of tour groups on Antarctica, which is ironic since I'm going with a tour group. But I want to see what happens when groups visit there," she said.

'Galileo,' first play of season, is next week

The AU Department of Theatre will present the Bertolt Brecht play "Galileo," the department's first production of the 2004-05 season, on Oct. 5-8 and Oct. 12-15 at Telfair Peet Theatre, with a matinee on Oct. 10.

The play examines the struggles faced by of one history's greatest scientists and philosophers as he expressed thoughts in the early 17th century that

powerful religious leaders of the time denounced as heresy. The play is among the most famous works by Brecht, a German-born playwright who was described by critics as one of the greatest poets and dramatists of the 20th century.

All performances are at 7:30 p.m., except the matinee, which is at 2:30 p.m. For tickets or related information, call 844-4154.

AU trustees reschedule meeting, now set for Oct. 7

The AU Board of Trustees will meet at Dixon Conference Center on Thursday, Oct. 7.

Committee sessions start at 8:30 a.m., and the board meeting is scheduled for 12:45 p.m. but could vary, depending on the length of the committee meetings.

The AU Board was originally scheduled to meet on Sept. 17 but had to postpone the meeting when Hurricane Ivan targeted Alabama.

AU's operating budget for 2004-05 is the main item on the agenda. The fiscal year starts Oct. 1, but the university will follow financial patterns in the 2003-04 budget until the board approves a new budget.

When an operating budget for 2004-05 is approved, it will be retroactive to the start of the fiscal year, said Executive Vice President Don Large.

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