Campus United Way launches 2011 campaign with call for aid, support for local relief agencies

A network of volunteers from across campus has launched the 2011 United Way campaign at Auburn University to provide financial assistance to agencies helping the less fortunate in the community. The campaign, a key part of the Lee County United Way Campaign, is seeking contributions from faculty, staff and others to assist 28 local nonprofit agencies and programs that provide services and relief to area youth, elderly and persons suffering from economic hardship.

The campus goal is $140,000, which is a major part of the $900,000 goal for all of Lee County. Lynne Hammond of the Office of Human Resources assumes leadership of the campus campaign this year after sharing that role with Bill Sauser last year. The honorary campaign chair is College of Liberal Arts Dean Anna Gramberg. They are working with an 11-member leadership team, three dozen campus coordinators and other volunteers.

United Way volunteers began distributing pledge cards to faculty and staff this week. The active campaign will continue until Thanksgiving. The campus campaign always starts a few weeks later than the county campaign and often continues into December, when many university personnel make their final giving decisions for the year.

The campaign theme this year is “Teamwork Makes the Dream Work.” Hammond said the theme highlights the positive impact that people can have on the community when they work together. “The services provided through United Way are crucial to the quality of life in the community, and that has never been more true than it is now, while the less fortunate among us are suffering and their numbers have been swelled by the recession and its aftermath,” she said.

“Individually, we may not be able to do much to make conditions better, but if each of us pitches in and helps support the campaign, we can make a big difference,” she added.

A new wrinkle in the campus campaign this year will be a series of drawings for prizes for which employees of the units with the highest participation rates may compete. More information on the drawings will be available in coming weeks.

Becky Benton, executive director of United Way of Lee County, said many families and individuals who were formerly self-sufficient have been hit hard by the ongoing economic recession. “People who used to help support these programs and services are now turning to them for assistance,” she said. At the same time this is happening, the agencies are seeing other sources of revenue decline so that they have fewer funds to help people in need.

In addition to boosting the overall level of contributions, the county campaign is seeking to increase the participation rate of persons and organizations in all divisions.

Approximately 90 percent of funds collected through the campaign will remain in Lee County for local relief and social services.

Local agencies and programs providing assistance through the United Way include: The Achievement Center, Andrew Willis Fund, Auburn City Schools

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Cooperative Extension System gets new director

Gary Lemme of South Dakota State University will assume his new duties as director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System on Oct. 1. He replaces Gaines Smith, who is retiring after 45 years in Extension.

Lemme becomes the third director of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, which was created when Extension programs at Alabama A&M and Auburn were merged in 1995. ACES is the primary outreach organization for the two land-grant institutions. In announcing the appointment, the presidents of both universities said Lemme brings the type of leadership Extension requires as it continues to adapt to the changing needs and demands of its clients.

“We are excited about Dr. Lemme’s leadership in Extension and his role in providing Alabamians the services of their two land-grant institutions,” said Auburn University President Jay Gogue.

“The role of Extension is ever changing and involves people and programs in both rural and urban areas. I believe he will take Extension to new heights while continuing the successful guidance provided by its former directors,” Gogue added.

Alabama A&M President Andrew Hugine said, “Over the past decade, Extension in Alabama has undergone profound changes organizationally, structurally and programmatically. The changes under the leadership of the Extension director and the 1890 Extension administrator have paved the way for an organization uniquely situated to broaden its scope of outreach by integrating the total scope of the universities’ programs of academics and research to meet the needs of Alabama citizens.”

See Extension System director, Page 2
State Department names Ryan as Fulbright Scholar to China

James Emmett Ryan, an associate professor of English in the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts, has been named a Fulbright Scholar-Lecturer to China for spring 2012.

The award will send him to Nanjing Normal University for the semester, where he will teach early American literature to undergraduate and graduate students. Of the 30 Fulbright Scholars selected for China this year, he is the only one who will teach American Literature and the only professor selected from a university in Alabama.

“I feel privileged to have been selected from a large pool of scholars in a very competitive application process for the Fulbright award, and I’m pleased to have earned this kind of recognition as an Auburn University faculty member,” Ryan said. “During my Fulbright semester, I hope to do my small part in advancing mutual understanding between the people of China and the United States, two countries with very substantial obligations on the 21st century world stage.”

Award funding will enable Ryan to visit various parts of the country serving as a visiting lecturer at a number of universities in China. His primary teaching and research fields are in early American literature and interdisciplinary American studies. He has looked at how American writers and literary cultures have been shaped by transformative historical forces like religion, politics, technology and commercial media.

“Having been for many years a student and teacher of American literature and culture, I am very eager to explore key issues from our nation’s past with university students in China,” he said. “I have no doubt that their perspectives will be beneficial for my scholarship and teaching. With my Chinese students, I will be doing everything I can to enrich their understanding of early American literature while learning from them as much as possible about life in China.”

Ryan is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar program in 2011-12.

The Auburn faculty member is keeping a blog with photos and other commentary in preparation for his trip. The blog at http://nanjingamericanstudies.wordpress.com/ will feature updates throughout his Fulbright semester in China.

— Carol Nelson

Best-selling author to address Auburn Writers Conference

Best-selling author Mark Kurlansky will be the Arts and Humanities Distinguished Speaker Oct. 8 at the second annual Auburn Writers Conference. He will speak at 2:30 p.m. at The Hotel at Auburn University.

Kurlansky, who is also a playwright, has written 19 books, including four that made The New York Times best-seller lists. The Auburn Writers Conference is sponsored by the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts’ Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities and Department of English, in partnership with the College of Education’s Truman Pierce Institute.

Extension System director

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Hugine added, “Moreover, its influence nationally and internationally continues to open new vistas of service. The background and expertise of Dr. Lemme fit well with the future directions of ACES. We look forward to his courageous and strategic leadership.”

At South Dakota State University, Lemme has been most recently a professor in the Department of Plant Science. A soil scientist by training, he is also the former dean of South Dakota State’s College of Agriculture and Biological Sciences. Lemme holds both bachelor’s and master’s degrees from that university, and he completed his doctoral work at the University of Nebraska.

In addition to his tenure at South Dakota State University, Lemme has held leadership positions at several other land-grant institutions, including Michigan State University, the University of Minnesota and the University of Hawaii.

“I look forward to working with the Extension professionals of ACES as we optimize Extension resources at both universities,” Lemme said. “The unique joint system of Alabama Extension is one reason I was attracted to the position. Two land-grant institutions working in concert through Extension can provide citizens with a vast and diverse body of knowledge.”

Lemme said environmental stewardship, economic development and quality of life issues are areas where Extension can lead and make a difference in the lives of everyone in Alabama.

— Margaret Lawrence

Campus Calendar

MONDAY, OCTOBER 3
OPENING FEATURE AND RECEPTION Francophone Film Festival, “Poto Mitan,” documentary on life and struggles of women in Haiti, 5 p.m., The Hotel at Auburn University; part of the Global Citizenship Project sponsored by the Community and Civic Engagement Initiative in the College of Liberal Arts

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4
PUBLIC LECTURE Discussion of the Chattahoochee Heritage Project, Ric Smith of the Department of Communication and Journalism, 5:30 p.m., The Gnu’s Room, South Gay Street; first event in the Engaged Scholar Speaker Series of the College of Liberal Arts’ Community and Civic Engagement Initiative

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6
MID-SEMESTER Halfway point for fall semester

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8
ARTS & HUMANITIES SPEAKER Best-selling author Mark Kurlansky, 2:30 p.m., auditorium, The Hotel at Auburn University; part of the second annual Auburn Writers Conference

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13
PUBLIC LECTURE “Two Neighbors, A World of Difference,” Celine Hervieux-Payette, a member of the Senate in Canada’s Parliament, 3:30 p.m., Student Center 2222-2223

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
NEXT Auburn Report
Campus Conversations program places new focus on sustainability awareness, involvement at Auburn

The Office of Sustainability at Auburn University has launched several new initiatives this fall, including the Campus Conversations program, which offers an opportunity for faculty, staff, students and the public to discuss sustainability issues with local impact.

Campus Conversations replaces the office’s Green Lunch Series, and sustainability staff said the new series offers an opportunity for more dialogue and audience participation.

“We want to create a community of practice and encourage everyone to think about how we can all do what we do better,” said Michael Kensler, director of campus sustainability operations. “We want to engage and empower people to make a difference.”

The most recent conversation centered on the topic “I believe in Auburn and love it! Exploring what this looks like in action,” and it encouraged the community to look at what it means to believe in Auburn, how a love for Auburn appears in daily life and what that has to do with Auburn’s commitment to sustainability.

“We see the Office of Sustainability’s role is to increase awareness, understanding, involvement and practice of sustainability on campus and off,” Kensler said.

This year, the Office of Sustainability plans to develop a Sustainable Office Program, designed to decrease Auburn’s environmental and monetary waste and increase Auburn’s ability to serve and positively impact its faculty, staff and all those connected to it; the Sustainable Living Guide, which will be a resource and a how-to manual to guide sustainable behavior; and an awards program to acknowledge progress made by individuals and groups on campus.

The new initiatives are being put in place to assist Auburn in meeting the goals and commitments of the strategic plan, raising awareness and understanding of sustainability and encouraging and increasing sustainable practices.

“Auburn has a lot going on already, but we have barely begun our journey to create an ethic, practice and culture of sustainability across campus,” Kensler said.

— Carol Nelson

Kinesiology groundbreaking
Aubie, minus the hardhat, helped university, College of Education and Department of Kinesiology leaders, faculty, students and alumni celebrate the groundbreaking for a new home on Sept. 23. Designed by Infinity Architecture of Montgomery and located off Wire Road next to the tennis courts, the 58,000-square-foot building is scheduled to open by March 2013.

Campus United Way
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Dental Clinic, Auburn Day Care Centers, Auburn Dixie League Baseball, Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County, Child Advocacy Center of East Alabama, Community Market, Child Care Resource Center.
Crisis Center of Lee County, Dixie Youth Baseball of Opelika, Domestic Violence Center, East Alabama Mental Health, EAMC-MR Family and Children Services-Special Deliveries, East Alabama Services for the Elderly, Food Bank of East Alabama.
Greater Peace Child Development Center, Joyland Child Development Center, Junior Achievement, Lee County Literacy Coalition, Project Uplift/Lee County Youth Development Center, Rape Counselors of East Alabama, Red Cross East Alabama Chapter, Salvation Army, and Unity Wellness Center.

Auburn Then and Now
The newly published, photo-filled, 160-page coffee-table book “Echoes Strong and Clear: Auburn University Then and Now,” is now available for $39.95 at the Auburn University Bookstore in Haley Center and Photographic Services in Foy Hall. The book was compiled by the Office of Communications and Marketing with historic and recent photographs of campus.
Healthy Tigers screenings to be held on campus in October and November

To qualify for the 2012 Healthy Tigers insurance premium discount, Auburn employees and spouses who are covered by the Auburn University Blue Cross Blue Shield plan must be screened in 2011.

The Auburn University Pharmaceutical Care Center will hold screenings in October and November but not in December. For the schedule and appointments, go to the website www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/payroll/healthytigers/ or call 844-4099. Send questions by e-mail to aupcc4u@auburn.edu.

Paula Backscheider, eminent scholar in English in Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts, served as the Miriam Leranbaum Memorial Lecturer this month at the State University of New York, Binghamton.

Backscheider conducted seminars and presented a major address on Sept. 21 and Sept. 22. The Leranbaum Lectureship is named for a pioneering woman scholar, and the annual event explores social issues influencing literature in England and America between 1660 and 1850.

Sullenger named visiting program officer for association of research libraries

The Association of Southeastern Research Libraries has selected Paula Sullenger, head of Electronic Resources and Serials Services for Auburn University Libraries, to serve as the organization’s next Visiting Program Officer.

Sullenger will lead the expansion of the association’s cooperative print journal retention program. ASERL libraries have committed to retain more than 1,500 scholarly journal titles, with a goal of securing commitments for another 1,500 titles before the end of the calendar year.

She will work with participating libraries to identify additional titles to be retained, determine the bibliographic processes that are necessary to record the retention commitments and create a useful web presence and documentation for the program.

Visiting Canadian senator to discuss relations between U.S. and Canada

Celine Hervieux-Payette, a member of the Senate in the Parliament of Canada, will discuss the relationship between the United States and her country in a public address at Auburn on Oct. 13.

Hervieux-Payette will speak on “Two Neighbors, A World of Difference” at 3:30 p.m. in the Student Center 2222-2223.

A member of Canada’s Parliament since 1979 and its Senate since 1995, she was the first woman leader of the opposition in 2007-08 and the first woman elected vice chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Banking, Trade and Commerce.

Her presentation at Auburn is sponsored by the Honors College, the College of Business, the Women’s Studies Program, the French Honors Society and the departments of Foreign Languages and Literatures, History and Political Science.

Holley, Emig to receive Distinguished Design-Build Leadership Award

Paul Holley and Joshua Emig, faculty members from the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, will be awarded the Distinguished Design-Build Leadership Award from the Design-Build Institute of America in October at DBIA’s Conference in Orlando.

Holley and Emig, co-directors of the CADC’s Masters of Integrated Design and Construction program, are being awarded for their work establishing the collaborative integrated design and construction program at Auburn.

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