The campus goal is part of a countywide effort by United Way of Lee County to raise approximately $1 million to help support area charities and non-governmental social services. Both the Lee County and AU goals remain the same as in the successful campaigns of the past two years.

Bill Sauser, a professor of management in the College of Business, returns as campus campaign chair, assisted by Dianne Townsend of the College of Business, Susie Hall of Auxiliary Services and numerous volunteers across campus.

“Auburn is a caring, concerned university community, and faculty, staff and students have a tradition of stepping forward to help the less fortunate in our community,” said Sauser. “Another reason I am optimistic is because we have a very dedicated group of hard-working volunteers from all across campus to lead the campaign.”

AU professor to spend year as Fulbright Scholar

Subhash Sinha, a professor of mechanical engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has received a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach and conduct research in Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island off the east coast of Africa.

Sinha will spend the 2007-08 academic year at the University of Mauritius, conducting research in rotor dynamics and the analysis and design of wind-sensitive structures.

At the same university, he will teach undergraduate and graduate students in modeling, kinematics, dynamic stability and mechanical vibration and will assist the institution’s faculty as they upgrade the curriculum.

An AU faculty member since 1987, Sinha is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright program.

Administered by the U.S. Department of State, the international program was established in 1946 under legislation introduced by then U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright of Arkansas to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the rest of the world.
Healthy Marriage Initiative

Hundreds of scholars, social workers and social policy advocates assembled at the Grand National Mar-riott last week for the inaugural state conference of the Alabama Community Healthy Marriage Initiative. AU’s College of Human Sciences and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System played a leading role, along with several state agencies and civic organizations, in organizing the conference, which explored ways to help families overcome the stresses of modern society.

AU Architecture professor earns national award from AIA students

D avid Hinson, head of the School of Architecture at AU, received the Educa- tor Honor Award at the recent national convention of the American Institute of Architecture Students in Washington, D.C.

The award is the latest of several for Hinson and his students in 2007. Their work on the PKSCNC- habitat 2 manufactured home collaboration with Habitat for Humanity also led to American Instit-ute of Architecture awards on the state and national level, including the Special Housing Award at the AIA’s national convention.

The Educator Honor Award recognizes Hinson’s performance in the classroom and as faculty advisor to the Auburn AIA chapter.

The architecture professor’s efforts have won praise from former students, including Cayce Bean, who said in her letter supporting Hinson’s nomi-

United Way campaign continued from page 1

Sasser added, “About 90 percent of all funds collected in this campaign remain in the area to help local organizations serve the community and provide aid to our less fortunate neighbors, right here in Lee County. United Way agencies are a major way in which all of us help make this a stronger community.”

The campaign relies on volunteers from units in each of the university to distribute information packets and pledge cards to faculty and staff members in their areas. The pledge cards enable AU employees to spread their gifts over the full year through payroll deduction.

Gifts from AU are approximately 15 percent of the total annual contributions to the United Way of Lee County campaign. Becky Benton, executive director of the county campaign, noted that 33 community organizations receive funds from the United Way to support their services to area residents.

United Way contributions support a diverse as-
sortment of local charitable organizations. Some, such as Au-

burnal Day Care Centers and Project Uplift provide services for children and parents and some, such as Camp ASCCA and Hospice of East Alabama, provide health services. Others, such as Child Care Resource Center and East Alabama Mental Health Family and Children Services, assist families, and others, such as the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, Domestic Violence Intervention Center and Food Bank of East Alabama, step forward in the event of crises affecting individuals, families or the community.

United Way figures show that the 33 agencies provide 100,000 services annually to local residents.

Upcoming Events

Art Exhibition

“Faces and Stories: A Portrait of Southern Writers,” portraits by Finland-based photographer Curt Richter, Jule Collins Smith Museum through Nov. 30.

Tuesday, October 2

Meeting

University Senate, 2 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

Lecture

Thomas Friedman, New York Times columnist and author of “The World Is Flat,” 4 p.m., Coliseum

Theatre

“Deadwood Dick or The Game of Gold,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; also Wednesday-Friday; box office 844-4154

Thursday, October 4

Public Lecture

“Global Warming: What do the Numbers Show?” John R. Christy of the Earth System Science Center, University of Alabama in Huntsville, noon, Room 1011, new Forestry and Wild-life Sciences Building.

Saturday, October 6

Art Exhibition Opening

“Roger Brown: Southern Exposure,” showing works by a leading figure of Chicago’s Imagist Movement of the 1970s and ’80s, Jule Collins Smith Museum, runs through Jan. 5

Sunday, October 7

Anniversary Celebration

Jule Collins Smith Museum, fourth anniversary. 1 p.m.-5 p.m., cake cutting at 4 p.m., free admission to galleries and all events, JCS Museum

Monday, October 8

NEXT AU Report

MO-SEMESTER

37th class day

Tuesday, October 9

Meeting

University Faculty, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

Gift aids math program in schools

The Malone Family Foundation of Dothan recently gave approximately $320,000 to AU to support an initiative to boost math- ematics education in East Alabama schools. The project, “Improving Grades 6-12 Mathematics Education in East Alabama Using Technology,” is directed by Marilyn Struthers and W. Gary Martin, professors of mathematics education at the AU Col-lege of Education.

This project will enhance the activities of the TEAM-Math project, a partnership that includes the AU College of Education, AU College of Sciences and Mathematics, Tuskegee University and 15 school districts in East Alabama. In the fourth year of a five-

year grant from the National Science Foundation’s Math and Science Partnership program, university faculty are working with faculty in area schools to help students raise their scores on state-mandated achievement tests.

“The Malone Family Foundation’s gift will pro-

vide additional support for the use of technology in East Alabama’s secondary schools,” said Struthers.

She added, “The gift will provide participating schools state-of-the-art mathematics software designed to enhance student learning of mathemat- ics as well as graphing calculators, resources that the schools frequently cannot afford. The gift also provides intensive preparation for the teachers in effectively using the technology.”

Alyson Malone of the Malone Family Foundation added, “We are dedicated to funding programs we believe will help improve the education of the children and young adults of Alabama, thus giving them better opportunities for success in life. TEAM-Math has worked diligently to devise a program aimed at improving mathematics programs in East Alabama, and we look forward to seeing the results of this endeavor.”

The gift will count as part of the “It Begins at Auburn” Campaign which encompasses all col-

leges and schools as well as the AU libraries and museums, athletics and Auburn University Mont-gomery. Endowments for student scholarships, faculty, programs and unrestricted dollars make up 58 percent of the campaign’s goal. In addition to endowments, the campaign will focus on fundraising for facilities and equipment, campus beautification, research and current operations.
In honor of Brown, the AU museum will host a birthday party Sunday. The theme of this year’s festivities, “Go Roger Go” refers to a childhood photograph in the exhibition, “Roger Brown: Southern Exposure,” that goes on display on Saturday.

The approaching driver, who is checking messages on his BlackBerry while scanning for songs on his car’s CD player, looks up just in time to swerve away, averting a collision but causing you to drop the cell phone into your coffee cup, splashing hot coffee across the vehicle’s iPod holder, shorting out the cell phone, the iPod and the car’s electronics.

Such roadway incidents, although usually less complex, are becoming so common in today’s electronically packed motor vehicles that a South Korean institute has enlisted a researcher in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering for assistance in helping drivers avoid them.

N. Hari Narayanan, a professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, has received a $90,000 grant from the Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute of South Korea to study drivers who are distracted by the increasing number of information technology devices in today’s vehicles.

Narayanan leads a research team that is developing a computational model to simulate a person who, while driving, engages in other tasks, such as talking on a cell phone, fiddling with controls of a CD player and entering an address on a GPS navigation system.

“Our initial goal will be to build a simulation capable of making realistic predictions about the driver’s mental workload based on data from human drivers,” said Narayanan. “Over the long term, we hope to develop an intelligent information management system for automobiles that will assist drivers in interacting with communication and entertainment devices without compromising safety.”

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