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# IAI report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY



### Portable housing

During a recent visit to campus, Gov. Bob Riley inspected an Auburn prototype for portable emergency housing made of weatherproof commercial shipping containers. Architecture students developed the prototype for possible use by relief agencies as temporary housing for people left homeless by natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

## Buskist, Lamke win first Leischuck Awards as Auburn's best teachers

Veteran professors William Buskist of the College of Liberal Arts and Leanne Lamke of the College of Human Sciences are the first winners of a new annual award recognizing AU's best teachers.

Interim President Ed Richardson presented the first Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence to Lamke and Buskist in a recent ceremony at the President's House after they were identified as Auburn's top teachers for 2005 by a faculty committee and Provost John Heilman.

Heilman said the awards and their first recipients bring increased recognition to teaching at Auburn. "The annual awards that Emily and Gerald Leischuck have established to honor excellence in teaching represent a visionary commitment to the instructional cornerstone of Auburn University's academic mission," he said.

"Auburn deeply appreciates both the Leischucks and the first recipients of their award, Leanne Lamke and Bill Buskist, who through their innovative methods have set a standard to which all of us

who are devoted to teaching at Auburn can rightfully aspire," he added.

Buskist is Alumni Professor and Distinguished Professor in the Psychology Department, where he has been a faculty member since 1982. Early in his Auburn career, Buskist expanded his studies of competition and cooperation into educational psychology with studies in the qualities and behaviors of "master teachers," adopting some of the best practices for his own teaching. He has also conducted studies in the assessment of teaching effectiveness.

Buskist won the American Psychological Association's Robert S. Daniel Teaching Excellence Award in 1999 and was among the first faculty members inducted when the College of Liberal Arts established its Academy of Teaching and Outstanding Teachers in 2003.

Liberal Arts Dean Anne-Katrin Gramberg said Buskist is a role model for other faculty in the college. "Bill Buskist, the teachers' teacher, has

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### Top teachers

Benefactors Emily and Gerald Leischuck and Provost John Heilman joined interim President Ed Richardson in a ceremony honoring AU's best teachers for 2005, Bill Buskist and Leanne Lamke. From left are Richardson, Emily Leischuck, Buskist, Lamke, Gerald Leischuck and Heilman. The Leischucks are retired Auburn administrators who began their careers as teachers.

## Teaching awards

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combined his natural gift as a classroom instructor with the discipline of an empirical approach towards understanding the art of teaching and learning," Gramberg said.

"Under his leadership and by his example, he has brought the Psychology Department and the College of Liberal Arts national prominence as one of the very best at developing neophyte instructors into master teachers," she added.

Lamke, a professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies, has been a faculty member in Human Sciences since 1985.

She received the Student Government Association's Outstanding Faculty Award in the College of Human Sciences in 1993 and the Auburn Alumni Association's Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award in 1997, when she also was named a Camp War Eagle Faculty Honoree.

In 1996, Lamke received the Distinguished Teaching Award of the International Society for the Study of Personal Relationships, and the National Council on Family Relations has chosen her to receive its Ernest Osborne Teaching Award for 2005.

Human Sciences Dean June Henton said Lamke has had a profound impact on the college's students and her faculty colleagues.

"At both the undergraduate and graduate levels, she is known for the outstanding job she does of presenting state-of-the-art course content, communicating complex ideas to students, and never losing sight of individual differences in abilities," Henton said. "Dr. Lamke is passionate about the importance of teaching, not only as the central mission of the university today, but also as it relates to training the next generation of teaching scholars."

## AU converts financial records to new Banner System

Auburn has placed all its financial records in a new integrated and comprehensive online collection of records, completing the first phase of an overhaul of all AU administrative records.

The conversion to the SunGard SCT Banner System, after more than a year of development, becomes official this week with the start of the 2005-06 fiscal year.

For many of the faculty and staff who deal with financial records across campus, the change is both monumental and, after extensive training, routine, says Fred Bobo, AU's Banner project manager.

Compared to the previous financial software programs, Bobo said, the new financial module is easier to access and navigate, establishes a common look for financial records and provides more flexibility for users in departments across campus as well as accountants and other Business Office staff.

The finance module includes purchasing, accounts payable, inventory management, cost accounting, budgeting, investment management and other financial services.

Bobo and Karen Chastonay, SunGard SCT's Auburn project manager, worked with finance team leader Melissa Morris and numerous volunteers to set up the finance module and train approximately 1,700 users across campus.

"It has been a long and complicated process but there has been a great deal of support at every level of the university, and a lot of people are excited about finally having a fully integrated system for financial records," Bobo said.

The next phase will be in Human Resources, with training sessions scheduled to start in November. For online information on the Banner System, see [www.auburn.edu/banner](http://www.auburn.edu/banner).

## Upcoming Events

### Continuing

**EXHIBITION** Photos from AU's sesquicentennial publication "Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky," produced by Office of Communications and Marketing, through Oct. 12, Biggin Gallery

**EXHIBITION** "Quilts of Gee's Bend," through Dec. 4, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art; free admission for families each Sunday

### Tuesday, October 4

**MEETING** University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall

### Wednesday, October 5

**AAUP FORUM** Post-tenure review; panelists are former Georgia AAUP officer Donald Wagner of University of West Georgia, Henry Baker of Scott-Ritchey Center, AAUP national First Vice President Larry Gerber of AU Department of History, and American Council on Education Fellow Holly Stadler of Counselor Education, Counseling Psychology and School Psychology; moderator is AU AAUP President Virginia O'Leary of Psychology; 3:30 p.m.-5 p.m., Thach 202

### Thursday, October 6

**PUBLIC LECTURE** New York Times chief art critic Michael Kimmelman, "A Stitch in Time: Gee's Bend in a New York Minute," 5 p.m., Dixon Conference Center

### Monday, October 10

**NEXT** AU Report

### Tuesday, October 11

**FACULTY SEMINAR** "Models and Examples of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning," Bill Buskist, faculty fellow, Biggio Center, noon-1:30 p.m., Draughon Library

**LITTLETON-FRANKLIN LECTURE** "Islam and the West," John Esposito, founding director of the Muslim-Christian Center in Washington, D.C., 4 p.m., auditorium, COSAM Science Center



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## Faculty see Gee's Bend quilts as more than quilts, more than art

A group of Auburn professors is expanding the applications of a local art exhibit beyond a museum's walls with teaching materials for the classroom.

In association with the "Quilts of Gee's Bend" art exhibition at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, AU's program in Women's Studies has undertaken a three-year interdisciplinary project to study the social context and artistic qualities of the quilts.

The faculty members are also developing strategies and materials to incorporate their findings into cultural education programs throughout the United States.

The result is "Gee's Bend in Context," a research consortium of approximately 15 AU faculty from a variety of disciplines with the goal of implementing the study of the Gee's Bend quilts into local and national curricula.

The quilts are prominent examples of African-American art by women in Alabama's Wilcox County. "The program puts the quilts in social, cultural and political contexts and brings them into the classroom to both educate and inspire students," said Alicia Carroll, project director of "Quilts of Gee's Bend in Context."

After reading a review of the exhibit when it was on display in New York three years ago, Carroll said she felt strongly that the work should be seen in Alabama. "There is great irony in the fact that very few people in Alabama know about the quilts," she said.

Carroll said the quilts, beyond just being viewed, should be studied and taught in K-12 and college classrooms. The consortium has developed lesson plans that relate the quilts to areas such as history about civil rights, the Great Depression, math and social studies, and art and literature.

"Personally I think the quilts are a fabulous teaching tool," said Chichi Lovett, a member of the consortium and assistant professor of art at AU. "It approaches subjects that are important to speak about and provides a bridge to speak about race, gender, socio-economic and world concerns, civil rights and a period during which people were enslaved.

"They are something we can be proud of and are a tribute to the human spirit."

Lovett, who teaches art for education majors, is showing her students how they can incorporate lessons about the quilts into their own lesson plans in the future.

"Studying the quilts has had a ripple effect," she said. "There is something about the universality, comfort and safety of quilts that allows people to first immerse themselves in the subject and then venture out."

Lovett said she often sees changes in her students as lessons about the quilts transform their



### Student art

Among other projects, faculty use the Gee's Bend quilts to inspire students to create art displays such as this project in Biggin Hall.

initial approaches to some subjects. "Most of these quilts don't look like a lot of the quilts they've seen, but they learn that what is one person's imperfection is another person's expression and that is very liberating," she said.

The "Gee's Bend in Context" group has developed a web site to assist other educators in incorporating teachings based on the quilts into their own curriculums. For additional information, visit [www.auburn.edu/geesbend](http://www.auburn.edu/geesbend).

## Samuelson wins teaching award in Forestry, Wildlife Sciences

Forestry Professor Lisa Samuelson received the 2005 Harold E. Christen Teaching Award of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences in a recent ceremony at the school's Mary Olive Thomas Demonstration Forest.

Samuelson, who holds a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech and has been an AU faculty member since 1994, teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in the school and serves on several graduate student committees and school committees. In 2003, she published a guide to forest trees in the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic states.

# Historian sees link to Scopes trial in debate over intelligent design

Eighty years after one of the most famous court cases in American history, the teaching of evolution in public schools is again being challenged on religious grounds in school districts across the nation, with the latest case coming from Pennsylvania.

While carrying a new name, the movement labeled “intelligent design” by its supporters is essentially the same as the anti-evolution side in the 1925 case of *Scopes v. Tennessee*, says Charles A. Israel, author of “Before Scopes.” The book is a recently published history of the clash of cultures that led to the Scopes trial — conflicts that continue in many parts of the nation today.

“The intelligent design movement represents the evolution of creationism, and its purpose is to discredit evolution,” said Charles A. Israel, an associate professor of history at Auburn University. But, he adds, many of its backers believe that evolution, as taught in public schools, is an attempt by skeptics to discredit their religion.

If the Scopes trial were today, the great orator and Scopes prosecutor William Jennings Bryan would probably argue in support of intelligent design, said Israel, who examined the Scopes legacy in the concluding chapter of the book published by the University of Georgia Press in 2004.

The current debate, as in previous encounters since the late 19th century, pits conservative religious leaders who believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible, such as Bryan in 1925 and school board members in the current Pennsylvania case, against scientists and science teachers who regard attempts to mix religion and science as bad science and bad religion.

The classic play and movie “Inherit the Wind” leaves the impression that science teacher John Scopes won the case, destroying the anti-evolution movement. Despite a brilliant courtroom performance on his behalf by Clarence Darrow, Scopes lost his challenge to a Tennessee law barring schools from teaching about evolution. Even when the state appeals court overturned Scopes’ conviction, it allowed the law to stand. Israel said the law, which was on the books until 1967, had a chilling effect on science teaching and research in Tennessee and much of the South.

The issue was largely dormant for decades following the Scopes trial but reemerged during

the Cold War as schools increased their emphasis on science education. In their opposition to the teaching of evolution, many fundamentalist Christians sought to have their local school boards require “equal time” for the biblical account of creation. When those efforts consistently failed in the courts, intelligent design arose as an alternative. In their attempt to bypass the First Amendment obstacles that blocked the teaching of creationism in the schools, advocates of intelligent design infer but usually avoid direct mention of God as the intelligent force behind the design of the universe.

Israel said the arguments on behalf of intelligent design have an advantage over earlier attempts to undercut the teaching of evolution. “The strongest appeal of intelligent design is to Americans’ sense of fairness,” said Israel. “Its supporters argue that intelligent design is another theory equal or superior to evolution, so, if you are going to teach one in a science course, why not teach the other?”

Scientists have always had a difficult time explaining the complexities of evolution to the vast majority of people who do not have a scientific background, Israel said. The problem is compounded, he said, by the difference between the popular idea of theory as unproven conjecture and scientists’ definition of theory as a testable hypothesis with substantial supporting evidence.

Israel notes that each side sees the other as its enemy in the culture wars: Some Christians see teaching of evolution as an attack on their religion through their children. Skeptics in the scientific community, meanwhile, see intelligent design as a wedge to undercut science and return state-sponsored religion to public education.

“Too often the question is asked whether a person believes in evolution or in God, presenting a particularly stark choice that is actually rejected by many scientists and theologians,” the Auburn faculty member said.

“Unfortunately, rich theological discussions of the role of God in nature — as well as philosophical inquiries about the nature of scientific enterprise — get lost in the simplistic binary of ‘whose side are you on: God or Darwin?’” he said, adding that most people see no need to choose between science and religion.

The historian says scientists are correct in opposing teaching of intelligent design alongside evolution in high school science courses because, unlike evolution, the theory cannot be tested scientifically. But he adds that the theory of intelligent design is a natural fit for philosophy courses, which already include the concept, if not the name, in the study of great philosophers since ancient times.

## Boosinger wins award for service to libraries

The Alabama Association of College and Research Libraries has presented its 2005 Significant Contribution Award to Marcia Boosinger of Auburn’s Draughon Library.

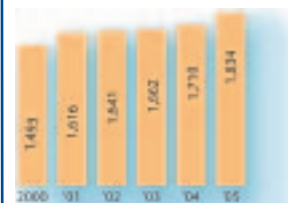
The award recognizes significant achievements and contributions at college and research libraries on the local, state, regional, national or international level.

Boosinger, who is chair of Draughon Library’s reference department, has been a member of the library faculty since 1986. She is also Auburn’s NCAA faculty athletics representative and chair of the Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics.

A charter member of the state association, she has served as treasurer and a board member and was its president in 2002-03.

## How Auburn Stacks Up

### African American enrollment at AU



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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