

Inside

2 A&P Assembly to vote on change in its constitution

3 Two departments in COSAM get new leaders



4 Survey shows strong support for ag market

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report



AU Tiger Transit sets record for number of riders

Record numbers of Auburn students are riding Tiger Transit this fall. Buses from Groome Transportation, which operates the AU transit system, carried 72,000 riders the week of Aug. 22-26, the first full week of classes, and are averaging more than 60,000 riders per week, not including football Saturdays.

The numbers are 10,000 riders per week higher than this time last year and 20,000 per week higher than two years ago.

“More students than ever are riding buses to campus and leaving their vehicles parked at their apartments,” said David George, AU’s director of parking and transit services. “They see Tiger Transit as an alternative to the traffic congestion and parking problems they would face if they drove in and spent time looking for a parking spot.”

Even students who drive to campus make heavy use of the buses to get from parking areas to their classes and back, he added.

The increased demand joined with construction detours and employee turnover among drivers to cause delays on some routes in the semester’s first few weeks. In response, the system added buses, routed around detours and trained new drivers.

Tiger Transit, which ran up to 32 buses a day last year, is running up to 35 per day this fall. The transit system has added three large Blue-Bird buses this fall to help handle continuing increases in riders on the busiest routes. While the standard Tiger Transit buses seat 30 riders and can accommodate approximately 10 standing passengers, the Blue Bird buses seat 44 and can hold up to 20 standing riders.

The first two full-size buses are operating on the Longleaf and South Auburn routes, and the third bus was added last week on the Ross-Harper route.

See [Tiger Transit](#), page 2

Riding the bus

Students are riding Tiger Transit in record numbers this semester as an alternative to driving.

Littleton-Franklin lecturer to discuss relations between Muslims, Christians

John Esposito, a leader of a movement to build better relations between Muslims and Christians, will present a public lecture on “Islam and the West” at AU on Tuesday.

Esposito will speak at 4 p.m. in the auditorium of the new Sciences Laboratory Center as part of the Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series.

The visiting speaker is founding director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding and a professor of religion and international affairs and of Islamic studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. His books include “Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality” and “Islam and Democracy.”





'Faces of a Nation'

Telfair Peet Theatre will exhibit this and other Ecuadoran street scenes in its gallery next week. Jeff Etheridge, manager of AU Photo Services, photographed the scenes on a recent Methodist Church mission trip to South America.

Tiger Transit

continued from page 1

The larger buses serve off-campus areas that have seen dramatic increases this semester in the number of students who have moved into new apartment complexes far from campus.

With the move of the Auburn Medical Center from Magnolia Avenue to Lem Morrison Drive at Duncan Drive, Tiger Transit has extended bus routes to the new medical center from Haley Station and Foy Union.

"Students can ride directly to the medical center and catch a ride back to the center of campus when they are finished," George said. "They do not have to use their cars to go there or anywhere else on campus."

Although separate numbers are not kept, George said more faculty and staff appear to use the buses to get from one part of campus to another than in the past. "Much of the time, you can get around campus faster and easier on Tiger Transit than you can by driving and looking and looking for a parking space when you get there," he said.

"Plus, when you move your car, even if it is a university vehicle, you may not find a parking space near your building when you return."

Administrative, professional staff to vote on granting A&P Assembly more authority

AU administrative and professional staff members will meet on Oct. 20 to consider granting more authority to the A&P Assembly.

Employees classified as administrative or professional will vote at the 3 p.m. session in Foy 213 on a proposal to take a section about employee grievances out of the assembly's constitution. Such action would enable the representative body to recommend changes in procedures to the administration in the future without the need to call a vote of the membership on each change. The 23-member assembly represents 1,267 employees, but few attend the meetings.

If approved in the Oct. 20 vote, the proposed change will go to interim President Ed Richardson for further action.

If the section is removed from the assembly's constitution, university rules regarding grievances will remain in effect. The proposed change would not affect the university's grievance policy and procedures, which are listed in AU's employee handbook, or the role of the assembly's grievance committee in administering grievances filed by administrative and professional employees.

A&P officers say the assembly needs the authority to act on behalf of its members without having to put every change, even minor ones, to a full vote of the membership. They also note that the assembly's constitution is not binding on the administration.

With no grievances by administrative or professional employees pending against supervisors or the university at the time, the assembly voted in August to call the upcoming general session for all its represented employees to consider taking the grievance policy out of the group's constitution. The assembly also has posted a draft of grievance policy changes online at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/ap.

The representative body reexamined its constitutional section on grievances after Lynne Hammond, AU's assistant vice president for human resources, cited inconsistencies in procedures for the university's two non-faculty groups.

The Office of Human Resources is working with the A&P Assembly and the Staff Council to update and standardize grievance procedures for all employees who are represented by either body.

The proposed change does not affect faculty, who are represented by the University Senate, which has its own constitution and operating procedures.

Upcoming Events

Continuing

EXHIBITION "Quilts of Gee's Bend," through Dec. 4, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

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., auditorium, 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, Sciences Laboratory Center

Wednesday, October 12

PUBLIC LECTURE "Word on the Street: 18th Century Pamphlets and the Language of Gender," Sally Driscoll, former director of Women's Studies at Fairfield University, noon (bring your lunch), auditorium, Draughon Library

Friday, October 14

FREE CONCERT "Tango on the Terrace," Tami Tango Trio of Buenos Aires, celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month, 7 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

Monday, October 17

NEXT AU Report

Tuesday, October 18

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

AU THEATRE "Defying Gravity," 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Telfair Peet Theatre; box office 844-4154; online see <http://media.cla.auburn.edu/theatre>

EXHIBITION "Faces of a Nation," Ecuadoran street scenes, photos by Jeff Etheridge, AU Photo Services, Telfair Peet Theatre Gallery, through Saturday, Oct. 22



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Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees for exceptional performance. Recipients for August were, from left, Marcalyn Price of the Development Office, Melissa Long of the Office of Information Technology, Annie Alexander of Building Services and Dody Cadenhead of the Office of Athletics.

Savrda, Worley named department heads in Sciences & Mathematics

The College of Sciences and Mathematics has two new department chairs.

Dean Stewart Schneller has announced the appointment of Charles E. Savrda as chair of the Department of Geology and Geography and S. D. Worley as interim chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.



Savrda

Savrda replaces Robert B. Cook, who stepped down over the summer to return to the classroom, and Worley replaces William E. Hill, who recently retired after 35 years on the Auburn faculty.

"COSAM is fortunate to have the talented leadership that Drs. Worley and Savrda will provide as we continue the progress established by their predecessors in teaching, research and outreach," Schneller said.

On the faculty since 1986, Savrda is a past recipient of the Dean's Award for Outstanding Teaching and the Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award of the Auburn University Alumni Association.

Savrda earned his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University, and his master's and doctorate in Geological Sciences from the University of

Southern California. Savrda said faculty in Geology and Geography have set ambitious goals. The goals include increasing enrollment of highly motivated students in undergraduate and graduate programs, continuing improvement of teaching and research, upgrading student-oriented facilities in Petrie and Tichenor Halls, establishing new degree programs, improving communication and helping with development efforts for the college and department.



Worley

Worley has been on the faculty for 31 years. In 2004, the American Chemical Society presented him with the Charles Stone Award, recognizing him as the outstanding chemist of the year in the Southeast.

Worley earned his bachelor's degree from Auburn in 1964, conducted graduate work at the University of Tennessee and earned a doctorate in chemistry from the University of Texas in 1969.

"Our most important responsibility this year in the department will be to recruit new faculty members to replace people who have retired," said Worley. "Certainly, our priority will be the search for a permanent chair."

Professor invited to speak at international conference on nutrition

Margaret Craig-Schmidt of the College of Human Sciences was an invited speaker at an international conference on nutrition in Denmark in September.

Craig-Schmidt, a professor in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science since 1977, spoke in Copenhagen at the First International Symposium on Trans Fatty Acids and Health, which was sponsored by the Danish Nutrition Council.

The Auburn professor, who has conducted extensive research on nutrition, spoke on "Worldwide Consumption of Trans Fatty Acids."

Trans fatty acids, sometimes called hydrogenated fats, are found in most margarine and shortening products and are widely used in snack foods, crackers and baked goods. Due to health concerns, most doctors recommend limiting these foods in their patients' diets.

Professor wins international award for design of folding bicycle-scooter

Sang-Gyeun Ahn of AU's College of Architecture, Design and Construction has won a highly coveted international award for one of his designs.

Ahn, an assistant professor in the Department of Industrial Design, is one of 10 designers out of 638 entries from 24 countries in 2005 to win a Red Dot Award, which is recognized within the industrial design field as the international seal of quality for outstanding design.

Ahn won the award for "Freewill," his bicycle-scooter design.

"The Red Dot Award ranks among the largest design competitions worldwide," said Industrial Design Department Head Clark Lundell. "To many designers, this award is like winning the Nobel Prize in the design area. Obviously, we are very thrilled that one of our Auburn faculty has received this award."

Lundell said the most significant features of the design are the bicycle's visual appeal and light-weight foldable frame that would enable a rider to transform the device from a bike to a kick scooter. Although the bike-scooter is 21st century in appearance and function, Ahn said he was inspired by a once-common style of bicycles that featured an oversized front wheel to provide rapid acceleration.

"The simplicity of this design makes it very



unique," said Ahn. "The small number of components is helpful in reducing the size and weight so that when people fold the kick board part into the front wheel it is easy to carry. This unique style will be appealing and satisfying visually and functionally."

Ahn's design will be recognized at the 2005 Red Dot Design Awards ceremony in November in Singapore. The design will also be exhibited at the Red Dot Museum in Essen, Germany.

AU Theatre 'Defying Gravity' next week in launch of new season at Telfair Peet

AU Theatre launches its 2005-06 season on Oct. 18 with "Defying Gravity," a play about the emotional impact of a highly public family tragedy.

The play by Jane Alexander presents a fictionalized account of the final days of Christa McAuliffe, the teacher-passenger who died with the crew of the Space Shuttle Challenger in the shuttle's 1986 explosion. In the play,

however, the teacher is never identified by name.

The teacher's daughter narrates the family's perspective of the events leading up to and after the fatal launch. The tale maintains its focus on ordinary lives but takes a wider turn in exploring the impact of the disaster on witnesses who were expecting a flawless launch.

"Defying Gravity" will run at Telfair Peet Theatre from Oct. 18-22 at 7:30 p.m., with a 2:30 p.m. matinee on Oct. 23. The play will return on Nov. 16 and 18 in repertory with Neil LaBute's "The Shape of Things," a dark comedy about manipulation and isolation in modern society, on Nov. 15 and 17. LaBute's play will also run Nov. 8-13.

The two plays in October and November were moved to the top of the AU Theatre's calendar for 2005-06 after the department rescheduled "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" from late September to April to fit all the season's plays in the current fiscal year, which started on Oct. 1.

AU Theatre is offering free student admission to all plays in the 2005-06 season. Faculty, staff and senior citizen tickets are \$18 each, and general admission is \$20. For tickets, call 844-4154 from noon-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

New survey finds strong backing for open-air ag market

A survey of customers at the inaugural season of the College of Agriculture's weekly farmers market shows strong public support for the open-air market.

Freshness and the opportunity to buy directly from farmers were cited as the top reasons for shopping at the market by 86 percent of respondents in the informal poll.

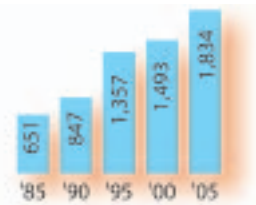
Atmosphere at the outdoor market and friendly, knowledgeable vendors were cited as other big draws.

The poll was conducted each Thursday from Aug. 25-Sept. 15.

The market, held on Thursday afternoons from June 30 through Sept. 29 on Samford Avenue, regularly featured 16 to 18 vendors.

How Auburn Stacks Up

African American enrollment trend at AU, 1985-2005



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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