Ceremony to honor top faculty achievers

Auburn University will present its highest faculty awards for teaching, research and outreach on Oct. 27. The “Faculty Awards Celebrating Excellence” ceremony at The Hotel at Auburn University will also honor other top faculty achievers for 2009, including the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer, Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Award recipients and new Alumni Professors. A public reception will follow the 5 p.m. ceremony.

The university’s highest teaching honors, the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching, will go to Sushil Bhavnani of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and Mary Mendonca of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Bhavnani is a professor of mechanical engineering and Mendonca is an associate professor and newly named Alumni Professor of biological sciences.

The Creative Research and Scholarship Award will go to Morris Bian, an associate professor of history in the College of Liberal Arts. In 2007, the International Convention of Asian Scholars named his book, “The Making of the State Enterprise System in Modern China,” one of the top 10 social science books in Asian studies during the previous two years.

The Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach will go to Barry Burkhart, professor and head of the Department of Psychology in the College of Liberal Arts. Burkhart, an Auburn faculty member since 1974, has long been active in community projects across East Alabama and is co-director of a treatment program for juvenile sex offenders incarcerated in a state training school.

Kimberly Walls, a professor of music education in the College of Education, is this year’s Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer. The Graduate School’s top award is presented annually in recognition of outstanding research, teaching and mentoring of graduate students. Walls will present this year’s lecture at 4 p.m. Oct. 26 in the auditorium, Room 1103, of Shelby Center.

Chinese ambassador to visit Auburn next week

The Chinese ambassador to the United States, Wenzhong Zhou, is scheduled to visit Auburn University next week at the invitation of university President Jay Gogue to promote international education partnerships.

Visiting campus on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 20-21, Ambassador Zhou will give a public presentation, “China’s Development and China-U.S. Relations,” at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Center. His visit also will include campus tours as well as gatherings hosted by President and Mrs. Gogue, the Chinese Professional Association and the Chinese Student Organization.

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“Auburn has partnered for many years with educators, businesses and other leaders from China,” Gogue said. “Our university’s strategic plan calls for more international education for our students and more international involvement by our faculty. We are very honored to have Ambassador Zhou visit our campus.”

Governor Bob Riley will host the ambassador at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday in Montgomery.
United Way campaign for 2009 kicks off with call for aid to neighbors hurt by economic recession

The 2009 United Way campaign is under way at Auburn as volunteers across campus seek to raise awareness of and funds for local charities and nonprofit social service organizations in East Alabama.

The campus United Way goal is $140,000 for the third consecutive year, with Bill Sauser of the Department of Management in the College of Business serving as chair. He is assisted by Dianne Townsend of the College of Business, Susie Hall of Auxiliary Services and nearly 30 other volunteer team leaders across campus.

The university’s United Way effort is part of a countywide campaign of the United Way of Lee County, which is raising funds to help 33 local organizations provide social services to youth groups, the elderly, victims of abuse and persons with disabilities or acute health needs as well as relief for the working poor and families hurt by the economic recession.

Campus volunteers distributed pledge cards to faculty and staff in early October for the campaign, which Sauser said is even more critical this year, due to the recession, than in better economic times. The university community normally contributes approximately 15 percent of the total countywide support in the annual fall campaign, but with the closing of the area’s largest industrial employer and contributor, B.F. Goodrich, the county campaign faces the dual obstacles of a declining base for contributions and growing numbers of families in need of assistance.

“Even in more prosperous times, these local agencies do a world of good for young people, the elderly and less fortunate in our midst,” Sauser said. “In times like these, many people who have been part of the giving community in the past are not only no longer able to give, but are, themselves, hurting and in need. If we don’t act together to help our neighbors, who will?”

He added, “This is a caring community at the university and across Lee County. It is a community where people have a tradition of stepping forward in times of need to help their less-fortunate neighbors. That is why the United Way team is so hopeful the campus community will make an extra effort this year to make sure the services are there when and where they are most needed.”

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

Local agencies receiving assistance through United Way include the Achievement Center, Alabama Child Caring Foundation, Lee County chapter of the American Red Cross, Andrew Willis Fund, Auburn City Schools Dental Clinic, Auburn Day Care Centers, Auburn Dixie League Baseball, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Lee County, Chattahoochee Council of Boy Scouts of America.


Greater Peace Child Development Center, Hospice of EAMC, Joyland Child Development Center, Junior Achievement, Lee County Literacy Coalition, Lee County Youth Development Center, National Kidney Foundation of Alabama, Project Uplift, Rape Counselors of East Alabama, Salvation Army, Unity Wellness Center and William Mason Emergency Aid Foundation.

— Ray Summerford

Taking shape
Phase II of the Shelby Center for Engineering Technology is taking shape in the northwest quadrant of campus as workers complete the frame of the future home for Mechanical Engineering and the Advanced Research Lab. Comparable in size to the existing Phase I of the Shelby Center, the new building is scheduled to open in 2011.
With the opening of Village Dining at the start of fall semester, the planned opening of Caribou Coffee in Draughon Library in early November and the opening of a renovated Foy Food Court scheduled for January, the Auburn campus is getting a wider range of locations and a greater variety of food and refreshment options.

Village Dining, beside Thach Concourse between Wallace Center and the Village student housing complex, opened concurrently with the student residence halls in August, providing convenient dining for the 1,700 Village residents as well as thousands of others on the west side of campus. Assimilating the newest developments in collegiate dining, the food court includes the O&B Grill, AU-Some Salads, Plainsman Pizza & Pasta and Rye of the Tiger specialty sandwiches. The building also houses a Caribou Coffee shop, Cub Stop convenience store, Home Plate, which offers restaurant-style ala-carte dining, and End Zone Diner for late night meals. The facility also houses the Athletic Training Table, Tiger Zone, which offers an all-you-care-to-eat breakfast and dinner.

The new dining facility seats 600, mostly in small group settings, in three dining areas.

Each food station offers selections that were developed by Chef Emil Topel to be distinctive, appetizing and not widely available in the Auburn area, said David Robinson, director of business development for Auxiliary Services, which administers the university’s contract with food-service provider Chartwells.

As examples, Robinson and Kareta Purnell, director of retail operations for Village Dining, cited specialty melts with homemade ranch potato chips at O&B Grill, homemade specialty salad dressings at AU-Some Salads, New York-style brick-oven pizzas at Plainsman Pizza & Pasta, specialty spreads for the panini-pressed or toasted flatbread sandwiches at Rye of the Tiger, chef-designed meals at Home Plate and modern twists on traditional diner foods at End Zone Diner.

In providing food service on campus, Village Dining joins the primary food venues at the Student Center, and Terrell Food Court and smaller venues at Haley Center, Dudley Hall, Lupton Hall and Draughon Library. Stacks Cafe in the basement of Draughon Library will close when Caribou Coffee shop opens in the next few weeks near the library’s main, second-floor entrance.

Food service will return to the northeast side of campus next semester with the scheduled reopening of a renovated Foy Food Court. Stations planned for that facility include a grill, salads, subs, Mexican-style foods and others. As with the food offerings, the Foy Food Court’s seating and lighting will follow some of the same themes as in Village Dining to suit current consumer tastes and be more appealing to students, faculty and staff, Robinson said.

— Roy Summerford

Campus dining locations, variety increasing with opening of new venues

Village Dining
These views show one of the seating areas and one of the food venues of the new Village Dining facility on the west side of campus, between Wallace Center and the new Village residential complex.
Greening of campus
Horticulture Professor Gary Keever examines one of the recently planted “Princeton” American elms along the Haley Center concourse. The trees are part of a long-running program in Facilities to maintain and replenish the tree canopy on campus. “Princeton” elms are vegetatively propagated, which assures a uniform appearance, and are tolerant of Dutch elm disease, the devastating disease that virtually removed American elm from the U.S. landscape in the 1930s.

New scholarship created in memory of Chinese graduate students who died in 2000

To remember two graduate students who died tragically nearly a decade ago, Auburn will present a scholarship annually to a Chinese student in the Graduate School.

The Chen-Wu Graduate Fellowship Award honors Changqing Chen and his wife, Yi Wu, who were slain in their off-campus apartment May 29, 2000. Chen was a graduate student in textile engineering, while Wu was set to begin graduate studies in electrical engineering that summer.

The Changqing Chen and Yi Wu Scholarship Memorial Fund was initiated following the deaths and was recently merged into the Auburn Family Graduate Assistantships Endowment.

“This is a very nice way to honor the students’ memories and to assist a current graduate student at Auburn,” said George Flowers, dean of the Graduate School. “We will be able to fund a full or partial graduate fellowship through the scholarship for years to come.”

Yaun Tian, a Ph.D. student in computer science and software engineering, has been chosen as the first recipient of the scholarship, which will be presented during the Oct. 20-21 visit of the Chinese ambassador, Wenzhong Zhou, to Auburn University.

Tian earned a master’s degree in computer science from Auburn and a bachelor’s degree in information engineering from Chengdu University of Technology in China. She served as a graduate teaching assistant at Auburn from August 2006-December 2008.

She was also president of the Auburn University Chinese Student and Scholar Organization for the 2007 academic year, working as a bridge between the Chinese and local communities.

The scholarship requires the recipient to be a citizen of the People’s Republic of China, be enrolled in the graduate program at Auburn for at least the past year and have a G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher.

— Natalie Nettles

Campus Calendar

Friday, October 16
World Hunger Day Event “Line up. Stand up. Speak up...Against Hunger: A Women’s Issue,” 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Haley Center Concourse
Raptor Center Program “Birds in Flight,” educational public program, 4 p.m., Southeastern Raptor Center, Raptor Road off Shug Jordan Parkway

Tuesday, October 20
Elvis’ America Film “The Girl Can’t Help It,” 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

Wednesday, October 21
Italian Heritage Lecture “Resisting Bodies: Narratives of Italian Partisan Women,” Barbara Zaczek, Clemson University, 4 p.m., Haley 2370

Thursday, October 22
Musical Theatre “A Beautiful End,” by Christian Duhamel, directed by Joseph Bates, choreography by Emily Rourke, 7:30 p.m., Theatre Upstairs at Telfair Peet Theatre; also, same time, Oct. 23-24, and 2:30 p.m. on Oct. 24

Friday, October 23
Native American Festival Native American singers, musicians, dancers, artisans, food and living campsites, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., grounds of the Jule Collins Smith Museum

Monday, October 26
Italian Heritage Event “Italian Cooking and the Slow Food Movement,” Julie Shaffer of Emory University, 4 p.m., Haley 3195
Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecture Kimberly Walls, Music Education, “Digital Technologies in Music Learning: Findings from Applied Research in Educational Settings,” 4 p.m., Shelby Center 1103

Tuesday, October 27
Awards Ceremony “Faculty Awards Celebrating Excellence,” top awards for teaching, research, outreach, 5 p.m., The Hotel at Auburn University
Elvis’ America Lecture “I Like Her But I Love Lucy,” Alice Jardine, author of “Gynesis: Configurations of Women and Modernity,” 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum
Elvis’ America Film “Baby Doll,” 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

Wednesday, October 28
Italian Heritage Film “Mac,” starring John Turturro, 4 p.m., Haley 3195

Friday, October 30
Next Auburn Report
Education professor named to select panel seeking solutions to high dropout rate in Alabama schools

A College of Education faculty member represents the only full-time university professor named to a select group that will explore ways to lower the state’s high school dropout rate.

The Alabama Legislature recently appointed Cindy Reed, a professor of educational leadership and director of the college’s Truman Pierce Institute, to the Alabama Select Commission on High School Graduation and Student Dropouts.

The commission, created by the Legislature, is charged with developing effective and specific plans for new strategies, programs and efforts to increase on-time high school graduation rates. State political and business leaders have consistently said that lowering Alabama’s high school dropout rate, which exceeds 30 percent, is critical to improving the state’s economic well-being, creating employment opportunities and lowering crime rates.

“High school dropout rates are unacceptably high in Alabama and elsewhere,” Reed said. “In my opinion, the work of the commission is incredibly important in that students who drop out of school not only limit their own opportunities in life, but their actions impact all who live in the communities around them in terms of potential economic development, crime rates and other quality of life issues.”

The commission will study the problems and patterns of high school dropouts in Alabama, as well as their educational and economic impact on the state and local communities. In addition to examining graduation and dropout rates in the state, commission members will research best practices and factors related to student success, the social and economic consequences of dropping out of school, laws and policies that must be addressed in order to develop more effective strategies and support systems for K-12 students.

The Select Commission on High School Graduation and Dropouts includes eight members of the Alabama Legislature; four state business, community and civic leaders appointed by Gov. Bob Riley; four legal, philanthropic and educational leaders identified by Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice Sue Bell Cobb; and four educational leaders, including Reed, who were chosen by Alabama State Superintendent of Education Joe Morton. State Sen. Arthur Orr serves as the commission’s chair.

“By convening a bi-partisan group with representation from multiple constituency groups, I am hopeful that we will be able to develop and then enact policies and approaches that will address the numerous issues influencing a young person’s decision about whether or not to remain in school,” Reed said.

Reed is director of the Truman Pierce Institute, a research and outreach unit of the College of Education. The institute works in partnership with local and regional school systems to reduce dropout rates through a number of initiatives, including training for student tutors participating in 21st Century Community Learning Centers and offering professional development and training opportunities for school administrators and educators.

Among the Truman Pierce Institute’s programs is “Building Individual Capacities for Success,” a high school completion/dropout prevention pilot program introduced in five high schools. Funded for four years by the AT&T Foundation, BICS programming focuses on the strengths and interests of students while offering opportunities to learn and apply lessons in leadership development, global awareness, service learning, mentoring and action research.

“Much of the work of the Truman Pierce Institute in recent years has focused on ways to learn from students what works and what does not in terms of their own learning and then find ways to overcome barriers to their learning while enhancing the conditions that facilitate their learning,” Reed said.

— Troy Johnson

Speakers, film, play examine aspects of Italian culture, influence on modern American society

Students and scholars of Italian culture are presenting a taste of Italy, literally and figuratively, this month through activities celebrating National Italian American Heritage Month.

The events include a public lecture, “Resisting Bodies: Narratives of Italian Partisan Women,” at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 21, in Haley 2370 by Barbara Zaczezk, professor and chair of the Department of Languages at Clemson University. The title is from a book co-edited by Zaczezk translating texts about the experience of partisan women against fascist and Nazi forces in war-torn Italy in 1943-45.

Italian cooking and the Slow Food movement will be the focus of an Oct. 26 program in Haley 3195 hosted by Julie Shaffer of Emory University. The 4 p.m. program will feature a chocolate tasting and public presentation with video clips about the Slow Food Movement, which promotes traditional approaches to cooking and dining as a healthful alternative to America’s fast-food culture. Shaffer is founder and leader of Slow Food Atlanta, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to sustainable food issues, and she is Southeastern regional governor of Slow Food USA.

Activities continue at 4 p.m. on Oct. 28 in Haley 3195 with screening of the John Turturro film “Mac.” The film focuses on struggles and conflicting personalities of three Italian-American brothers to hold their family together while building a small construction company following the death of their father.

Coming on Nov. 18, during International Week, will be a play, “The Long Crossing,” by Italian studies students at 5:30 p.m. in the Student Center, Rooms 2222-2223. The play is adapted from famed Italian novelist Leonardo Sciascia’s tale of harsh living conditions in late 19th century Sicily that contributed to the flight of 1.5 million Sicilians to America and other lands.

The events are hosted by the Italian studies program in the College of Liberal Arts’ Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. The Oct. 21 presentation is co-sponsored by the University Lecture Series.

— Ray Summerford
Avoiding collisions

Auburn, Ford researchers identify potential safety uses for GPS

A research project by Auburn engineers and Ford Motor Company shows that global positioning system satellites that can “talk” to cars could help prevent serious accidents.

The researchers have found potential for a GPS satellite to act as an early warning system that detects when a vehicle is about to lose control and communicate with the vehicle’s stability control systems and other safety features to prevent a rollover or other serious accident. The research findings were presented this week at the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ International Conference on Systems, Man and Cybernetics in San Antonio.

“A satellite orbiting the earth could someday prevent an auto accident,” said Gerhard Schmidt, Ford’s chief technical officer and vice president of research and advanced engineering. “We applaud the Auburn team for these advancements and look forward to working together on the next phase of this research, including developing prototype vehicles.”

The project is part of Ford’s $4 million investment in university research programs in 2009, including 16 safety projects. Auburn’s GPS and Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory, directed by mechanical engineering faculty member David Bevly, received a three-year, $120,000 grant from Ford in 2008 as part of the company’s University Research Program.

The research team is investigating the use of combining GPS and inertial measurement units data to provide precise information on a vehicle’s motion. The data could be used to improve performance of a vehicle’s electronic stability control system, a computerized technology that improves the safety of a vehicle’s stability by detecting and minimizing skids.

“Stability control is one of the most important safety technologies of this decade,” said Jeff Rupp, manager, Ford Active Safety Systems Engineering.

The project’s breakthroughs include developing algorithms combining data from sensors in Ford vehicles with data from GPS receivers. This coordination of data has led to predictive models that can calculate a vehicle’s roll angle, sideslip and velocities under various driving conditions.

— Sara Borchik

ACES receives award for publication excellence from national Business Communicators Report

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System’s Communications and Marketing Department has received a Grand Award in the 21st Annual APEX Awards for Publication Excellence.

The winning entry is the Extension System’s 2008 annual report, “Working Knowledge.” From the nearly 3,800 entries, 100 APEX Grand Awards were presented in 11 major categories to honor the outstanding works in those categories.

“The ACES annual report is created each year to highlight a few of our noteworthy successes of the past year. We chose the title ‘Working Knowledge’ to convey the essence of what Extension does in empowering Alabamians with practical knowledge to improve their lives and work,” said Carol Whatley, director of ACES Communications and Marketing.

The publication is available online from the ACES home page at www.aces.edu.

Jim Langcuster, Extension communications specialist, wrote the text for “Working Knowledge.” Other members of the creative team were June Corley, ACES freelance artist, graphic designer; Bruce Dupree, Extension communications specialist, photographer; Glenda Freeman, Extension communications editor and job manager; and Whatley, project coordinator.

In a critique of the 28-page report, the competition judges wrote:

“Targeted to key opinion leaders, this strikingly designed report grabs the reader’s attention with concise, interesting copy, superb and varied photo spreads, and deft use of personal stories keyed to each individual program. The goal is to convey successful, practical solutions. Mission accomplished!”

The international APEX awards are presented by “Writing That Works, the Business Communications Report,” prepared by Communications Concepts Inc. Awards are based on excellence in graphic design, editorial content and the success of the entry — in the opinion of the judges — in achieving overall communications effectiveness and excellence.

“Writing That Works: The Business Communications Report” is a bimonthly how-to newsletter focusing on practical business writing, editing and communications.
Grant provides assist to students in Rehab Counseling program

A five-year $750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education will enable the Rehabilitation Counseling master’s program to provide tuition and living stipends for eight students.

The project, “Preparing Rehabilitation Counselors for Customer Service Provision and Challenges and Benefits of a State Agency Career,” will prepare students for careers in vocational rehabilitation. In addition to preparing rehabilitation counselors to provide high-quality services for people with disabilities regardless of prevailing economic conditions, the initiative will also help them better utilize resources to help consumers and their families.

The project’s principal investigator, E. Davis Martin, head of the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology, said the grant will enable the College of Education to continue training highly motivated and capable professionals to improve the lives of youth and adults with disabilities through their work in non-profit community rehabilitation programs, the proprietary sector or with state and federal programs. To date, the department has received $3.375 million in U.S. Department of Education funding for its undergraduate, graduate, post-graduate and doctoral programs.

In May, the Rehabilitation Counseling master’s program received a $1 million grant from the Rehabilitation Services Administration, which will provide scholarships for 14 working rehabilitation counselors interested in obtaining their master’s degrees through distance education.

“I think one of the unique things about the rehab counseling program is that we have an undergraduate grant, we have a master’s on-campus grant, we have the distance education grant and then we have a post-master’s grant for leadership,” said Martin, who is also a Wayne T. Smith distinguished professor. “Most programs don’t offer that.”

The latest grant, which will be distributed over a five-year period, will provide for the education and training of graduate students who have not received professional experience in the field of rehabilitation counseling. The eight students in the vocational rehabilitation cohort will also interact with the 14 distance education students who will participate in classes offered in real time via streaming video.

“The distance education students are taking the same courses the on-campus people are taking,” Martin said. “The distance component is the same as the on-campus component and that really drives the quality up. The on-campus students have access to folks who are already working in the field and have experience. It enhances the education that they get.”

He continued, “The interaction they have really complements their education. It also complements the education for the people who are in distance ed because these (on-campus) people are asking questions that they typically don’t think about. I think the students really benefit.”

Martin said many students who earn their master’s degrees in the program will eventually receive opportunities to apply their skills as supervisors, assistant commissioners or commissioners.

Students with disabilities pursue degrees through grant from NSF

Researchers in an Alabama educational alliance have received a $3 million grant from the National Science Foundation to help Alabama students with disabilities earn college degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The grant was awarded to the Alabama Alliance for Students with Disabilities in STEM — Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics — which is a collaborative effort involving Alabama State University, Auburn University, Auburn University Montgomery, Tuskegee University, Central Alabama Community College, Southern Union State Community College and the Alabama Institute for the Deaf and Blind. The alliance also includes six school districts in Lee, Chambers, Elmore, Montgomery, Macon and Tallapoosa counties and has an outreach component that covers the entire state.

“This grant will help students with disabilities succeed in higher education in Alabama,” said project director Overtoun Jenda, professor of mathematics and associate provost for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs at Auburn University. “It will provide opportunities that otherwise might not be available to these students.”

The grant will fund peer-mentoring endeavors such as Bridge to the Baccalaureate and Bridge to the Post-Baccalaureate programs, as well as a Graduate Bridge program and summer research internships. It will also provide smaller grants for research-based interventions at colleges and universities and will fund technology enhancements for Alabama Science in Motion, a program that provides high-tech laboratory experiences for high school students and professional development for teachers throughout the state.

Undergraduate students with disabilities participating in the Bridge programs will receive a renewable $2,000 stipend per academic year while participants in the Graduate Bridge program and summer research internships will receive $3,500 each.
Female retired AF general to launch Women’s Leadership lecture series

The Women’s Leadership Institute at Auburn will inaugurate its Extraordinary Women Lecture Series on Nov. 3 with a presentation by retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Leslie F. Kenne.

Kenne, an Auburn graduate who held several high-level offices in the Pentagon during her 32-year military career, will speak on “Making the Most of Your Leadership Potential” at 11 a.m. in Telfair Peet Theatre.

Now the president of the Kenne Group, Kenne serves on three corporate boards as well as the Air Force Studies Board, an organization under the National Academy of Sciences which performs studies on topics selected by Air Force leadership.

Auburn, Bama competing in annual drive to generate food donations for the needy

Auburn’s Student Government Association is hosting the 16th annual Beat Bama Food Drive in cooperation with the East Alabama Food Bank. The drive began Monday and runs through Nov. 19.

The food drive accepts non-perishable food or monetary donations. Donations may be made to the SGA office or online at www.beatbamafooddrive.com. Donations may also be made at the East Alabama Food Bank at 375 Industry Drive. Call the East Alabama Food Bank at 821-9006 or send an e-mail message to ddemous@foodbankofeastalabama.com to arrange a pick-up.

Donations are distributed to emergency food pantries, families on welfare, homeless individuals, the mentally ill, disaster victims, mission and rehabilitation centers, low-income day cares and senior centers. Last year, Auburn collected 212,199 pounds of food. Auburn has won nine of the 15 food drives.

Publication ranks college’s supply chain management program in U.S. top 20

The supply chain management program in Auburn’s College of Business ranks among the nation’s Top 20, according to research findings reported in the September 2009 issue of the professional publication Supply Chain Management Review.

A follow-up to a 2005 report, the 2009 study was based on a recent survey of supply chain professionals and university educators. Respondents were asked to evaluate education programs using nine unique criteria including faculty, curricula, reputation and alumni visibility.

The Auburn program’s overall rank rose from No. 20 in 2005 to No. 17. Among practitioners, the Auburn program is ranked No. 13 among a list of 57 universities identified as national or regional leaders.

“We are very pleased with these findings,” said Joe Hanna, chair of the Department of Aviation and Supply Chain Management. “We ranked ahead of supply chain management programs at leading institutions such as the University of North Carolina, UW-Madison and Indiana University. We are also one of only three Southeastern Conference schools — Tennessee, Arkansas, and Auburn — who appear in the Top 20.”

Auburn began teaching supply chain topics including transportation, logistics, and operations management more than 30 years ago.

In 2007, the logistics and operations management programs were merged together to better align educational opportunities with industry and the college began offering a comprehensive undergraduate major in supply chain management. Today, there are close to 130 students in the program.

Auburn, Ford researchers find possible safety uses for GPS units. See Page 6.

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html