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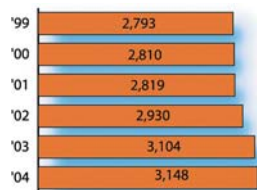
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Source: Institutional Research
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AU report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

College of Education developing preschool curriculum for China

Faculty from Auburn's College of Education are developing and introducing an international style of preschool education to a new generation of children in China.

Two teams of AU faculty and other experts are establishing model preschools in China in partnership with Simplex, one of several private corporations sanctioned by the Chinese government to revamp the country's education sector in the communist country's move toward capitalism.

One team of education experts from Auburn has developed a curriculum for Chinese children at the first stage of their education, and another team will train teachers in China and help them implement the curriculum.

AU faculty and Simplex executives involved in the "Global Bridges" program say they expect the program to expand rapidly from initial use in 2005 in a model preschool serving "First City," an upper-income residential and business section of Beijing, to Simplex-run schools throughout China.

The AU teams are unique both in the challenge they face and in their approach to that challenge, said Renee Middleton, who is coordinating the program for the College of Education, where she is director of research, human resources and outreach.

"The Chinese are opening their education system to Western culture as part of the globalization movement, but they don't want to abandon their own culture, and we did not ask them to do so," said Middleton. "Instead of simply trying to transplant American teaching philosophy and methods to the Chinese classroom, our faculty knew they would need to take a different approach."

She added, "We wanted to develop a framework that could be adapted to other countries, including our own."

Middleton, an associate professor, said the AU teams developed an international style that draws on strengths of American early childhood education, can be readily adapted to various national and regional cultures and starts preparing children at an early age for life in a global community.

"The teams have developed some things for the curriculum in China that are better than what we are doing in model schools in our own country," Middleton said, citing the use of cross-cultural and bilingual instruction for children as young as age 3.

Janet Taylor, a professor emerita and leader of the curriculum-development team, said the program's emphasis on three- to five-year-olds was no accident. (See *China connection*, page 2)

New, old look

An architect's rendering of the College of Engineering's Transportation Technology Center shows how the set of buildings on the north side of campus will adhere to new standards of traditional design for future AU buildings. Construction is scheduled to start next year and be completed by late 2007.





Autumn skies

The onset of cooler fall temperatures may bring a return of colorful sunsets such as this scene from last fall with Samford Hall in the foreground. This scene is among pictures of campus in "Twilight on the Plains," the 2005 AU calendar from Photographic Services. Calendars are available at local bookstores, Tiger Rags and Photo Services in the L Building.

China connection

(continued from page 1)

dent. "Our Chinese colleagues recognized that they needed to start at the beginning of the education cycle if they were going to truly reshape their education system."

Taylor, a widely published author on the ways by which preschool children learn, said the Auburn team members and their Chinese colleagues recognized that young children could master a second language by learning it along with their native tongue.

"This is the next best thing to being born into a bilingual household," Taylor said. "Children who start learning another language in preschool will be far ahead of those who have to wait until much later to start, if at all."

The new curriculum integrates English words into lessons in Chinese that draw from local customs and household scenes which are familiar to even the youngest children. Over the next two to three years, the interplay of the languages increases and the lessons expand beyond the household to familiar concepts in the community and beyond.

"We are fostering development of the Chinese language along with English," Taylor said. "The curriculum develops points of connection between Western and Eastern cultures and between both languages, but the point is to do this as a natural part of learning."

For example, she said, a teacher speaking in Chinese and using the new preschool curriculum could use a children's book with pictures of local animals in a class, dropping an occasional English word into the lesson. A later lesson could expand the discussion to consider animals in parts of the country outside the local area, adding more English words in the process. Still later, the lesson could extend to animals in other parts of the world, and still more words could be in English.

Taylor said U.S. schools could benefit from some

of the approaches for preschools in China. "We are very excited about designing a curriculum that provides children with better ways to understand about their place in their community, their country and the world," she said.

A second team from Auburn is working with Chinese colleagues to introduce the curriculum to preschools in China. In addition to their own work with Chinese educators, the AU team members will send instructors to China as preschool teachers and mentors to native Chinese teachers, who later will become mentors to new teachers.

The American and Chinese teachers will work together, introducing Western teaching methods to Chinese classrooms and adopting Chinese methods that could work well in the new, international framework.

Team leader Maria Witte, an assistant professor in the AU College of Education, said the participating faculty is developing the international framework from education practices and philosophies that have a solid foundation in the United States. "We know that the education component is sound, and our members have a lot of experience with it. And we are working with very accomplished teachers in China," she added.

The AU teams are developing manuals and supporting materials to help teachers learn and implement the curriculum, learning themes and teaching practices. Those materials can be readily adapted for different cultures, including the United States, team leaders say.

"The exciting part for us is to take the best of our American education system and work with our colleagues in China, who are bringing in some of the best aspects of their own culture, to create this international framework," said Witte. "We expect to have a framework that can also be used in this country or anywhere in the world."

Upcoming Events

Continuing

- Art Exhibit: "La Fotoz Hatom: Snapshots of Hungarians," unique portraits by artist Mitch Kern, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, Biggin Gallery, through Nov. 5.

Tuesday, October 19

- Meeting: Staff Council, 10 a.m., Foy 217. Guest speakers: Basketball coaches Jeff Lebo and Nell Fortner and Auburn Mayor Bill Ham.
- Distance Education Seminar: "How to Design a Hybrid Course for Distance Learners," 3 p.m., O.D. Smith Hall 328. Call 844-3476.

Wednesday, October 20

- Biggio Center Book Club: Discussion of Ernest Boyer's "Scholarship Reconsidered," noon and 5 p.m., Foy 213. For information about book purchase, e-mail thompis@auburn.edu.
- Gallery Talk: Discussion of photography of Luis Gonzalez Palma, Curator of Exhibitions Catherine Walsh, 2 p.m., JCS Museum of Fine Art.
- Reading and Book Signing: "Where Will We Be When We Get Where We're Going?," authors Anthony Warren and B.D. Mayberry discuss diversity and trust, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Foy 213.

Thursday, October 21

- Book Reading, Signing: "Haunted Halls of Ivy: Ghosts of Southern Colleges and Universities," Daniel W. Barefoot, 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m., patio tent, AU Bookstore.
- Curator's Choice Film Series: "The Manchurian Candidate (1950)," 7 p.m., auditorium, JCS Museum of Fine Art.

Friday, October 22

- HR/ACES Film Series: "Fun is Good," short film on strengthening relationships and teamwork in an organization, 11:45 a.m., Human Resources Training Facility, North Gay Street. Bring your own lunch. Contact Pat Deery at 844-4145 or Virginia Morgan at 844-5699.

Monday, October 25

- Next AU Report.



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UConn honors AU nursing dean

The University of Connecticut School of Nursing has presented its alumni award for 2004 to Barbara Shaw Witt, dean of nursing at AU and Auburn University at Montgomery.



Witt

Witt received the Beverly L. Koerner Outstanding Alumni Award for Education in Nursing this month from her alma mater.

The Connecticut institution recognized the Auburn dean for career accomplishments including leading the AU and AUM nursing schools through a merger of their administrations in 1999.

Shortly after she arrived as dean of the School of Nursing at AUM in 1998, Witt assumed responsibil-

ity for consolidating the administration of the Schools of Nursing at Auburn University and AUM. She has achieved a common undergraduate curriculum allowing sharing of instruction across campuses and is developing a joint graduate program.

The AU and AUM dean received a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut in 1963 and a master's degree from there in 1977 and later earned a doctorate in nursing education administration from Columbia University.

Before joining the AU faculty, Witt had taught at Southern Connecticut State College, St. Joseph College and the University of Hartford, where she was chair of the Division of Nursing. Other previous positions include a period as executive director of the Connecticut League for Nursing.

Hubbard to receive Sheffield Award on Saturday

Susan Sorrells Hubbard, an associate professor in the College of Human Sciences, has won the Auburn Alumni Association's Pamela Wells Sheffield Award for 2004.

Hubbard will receive the award at Auburn's home football game against the University of Kentucky on Saturday.

Named to honor a prominent 1965 AU alumna, the award goes annually to an Auburn woman who

has demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to the university. The first such award was presented to Sheffield posthumously in 1991.

Hubbard is director of the hotel and restaurant management program in the Department of Nutrition and Food Sciences. A 1987 AU graduate, she has been faculty advisor to the Cater Society since 1997, to Omicron Delta Kappa since 2001 and to Mortar Board from 1996-99.

Mowat returns to AU for presentation on Shakespeare

Barbara Mowat, director of Academic Programs at the Folger Shakespeare Library, will present a public lecture about literary influences on Shakespeare at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Mowat holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a Ph.D. in English from Auburn and is a former faculty member in the English Department and a

former editor of the Southern Humanities Review. At Auburn, she was a founding member of AU's Ascent of Man program, now called the Human Odyssey.

The lecture is part of the Department of English Symposium Series for 2004-05 and is co-sponsored by the Department of History and the College of Liberal Arts.

Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees to recognize exceptional performance. Recipients for September were, from left, Jamie Creamer of Agriculture Communications, Jean Joiner of the Department of English, Linda Payne of Building Services and, not shown, Melisa Ballard of Veterinary Medicine.



Hint of fall

The calendar says autumn started nearly a month ago, but visual signs of the season, such as these brightly colored leaves, remain rare on campus. Cooler temperatures last week offer the area's best and possibly final prospect for bright fall colors this year.



International academic society names award for AU professor

The world's largest academic publisher has endowed an award in the name of an Auburn University professor who is a leading international figure in the field of consumer behavior.

Prentice Hall Publishing has endowed the Michael R. Solomon Award for Best Paper in Consumer Behavior with the Society for Market Advances, an organization of marketing educators in the United States and abroad. The society will present the first Michael Solomon Award at its annual conference in November.

Solomon is a professor in the Department of Consumer Affairs in the College of Human Sciences. Before joining the AU faculty in 1995, he was head of the Department of Marketing at Rutgers University.

Representatives of Prentice Hall and the Society for Market Advances said the award recognizes the Auburn professor's contributions to the field of consumer behavior. Solomon is the author of the most widely used texts in the field and is one of the most widely cited authorities in consumer behavior.

"It is a wonderful way to honor someone who has given so much to the area of consumer behavior," said Irvine "Bud" Clarke III, vice president for development at the Society for Market Advances. "By providing the award, Prentice Hall and Mike Solomon's names will forever be paired on the vita of an outstanding academic."

"As publisher of Michael's marketing textbooks, which include the best selling 'Consumer Behavior,' sixth edition, and soon-to-publish 'Marketing: Real People, Real Choices,' fourth edition, we are thrilled that the SMA agrees that Michael Solomon is an educator and author deserving of being the namesake of their first consumer behavior award, said Michelle O'Brien, executive marketing manager for Prentice Hall Marketing.

"It is with great pleasure that we support Dr. Solomon's work and the SMA organization, and we look forward to meeting the first award winner at

the SMA conference in November," O'Brien added.

Having won various awards in the past for his work in consumer behavior, Solomon said he never imagined that an award would one day carry his name. "This is one of those things you never think about until it happens," he said. "Being recognized in this way by both my publisher and my peers is one of the greatest honors I have ever received."

Besides researching, writing and teaching about consumer behavior at Auburn, Solomon is frequently called upon to discuss the topic before international academic and business groups. Earlier this month, he spoke in the Czech Republic at a business conference.

At the Prague conference, he discussed "Consumer Empowerment in the Self-Service Universe." The conference, "Self-Service Universe," focused on the growing self-service phenomenon, such as ATMs and supermarket self-checkouts.

Jolly speaks on trade policies, food safety issues at Caribbean meeting

Curtis M. Jolly, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, presented an invited lecture, "Food Safety Issues in U.S.-Caribbean trade," last week at the annual meeting of the Caribbean Academy of Science.

The event on Oct. 11-14 in Trinidad and Tobago was co-sponsored by the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus.

In his presentation, Jolly noted that although the United States imports more than \$355 million of agricultural products annually from the Caribbean countries, the number of detentions and refusals of food shipments from the region is greater than that from more developed countries. Jolly said the United States is also the major exporter of food products to most of the Caribbean nations.

Provost Office designates Hurricane Ivan make-up days

The Provost's Office has designated three Saturdays — Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and Dec. 4 — as make-up days for classes canceled because of Hurricane Ivan in September.

Those days are a substitute for classes that were missed when the university closed three days due to the hurricane.

Classes that were scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 15, may be rescheduled for Oct. 30, and Thursday, Sep. 16, may be rescheduled for Nov. 6. The class day lost on Friday, Sept. 17, may be rescheduled for Dec. 4.

Direct questions concerning scheduling conflicts to your department head or dean.

HR Office seeks Spirit nominees

The Office of Human Resources encourages AU employees to nominate co-workers for the monthly Spirit of Excellence Award.

To qualify, nominees should exemplify professionalism, routinely exert extra effort and significantly contribute to the department's and the university's mission.

Link to the nomination form online at www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/forms/spirit.pdf

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