Auburn is in sound financial shape for an uncertain state and national economy, President Jay Gogue told the University Faculty on Oct. 14.

Gogue addressed the annual fall assembly of faculty during a period when national and international governments are trying to untangle a worldwide banking crisis, business leaders worry about credit markets and the stock market and state leaders warn of the consequences of reduced revenues for education.

“From the federal level or the state level, we don’t know what the future will be,” Gogue said. “But we do not expect any reduction in our new budget. We have good financial management and will fare well.”

Gogue said the university budget, which went into effect Oct. 1, was drafted with an eye toward fiscal problems at the state and national levels, and he commended Executive Vice President Don Large for sound management of the university’s finances.

Higher education absorbed a 12 percent reduction in state appropriations in the 2008-09 state education budget. In addition, tax revenues during the summer and fall have been below last spring’s projections, which were the basis for the education budget passed by the Alabama Legislature in early summer.

Even if state tax revenues decline enough to force proration of Alabama’s education budget, the university will protect its academic departments from cuts in their operating budgets, he said.

Although some universities are freezing hiring and travel in response to the current state budget cuts or in anticipation of an additional cut this academic year, Gogue said it is unlikely Auburn would do the same. Such actions should be avoided because they could hamper academic progress, he said.

Instead of retrenching, Auburn is turning its attention to improving overall academic quality, Gogue said. He noted that a sign of progress is the record ACT average, 25.9, for this year’s freshman class. The number, which eclipsed last year’s university record 24.8 freshman ACT average, is a good sign for the future, he added.

A well-prepared freshman class is a first step toward raising graduation rates, which Gogue cited as a widely used measure of education quality. Observing that Auburn’s graduation rate has remained level for several years, in the low 60s on a percentage basis, and has dipped slightly from a decade ago, he said the university needs to raise its graduation rate into the low 70s if it is to raise its academic reputation to a higher level.

The key, he said, is to make sure students are prepared for their academic studies and encourage them to stay on track.

New, existing health-related services for faculty, staff join forces at new Healthy Tigers Web site

Auburn faculty and staff now have a one-stop center on the Web for health and wellness information and services.

Online at www.auburn.edu/healthytigers, the Healthy Tigers site is the new Web-based home for the university’s wellness program. The site provides information, including links and contacts, on all programs and services related to wellness and health for Auburn employees. Also available is a chart with links to health-related resources in the schools, colleges and other units on campus.

The Healthy Tigers site contains information on Auburn’s programs for disease management, fitness (including fitness assessment), health programs, medical care, medication therapy and health screenings. Also available are updates on health offerings, such as flu shots, and new health-related programs as they are introduced.

Faculty and staff members who want to improve their physical condition, treat current conditions such as diabetes or high blood pressure or take preventative measures to reduce their risk of future health problems may join the Healthy Tigers program through the Web site.

Participants start with an online health assessment and a biometric screening. The screening checks for blood pressure, fasting blood glucose level, cholesterol levels, body mass index and waist circumference. Participants then receive a free, private health assessment report.

For information by telephone, call 844-4183.
Commission provides definition of ‘diversity’ for strategic plan

The Auburn University Multicultural Diversity Commission has created the following working definition of “diversity” that will be used to establish institutional expectations for the support of diversity as a core value at Auburn University:

“Diversity at Auburn University encompasses the whole of human experience and includes such human qualities as race, gender, ethnicity, physical ability, nationality, age, religion, sexual orientation, economic status and veteran status. These and other socially and historically important attributes reflect the complexity of our increasingly diverse student body, local community and national population.

“Auburn University recognizes and values the considerable educational benefits emanating from diversity as we prepare our students for life and leadership in a multicultural world. Students who interact with and learn about people from a variety of backgrounds are more apt to understand, appreciate and excel in the community they inhabit. In this context, diversity is aligned with Auburn University’s land grant mission of providing its students with a superior education in service to the needs of Alabama, the nation and the world.”

Italian director, Auburn faculty member to discuss true story of Mafia in Sicily

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is presenting a public program on Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 20-21, examining the impact of the Mafia on the people of Sicily.

The presentations, in Haley 3105, feature documentary films and discussion by the films’ director, Anthony Fragola, and Sicily-native Giovanna Summerfield of the department’s Italian language section.

Fragola’s brief film “Another Corleone, Another Sicily,” starts the program at 5:15 p.m. Monday. The documentary describes the ongoing struggles of the residents of the small village of Corleone. The town is portrayed in Francis Ford Coppola’s “The Godfather” as the birthplace of the fictional American mob boss Vito Corleone.

The film about Corleone will be followed at 6:15 p.m. by “I cento passi” (The 100 Steps), a film directed by Marco Tullio Giordana describing the anti-Mafia crusade of Giuseppe Impastato until his death in 1978. The film’s title refers to the number of steps from Impastato’s house to that of Mafia boss Tano Badalamenti in the village of Cinisi.

The Sicily film program continues on Tuesday with Fragola’s short film “A Beautiful Memory: A Mother and Her Sons Against the Mafia” at 4:30 p.m., followed at 5:10 p.m. by a discussion with Fragola and Summerfield.

The Auburn Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Deedie Dowdle. Auburn Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Communications and Marketing contributing editors, writers and photographers: Mike Clardy, Katie Wilder, Charles Martin, Neali Vann, Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Humble. Other contributors are based in colleges and schools throughout the university.

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Perspectives

Faculty, student surveys reveal similar, different points of view

Recent surveys of Auburn faculty and students are providing new perspectives on academics at the university.

Auburn was one of more than 750 colleges and universities participating in the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement, usually referred to as NSSE. For the first time, Auburn this year also administered the companion Faculty Survey of Student Engagement, or FSSE.

The results of both surveys will help the university and individual faculty members identify areas for improvement in teaching, communication and related areas, said Drew Clark, director of Institutional Research and Analysis. These surveys differ significantly from surveys used in the news media to rank colleges and universities, he added.

The National Survey of Student Engagement is the leading national source of information about how students spend their time, how involved they are in proven significant from surveys used in the news media to rank colleges and universities, said Clark.

The results of both surveys will help the university and individual faculty members identify opportunities for improving aspects of the undergraduate experience, both inside and outside the classroom,” he said.

“Although NSSE results are increasingly visible to prospective students and their parents, these are not surveys for rankings,” said Clark, noting that league tables such as those conducted by U.S. News & World Report are based on indirect, and sometimes irrelevant, measures of educational quality.

“Too often, such rankings offer little help to faculty and administrators who want to ensure that they are encouraging students to engage in educational behaviors that produce the desired outcomes of a college education,” he explained.

“What students learn depends on what they do,” he continued. “The information these surveys generate can be used to improve the education our students receive. That is our main concern.”

Clark said feedback from these two surveys and future surveys will enable the faculty — as well as the Provost’s Office and educational support services such as the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning — to measure progress and make adjustments as necessary.

The National Survey of Student Engagement collects information on how much time freshmen and seniors devote to study and how else they spend their time. The survey also gathers data on the kinds of intellectual activities their classes require; how much contact they have with faculty members; how often they take advantage of enrichment activities such as study abroad, service learning or student government; how they grade their own progress in terms of knowledge and skill; and how satisfied they are with their educational experience.

The NSSE survey does provide comparisons among institutions but in a context more suitable for academic enhancement than the data produced by U.S. News and similar publications, he said.

“From these NSSE details emerges a general picture of the institution’s level of academic challenge, its encouragement of active and collaborative learning and student-faculty interaction, and the extent to which it provides enriching educational experiences and supportive campus environment,” said Clark. “Because so many colleges now use the NSSE survey, Auburn’s results can be reliably compared with those from peer institutions and the nation.”

He added, “As valuable as this information is, combining it with the perspective of faculty members is even more helpful.”

To gain that perspective, Auburn last spring participated for the first time in the Web-based Faculty Survey of Student Engagement. The survey had 461 respondents for a 40 percent response rate. Respondents answered questions about the structure of specific courses they teach and the students in them. Of Auburn faculty who responded, 125 based their answers on lower-division courses and 278 on upper-division courses, with 58 not specifying a course level.

In some areas, the 2008 NSSE and FSSE surveys revealed considerable and perhaps predictable gaps between the views of faculty and students, Clark said. For example, large majorities of both freshmen and seniors thought that Auburn places a lot of emphasis on the importance of studying and doing academic work, while only half of faculty respondents agreed. “Perhaps this is because faculty would like to see students spend about six hours per week preparing for their class but estimate, accurately, that the real figure is about half that much,” he said.

Clark said other differences are more surprising. While only 30 percent of faculty said their courses place a lot of emphasis on memorization, 75 percent of freshmen and 62 percent of seniors say their courses have such an emphasis.

While downplaying memorization, 90 percent of faculty respondents emphasized how important they consider it for students to learn something that changes the way they understand an issue or concept. Much smaller proportions of students reported that they often have this experience (59 percent of freshmen, 66 percent of seniors). “Knowing about these gaps in perception may prompt faculty to talk more directly with students about the kinds of learning they really value,” said Clark.

Despite some differences, the two surveys suggest that for the most part students devote energy to those educational activities that most faculty members on a given campus consider to be valuable. Clark said this is especially true of enriching activities that may not be formal program requirements. For example, approximately 80 percent of Auburn faculty said it was important for students to complete a practicum, internship or similar real-world experience as part of their education, and about 75 percent of seniors said they had done so or still planned to do so.

By contrast, fewer than half of faculty respondents said that it was important for students to have other enriching experiences such as study abroad or participation in a learning community. Predictably, students reported much lower levels of these activities, with just 20 percent of seniors saying that they had studied abroad and 35 percent saying they had participated in a learning community. “When faculty members send strong messages about the kinds of educational experiences they value,” Clark said, “it appears that students are prepared to listen.”

Additional results of the 2008 NSSE and FSSE surveys are posted online at http://oira.auburn.edu.

— Roy Summerford
Forum on Tuesday asks: Should service be part of our mission?

Should a university foster diversity and democracy and produce responsible citizens? Is this a part of its public mission? Educator and author Stanley Fish argues against that mission in his provocative new book, “Save the World on Your Own Time.”

A forum at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in Broun 239 will examine Fish’s questions from the perspectives of Auburn faculty.

Fish, who is a literary theorist, educator, legal scholar and New York Times columnist, argues that there is but one proper role for the academe in society: to advance bodies of knowledge while equipping students to do the same. But, forum organizers ask, how does that square with Auburn’s frequently stated commitment of service to all Alabamians and goal of producing students who are informed and engaged citizens of the United States and the world?

A discussion board is available online at www.cla.auburn.edu/savetheworld/ and includes links to Fish’s New York Times op-ed column titled “Why We Built the Ivory Tower,” a recent interview on National Public Radio and information on his new book.

The panel will include Royrickers Cook, assistant vice president for University Outreach; Christa Slaton, College of Liberal Arts’ associate dean for educational affairs, professor of political science and winner of the 2007 Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach; and Al Head, executive director of the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

The discussion board and event are sponsored by the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities. Call 844-4946 for more information.

— Mark Wilson

Llanes named to board of California school

Jose Llanes, head of the College of Education’s Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology, has been named to the board of trustees of the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology.

A private, independent institution in Palo Alto, Calif., the Pacific Graduate School of Psychology offers undergraduate programs in business psychology and psychology and social action, as well as master’s programs in forensic psychology and distance learning.

Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

New location

The Auburn University Federal Credit Union will be open for business at its new location on Monday, Oct. 27. Replacing its old quarters on East Magnolia Avenue, the Credit Union’s new, larger building at the corner of South Donahue Drive and East University Drive will include four drive-through lanes and 70 parking spaces.

Campus Calendar

**Monday, October 20**

**Sicily Films and Discussion** “Another Corleone, Another Sicily,” 5:15 p.m., and “I cento passi,” (The 100 steps), 6:15 p.m., discussion between the films by documentary director Anthony Fragola and Giovanna Summerfield of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Haley 3195

**Tuesday, October 21**

**Gallery Talk** “John James Audubon’s Birds of America,” JCSM academic intern Katie Hanson, noon, Jule Collins Smith Museum

**Education Issues Forum** “Should Diversity, Democracy and Responsible Citizenship be a Part of Auburn University’s Mission?” discussion of issues raised in Stanley Fish’s book “Save the World on Your Own Time,” 3 p.m., Broun 239

**Sicily Film and Discussion** “A Beautiful Memory: A Mother and Her Sons Against the Mafia,” 4:30 p.m., followed at 5:10 p.m. by discussion by director Anthony Fragola and Giovanna Summerfield, Haley 3195

**Independent Filmmakers Series** “Counting Backwards,” Aprill Winney’s narrative feature about physical and mental challenges faced by a man coping with leukemia, 7:30 p.m., auditorium, Jule Collins Smith Museum

**Wednesday, October 22**

**Green Lunch Series** “Rednecks, Radicals and Cautious Souls: Multiple Voices of Alabama’s Environmental Movement,” Conner Bailey of Rural Sociology, noon, Student Union 2216; bring your lunch

**Tuesday, October 28**

**Disability Awareness Speaker** “Accepting the Challenge of Leadership,” motivational speaker TyKiah Wright, noon, Student Center 2222

**Wednesday, October 29**

**JCSM Film Series** “Under the Pavement Lies the Strand,” set in Communist East Germany in the 1960s, 2:30 p.m., auditorium, Jule Collins Smith Museum

**Friday, October 31**

**Native American Festival** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

**Philosophy Film Series** “Fight Club,” major Hollywood release examining male identity, 6 p.m., Haley 1203; discussion to follow

**Saturday, November 1**

**Native American Festival** 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

**Monday, November 3**

Next Auburn Report: see page 2 of this edition for submission information

**Exhibitions**

**Jule Collins Smith Museum** “The Indian Gallery of Henry Inman,” paintings, prints and artifacts focused on Southeastern Creek and Cherokee leaders and warriors of the early 1800s, through Nov. 8; “Visions of Victory,” classic and historic sports photos, through Nov. 29
Alumni awards
The Auburn Alumni Association presented Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards and recognized new Alumni Professors at the faculty awards ceremony on Oct. 9. Tanja Matthews of the Alumni Association, at left in each photo, is shown with teaching award winners, above, from left, Ed Williams of Journalism and Communication, Kelly Bryant of Industrial Design and Joey Shaw of Agronomy and Soils. New Alumni Professors, below, are Susan Brinson of Communication and Journalism, Steve Duke of Chemical Engineering, Joey Shaw, John Saye of Curriculum and Teaching and Daniel Givens of Pathobiology.

Graduate School award
Provost John Heilman, above at right, recognized Bernhard Kaltenboeck, left, of Pathobiology as recipient of the Graduate School’s 2008 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship. The award recognizes a member of the Graduate Faculty for a distinguished record of research, teaching and producing outstanding graduate students.

Auburn joins program to boost minority doctorates
The National Science Foundation has selected Auburn as one of 18 sites in the nation for the foundation’s 2008-10 Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Bridge to the Doctorate program.

The program provides funding to underrepresented minority students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines for the first two years of their graduate studies as part of an effort to increase the number of domestic minority Ph.D.’s in these fields.

Other 2008-10 Bridge to the Doctorate universities include Arizona State, UCLA, LSU, North Carolina State, Oklahoma State, Florida and Maryland.

The Auburn site will receive $1 million over two years to support fourteen Bridge to the Doctorate Fellows in biological sciences, computer science and software engineering, industrial and systems engineering, electrical engineering, nutrition and food science, mathematics and statistics. Fellowship recipients come from Alabama State, Alabama A&M, Auburn, Birmingham-Southern, California State University at Dominguez Hills, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina A&T, New Mexico State, Rensselaer and Texas A&M.

Museum series features films on life in 1968 East Germany, Kubrik’s vision of the now-past future
Three films that explore key political, scientific and artistic innovations of the year 1968 are featured this fall in free screenings for the public at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Next up in the series is “Under the Pavement Lies the Strand,” at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 29. The drama examines the life of a politically motivated East German couple who become caught up in student protests for change behind the Iron Curtain in the late sixties and their uneasy acceptance of the state’s continuing control of their lives in the next decade.

Later in the semester, the series will present Stanley Kubrik’s 1968 classic “2001: A Space Odyssey,” scheduled for 2 p.m. Nov. 19. The iconic science fiction film elevated special effects to the level of art in film while confronting mainstream audiences with obtuse themes about the origins of life, amoral technology and the role of humans in the universe.

The film series is sponsored by the Jule Collins Smith Museum, the colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Mathematics and the departments of English, Foreign Languages, History and Political Science.
National academy designates Gilbert for membership

Juan Gilbert, TSYS associate professor in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, has been designated a National Associate of the National Research Council of the National Academy of Science for a lifetime appointment.

Gilbert’s appointment comes at the beginning of Auburn’s push to bring more members of prestigious academies to its campus. The university’s strategic plan, approved by its Board of Trustees in June, calls for increasing the number of members of preeminent academies among its faculty. President Jay Gogue said the presence of such faculty distinguishes leading national universities, helping them attract the best students and other top faculty to their institutions.

Engineering Dean Larry Benefield noted that competition for positions in these academies is rigorous. “Dr. Gilbert’s selection speaks volumes of not only his work, but also the caliber of faculty that call Auburn University home,” Benefield said. “We are exceptionally proud of Juan and the research he does in our college.”

The National Academies originated in 1863, when a congressional charter signed by President Abraham Lincoln created a private, nonprofit institution comprised of experts in the areas of science, health and technology from which national leaders and the general public have since sought critical advice. Today, the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council are the four organizations that comprise the institution.

“This service is valued, honored and appreciated both within the National Academies and by the nation,” said Ralph J. Cicerone, president of the National Academy of Sciences and chair of the National Research Council. “Our work in advising government and the public on matters of science, technology and health would not be possible without these contributions.”

— Sara Borchik

Department of Energy grant aids fuel cell research in Engineering

Jeffrey Fergus, an associate professor of materials engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, has received a $420,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to study materials used to improve the performance of solid oxide fuel cells.

With additional funding over the next two years, the grant will total almost $450,000. Fergus’ research is part of the larger national effort to develop clean, efficient fuel cells. To date, work in this area has focused primarily on polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells.

“As our country works to end its dependence on foreign oil, research into alternative fuels becomes more critical,” said U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

After dark

The southeast quadrant of campus takes on an otherworldly glow at night. In this scene, from atop Haley Center, Pharmacy’s W.W. Walker Hall, center, is surrounded by the orange and white glow of lights from nearby buildings, parking areas and streets. Among the most visible buildings, Thach Hall is on the right edge of this photo and the Lowder Building and Shelby Center are visible behind the Pharmacy building. The photo is among those featured in “Twilight on the Plains,” the university’s 2009 calendar produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing and available at local bookstores and Photographic Services in Foy Hall.

Film series features works by independent directors in South

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will present the second film at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21, in a monthly series of independent films and documentaries on topics not normally available in commercial films.

The presentations are part of 2008-09 Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers, in cooperation with the nonprofit Southern Arts Federation. The film series is presented in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

Tuesday’s film is “Counting Backwards,” a narrative feature examining the life of a man with leukemia. Directed by Aprill Winney, the film tells the story of his inner struggle to change his life and embrace romance and passion in the time he has left to live.

Later films in the series include “The Meaning of Tea,” by Scott Chamberlin-Hoyt on Nov. 11, examining the role of tea in various cultures; “Member of the Club: A New Orleans Cinderella Story” by Phoebe Ferguson on Feb. 17, a documentary about a debutante who has been groomed since infancy to be a Mardi Gras queen, and “All About Us” by Christine and Michael Swanson on March 24, about two young African American filmmakers who find contrasting experiences between Hollywood and Mississippi.

The series will conclude on April 14 with “A Man Named Pearl” by Scott Galloway. A documentary about creativity centered around self-taught topiary artist Pearl Fryar.

The film series began Sept. 16 with “Ripe for Change,” a documentary about the intersection of food and politics in California.

All showings are at the museum on South College Street, with each feature starting at 7:30 p.m. For patrons who want dinner and a movie, the JCSM Cafe is will offer a specialty buffet for $15 per person from 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m. before each film presentation.

— Colleen Bourdeau
**Campus News Briefs**

**President discusses strategic plan in online video**

Information about Auburn’s new strategic plan, including a video question-and-answer segment with President Jay Gogue, is now available online.

In the video segment, Gogue discusses the importance and role of the strategic plan, which the president submitted and the Board of Trustees adopted in June after months of development and input from students, faculty, staff, alumni and others. The plan establishes short- and long-range objectives for the Auburn and Montgomery campuses in six key areas: undergraduate education; graduate education and research; extension and outreach; faculty and staff development; operational efficiency; and financial resources.

The strategic plan is available online at www.auburn.edu/strategicplan. Gogue’s comments on video are at www.auburn.edu/administration/president.

**Technology Transfer relocates to Research Park**

The Office of Technology Transfer has relocated to the Auburn Research Park. The new address is 570 Devall Dr., Auburn, AL 36832. The office phone number remains the same, 844-4977, and the fax number remains 844-5963.

**Toomer’s Corner oak seedlings going on sale**

The School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences will sell Toomer’s Corner oak trees Saturday, Nov. 8, at the school during its homecoming.

The seedling trees sell for $60 each and are direct descendents of the two oaks at Toomer’s Corner. The trees come with a certificate of authenticity, which tells the history of the Toomer’s Corner oak trees, planting instructions and a roll of Auburn toilet paper. Proceeds from the trees are divided among the Forestry Club, The Wildlife Society and the Toomer’s Oak Leadership Endowment for scholarships. You may also purchase a Toomer’s Corner Oak online by logging on to www.TigerRags.com or by calling 844-1001.

**Early Learning Center accepting applications**

The Early Learning Center on campus is accepting applications for the 2009-10 academic year in the morning 3-year-old class, morning 4-year-old class and the afternoon mixed-age (3-5 years old) class.

Operated by the College of Human Sciences’ Department of Human Development and Family Studies, the center is a nationally accredited preschool across from Haley Center. The center serves children ages 3-5 in half-day, three-hour sessions. Children should be age 3 by Sept. 1 of the year they start and should be toilet trained. Classes meet 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Children enrolled in both a morning class and an afternoon class may stay for lunch and rest from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. For enrollment information, call 844-4696.

**Outdoor U set for Oct. 30 near Student Center**

The College of Agriculture and the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences are teaming up again this year to present the second annual Outdoor U.

The event, which focuses on career and recreational opportunities in the great outdoors, is set for Thursday, Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., in the area between Jordan-Hare Stadium and the new Student Center. For more information, contact Katie Jackson at smithch@auburn.edu or Deborah Solie at das0002@auburn.edu.

**Ecology Preserve to host Wine and Cheese Hike**

The Forest Ecology Preserve will host a two-hour Fall Wine and Cheese Hike at 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Tickets are $20 for members and $25 for non-members. Tickets are limited to 30, and all proceeds go to support the Forest Ecology Preserve. For directions or ticket information call Jennifer Lolley at 707-6512.

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**EPA designation**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has designated Auburn as a Center of Excellence for Watershed Management. Signing a memorandum of understanding were, from left, Trey Glenn, director of the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Jay Gogue, president of Auburn University, and Jim Giattina, director of the EPA Region 4 Water Management Division.

**Auburn, EPA sign document for watershed management**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency designated Auburn as a Center of Excellence for Watershed Management on Oct. 7, an action that Auburn President Jay Gogue said will enhance the university’s efforts to address water quality and availability issues in Alabama and the region.

Auburn is only the fourth Center of Excellence to be designated in the Southeast and the first in the state of Alabama.

Gogue and officials from the EPA and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize the partnership among Auburn, the EPA and ADEM.

“We appreciate this opportunity to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management to help manage water resources as prudently as possible, with an eye toward conservation and increased availability,” said Gogue. “Auburn has a broad array of expertise to contribute to these efforts.”

The EPA program works with colleges and universities to provide communities with hands-on, practical products and services to solve watershed problems, such as pollution control and water availability. EPA officials said the benefits of being a recognized Center of Excellence include technical assistance from the agency and EPA letters of support for grant opportunities.

Auburn’s role will be administered through its Water Resources Center under the direction of the university’s Natural Resources Management & Development Institute. The university also will rely on affiliated academic departments, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama Agriculture Experiment Station, Alabama Water Watch, as well as non-AU affiliated groups like the Alabama Clean Water Partnership.

— Charles Martin
Auburn Report

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Achievements

The Auburn Alumni Association will present its 2008 Minority Achievement Award on Nov. 8 to Shirley Scott-Harris, director of the AT&T Minority Engineering Program in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

The award recognizes Scott-Harris for her contributions toward attracting, retaining and improving the graduation rates of minority students at Auburn. She will receive the award at the association’s annual MAIN (Minority Alumni Involvement Now) Event brunch at the Auburn President’s Home.

Bogdan Wilamowski, a professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received the Commander Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland from President Lech Kaczynski.

The award recognizes outstanding service in increasing the number of international scientific collaborations, and for achievements in microelectronics and computer science. Wilamowski, director of the Alabama Micro/Nano Science and Technology Center, is the most recognized Polish electronics and computer scientist in the United States and in 2007 was elected as the honorary chair of the Hungarian Academy of Science.

Roy Broughton, former Philpott Stevens Distinguished Professor of Textile Engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, recently received awards from two organizations at the International Nonwovens Technical Conference in Houston.

Broughton, who recently retired after 32 years at Auburn, was recognized with the Rhom and Haas Prize for leadership and service to the Nonwovens Division of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry and the INDA Lifetime Service Award. Also, Broughton and coauthors from the University of Tennessee earned a session best paper recognition for “Production and Evaluation of Meltblown Poly(phenylene sulfide).”

Ann Beth Presley, an associate professor in the Department of Consumer Affairs, has received the Educator of the Year award from the International Textile and Apparel Association.

A faculty member in the College of Human Sciences since 1992, she teaches and conducts research in textile and apparel production, management and history, particularly in relation to women’s changing role in society. Presley is also active in the college’s development of activities mixing study and travel for students.

James Barth, Lowder Eminent Scholar in Finance in Auburn’s College of Business, gave a presentation, “Demystifying the Mortgage Meltdown: What it Means for Main Street, Wall Street and the U.S. Financial System,” at a forum hosted by the Milken Institute on Oct. 2 in Santa Monica, Calif.

Barth has also been interviewed about the financial crisis by reporters and hosts on Fox Business, Fox News, National Public Radio, and Federal News Network, in addition to several newspapers and business magazines.

Denise Davis-Maye, an associate professor in the College of Liberal Arts’ Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work, has been invited to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s New Connections Research and Coaching Clinic. The clinic will coincide with the 2008 American Public Health Association conference in San Diego.

The New Connections program is designed to expand the diversity of perspectives related to the foundation’s programming and introduce new researchers and scholars to the foundation. Davis-Maye’s research focuses on the psychosocial and physical health attributes and concerns of African-American females.

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The AuburnUniversity Federal Credit Union is moving to a new location. See page 4.

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

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