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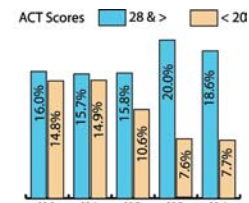
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How AU Stacks Up

Percent of freshmen in high and low ranges of ACT scores at AU



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

Updates between issues @

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

AU FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report

Halloween

The high point of Halloween in East Alabama is the annual Pumpkin Carve at AU's College of Architecture, Design and Construction. This photo from last year shows students using their design skills to transform a batch of pumpkins into unique jack-o-lanterns. The event this year will be Friday. See page 2 for details of this year's event and some unique designs from the past.



Paperless hiring, training

Human Resources cited as IT leader

The AU Office of Human Resources was cited this month by a national professional association as the South's leader in use of information technology in human resource programs.

In presenting its 2004 Excellence in Human Resource Practices Award for the Southern Region to AU Human Resources, the College and University Professional Association for Human Resources cited the AU department for advances in electronic technology to improve its operations and services.

The award recognizes administrative practices that improve the quality of human resource programs and services in colleges and universities across the nation.

In one of three primary uses of technology in service-delivery, the AU department's new online employment system removes the need for most paper records from the hiring process.

The department also created a supervisor's orientation program covering topics such as budgeting, human resources record-keeping, equal employment opportunity law and affirmative action, student employment, risk management and other top-

ics. The information is available on compact disks that enable new supervisors to complete the orientation at their own pace.

Also, AU Human Resources implemented an electronic training management system that allows employees to register for training and track their histories and progress entirely online.

"Moving as much as possible to automated processes has allowed HR to deliver greatly enhanced services to our clients," said Lynne Hammond, assistant vice president for human resources at Auburn.

Hammond said the online systems have improved efficiency and effectiveness in recruitment, selection, training, supervisory orientation and Equal Opportunity Employment reporting.

"Response to the systems has been overwhelmingly positive," she said, "so much so that HR has been asked to facilitate recruitment processes and utilize the training registration system for other training programs conducted outside of the human resource development program."

Students to put their creative skills into Halloween event

Auburn's 16th annual Pumpkin Carve, featuring hundreds of elaborately carved jack-o-lanterns, will be Friday in Dudley Courtyard, with public viewing of the "spooktacular" from 6 p.m.-8 p.m.



Hosted by the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction, the event highlights the creativity of the college's students and other students from across campus who join the competition.

University and local civic and business leaders will judge the jack-o-lanterns on creativity, appearance and craftsmanship.

During the public viewing, industrial design students will paint children's faces, the Historic Preservation Guild will sell chili and landscape architecture students will have a bake sale. Activities also include costume competition for children and a trick-or-treat visit by Aubie.

Event organizers will announce winners of the pumpkin design contest and will hold a silent auction to sell the ornately designed pumpkins at 7 p.m. Jack-o-lanterns not sold in the auction and uncarved pumpkins will be available for purchase afterward.

The event is sponsored by the AU Chapter of the American Institute for Architecture Students. The proceeds will enable Auburn students to attend the AIAS Forum in New Orleans in January.

"Without the internal support of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction and Auburn University and external support from local businesses we could not do the pumpkin carve on its current scale," said Melissa Schricker, president of the Auburn AIAS chapter.



"The pumpkin carve has grown from a small student competition to a community event that attracts hundreds of people," noted Dan Bennett, dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

"Each year visitors are amazed at the traditional Halloween and current-event themes that are used by our students in their designs for the pumpkin carve," Bennett added.



Revival of Gardner musical opens in Chicago

From his lofty, glassed-in office on the top floor of Telfair Peet Theatre, among the treetops, Worth Gardner has more than one reason to feel on top of the world.

That's because "Sing Hallelujah!" — a gospel musical he created in 1982 with Don Lawrence, then Gardner's student at the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music, just opened in Chicago, nearly 20 years after it was first produced in 1986.

The musical was first produced at the Cincinnati Playhouse. "Sing Hallelujah!" then ran off Broadway to rave reviews in 1987.

Earlier this year, Gardner returned to Cincinnati to reprise the show to coincide with that city's opening of the Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The show's run in Cincinnati was successful, and earlier this month "Sing Hallelujah!" opened in Chicago's Center for the Performing Arts.

"If there's a slicker, faster-paced, better-sung show in town right now than this commercially produced affair at the Chicago Center for the Perform-



ing Arts, I surely haven't seen it. And on a matinee last weekend, it sent an audience into a happy state of self-induced euphoria," stated Chicago Tribune arts reporter Chris Jones.

The cast includes five gospel vocalists and five instrumentalists. But the show in Chicago is not quite the same show that ran off-Broadway, nor quite the same as the 1987 original production in Cincinnati.

"I have sort of a curse," said Gardner. "If I have to do a show over, I can't replicate it. It's not that I don't want to. It just seems silly because the circumstances are different."

The Theatre Department chair says he is happy that his creativity has resulted in an outreach opportunity for himself and the university. "I think that any time we have an opportunity to expand and exhibit our scholarship with collaborators in other regions, we should do so," he said.

"Others in academia come together in colloquia or a symposium, and here it happens to be in performance," he added.

Gardner noted that the play has its roots in the Southern tradition of gospel music. "I think any positive gesture inspires other voices to sing and brings a new participation in accessing a part of our power that may not be quantifiable."

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 26

- Author's Reading: "In the Midst of Life: A Hospice Volunteer's Story," Charles Rose, 4:10 p.m., auditorium, JCS Museum of Fine Art.

Thursday, October 28

- Slide Show: "Indians of the Southwest," Lee Marmon, 2 p.m., Foy 213.
- Public Lecture: "Technology, Teaching and Learning in the Classroom and Beyond," T. Mills Kelly, associate director of Center for History and New Media, George Mason University, 3 p.m., Foy 217.

Friday, October 29

- American Indian Festival: "Living history" exhibits and demonstrations of American Indian culture, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., grounds of JCS Museum of Fine Art. Also Saturday.
- Gallery Talk: "Images of the Southwest," Lee Marmon, 5 p.m., Telfair Peet Gallery.
- Pumpkin Carve: Hundreds of Halloween jack-o-lanterns on display, 6 p.m.-8 p.m., Dudley Courtyard.
- Alfred Hitchcock Cinema Night: "Vertigo," 6 p.m., "Psycho," 8:30 p.m., auditorium, JCS Museum of Fine Art.
- Concert: "Dixie Breeze," bluegrass, gospel and American Indian music, 7 p.m., Foy Ballroom.

Sunday, October 31

- Workshop: Researching American Indian genealogy, 1 p.m.-3 p.m., Archives Room, Draughon Library. Seating is limited; call 844-2976 for reservations.
- Seminar: "American Indian History and Culture of the Southeast," various speakers, 3 p.m.-5 p.m., auditorium, Draughon Library.

Monday, November 1

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, November 2

- Human Resources Seminar: "Balancing Work and Family," Scott Ketring, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., HR Training Facility, North Gay Street. Open to all AU employees. For registration information, see HR web page or call 844-7939.
- Littleton-Franklin Lecture: "Warped Passages: The Search for Extra Dimensions in the Universe," Physics Professor Lisa Randall of Harvard, 4 p.m., Science Center auditorium.
- Museum After Hours: Music in museum gardens, 5:30 p.m., showing of Emmy-winning documentary "Homage to Chagall," 7 p.m., auditorium, JCS Museum of Fine Art. Admission charged. Call 844-1484.



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Weekend festival celebrates American Indian heritage

AU will host its third annual War Eagle American Indian Festival this weekend.

The main event will be a celebration of American Indian culture from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, featuring exhibits and demonstrations outside the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Demonstrations of American Indian crafts and activities at "living history" sites will include flint knapping, pine basketry, wood carving, beading, floor cloth-making, finger-weaving, cooking, tanning, archery, hatchet-throwing and blow-pipe shooting.

The White Horse Singers will perform the festival drum, and the Echota Deer Clan Dance Team will perform traditional social dances.

Festival vendors will offer bead work, handmade leather goods, pottery, jewelry, flutes, dolls, clothing and other items. Other vendors will offer traditional American Indian and modern foods.

Festival-related activities start Thursday with a slide show and discussion of Southwestern tribal culture at 2 p.m. in Foy 213 by Arizona photojournalist Lee Marmon.

An exhibit of Marmon's photography opens Thursday in the upstairs gallery of Telfair Peet Theatre. A photographer in the Southwest for 50 years, Marmon will discuss his work at 5 p.m. in a "Gallery Talk" at the theatre. The exhibit will run through Nov. 23.

Also on Friday, the musical group "Dixie Breeze"

will perform a concert of bluegrass, gospel and American Indian music in Foy Ballroom at 7 p.m. The program includes showing of the documentary "The Battle of Horse-shoe Bend" during the concert's intermission.

On Sunday, festival activities at Draughon Library will include a workshop on researching American Indian genealogy and a seminar on the history and culture of Indians of the Southeast. Space is limited for the 1 p.m. workshop in the Archives Room; call 844-2976 to reserve a place.

Speakers at a 3 p.m. public seminar in the library's auditorium will discuss Southeastern Indian women, American Indian health and healing, American Indian heritage of East Alabama and archaeological studies of a historic Creek Indian village in the area.

Admission to all events is free. Sponsors at AU are the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, University Outreach and the Center for Diversity and Race Relations. Corporate sponsors include Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola.

Additional information is available online at www.auburn.edu/cdrr or by phone at 844-2976.



Nominations sought for teaching, minority awards

The Auburn Alumni Association is seeking nominations for two major awards: Teaching Excellence and Minority Achievement.

The Alumni Association Teaching Excellence Award will recognize one or more faculty members who have demonstrated exceptional quality of teaching, knowledge of subject, interest in students and availability to them, influence within the university and impact on the nominating person's educational experience.

The association's Minority Achievement Award will recognize an individual who has made outstanding contributions toward the advancement and inclusiveness of minorities at Auburn University. The selection committee will pay special atten-

tion to efforts that have attracted minority students to AU or efforts that have contributed to the success, retention and graduation rates of minority students at Auburn.

The nominating deadline for the Teaching Excellence Awards is Nov. 30. Nomination deadline for the Minority Achievement Award is Dec. 17. The recipient of each award will receive \$1,000 and a plaque at the annual Alumni Scholars/Professors/Awards Recognition Reception in early 2005.

Nomination forms are available online at www.alumni.auburn.edu/alumscholar.html. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Peel at peelee@auburn.edu or 844-1150.

Instructional Media Group adds on-site training for software users

The Instructional Multimedia Group of AU's Office of Information Technology has expanded its services to include on-site training and software assistance.

IMG staff provide instruction and assistance with WebCT, PowerPoint, Respondus, Adobe Acrobat, FrontPage, Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Fireworks,

Microsoft Office and other applications commonly used at Auburn.

The services are available to all offices and academic units on campus.

For information or to schedule an appointment, call 844-5181 or e-mail img@auburn.edu.

Arboretum Days

Event draws young fans to arboretum

Each Saturday morning before an AU home football game, students in grades K-8 from local schools gather at the Donald E. Davis Arboretum for Arboretum Days.

"We love this program," said Cate Giustino, whose son Christopher Parsons participates in Arboretum Days. "The instructors are really good at presenting the material on a level that is easy for children to understand."

Ginger Vedder, mother of participant Lauren Vedder, said of the program, "I can see our walks in the woods will never be the same."

Arboretum Days, which offers a free pre-game nature experience to participants, begins at 8:30 a.m. and lasts approximately one hour. A different topic is covered each week as students learn about insects and wildlife and also about the trees and plants that inhabit the 13-acre gardens.

"The program provides an activity for the younger crowd tailgating before each home game," said Arboretum Curator Christy Hartsfield. "I first got the idea when I noticed groups of children with little to do on Saturday mornings before the game. I thought this program would be a good opportunity to share with them some of the interesting things that happen in the Arboretum."

Sponsored by the College of Sciences and Mathematics, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and the Alabama Forests Forever Program, Arboretum Days benefits students in several ways, said Chris Erwin, education coordinator for the Alabama Forestry Association.

"First, this program reinforces, in a more natural environment, content that students receive from textbooks. Second, students begin to develop an appreciation for the environment and an understanding of the use of natural resources," he said.

"Finally, by involving students in community programs, they develop a sense of ownership in places like the Davis Arboretum and become more likely to support future programs and help take care of the property."



Nature trail

Young Houston Barker gets a close look as arboretum staff member Patrick Thompson shows visitors some insects in a fallen log. The tour was part of Arboretum Days at Auburn.

Upcoming Arboretum Days' themes include animal tracks, bird watching and a presentation by the Southeastern Raptor Center.

Pre-registration is required. Space is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. For an online registration form, see www.auburn.edu/cosam/arboretum.

Christine Eick wins national award from professional association

Christine Eick, director of risk management and real estate in the AU Business Office, recently received one of two Distinguished Risk Manager Awards for 2004 presented nationally by the University Risk Management and Insurance Association.

Although presented annually, the awards recognize outstanding leadership and service to the profession over an extended period of time.

As risk management director at Auburn, Eick is responsible for identifying and eliminating or minimizing potential financial, real estate, human or physical losses for the university.

The director also manages AU's self insurance programs and coordinates commercial insurance policies.

Eick, a member of the AU Business Office since 1996, previously served as risk manager at Georgia State University.

She holds degrees from Clemson University and Georgia State and a Doctor of Education degree from Auburn.

Five begin Alumni Professor appointments this semester

Five AU faculty members began five-year terms as Alumni Professors this semester.

The new Alumni Professors, whose terms run through the 2008-09 academic year, are K.H. Chang of Computer Science and Software Engineering; Ray Dugas of Art; William F. Gale of Mechanical Engineering; Steven A. Kincaid of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology; and Francis Robicheaux of Physics.

Provost Tom Hanley said the program rewards faculty members who have been recognized by their peers and colleagues as making outstanding

and exceptional contributions to the university's academic programs. The professorships recognize faculty with a record of demonstrated exceptionally meritorious performance, distinctive competence and potential for continued high productivity and excellence in at least two of AU's three institutional missions: instruction, research and outreach.

The new Alumni Professors join 21 other Auburn faculty members who were appointed over the previous four years for the five-year professorships funded by the Auburn Alumni Association.

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