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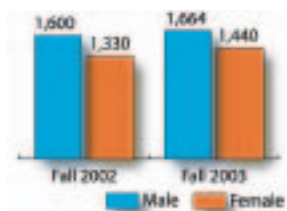
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Source: Planning & Analysis

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AU For the faculty and staff of Auburn University report

Vol. 36 No. 25

New provost says strong academics were major draw

Thomas R. Hanley, Auburn University's new provost and vice president for academic affairs, had a mild surprise as he took a closer look at AU and other Southeastern Conference universities in the months leading up to his appointment as Auburn's chief academic officer.

Hanley began his duties last week, moving into the Provost's Office on the second floor of Samford Hall on Oct. 20.

A former professor at institutions in five states since the early 1970s and a dean at the University of Louisville for the past 12 years, Hanley says some people at SEC campuses, including Auburn, seem unaware of the academic reputation of their institutions. "Auburn has a strong academic reputation, which is one reason I was interested in coming here," he said. "Auburn's academic reputation is stronger than many people realize, and it will continue to rise."

Most independent appraisals place Auburn in or near the top 50 public institutions nationally, and Hanley said his colleagues at other institutions always had a high regard for Auburn's academic quality.

"When people are close to a situation for a long period of time, it is easy for them to see the problems and overlook the advantages of their universities," Hanley said. "Most of the things that people worry about are not unique to this university, and, (See Provost, page 2)



Hints of autumn

Cooler air and clear skies brought hints of autumn to the Plains last week, but colors remained muted as Auburn awaited the first frost of the season.

Forbes ranks Auburn M.B.A. program 26th in U.S.

The M.B.A. program in AU's College of Business ranks 26th nationally among public universities and 53rd overall in a Forbes magazine survey.

The survey of the nation's top 85 business schools concluded that an investment in an M.B.A. degree still generates a good return, despite the nation's

rocky economy and job market. Dan Gropper, director of AU's M.B.A. program, agrees.

"The bottom line for any business school is return on investment," said Gropper. "This is the first time that we have been included in the Forbes survey, (See Forbes, page 4)

Newspaper Hall of Honor at AU to induct two at Saturday event

A crusading city newspaper reporter-editor and a small-town newspaper editor will be inducted into the Alabama Newspaper Hall of Honor at Auburn University on Saturday.

The Alabama Press Association will posthumously induct the late James E. Mills of Birmingham and the late John B. Stevenson of Roanoke.

The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m., in the Alabama Newspaper Hall of Honor Room in Draughon Library. Registration will start at 9:30 a.m.

Mills and Stevenson will be the 92nd and 93rd inductees into the Newspaper Hall of Honor, which the APA established in 1959. Plaques honoring the men will be installed in the Hall of Honor Room in Draughon Library.

Mills, who died in 1998 at age 98, began his career as a reporter with the Daily Oklahoman and worked for the Pine Bluff (Ark.) Commercial, Palm Beach Times, Cleveland Press, Cincinnati Post and Memphis Press-Scimitar. But he made a name for himself after becoming managing editor of the Birmingham Post in 1931.

Mills championed causes to protect Alabamians from loan-sharking and poll taxes, and he fought to bring cheaper electric rates to Birmingham.

He ended his newspaper career as editor of the Birmingham Post-Herald in 1967, after winning a lengthy legal battle in which he challenged an Alabama law that prohibited editorials about candidates on the day of an election. That battle stemmed from a 1962 column calling for the defeat of city leaders who were hostile to civil rights reforms.

John B. Stevenson, who died in 1997 at age 82, specialized in community journalism, providing the primary source of news for the Randolph County area for 45 years as editor of The Randolph Leader.

Through The Leader, Stevenson successfully led campaigns for financing to build hospitals in Roanoke and Wedowee, clinics in Wadley and Woodland and a new high school in Roanoke.

During racial unrest of the 1950s and 1960s, Stevenson urged racial understanding, conciliation and tolerance, and a 1955 editorial on the subject won first place in APA's Better Newspaper Contest.

Provost

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in fact, Auburn is probably better situated than most other universities to meet its challenges."

Hanley said the university will cope successfully with projected cuts in state funding and the accreditation review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

While dealing with existing challenges, Auburn must also use this time to prepare for the future, he added.

"Every university has its challenges," he said. "The great universities are the ones that meet their challenges and create opportunities for greatness. I see many people here who are eager to do that, and I look forward to working with them."

The key to success, he said, will be widespread involvement in planning, implementing and assessing operations. Faculty, department heads, deans and vice presidents will have responsibility for most of their own operations during his tenure as Auburn's chief academic officer, Hanley said.

Faculty and academic administrators at any institution can make the most progress when they have support and assistance from the central administration, he added.

Hanley said Auburn will need to accelerate and expand its efforts to measure and assess all its academic and support programs if the university is to

further improve its national academic stature. "It is important that the faculty be thoroughly involved in an ongoing assessment program if we are to make the kind of progress Auburn is capable of making," he said.

"Effective assessment gives us the information we need to make good decisions. Without it, we are acting in the dark," he added.

Hanley, who comes to Auburn after a stint as dean of engineering at the University of Louisville, said the Provost's Office will work with faculty and academic administrators at all levels to develop assessment programs the university can use in setting and achieving goals for the next five years.

"I want to make sure that we are looking for input from everyone involved in the academic mission of the university," Hanley said. "Most of the time, the people closest to the action are the ones who are in the best position to make decisions. Assessment enables them to make informed decisions that strengthen our overall academic program."

Hanley, who holds an M.B.A. from Wright State University in Ohio and a Ph.D. from Virginia Tech, said he expects to spend much of his time over the next few months listening to faculty and others.

"There are a lot of talented people on this campus, and I am interested in what they have to say. I want to hear their ideas and perspectives and work with everyone to move our academic programs forward," he said.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 28

- Littleton-Franklin Lecture: Author Garry Wills, "'Negro President': Jefferson and the Slave Power," 4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Auburn Film Society Diversity Series: "The Shadow of Hate," noon, Foy Ballroom. Bring your lunch.

Wednesday, October 29

- Presidential Symposium: "Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," 4 p.m., Broun 239. Speakers: Shibley Telhami, University of Maryland; and Mark Tessler, University of Michigan.
- Octoberfest Concert: Sponsored by Department of Music, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall.

Thursday, October 30

- Concert: AU Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall.

Friday, October 31

- York Lecture Series: Diego Gimenez, AU College of Agriculture and ACES, discusses trade with Cuba, 11:45 a.m., Comer 109.
- Meeting: Auburn Alumni Association Board of Directors: 2 p.m., Auburn Alumni Center.

Saturday, November 1

- Homecoming: Class reunions, Classes of 1980s.
- Education Appreciation Day Exhibit: College of Education honors influential teachers, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Haley Center lobby.
- National Meeting: Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Auburn Alumni Center.

Monday, November 3

- Next AU Report.
- Italian Film Festival: "Open City," 4 p.m., Spidle 144.

Tuesday, November 4

- Auburn Film Society Diversity Series: "The Color of Fear," noon, Foy Ballroom. Bring your lunch.



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The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Except for weeks on which major holidays fall, issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters, and bi-weekly during summer terms. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is 4 p.m. on Wednesday before publication date.

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Dudley Hall set for Halloween Pumpkin Carve



Students from the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction will take carving knife and pumpkin in hand on Friday to create one-of-a-kind designs during the college's 15th annual Great Pumpkin Carve.

Pumpkin carvers majoring in architecture, industrial design, building science and related fields will light the Dudley Hall courtyard with the glow of dozens of jack-o-lanterns in imaginative depictions and scenes to showcase the design talents of AU students.

This year the Art Department is also bringing several classes of students to participate in this annual Halloween tradition.

Carving begins at 9 a.m., and the pumpkin artists will fashion their designs until 5:30 p.m. Over the next hour, students will light the jack-o-lanterns. And at 6:30, the pumpkin art will be judged, with the top five winning prizes. The activities are open to the public.

Students pay \$5 for each pumpkin they carve. The winning pumpkins will be auctioned off through Silent Auction, with the proceeds going to support the American Institute of Architects Student chapter at Auburn. Other pumpkins will be available for purchase.

Falling leaves

Among touches of autumn at AU last week was this scene at the W.W. Walker Building, with its bright blue sky and a carpet of fallen leaves.

108 accept ACES, AAES severance offers

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station are using savings from the departure of more than 100 faculty and staff this fall to offset unfunded mandates and increased operating expenses.

In July, with Board of Trustees approval, the organizations offered early severance packages to employees who met certain eligibility requirements and agreed to retire or step down by Dec. 31. Seventy ACES and 49 AAES employees elected to participate in the severance plans. Eleven of the 108 employees held joint Extension and Experiment Station appointments.

The severance plans allow the Alabama Cooperative Extension System to save \$5.4 million. AAES will save \$1.2 million.

"We were able to recoup enough money to cover rising operating costs that include increased employer contributions to retirement and health plans," said Thomas Elliott, Extension's chief financial officer.

AAES offered the severance plan to its faculty and staff in the colleges of Agriculture, Sciences and Mathematics, Human Sciences and Veterinary Medicine, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

and the outlying Experiment Station research units.

The Alabama Cooperative Extension System Employee Severance Plan was open to the approximately 900 personnel in the statewide Extension system, including employees at Auburn and Alabama A&M universities, as well as field staff in the 67 county offices and regional Extension offices.

Interim AAES Director John Jensen noted that the Experiment Station is revamping its programs at Auburn and statewide. "We are taking a hard look at how we do business and determining our research priorities," said Jensen.

"Considering the budget outlook, we have to be most careful in choosing how to spend our precious tax dollars to provide the biggest impact and effect the greatest change," he added.

Interim Extension Director Gaines Smith said Extension will continue to maintain a presence in all 67 Alabama counties. "Our roots in the early 20th century are based on a county presence and that won't change," he said.

"Extension and AAES continually assess the way we do business, our funding and the needs of the citizens to determine whatever methods of operation are the best for our clients," he added.

Raptor Center cleared for renewed role in AU's educational program

Birds in Auburn University's Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center will soon have a renewed role in Auburn's educational program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has lifted restrictions on the center's educational raptors, enabling the center to take birds to schools, wildlife conservation events and other educational activities. A disease outbreak last summer caused the center to temporarily stop the programs.

"We hope to reestablish the public programs soon," said Timothy Boosinger, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Our staff and volunteers are working with the birds so we can take these magnificent animals back into local schools and other venues. The birds are used to teach the public about raptors and their ecological role in the environment."

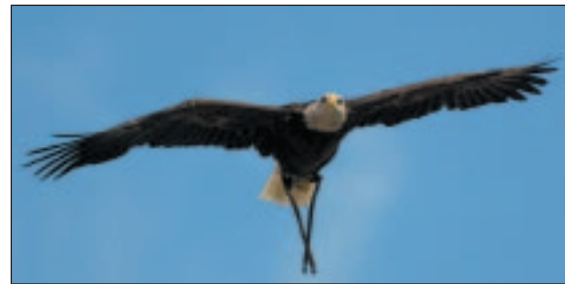
Auburn's golden eagle Tiger and bald eagle Spirit are part of the educational collection but have been sidelined from pregame flights due to other health concerns. Twenty-six-year-old Tiger was grounded in 2002, and Spirit underwent surgery earlier this year to remove small rocks it had swallowed.

"They are doing well and should be able to participate in some educational programs," Boosinger said.

The center also temporarily stopped admitting and releasing raptors this summer after the illnesses. Eight birds in the educational collection died and four more were euthanized, as were eight suspect wild birds in the rehabilitation section.

Boosinger said the center's rehabilitation section is awaiting approval from the Fish and Wildlife Service to begin accepting wild birds again.

A series of postmortem diagnostic tests by the Alabama State Diagnostic Laboratory revealed that the outbreak was caused by nutritional deficiencies,



rather than the initially suspected organism, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*.

"Testing has shown that the affected birds died from complications associated with malnutrition due to an improper diet," said Boosinger.

"Investigation into feeding records indicates that the educational birds were switched to an inappropriate, all-quail diet in the spring of 2002," he said, adding that the narrow-based diet lacked necessary nutrients.

Initial testing pointed to *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, but more sensitive tests have since revealed that a known raptor mycoplasma, *Mycoplasma gypis*, cross-reacted with the test agent, leading to a false-positive result. *Mycoplasma gypis* has not been identified as a source of disease in normal, healthy raptors.

"None of the birds had *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. It was all diet-related," Boosinger said.

The lack of essential nutrients, such as vitamin A, opened the door for a variety of illnesses that the birds' immune systems would have otherwise fought off.

He said the center has adopted new feeding protocols and reporting procedures to prevent such problems in the future.

Forbes

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and we are pleased at the increasing national recognition for Auburn University."

Gropper added, "While we are pleased (with the Forbes ranking), we are committed to strengthening our program and improving the results for our students."

The Forbes survey measured a typical M.B.A. graduate's return on investment in a business school in dollars and cents.

"Our latest survey, which measures return on investment at 85 schools, concludes that B-schools paid back quite nicely for the class of 1998 — a class that worked through the boom and bust since graduation," said Forbes.

Among items on the survey were: the graduate's five-year gain in salary, in dollars, five-year gain in income percentage-wise, number of years required to earn back tuition for the M.B.A. and post-M.B.A. salary.

For Auburn M.B.A. graduates who responded to the survey, the average five-year gain in salary was \$46,000, a 78 percent increase. AU graduates earned back their tuition in 3.9 years.

The class of 1998 pre-M.B.A.'s average salary was \$25,000, but after completing an M.B.A. at Auburn, the average rose to \$63,000 in 2002.

Harvard University's program was No. 1 M.B.A. program in the nation, according to Forbes.

Experts on Middle East to discuss conflict in Israel

The Presidential Symposium on War, Peace and Justice in the Middle East and South Asia will present a two-hour discussion on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at 4 p.m. Wednesday in Broun 239.

Speakers include Shibley Telhami and Mark Tessler.

Telhami is Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland. He is the author of "The Stakes: America and the Middle East."

Tessler is director of the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan. His books include "A History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict."

HR program addresses legal issues for people over age 60

AU Human Resources will present "Legal Issues Affecting Today's 60-plus Population" at 9 a.m. on Nov. 5 at Dixon Conference Center.

Opelika attorney Jan Neal will discuss legal issues of power of attorney, Medicare, Medicaid and estate preservation in the two-hour program.

For registration information, see the Human Resources Web site or contact Heather Crozier at 844-4145.

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