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IA report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Jenda to lead diversity office

Provost John Heilman has announced the appointment of Overtoun Jenda as AU's associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs.



Jenda came to Auburn in 1988 and has been a full professor of mathematics since 1997.

He served a brief stint as acting head of the Department of Discrete and Statistical Sciences and has served as an associate dean in Sciences and Mathematics since 2000.

Jenda is credited with helping the college increase its minority enrollment from less than 5 percent to almost 11 percent while nearly tripling to 19 percent the number of COSAM minority juniors and seniors with grade point averages of 3.0 or higher.

In his new post, Jenda's responsibilities include:

- ◆ Advising the AU administration on diversity and multicultural issues and serving as a voice in these matters for the university community.
- ◆ Working with colleges, schools and academic departments to implement and monitor their diversity plans, including strategies for recruiting and retaining racial and ethnic minorities and women on the faculty.
- ◆ Helping deans, academic department heads and chairs, and the Provost's Office to implement recruitment and retention programs for racially and ethnically underrepresented students.
- ◆ Developing, implementing, evaluating and monitoring policies and programs relating to broad diversity and multicultural issues at AU.
- ◆ Leadership to ensure the success of a strategic diversity plan for the university.

"The diversity programs he has led within the College of Sciences and Mathematics have yielded impressive results and clearly illustrate his understanding of the elements necessary for Auburn to move toward a more diverse environment," Heilman said.



American Indian Festival

AU will celebrate the heritage of Native Americans this weekend with the annual War Eagle American Indian Festival on the grounds of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. As in this scene from last year, the festival attracts hundreds of visitors for three days of activities, craft displays and reenactments. For more about the festival, see page 3.

SACS report posted on Web

AU has posted on the Web the report of a special committee that visited campus in September for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The report is subject to review by the SACS Commission on Colleges and its Committee on Compliance and Reports. That committee and the commission will formally consider the special committee's report and any AU response at the commission's annual December meeting.

The report is available at www.auburn.edu/administration/specialreports/report09182005.pdf



Nine-month faculty to receive pay in 10 equal installments in 2006

Starting in January, AU faculty on nine-month appointments will receive their salary in 10 equal payments each year instead of eight larger paychecks and two smaller ones as in the past.

Instead of being paid in four and one-half installments per semester, faculty will now receive five full-month payments per semester. With the salary payment dated Jan. 31, nine-month faculty members will receive one-tenth of their annual rate.

Although the change will result in slightly less each month from January through April when

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Ronnie Herring

compared to the prior December, the May payment will be larger than in the past. At the start of fall semester, faculty will also receive a full paycheck in August, even though classes start in the middle of the month.

Under the previous system of four and one-half salary installments per semester, a faculty member earning \$60,000

per year would collect monthly payments, before taxes and other deductions, of approximately \$6,667 from January through April and \$3,333 in May. Under the system that starts in January, the faculty member will collect \$6,000 each month, including May.

Although the change was prompted by the

conversion in electronic record-keeping, Ronnie Herring, director of the Office of Payroll and Employee Benefits, said the change will resolve a long-standing budgeting problem for faculty on nine-month appointments.

“Nine-month faculty may have to make some adjustments initially, but equalized monthly compensation should be very beneficial for those faculty by the end of the semester,” Herring said. “They will not have to budget for half a month’s salary in May and August anymore.”

Also, nine-month faculty who supplement their income by teaching in the summer will be paid in equal payments at the end of June and the end of July. Faculty on 12-month appointments are not affected by the changes.

A related change, universal direct deposit of salaries to employees’ banks, effective Jan. 1, will make the term “paycheck” a misnomer. AU will eliminate paper checks for employees. Instead, faculty and staff salaries will be deposited directly to each person’s participating bank or credit union, and each person will have access to a Web site to review pay stub information.

The changes are among many associated with the new Banner software system for records management. The software, which AU is implementing in stages, is designed to improve communications and record maintenance and retrieval across all departments on campus.

For information on the method of payment changes or direct deposit, contact your department’s administrative office or call Payroll and Employee Benefits at 844-4183.

AU calendar

Images by Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson of Photographic Services are featured in “Echoes Strong and Clear,” the 2006 AU calendar. The calendar images are from “Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky,” a commemorative photo book of AU’s sesquicentennial. The book will go on sale later this month. The calendars are on sale for \$9.95 each, plus tax, at bookstores on and near campus and at Photographic Services in the L Building.



Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 8

MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall, agenda at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate

FACULTY SEMINAR “Active Learning Strategies: A Hands-On Approach,” James Groccia, director, Biggio Center, noon-1:30 p.m. (bring your lunch), Foy 202

AU THEATRE “The Shape of Things,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; 7:30 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday; Box Office 844-4154; see <http://media.cla.auburn.edu/theatre>

CONCERT AU Jazz Band and Percussion Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall

Wednesday, November 9

CONCERT “Ulali,” Native American acapella singers, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

AU THEATRE “The Shape of Things,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; also, same time, Nov. 10-12 and Nov. 15-18, and 2:30 p.m. Nov. 13; Box Office 844-4154

Thursday, November 10

MEETING Administrative & Professional Assembly, discussion of proposed changes in grievance policy in A&P Constitution, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall; vote set for Dec. 1 meeting; www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/ap

DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE “Motives to Philosophy,” Kelly Jolley, AU Philosophy Department, 4 p.m., auditorium, JCS Museum

THEATRE PANEL Discussion of issues raised in “The Shape of Things,” 6 p.m., Peet Theatre, followed by performance at 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 11

AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL Three days of craft demonstrations, living history camp site, drumming, ceremonial dance demonstrations, etc., starting at 9 a.m., JCS Museum grounds; see www.auburn.edu/cdr

Monday, November 14

NEXT AU Report

CONCERT AU Campus Band, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall



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New student center

The AU Planning Office has released architect’s renderings of the new student center that will be constructed south of Haley Center between Jordan-Hare Stadium and the Quadrangle Residence Halls. The \$50 million facility will contain 182,000 square feet of space for student meeting rooms, study areas, lounges, offices, food areas and other student uses near the center of campus. Construction is scheduled to start next spring and to be complete in spring 2008. Parking displaced by the building will move to a new parking deck that is under construction south of the stadium.

Annual War Eagle festival features heritage, lore of Native Americans

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will host Auburn’s fourth annual War Eagle American Indian Festival this weekend.

The festival, which starts at 9 a.m. Friday and concludes on Sunday, will feature craft demonstrations, living history camp sites, drumming demonstrations, ceremonial dances and other highlights of Native American heritage and culture.

Area residents will get a preview of the festival on Wednesday with a 4 p.m. concert at the art museum by “Ulali,” an acapella duo of Apache and Tuscarora descent who have performed throughout the United States and in Europe, Asia and South America. They are also featured on the sound track for the motion picture “Smoke Signals,” which will air during the festival.

Over the weekend, craft vendors will offer leather goods, pottery, jewelry, flutes, dolls, clothing and other Native American items, and area merchants will offer food and refreshments.

Other activities include storytelling by Gail Thrower of the Poarch Creek band, festival drum by the Cherokee White Horse Singers and the Choctaw drum Red Eagle and screening of the documentary “The Battle of Horseshoe Bend.”

At 3 p.m. Sunday, the festival will move to the auditorium of Draughon Library for discussions on Native American history, culture and issues in the Southeast.

For details, see www.auburn.edu/cdr.

Insurance premiums going up

Health insurance premiums for AU employees will increase 10 percent in January to offset rising costs in the insurance program.

Executive Vice President Don Large summarized the increases in packets mailed to all full-time employees late last week. The changes will be described in detail in the Nov. 14 AU Report.

November is month to add, make changes to health, tax plans

AU employees wishing to enroll or make changes in certain health insurance or tax-savings plans must do so this month for the changes to apply in 2006.

Faculty and staff may add or make changes in their health, dental, vision, cancer and supplemental disability insurance plans during November. The changes take effect Jan. 1.

They may also add or make changes in flexible spending accounts, which enable employees to reduce their taxes by setting aside money from

each paycheck for anticipated medical expenses, extra health insurance premiums and dependent care. The deduction will reduce the amount of salary to federal taxes in 2006, resulting in reduced taxes for most participants.

To comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations, AU employees must add or make changes to health insurance plans or flexible spending accounts by 4:45 p.m. Nov. 30. For information, see www.auburn.edu/administration/business_office/payroll or call 844-4183.

Moriarty looks to faculty for leads on tenants for new research park

With the groundbreaking for Auburn's new research park set for next week, AU's vice president for research says university faculty and commercial entities that sponsor research and intellectual products are among the most promising sources of leads for potential tenants.

"We already are actively involved with the park developer in tenant solicitation and recruitment efforts," Vice President for Research Michael Moriarty said, "However, our faculty, who are directly involved in Auburn's research programs, are one of the primary sources that we are soliciting for potential tenant leads. Faculty have direct contact with some of the country's top R&D firms on a daily basis, and we would be remiss not to consider their expertise as a part of the park development process."

The groundbreaking for the 156-acre research park west of College Street near Camp Auburn Road will be at 10 a.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17, with

Gov. Bob Riley scheduled as keynote speaker. Entrance to the ceremony will be off South College Street at Camp Auburn Road.

Moriarty said faculty who would like to offer potential tenant leads may do so through a variety of avenues. "We have an e-mail feature on the research park Web site (www.researchpark.auburn.edu) to which suggestions can be submitted," he said. "Also, faculty are encouraged to contact any member of the research park task force, including me, to submit suggestions."

The research park task force members are Moriarty, Executive Program Director Syd Spain, Director of Program Development Chip Burson, Mitch Emmons of Research Communications, Niki Johnson from the Office of the Vice President for Research, Baker Melson of Facilities, Henry Burd of the Alabama Technical Assistance Center, Tom Tillman of the Planning Office and John Waggoner, special counsel to the president.

Two plays, panel discussion highlight busy two-week stretch for AU Theatre

In a busy two weeks at Telfair Peet Theatre, the AU Department of Theatre is hosting a panel discussion on cultural obsessions and manipulation and 10 performances of two works by contemporary American playwrights.

AU Theatre will present "The Shape of Things," a dark comedy by contemporary playwright Neil LaBute, for eight performances over two weeks at Telfair Peet Theatre.

Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Sunday.

Next week, AU's theatre troupe will alternate "The Shape of Things" on Nov. 15 and 17 with a return engagement of "Defying Gravity" on Nov. 16 and 18. "Defying Gravity," by playwright Jane Alexander, examines the emotional impact of the 1986 explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger on television viewers and one victim's family. All performances are at 7:30 p.m.

Preceding Thursday's performance of "The Shape of Things," the Theatre Department will host a 6 p.m. panel discussion, "Sex, Lies and Videotape or The Ethics of Aesthetics." The discussion will explore questions raised by the play regarding issues of interpersonal manipulation and cultural obsessions.

Panelists include Theatre Department faculty member Daydrie Hague, director of "The Shape of Things"; Magdalena Garmaz of the School of Architecture; Zdenko Krtic of the Department of



At Telfair Peet

Characters are shown during a recent performance of "Defying Gravity" at Telfair Peet Theatre. The play will return next week on alternate nights with "The Shape of Things."

Art; and James Shelley of the Department of Philosophy. Scott Phillips of the Theatre Department is the moderator.

For tickets to the plays, contact the Box Office at 844-4154. Tickets are free to students and are \$18 for faculty and staff and \$20 for general admission.

SE Raptor Center to dedicate new facility next week

Auburn's Southeastern Raptor Center will dedicate its new 300-seat amphitheater next week.

A 3 p.m. ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 16, will inaugurate the Edgar B. Carter Educational Amphitheater.

The new facility is named for the former director of research for Abbott Laboratories in Chicago. Carter's daughter, Carol Clark of Princeville, Ill., donated \$400,000 to AU for the new facility.

The access road to the amphitheater is off Shug Jordan Parkway and west of campus.

On Friday, Nov. 18, programs at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. will feature the release of raptors from two 25-foot towers. The birds had been brought to the center for treatment and recovery from injuries they sustained in the wild.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Growth in Auburn enrollment through the generations



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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