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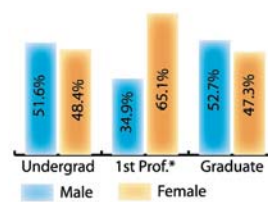
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How AU Stacks Up

Percent of male,
female students
at AU, fall 2004



* First Professional: Veterinary Medicine,
Pharmacy and Audiology

Source: Institutional Research and
Assessment

Updates between issues
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[www.ocm.auburn.edu/
au_report/aureport.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html)

IA report

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

A banner view

Banners along College Street have been welcoming visitors to Auburn this fall. Banners are also on display along two other major streets as part of the university's effort to promote activities such as the new theatre season and the upcoming basketball season. For information on creating and displaying banners for upcoming events, contact Camille Barkley in AU Communications and Marketing.



AU adopting new system to integrate student, personnel, financial records

Over the next year, AU will begin a three-year conversion of its student, finance, financial aid and human resources records into a new, integrated online system that project managers say will be more secure and easier to use.

Project managers Fred Bobo of AU and Karen Chastonay of SunGard SCT, the software developer, will host an open house to present an overview of the new Banner system from 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 16, in Foy 217.

In coming months, teams of staff members from campus offices will attend training sessions on the new system. Bobo and Chastonay say training will be offered to all constituencies on campus before AU implements the system.

The conversion will start in the Finance Department, with the Finance module slated to go online in October 2005. Human Resources is scheduled to begin in January 2006, followed by Admissions in June 2006, Financial Aid in February 2007 and the Student system in fall semester 2007.

Bobo said the SunGard SCT Banner System will

make data entry more consistent and accurate for personnel in campus offices and will make it easier for individuals to gain access to their records.

Chastonay noted that the system will also assign identification numbers to all students and employees, ending reliance on social security numbers for identification.

The project managers said AU and SunGard SCT will implement the new system in stages to minimize disruption and will fully train users of the software. The software will be more intuitive and easier to use than the current system, they added.

Another advantage, they said, is that the new software is fully integrated, ending the "silo" effect of current systems that differ significantly from each other. As a result, users will recognize common values among the different areas.

Also, the new system will be available at all hours, seven days a week. The current system is closed most days from 10 p.m.-7 a.m. for processing.

For more information on the new system, see www.auburn.edu/banner or www.sungardsc.com.

Campus Forum

America will pay steep price if it ignores role of science education

Stewart W. Schneller, Dean
College of Sciences and Mathematics

On March 19 of this year, the College of Sciences and Mathematics dedicated a time capsule to be opened in 2056, Auburn University's bicentennial celebration. The capsule was placed within the three-building science center complex nearing construction completion on the campus. In addition to traditional reflections of our daily lives and various symbolic artifacts, the capsule contains essays written by fifth-graders in Auburn city schools. These compositions speak of how the students view science today.

Given the speed with which change is taking place, it is tempting for the older generations to look to the horizon and make predictions about how these essayists and their peers might revise their works in 2056. However, my purpose here is not to speculate on what will be, but to examine how attitudes today will shape the future for the next generation.

Over the 50-year path we have just traveled, science has changed our world beyond the comprehension of prognosticators in 1954. Discoveries, inventions and developments of this period include (1) the DNA structure and human genome; (2) the commercial and personal computer; (3) the microwave oven, video cassette recorder and industrial robot; (4) e-mail and worldwide web; (5) visits by man to the moon and space probes to Mars; (6) valium and Prozac; (7) eradication of smallpox; and (8) plants genetically altered and animals cloned.

Though not a complete list by any means, this short catalog shares a "dependence" on science to an extent not often recognized. Science is frequently thought of as a discipline that is the sole province of folks in white lab coats who scurry about holding flasks and test tubes, calculating all manner of complex data. However, leading science educator B.Z. Shakhshiri made a very significant observation recently when he wrote in *Chemical and Engineering News*: "I make the distinction between scientific literacy, or knowledge of a particular field, and science literacy, which refers to a broad appreciation and understanding of science and its practitioners. Science literacy enlightens and enables people to make informed choices; to be skeptical; to reject shams, quackery and unproven conjecture; and to avoid being bamboozled into making foolish decisions."

According to the National Science Foundation, more high school graduates are going to college than ever before, but less than one-third are pursuing degrees in science. This presents us with two

major risks. The first is that there may not be enough highly trained scientists in the next generation to maintain our worldwide lead in the sciences and, with it, an accompanying quality of life.

The second risk is less obvious, but perhaps of greater consequence. If we, as a nation, fail to develop skills in our young people to navigate in an increasingly science-infused world, where will they get the perspective to "to reject shams, quackery and unproven conjecture; and to avoid being bamboozled into making foolish decisions"? Will they be able to interpret for themselves the latest science and technological discoveries and, in turn, be confident in judging their value? On what basis will future generations decide what to eat, how to vote or where to live?

Science education can be fun and interesting for those willing to make a commitment to it. However, science requires a commitment of time, resources and public support that often runs counter to today's short-term focus. As citizens, public officials and educators we cannot afford to abandon our children through shortsighted attention on the present.

In my field, science education, we are not without fault. We must continually work to develop tools to not just cater to the science majors but to remain aware of the science literacy needs of all students. We need to foster an attitude that demystifies science and says, "C'mon in, the efforts are worth it." You don't have to be a future scientist to be scientifically suited for the future.

At Auburn University we are adapting to meet these expectations. The new buildings that house the time capsule will provide 21st century facilities to enhance a science curriculum that is being continually refined by the faculty of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. They not only generate state-of-the-art training for science majors, but make science accessible to the general student population with engaging and creative approaches that go beyond basic education and provide a foundation for life-long science literacy.

But, the burden of abolishing science illiteracy cannot rest solely with science educators. It is an issue that we must all encourage and promote. The first step is to set an example for our children that their future depends on a working knowledge of science.

Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by AU faculty, staff and administrators of issues in higher education that are of special interest to the campus community but which are infrequently discussed in the commercial news media. Views in each Campus Forum column are the independent expression of the writer.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, November 9

- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- Open House: 3-D Art Building, 4 p.m.-6 p.m., 1161E West Samford Avenue.
- Concert: Auburn Community Orchestra, directed by Howard Goldstein, selections from Beethoven and Brahms, 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Free admission.

Wednesday, November 10

- Meeting and Election: Administrative & Professional Assembly, 3:30 p.m., Foy 213. See Web site www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/ap/rep.html

Thursday, November 11

- Committee Meetings: Board of Trustees committees, Academic Affairs, 1 p.m., Investments, 2:30 p.m., President's Office Board Room, Samford Hall.
- Author's Reading: "Alabama in the 20th Century," Distinguished University Professor Wayne Flynt, 2 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library.

Friday, November 12

- Board of Trustees: Committee sessions (Finance, Audit, Property and Facilities, Agriculture, Executive Committee) start at 8:30 a.m.; AU Board meets at 12:45 p.m. but starting time may vary, depending on length of committee meetings; Dixon Conference Center.

Monday, November 15

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, November 16

- Information Forum: Discussion of SunGard SCT Banner System, software for AU student, personnel and financial records, 3 p.m.-4:30 p.m., Foy 217.

A report

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Jamie Creamer, Agriculture, and Charles Martin, Veterinary Medicine. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services.

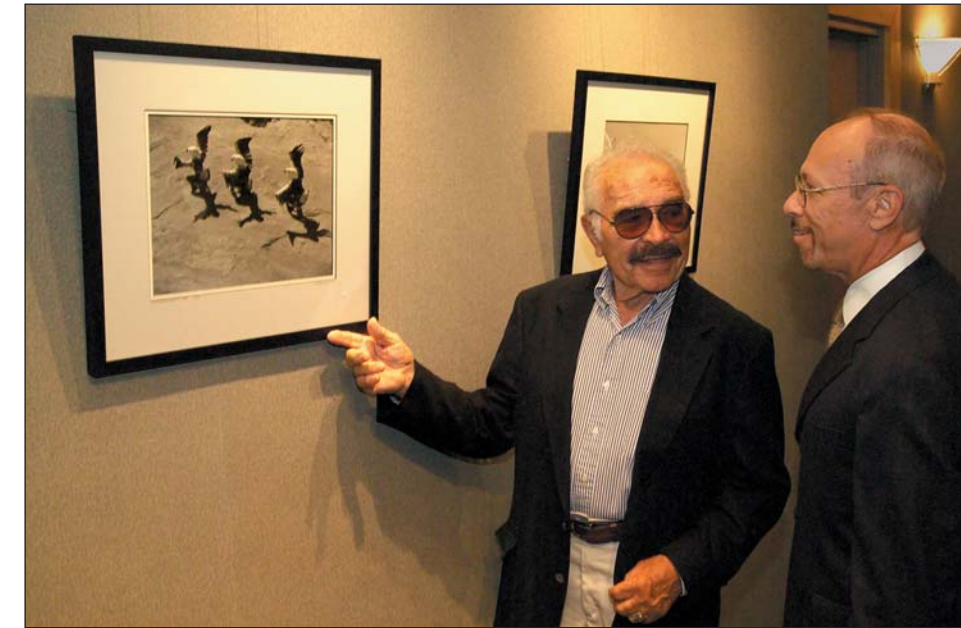
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Light and shadow

With shadows mimicking the framed image of American Indian tribal dancers, photographer Lee Marmon shows Art Professor and interim Liberal Arts Dean Joseph Ansell some of his most prized works from a 50-year career in the U.S. Southwest. The exhibit of Marmon's works is on display at Telfair Peet Theatre Gallery through Nov. 23.



For creating Web site

Norton receives award from FBI

The Federal Bureau of Investigation presented an award last week to Robert Norton of the AU College of Agriculture for developing a national food security information network.

Timothy Munson, special agent in charge of the Mobile FBI field office, presented the Director's Award for Community Leadership for the Mobile District to Norton on behalf of FBI Director Robert S. Mueller. One individual or organization from each of the FBI's 56 field offices received the Director's Award for Community Leadership for 2004.

Norton, an associate professor in the Department of Poultry Science at Auburn, is research leader in the Poultry Microbiology and Parasitology Laboratory in the College of Agriculture.

His Web site, Ag-Security.com, launched in 2002, presents information on new technology to detect, identify and respond to natural disease outbreaks and agriculture-based bioterrorist attacks.

The Web site seeks to improve the methods of protecting animal agriculture to ensure the continued safety, availability and economy of America's food supply. Communication, training and outreach are key components of the program. Norton uses the Web site to compile data, study trends and disseminate information throughout the United States to agriculture, industry, government, law enforcement agencies and universities.

Norton, who joined the AU faculty in 1995, is a veterinary microbiologist with research interests in poultry diseases caused by bacteria and parasites and in finding non-drug solutions to these diseases.



Theatre to present 'Festival of Shorts' during November

AU Theatre this month will present "Festival of Shorts," a selection of one-act plays by Auburn students.

Curtain time is 7:30 p.m., Nov. 16-19 and Nov. 30-Dec. 4, at Telfair Peet Theatre.

For tickets and related information, call 844-4154.

Study Abroad Fair set for Wednesday

A Study Abroad Fair and student photo exhibition originally scheduled for last week will be from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday, in the Haley Center lobby.

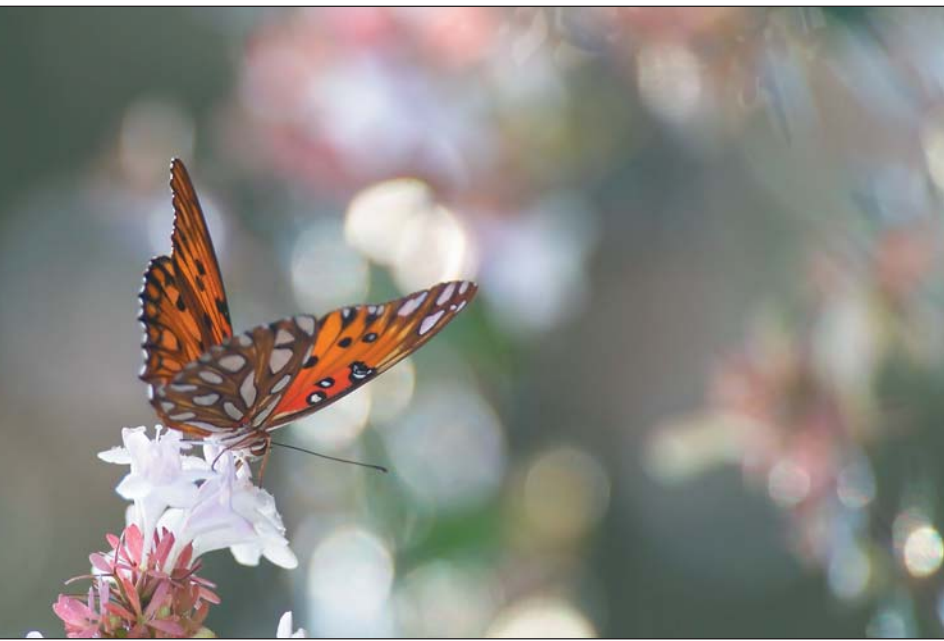
AU faculty leaders of international programs and other global program providers will be available to discuss spring and summer 2005 international study and internship programs for students.

Information on financial aid and scholarship opportunities for study abroad will be available. The fair will also feature photographs from Auburn students who have recently studied abroad.

Flynt to discuss new book on Alabama

Distinguished University Professor Wayne Flynt will discuss his new book, "Alabama in the 20th Century," at a public lecture and book-signing at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Special Collections Room of Draughon Library.

The book is the 11th in a collection of works on Alabama and Southern history by Flynt, who has been a member of the AU faculty since 1977.



Sign of fall?

Photographic Services Manager Jeff Etheridge recently captured this image of one of many butterflies that descended on flowers between Haley Center and the Quad Dorms. Etheridge captured this springlike scene during the prolonged period of unusually warm autumn weather before temperatures dropped late last week.

Auburn veterinary professor named to lead Southeastern Raptor Center

College of Veterinary Medicine faculty member Jamie Bellah has been named director of the Southeastern Raptor Center at AU by Veterinary Medicine Dean Timothy Boosinger.



Bellah

"We are looking forward to Dr. Bellah's leadership and the continued success of the raptor center," said Boosinger. "He is an internationally recognized veterinary surgeon and has received numerous teaching awards."

Bellah, a professor of small animal surgery, joined Auburn in 2003 after five years in private practice and 14 years at the University of Florida, where he was chief of small animal surgery. He earned his veterinary degree from Colorado State University in 1979 and received board certification in 1986 from the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, of which he was president in 2002-03.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to carry on the great tradition of raptor conservation and education at Auburn," said Bellah. "We have a great staff that has done a remarkable job in rehabilitating

birds and spreading the word about a raptor's role in the environment."

Bellah's specialty is general and soft-tissue surgery and his experience includes surgery on crocodiles, panthers, exotic birds and other animals for the University of Florida's zoological medicine service. At Auburn, he also works with the veterinary college's oncology service.

Bellah replaces Ron Montgomery, who was interim director for 16 months. Montgomery, an orthopedic surgeon, will return full-time to the veterinary college where he has established a new physical therapy service for animals.

"Dr. Montgomery expressed an interest in further developing his program," Boosinger said. "He did a great job in re-establishing the center as one of the nation's top facilities for birds of prey, and he led the team effort to bring the eagles back to Jordan-Hare Stadium."

The raptor center's mission is to rehabilitate injured, ill or orphaned raptors, educate the public and scientific community and develop new aspects of raptor biomedicine. Birds are housed at the center by permission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Campus United Way reaches 75 percent of goal

United Way has surpassed 75 percent of its goal for the 2004 campaign at AU and is mounting a final push to reach the \$135,000 goal by Thanksgiving.



As of Nov. 1, the campus campaign received \$101,575. Campus campaign coordinator Susie Hall said the campaign is

asking faculty and staff to make or increase their contributions to the United Way, which supports more than 30 local charities and service agencies.

Donors may make pledges or contributions through their local unit volunteers or the campus campaign headquarters in the Office of Auxiliary Services in Samford Hall. For information, contact Hall at 844-4190.

November is month to add, alter insurance, tax plans

AU employees may sign up for a tax-saving flexible spending plan and enroll in or make changes to their health, dental or cancer insurance plans during November.

The Internal Revenue Service requires a pre-determined enrollment period. Therefore, AU cannot accept enrollment forms after Nov. 30. Changes will be effective Jan. 1.

For information, contact the Payroll and Employee Benefits Office at 844-4183.

AU Outreach seeking nominations

The Office of the Vice President for Outreach is seeking nominations for the 2005 AU Award for Excellence in Outreach.

The award, which carries a \$5,000 stipend, is presented annually to a full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty member or Extension appointee to recognize exceptional academic merit and outreach accomplishments.

The deadline for nominations is Dec. 3.

Contact Ralph Foster at fosters@auburn.edu or 844-5118.

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