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FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
**IA** report

## Board approves consultant for review of AU

Higher education consultant James L. Fisher will assemble and bring a team of up to five colleagues to campus in coming weeks to assess the state of the University.

Fisher, a former university president who has authored 10 books on higher education, was hired Friday by the AU Board of Trustees to evaluate Auburn's governance structure and relationships among the AU Board, administration, faculty, staff, alumni and students.

Presidential search consultant John Kuhnle recommended Fisher to the Board on Oct. 28 following a report in which Kuhnle urged the University to resolve long-standing questions about governance and internal relationships before beginning an active search for a new president.

Fisher is to present his team's findings and recommendations to the Board on Feb. 3.

The former president of Towson University said he will immediately begin assembling a team of distinguished experts on higher education. None will have any ties to this state or AU, he added.

He said the team will begin its work soon and wrap up its analysis in mid-January.

Although Fisher said he does not expect the holiday season to prevent him from meeting the deadline, Trustee Paul Spina, substituting for Board President Pro Tem Earlon McWhorter, said the Board could meet in a called session after Feb. 3 if the report is not ready by that date.

Fisher said the consulting team will interview 150-200 people for all major constituencies, plus members of the news media, elected officials and other college presidents.

Citing recommendations by both Fisher and Kuhnle, interim AU President Ed Richardson said AU will work on a strategic plan but not seek to adopt one until a new president is on board.



Up on the roof

Workers apply finishing touches to the roof of the new addition to the Harrison School of Pharmacy's W.W. Walker Building. The 45,000-square-foot wing facing Thach Avenue will contain a new auditorium, classrooms and clinical facilities. Following completion of the new wing, work will begin on phase two, which will involve remodeling the original section.



## Rouse, Appel to lead departments in College of Agriculture at Auburn

Two veteran AU College of Agriculture professors have been selected to lead their departments.

Dean Richard Guthrie has announced the appointments of David Rouse as head of the



Rouse

Appel

Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and urban entomologist Arthur Appel as the new chair of the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology.

The type of appointment determined the method used in filling the two leadership positions. Rouse's appointment as permanent department head followed a national search. Department chairs are selected within their department for three-year terms.

Appel and Rouse were awarded alumni professorships by the Auburn Alumni Association in 2001 in recognition of outstanding teaching and research. Both hold joint appointments in the College of Agriculture and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

Rouse, who had been interim head of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures for the past three years, has been on the Auburn faculty for 24 years.

He holds a bachelor's degree in marine biology and a master's degree in fisheries from Auburn and a doctorate in aquaculture from Texas A&M. Before pursuing his doctorate, he was a water pollution control biologist for the State of Alabama.

Rouse teaches a graduate-level course and directs graduate and post-graduate student research. His research focus is in crustacean and molluscan aquaculture.

As chair of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Appel succeeds Mike Williams, who returned to full-time teaching and research responsibilities as an entomology professor after two three-year terms as department chair.

Appel holds a bachelor's degree in biology from UCLA and master's and doctoral degrees in urban entomology from the University of California, Riverside. He came to Auburn as an assistant professor in 1985 and was promoted to associate professor in 1990 and full professor in 1997. His research focuses on cockroaches, structural pests and insect physiology and behavior.

## AU geology researchers aid U.S. in search for gold, silver deposits in western states

Forget the image of prospectors in movies about the Old West. While a few rugged, solitary prospectors still roam the mountains and deserts of the West in search of their fortune, big deposits of gold and silver are usually

**"We don't produce metals the way we used to in the United States, so the USGS created this new program to stimulate research in mineral deposits."**

**James Saunders**

Two of those scientists are James Saunders and Bill Hames of AU's College of Sciences and Mathematics. The two faculty members in the Department of Geology and Geography are conducting research under a competitive, \$50,000 grant from the U.S. Geological Survey for studies that, when combined with other research findings, could help increase the odds for modern prospectors.

The work by Saunders and Hames is one of six projects funded by recent grants from the federal

agency as part of its Mineral Resources External Research Program to develop information on the occurrence, quality and availability of minerals.

The geologists are studying the timing and origin of rich gold and silver deposits that formed in association with volcanoes and faults in Nevada's Northern Great Basin. These deposits contain some of the highest grade gold ores ever mined and help make the U.S. the second-largest gold-producing country in the world. Saunders and Hames will evaluate whether these ores may have formed in response to the mantle magma plume that is also responsible for active volcanic activity in Wyoming.

"Metal prices are way up. We don't produce metals the way we used to in the United States, so the USGS created this new program to stimulate research in mineral deposits," Saunders said.

Saunders and Hames will travel to Nevada to collect mineral samples with student researcher Derick Unger. They will study the samples in Saunders' laboratory to determine the minerals' chemistry and fluid-trapping conditions.

In another step, they will determine the ages of gold formation in the college's laser geochronology facility that Hames constructed.

## Upcoming Events

### Exhibitions

**CONTINUING** "Quilts of Gee's Bend," Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Dec. 4

Monday, November 21

**THANKSGIVING HOLIDAYS** No classes this week; offices open Monday and Tuesday only

Monday, November 28

**CLASSES RESUME** Academic and business operations resume normal schedule; no AU Report for week of Nov. 28

Tuesday, November 29

**TASTE OF EAST ALABAMA** Favorite foods from area restaurants plus musical entertainment, 7 p.m.-10 p.m., Grand National Lodge and Conference Center, Opelika, benefit for Domestic Violence Intervention Center, tickets \$25, call 844-2834 or 749-1515

Wednesday, November 30

**FINAL DAY** for changes to employee health insurance, other insurance plans or flex spending accounts for 2006; call Payroll and Employee Benefits at 844-4183

Thursday, December 1

**LIGHTING CEREMONY** Holiday Tree, 5 p.m., Samford Lawn

**PANEL DISCUSSION** "The Legacy of the Quilts of Gee's Bend," speakers include nationally prominent art historians, authors and academic experts, 5 p.m., AU Hotel

Friday, December 2

**CONCERT** African Children's Choir, 7 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre

Monday, December 5

**NEXT** AU Report

**CONCERTS** AU Singers, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; also same times and location on Tuesday, Dec. 6.; tickets \$10, purchase at Goodwin Hall or call 844-4194



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The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. 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. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9999. E-mail: summero@auburn.edu.

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### Raptor Center

This falcon and other birds of prey last week helped AU's College of Veterinary Medicine dedicate the Edgar B. Carter Educational Amphitheater at the Southeastern Raptor Center. The amphitheater provides a site at Auburn for Raptor Center faculty and staff to present lectures and demonstrations on the environmental benefits of birds of prey and the treatment and care of injured birds.



Originally planned for January

## Banner's HR phase moved to July

**AU** has moved the startup of the human resources phase of the new Banner system of electronic records management from Jan. 1 to July 1, 2006.

Fred Bobo, AU project manager for Banner implementation, said the later starting date will provide more time for training and practice with the new system for records management staff in departments, schools, colleges and the AU Business Office.

The new electronic records system is designed to replace a diverse mix of databases and paper records that are obsolete or are becoming obsolete. The new system will standardize data handling methods for every AU employee and is designed to improve security of sensitive personal information while integrating human resources data into a consistent platform for all administrative records.

Bobo said the Banner Human Resources Project Team requested the later date to provide more time for the team to develop a more comprehensive training plan while addressing other system issues.

After the University implemented the finance phase on Oct. 1, and with the holiday season approaching, project team members determined

that more time was needed to ensure successful implementation, he said.

Faculty on nine-month appointments will benefit from the delay. A change in pay schedules to equalize pay over 10 annual pay periods had been timed to start with the Jan. 1 implementation of the human resources records module. That plan will now be delayed until the 2006-07 academic year.

However, another finance change planned for Jan. 1 remains in effect. Starting with the first pay period in January, AU will make direct deposits of pay checks and travel reimbursements to each employee's bank or credit union. The University will no longer issue paper checks for salaries and travel reimbursements except in unusual circumstances.

Also unaffected by delay of Banner's human resources phase is a separate initiative of the Office of Human Resources to adopt a new performance management system for administrative/professional and university staff employees on Jan. 1.

Human Resources is continuing to provide training for supervisors, who will be the primary users of that system.

## Former AU president, first lady establish endowment for scholarships in AU's Ginn College of Engineering

**F**ormer AU President William Walker and his wife Myrna, AU's former first lady, have established an endowment for scholarships in Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Their gift of \$500,000 funds an endowment in the Department of Mechanical Engineering to support scholarships for freshmen and sophomores.

As dean of engineering at AU from 1988-98, Walker led the College in developing a fundraising

model for the University and helped create the BellSouth Minority Engineering Program, a recruitment program that has served as a model for the region. He then served as provost from 1998-2001 and as president from 2001-04.

"With this endowment, Dr. Walker leaves a legacy that displays his commitment to education and to excellence," said Larry Benefield, dean of the Ginn College of Engineering.



### Groundbreaking

Gov. Bob Riley joined interim AU President Ed Richardson and other AU, local and state leaders in breaking ground for the University's new research park on Thursday. Riley is to the right of center in this photo, and Richardson is third from right. The 156-acre site will house enterprises to develop and market technologies based on discoveries by AU researchers.

## Quality of Life Awards honor authority, philanthropist for national, global impact

A globally renowned philanthropic executive and a public corporation that helped raise the World Trade Center area from the ashes of the 9-11 terrorist bombings of 2001 will be honored at the 12th annual International Quality of Life Awards at the United Nations in New York on Dec. 5.

AU's College of Human Sciences presents the international awards to recognize individuals and organizations for humanitarian service that is of global significance.

The ceremony will honor Ratan Tata, chairman of the Tata Group, which is often cited as a model for corporate philanthropy, and the Hugh L. Carey

**"...their work reflects the spirit of the award by promoting the respect and dignity of all citizens around the world."**

**June Henton**

Battery Park City Authority of New York, which played a crucial role in the aftermath of 9-11.

Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger will present the 2004 award, which was deferred from last year, to the Tata Group, and New York Gov. George Pataki will present the award for 2005 to the New York City authority.

"It is a great privilege to honor Mr. Ratan Tata and the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority," said June Henton, dean of the College of Human Sciences. "As is true for each International Quality of Life Laureate, their work reflects the spirit of the award by promoting the respect and dignity of all citizens around the world."

The Tata Group, India's largest corporation, returns two-thirds of its profits to the people of India in the form of improvements and contributions that benefit education, health, arts, culture and environmental conservation.

Recognized this year as Forbes Magazine's Asian Businessman of the Year, Tata and his \$18 billion conglomerate – equivalent to 2.8 percent of India's gross domestic product – is recognized globally for high ethical standards and a focus on social responsibility. Newsweek International describes the Tata Group as "a new kind of multinational corporation" and as "a family conglomerate that has gone professional without losing a distinct set of old-school values."

Tata serves on boards or organizations around the world, among them Mitsubishi Corp., the American International Group, JP Morgan Chase, the Rand Center for Asia Pacific Policy, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's India Aids Initiative and the Ford Foundation.

The Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority of New York has overseen Battery Park City's successful resurgence from the devastation of the September 2001 World Trade Center terrorist attacks.

The authority, a public benefit corporation, owns the 92-acre planned urban community on and around the former site of the World Trade Center.

In 1991, the authority adopted sustainable development guidelines for Battery Park City to balance commercial, residential, retail and open space and improve the quality of life for residents. Even the destruction of 2001 did not long diminish the neighborhood's status as a thriving commercial and residential center with environmentally responsible residential buildings and public parks

Past Quality of Life honorees include Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu of South Africa and Catherine Bertini, executive director of the United Nations World Food Programme. Nearly 400 people are expected to attend this year's ceremony, which benefits the Fund for Global Understanding. The fund underwrites the awards and supports international academic programming at Auburn.

## Giving to AU sets record, surpassing \$100 million in 2004-05

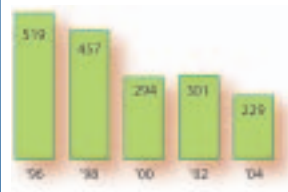
Private giving to AU rose nearly 45 percent to an all-time high of \$101.2 million in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, topping the previous year's total of \$70 million.

The 2004-05 total includes gifts, pledges and deferred gifts from 30,661 donors. Sixteen donors gave more than \$1 million each. These gifts totaled \$45 million, or 44 percent of the total giving for the year. An additional 28 percent of the fiscal year's gifts were from donations of \$100,000 to \$999,999.

Of the \$101 million contributed to the University last year, \$34 million went to student support, \$3 million to faculty, \$7 million to facilities and \$57 million to programmatic support.

### How Auburn Stacks Up

Service-maintenance employees at Auburn University, 1996-2004



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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