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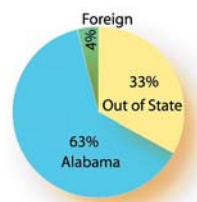
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Source: *Institutional Research
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IAU FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY report



Six represent AU on commission to revive Black Belt's economy

Six AU administrators and faculty members have been appointed to Gov. Bob Riley's Commission for Action in the Black Belt.

Members of the commission from AU are David Wilson, vice president for University Outreach; Joe Summers, director of the Economic Development Institute; Overtoun Jenda, associate dean and professor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics; Cindy Reed, director of the Truman Pierce Institute in the College of Education; Robin Pattillo, associate professor in the School of Nursing; and Francesca Adler-Baeder, assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Sciences.

Kay Ivey, Alabama state treasurer, co-chairs the commission with state Sen. Hank Sanders of Selma.

The six from Auburn are among more than 100 Alabamians serving as commissioners, on subcommittees or as technical advisers. The subcommittees include agriculture, communications, community development, culture and youth, education, families, health, infrastructure, marketing and tourism, small business, skills training and labor force, transit and transport and legislation.

Jenda and Reed will serve as commissioners on the education committee. Wilson will serve on the education subcommittee. Pattillo has been appointed to the health committee and wellness and prevention subcommittee.

Summers will serve as a technical adviser to the skills training and labor force and the community development subcommittees. Adler-Baeder will serve as technical adviser to the subcommittee on families.

For additional information on the Black Belt Commission, see the Web site www.blackbeltaction.org.

On top of things

Maintenance projects on campus are easy to overlook amid all the construction that is under way. However, this project, involving repairs and repainting of the cupola atop Ramsay Hall, is impossible to overlook.

Faculty to meet to discuss SACS

The University Faculty will meet in special session at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, to discuss Auburn's efforts to be removed from probationary status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The SACS Commission on Colleges will consider AU's accreditation status at the commission's annual meeting Dec. 4-7 in Atlanta.

Information about the SACS review is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/specialreports/sacsdocuments.html. Information about the faculty meeting is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/au_senate.html.

Campus Forum

What will future generations say about current style of buildings?

By Norbert Lechner, Professor, Building Science College of Architecture, Design & Construction

Many of the new buildings at Auburn are in the Georgian style. Is it wise to continue this trend?

Although Georgian is a pleasant style, is it appropriate for the AU campus to become dominated by Georgian buildings?



Lechner

Since there is no arguing about taste, are there other important factors in choosing a style for buildings?

The Georgian style is only one of many represented on campus before the present building spree. Samford and Hargis Halls are in a Romanesque Revival style, Langdon and Cater are in Classical Revival, Biggin Hall and Foy Union are in the Modern style, while Goodwin and Telfair Peet are in a Contemporary style. Thus, there is no clear precedent for choosing the Georgian style for the future at AU.

The Georgian style is the Renaissance style of 18th century England and of the American Colonies during the reigns of kings George I, II and III. After the Revolutionary War, the fathers of our country and especially Thomas Jefferson wanted a break with England and, therefore, deliberately changed the style for buildings.

Copying history is not the same as preserving it. Old buildings should be preserved whenever possible and, when not, valuable parts can be saved. A good example is the stone portico on the Nichols Center that was saved when the old Broun Hall was demolished.

It is also appropriate for our new buildings to be influenced by historic buildings as is well demonstrated by the Alumni Center and the Aerospace Engineering building of the Harbert Center. These are buildings of our time that allude to earlier styles.

There are, however, more important reasons not to go with the Georgian style, which was developed for the mild and mostly overcast climate of England. For sustainability it is absolutely necessary for buildings to be climate responsive. For example, in our hot climate, shading is a necessity in order to reduce the size of the cooling equipment and operating energy required.

Most people in the world are very concerned about global warming, as the international passage of the Kyoto Accord testifies. To reduce global warming, we must reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which are primarily a result of energy consumption. Because buildings use more than 40 percent of all energy, it is vital that we design buildings that use far less energy.

Since heating, cooling and lighting are the major users of energy in buildings and all of these uses are



AU's new Poultry Science Building is an example of the Georgian style in campus architecture.

greatly impacted by the sun, we must design solar responsive buildings.

Unfortunately, the Georgian style is not solar responsive to our climate, but rather it is appropriate for a cool, cloudy climate. A great university must help lead a nation in the right direction.

Global warming is not just a moral issue, it is a national security issue. A recent Pentagon study concluded that climate change could well be the greatest security issue the United States has ever faced. The buildings of the Auburn campus are not just containers, they are models and prototypes for all who come to the campus.

There is, however, one more important reason for not choosing the Georgian style for AU. Imagine what would have happened if the people during the Georgian period had decided that the old Gothic style was good enough for them. There would be no Georgian style for us to copy. Imagine again what would have happened if the Gothic builders had decided that the old styles were good enough for them. If all people in the past acted as we are now acting, then we would still be living in caves. It is ironic that inside these 250-year-old-style buildings we have the most modern equipment and thinkers.

I think that as a great teaching institution we owe it to the future to build buildings that are sustainable and that reflect our time, region and climate.

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 are the independent expression of the writer.

Upcoming Events

Monday, November 22

- Thanksgiving Holidays: No classes this week. Offices to close Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Monday, November 29

- Campus Reopens: Classes resume; offices reopen.
- No AU Report this week.

Tuesday, November 30

- Special Meeting: University Faculty, discussion of SACS probation, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.
- AU Theatre: "Festival of Shorts," 7:30 p.m., Nov. 30-Dec. 4, Telfair Peet Theatre. Box Office: 844-4154. Details at www.auburnuniversitytheatre.org

Wednesday, December 1

- HR Development Program: "Buy Now, Pay Later: Surviving in an Age of Debt," Roger Knauff of Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Alabama, 9 a.m., HR Training Facility, 146 N. Gay St. Register online at Human Resources A-Train web site or call Kelli Henderson at 844-7939.
- Weaver Lecture: "Carbon Sequestration in the United States for Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions," Sandra Brown, senior scientist, Ecosystems Services, Winrock International, 3 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.
- Professor Perspective Series: Scott Finn of Architecture discusses design alternatives to urban sprawl, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Monday, December 6

- Next AU Report.
- Goodwin Lecture: "Neural Stem Cells: Developmental Insights May Suggest Therapeutic Options," Evan Snyder, director of the Burnham Institute's Stem Cell and Regeneration Program, 4 p.m., Overton Auditorium.
- Choral Concerts: University Singers, 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Also two shows on Tuesday at same times. Admission charged; for reservations, 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 biweekly in summer, except on Labor Day, Martin Luther King's Birthday, Memorial Day and the Monday following Thanksgiving. 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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College of Liberal Arts

Professor's study shows family ties are missing link for the homeless

In a study of homeless people, Carole Barber Zugazaga of AU's College of Liberal Arts has found distinct differences and a hidden common stress factor among different categories of the homeless.

While, as expected, all the homeless were dealing with major financial stresses, Zugazaga found that a second common factor in the lives of most of the homeless people in her study was the absence of a family safety net.

Zugazaga, an assistant professor of social work, noted that the circumstances many people associate with homelessness — economic disasters, drug or alcohol abuse and sexual or physical abuse — are not unique to the homeless. But an absence of strong family ties can be a tipping point for people with any of those problems.

"Many homeless people have experienced severe mental trauma, but so have many other people in the general population," the AU faculty member said. "The difference is that most people have family support and the homeless either do not have that kind of support or are unwilling or afraid to seek it."

In a study of 162 persons at homeless shelters in Orlando, Fla., in 2002, Zugazaga found that each of three 54-member groups — single men, single women and women with children — had experienced severe emotional stresses that were much more common to members of that group than to the others:

- Single men were more likely to have abused drugs and alcohol and served time in jail.
- Single women, the group with the most emotional problems, were more likely to have sustained sexual violence over the age of 18, experienced domestic violence or been hospitalized in a psychiatric facility.
- Women with children were more likely to have lived in foster care when they themselves were children.
- Both groups of women were more likely than the men to have been physically and sexually abused as children.

An AU faculty member since shortly after completing the research, Zugazaga said her descriptive study, combined with the findings of other researchers, adds to the picture that social scientists have of the homeless and can help social workers and organizations target their programs to specific types of homeless people. For instance, she said, social service organizations should recognize that girls who grow up in foster care systems need a substitute for family after they reach adulthood.

"Social workers need to know that information in order to help the homeless overcome their problems," she said. Reaching out to family may be an option in some cases, especially if physical or sexu-

al abuse from a family member is not a factor, but communities need to provide alternatives for those who do not have that option, she added.

The results of her study of homelessness, which was an outgrowth of Zugazaga's dissertation in public affairs at the University of Central Florida in 2002, were recently published in the Journal of Community Psychology.

The national non-profit organization Partners for the Homeless states that as many as 3 million people in America are homeless for short periods each year, and 10 percent to 20 percent of those are homeless for extended periods.

A social worker for 10 years before starting work on her doctoral degree in the late 1990s, Zugazaga worked five of those years as a medical social worker in an Orlando emergency room, where she got to know many of that area's homeless. "They had their emotional problems, but no worse than a lot of other people who were not homeless," she said. "And they were nice people."

Zugazaga said she quickly learned that stereotypes, such as laziness, did not apply. Many of the homeless worked at least part-time, and some worked full-time but were unable to pay for housing or had been swamped by financial emergencies. She said the experience prompted her to want to learn more about the homeless and look for ways to improve their plight.



Fall butterfly

A mild November has provided ideal conditions for late season flowers and butterflies. Those conditions led to scenes such as this image captured by Tibor Barcza, a research assistant at the College of Veterinary Medicine.



Final phase
The main building of the Sciences Laboratory Center is in the final stage of construction and is scheduled for completion early next year. The \$39 million complex will be the site of most lab courses in AU's core curriculum and will provide modern facilities for advanced research in the College of Sciences and Mathematics and related fields in other colleges at Auburn.

College of Veterinary Medicine

NIH awards \$3 million for studies of cardiac mast cells, heart disease

An Auburn professor has been awarded \$3 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health for research related to heart failure in humans.

Joseph Janicki, associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, recently received \$1.5 million to investigate cardiac mast cells in heart enlargement after a heart attack and \$1.5 million to study the relationships among sexual hormones, cardiac mast cells and cardio-protection.

"After a person has a heart attack, the heart will get larger as it attempts to compensate for lost muscle," Janicki said. "This initially allows the heart to keep pumping a normal amount of blood, but this progressive enlargement eventually makes the problem worse. We are looking at how mast cells influence this remodeling."

Researchers use rats as models as they study mast cells, which are complex cells containing many substances that can activate collagen-destroying enzymes. Mast cells are also responsible for histamine-induced allergic reactions.

"We hope our advances will benefit both animals

and humans," Janicki said. "Heart disease is the number one killer of people and is also deadly to many pets, particularly elderly cats and dogs."

Janicki's research team is also investigating how cardiac mast cells differ between males and females. "Women before age 60 or so do not develop heart failure like men do," he said.

"The likelihood of heart failure among females increases after menopause to almost equal with males. We are looking at how estrogen hormones might be creating a difference in male and female cardiac mast cells," Janicki added.

Citing a potential application, Janicki said drug companies might develop estrogen-like compounds to keep the heart from enlarging. However, he added, there has been no conclusive evidence so far that estrogen given to post-menopausal women will reduce the heart failure risk.

The AU veterinary college is collaborating with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in its studies of cardiac mast cells.

Speaker to discuss disposal of 'greenhouse' gases

A potential solution to the global threat of greenhouse gases will be explored in a Weaver Lecture Series presentation at 3 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 1, at Dixon Conference Center.

Sandra Brown, a senior scientist with Arkansas-based Winrock International, will discuss the potential for diverting releases of carbon dioxide and other gases from the air to the soil or oceans through carbon sequestration. Advocates of the process describe it as a means of alleviating the climate-changing effects of these gases.

Winrock is a nonprofit agricultural development organization that works with people in more than 40 countries to increase economic opportunity, sustain natural resources and protect the environment.

In the presentation, "Carbon Sequestration in the United States for Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions," Brown will look at carbon sequestration activities in the federal, state and private sectors. She also will address issues related to the sale of carbon credits by landowners and the potential price for those credits.

Film series supports campaign to feed the hungry

In support of the World Food Programme and its "War on Hunger," the AU College of Human Sciences is sponsoring a "Pay It Forward" film series and discussions on issues of hunger, poverty and social injustice.

The film series, which began Nov. 1 with the showing of "Hidden in America," will continue through March.

Other films scheduled include "Life and Debt" (Nov. 29), "Saalam Bombay" (Jan. 10), "Afghan Stories" (Feb. 7), and "Lost Boys of Sudan" (March 7).

All films are at 3:30 p.m. in Spidle 144. Admission for each film is \$1.19, with proceeds going to the United Nations' World Food Programme, the largest humanitarian agency in the world.

The agency has selected Auburn as its lead partner to establish a comprehensive model for an international student-led "War on Hunger" campaign.

The film series is one of several campus initiatives organized by the Committee of 19, an AU student group, to help the U.N. organization in the fight against world hunger.

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