

Inside

2 Health expert to present Goodwin Lecture at AU

3 New book takes fresh look at life of hero of WWI

4 AU band director to lead Macy's band in parade

4 Grant supports study of reducing electronics size



FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY
IA report



Trimming the tree

When it comes to decorating a tree for the holidays, Esley Newell and Kimberly Crawford of Landscape Services have an especially big challenge. They decorated the large holly in front of Samford Hall last week in preparation for a festive holiday season. AU and local dignitaries marked the start of the holiday season Thursday evening with the annual lighting ceremony.

Festivities early next year will mark Auburn's 150th birthday

On Jan. 1, AU will begin a year-long observance of its sesquicentennial.

Although events throughout the year will be linked to the University's celebration of its 150th birthday, major activities will begin on Feb. 1, the 150th anniversary of the date when Alabama Gov. John A. Winston signed the charter establishing the East Alabama Male College. The men's liberal arts college that began with 80 students in 1856 was the forerunner of today's 23,000-student Auburn University.

For the past year, a sesquicentennial committee has been planning various observances of AU's 150th birthday.

"Auburn has seen many accomplishments and advances in its first 150 years," said interim AU President Ed Richardson. "The sesquicentennial events will be an opportunity for the Auburn family to gather and celebrate these achievements and, at the same time, commit to working together toward the University's prosperous future."

Although the schedule is still tentative, planned events include:

◆ Feb. 1: A lunchtime ceremony in honor of Founders Day on the Samford Hall lawn. The ceremony will include a presidential presentation, proclamations, ringing of the bells, music and refreshments.

◆ Feb. 4: AU Birthday Bash and City Block Party in partnership with the City of Auburn, the

See [Sesquicentennial](#), page 2





Seasons change

While other parts of the nation were getting their first taste of winter last week, Auburn retained a bit of autumn color in its trees. Fall arrived late and lingered into December on the plains as cooler weather brightened the Auburn landscape with leaves of red and yellow across campus.

Sesquicentennial

continued from page 1

Auburn Chamber of Commerce and the Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau.

Held on Samford lawn and downtown Auburn, the Birthday Bash will start at 10 a.m. with walking tours of historic areas. The official ceremony begins at 2 p.m. with music, family-fun games and birthday party favors. The evening will end with a fireworks show.

The Feb. 4 activities will include a special reading of the AU Creed. Event planners are seeking nominations of individuals to read one line each from the Auburn Creed during the Birthday Bash. The nomination form is featured on the sesquicentennial Web site.

◆ Yearlong: An "Auburn Through the Years"

lecture series will feature discussions on the impact of Auburn University and its history. Dates and times are listed on the sesquicentennial Web site.

Throughout the sesquicentennial year, historic documents and memorabilia will be displayed at various locations on campus.

AU colleges and schools have also planned activities and lectures to reflect their history and how it relates to the success of the University.

Commemorative items include the sesquicentennial photo book, 'Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky, which views AU through the camera lens. A 2006 calendar may also be purchased to accompany the book.

For more information on sesquicentennial activities, see the Web site www.auburn.edu/150.

Health expert to present Goodwin Lecture

Roger Cone of Oregon Health and Science University will speak Tuesday at AU's College of Veterinary Medicine as part of the Joy Goodwin Distinguished Lecture Series.

He will present "The Remarkable Physiology of the Melanocortin System" at 4 p.m. in Overton Auditorium. This seminar is designed for a general scientific audience. Earlier in the day, he will discuss aspects of his research with faculty and students at the college and in related disciplines.

Cone is director of the OHSU Center for the Study of Weight Regulation and Associated Disorders and is a senior scientist with the OHSU Vollum Institute. His research has been at the forefront of work directed toward understanding how the brain controls body weight. Cone's laboratory concentrates on the central melanocortin system, a complex set of neural circuits that regulate a variety of physiological processes important to energy homeostasis.

The Oregon-based researcher has received national and international awards for this work, including the Ernst Oppenheimer Award from the

U.S. Endocrine Society, the Berthold Memorial Award from the German Endocrine Society, the Discovery Award from the Medical Research Foundation of Oregon, and the John A. Resko Faculty Excellence in Research and Mentoring Award.

He holds several U.S. patents and has published more than 100 scholarly papers, including articles in *Nature*, *Science* and *Cell*.

Hansen book makes best-seller list

First Man, the recently published biography of Neil Armstrong by History Professor Jim Hansen of the AU College of Liberal Arts, was listed last week at No. 27 on the hardcover nonfiction best-seller list of *The New York Times*.

It was the second consecutive week First Man has held that position. Hansen was also featured last week on C-SPAN's "BookTV" program. His book was earlier cited on the CBS program "60 Minutes" and in *The New York Times Book Review*.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, December 6

GOODWIN LECTURE "The Remarkable Physiology of the Melanocortin System," Roger Cone of Oregon Health and Science University, 4 p.m., Overton Auditorium, College of Veterinary Medicine

CONCERTS AU Singers 6 p.m. and 8 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; tickets \$10, purchase at Goodwin Hall or call 844-4194

Wednesday, December 7

LAST DAY of classes for fall semester

PUBLIC READING Distinguished University Professor W. David Lewis, selections from *Eddie Rickenbacker: An American Hero in the Twentieth Century*, 4 p.m., Special Collections, Draughon Library

Friday, December 9

FINAL EXAMS through Wednesday, Dec. 14, excluding Sunday; Draughon Library open 24 hours each day on Dec. 8, 9, 11 and 12

Monday, December 12

FINAL AU Report of fall semester

Friday, December 16

GRADUATION 2 p.m., Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum

Thursday, December 22

OFFICES CLOSE for holidays

2006

Tuesday, January 3

OFFICES REOPEN following holidays

Monday, January 9

FIRST DAY of classes for spring semester



AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder, AU Communications; Jamie Creamer, Agriculture; and Cheryl Cobb, Engineering. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services.

Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle.

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.

The interlocking AU symbol above and on page 1 and the sesquicentennial logo on page 1 are registered trademarks of Auburn University and may not be reproduced without written permission from the AU Office of Trademark Licensing.

Public reading on Wednesday

Auburn historian takes fresh look at WWI hero Eddie Rickenbacker

World War I flying ace Eddie Rickenbacker, one of the pioneers of American aviation, is profiled in a new biography by Distinguished University Professor W. David Lewis of Auburn.

Lewis, a nationally prominent authority on the history of aviation, recently wrapped up nearly 15 years of research and writing with publication of *Eddie Rickenbacker: An American Hero in the Twentieth Century* by Johns Hopkins University Press in late November.

The Auburn professor will present a public reading from his book at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, in the Special Collections and Archives department of AU's Draughon Library. Lewis says it is appropriate that the reading coincide with a local observance of Pearl Harbor Day: Although Rickenbacker is best known as the greatest American aviator of World War I, he was also a national hero in the early days of World War II.

In 1942, while America was still reeling from the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Rickenbacker reemerged as a national hero when he and six other passengers and crew members survived three weeks of near-starvation and dehydration on three tiny rafts in the Pacific after their plane ran out of fuel and ditched in the ocean hundreds of miles from land. After about two weeks of recuperation following the rescue, he resumed his inspection of Pacific Rim military bases and combat zones for U.S. Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson.

Lewis researched thousands of documents and interviewed Rickenbacker family members and others for the biography. Many of those documents and memorabilia from the Rickenbacker family are on display as part of the Eddie Rickenbacker collection at Draughon Library.

Rickenbacker was a heroic and frequently dominant figure in American aviation and business and political circles for much of his life. He entered World War I as a popular race car driver in that emerging sport, joined what became the Army Air Corp and quickly established a reputation as a daring and fearless pilot. He quickly became the leading American fighter pilot of the war, shooting down 26 German planes between April and November 1918.

An Auburn professor since 1971, Lewis said he began research for the biography in the early 1990s,

while working on articles for an aviation encyclopedia. By the end of the 20th century, Rickenbacker, who had been one of the most recognizable Americans before his death in 1973, was in danger of fading into obscurity in the 21st century.

"Here was a man they called the 'Ace of Aces,' who was a symbol of the 'American Dream' in the 20th century, and yet many people today are not aware of how much a part of American life he was during his lifetime, in business and politics as well as aviation," Lewis said.

Rickenbacker often defied the odds as a young man racing automobiles and flying war planes in combat. In his middle years, he built Eastern Airlines into America's most prosperous airline, and in his later years, he became a leading advocate for conservative political causes and the Republican Party.

"In business and in the political arena, he was amazingly far-sighted," said Lewis. "Although he died before Ronald Reagan became president, he was a prophet for the revival of conservative Republicanism under Reagan and both Bush presidencies. Not everyone will agree with his political philosophy, and they did not always agree with him at the time, but everyone recognized him as a hero."

Describing Rickenbacker as a symbol of courage to generations of Americans, Lewis said, "He was larger than life to most Americans throughout most of the 20th century, yet people could identify with him as someone who knew both success and failure but never gave up, even when the odds were against him."

The 668-page book goes on sale in most bookstores in early December and is available on Amazon.com. It is the latest of six books on technology and aviation written or co-authored by Lewis, who served in 1993-94 as the Charles A. Lindbergh Professor of Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. He is the editor or co-editor of three other books and has written or co-authored more than 60 articles, book chapters and encyclopedia entries.

"He was larger than life to most Americans throughout most of the 20th century, yet people could identify with him as someone who knew both success and failure but never gave up, even when the odds were against him."
David Lewis



December scene

This picture of the tree of lights in front of the AU President's Home illustrates the transformation that comes over the University and the city every year at this time. This is the scene for the month of December in Auburn's 2006 calendar, "Echoes Strong and Clear," which is on sale at area bookstores and at AU Photographic Services in the L Building. The calendar features the photography of Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson of Photographic Services.

Rick Good of AU Music Department

Band directors from AU, Ohio State to lead 2006 Macy's Parade band

Band directors from AU and Ohio State University will lead the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade for 2006 in New York.

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade through the streets of New York City is one of the oldest and largest annual parades in America and will be televised live by NBC. Organizers begin planning for the next parade immediately after Thanksgiving each year.

Organizers of the 2006 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade have named Richard Good of AU and Jon Woods of Ohio State University to lead the 204

musicians of the Macy's Great American Marching Band. Good is director of the AU Marching Band and an associate professor in the Music Department, where he has been a member of the faculty in the College of Liberal Arts since 1995.

The Great American Marching Band, comprised of four students from each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, will lead the dozens of other bands and floats in the 80th installment of the annual parade. The band will be joined by approximately 50 flag-carriers and dancers in a specially choreographed performance.

Engineering professor receives grant for research linked to future generation of portable electronics

Pradeep Lall of AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has received a \$300,000, three-year grant from the Semiconductor Research Corp. for studies related to the continued reduction in size of portable electronics.

Lall, an associate professor of mechanical engineering, will use the research funding to study simulation tools, modeling and test methodologies for electronic packaging under conditions of shock, vibration, temperature and assembly.

SRC is a leading management consortium for

university research and is funded by major electronics companies, including IBM and Texas Instruments.

The project's long-term goal is to develop a multi-disciplinary focus and broaden graduate-student research experiences in traditional mechanical engineering areas. Lall said the studies are vital to the development of fundamental knowledge for the design of the next generation of portable electronics.

India honors AU graduate student for work in her homeland

Purve Gujar, a building science graduate student in AU's College of Architecture, Design and Construction, has been awarded the Rooda Memorial Gold Medal Award from the University of Pune in India.

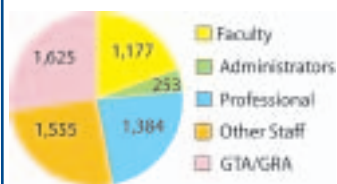
The award, given to final year bachelor of architecture students, is the highest honor a student in India can achieve in an undergraduate curriculum.

Gujar graduated from the University of Pune in 2004 in architecture ranking first in her class out of approximately 500 students.

She enrolled in Auburn's building science program in August.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Number of employees at Auburn by type



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment; 2004-05 data, latest available; excludes hourly student employees and part-time workers

The AU Report is an official publication of Auburn University. Each unit mailing copies of this document to off-campus addresses must include its return address. The Office of Communications & Marketing will not accept billing for copies mailed by other units.