SACS says AU is in full compliance with standards

Governors turn out for award presentations

Fisher bringing review team to AU this week

Book on religion and the courts wins honors

AU to honor integration pioneer

Josetta Brittain Matthews, who was a pioneering black graduate student and instructor at Auburn University in the 1960s and ’70s, will receive an honorary doctor of science degree from Auburn during fall commencement on Friday.

Matthews, who is a retired Tuskegee University professor, was the first African American to receive a graduate degree from AU and was also Auburn’s first African American faculty member.

She will join 1,483 new graduates who will receive their degrees in the 2 p.m. ceremony in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

Matthews was one of three black students who broke the color barrier at Auburn in the mid-1960s. In recent years, AU has also presented honorary degrees to Harold Franklin, who in 1964 was the first African American to enroll at AU, and Samuel Pettijohn, who in 1967 was the first African American to receive a graduate degree from AU.

After earning a bachelor’s degree from predominantly white Indiana University, Matthews enrolled in graduate school at AU in 1965 and earned her master of education degree in August 1966. With the master’s degree, she taught political science and French language at Tuskegee until she returned to Auburn for the doctoral program in social science education in 1971 and earned her doctorate in 1974. Her dissertation was titled “The Image of American Negroses, 1960 to 1970, as Reflected by Issues of the Journal of Negro Education and Ebony Magazine.”

While pursuing her doctorate in what was then Auburn’s School of Education, Matthews agreed to serve as a history instructor in the School of Arts and Sciences, now the College of Liberal Arts. After receiving her doctorate, she returned to Tuskegee as an assistant professor and served that university for nearly 20 years.

College of Education Dean Fran Kochan said Matthews’ success as a student and educator ranks among the highlights of the college’s 90-year history. Andrew Weaver, the longtime head of the Department of Curriculum and Teaching in the College of Education, was chair of Matthews’ graduate committee for her master’s and doctoral degrees.

Weaver, who is now the college’s acting associate dean for administration, recalls that Matthews was unfazed by her pioneering role in the college. “She was well prepared and did great work in both the...
Two receive Quality of Life Awards in NY


Interim AU President Ed Richardson and College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton led an AU delegation that included several prominent alumni. Pataki joined Henton in presenting an award to Henry Kissinger, who was an apparent factor in her success as a graduate student.

A team of consultants will be on campus this week in New York. AU Human Sciences Dean June Henton and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger presented the award to Tata.

Quality of Life Awards

Global philanthropist Ratan Tata of India, right, received one of two International Quality of Life Awards from AU’s College of Human Sciences last week in New York. AU Human Sciences Dean June Henton and former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger presented the award to Tata.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Winder, AU Communications; Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photographic Services; Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachelt; Director of Communications: Denise Dowdle.

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Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Final AU Report of fall semester</td>
<td>Monday, December 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation ceremony</td>
<td>2 p.m., Beard-Eavao-Memorial Coliseum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, December 22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offices close for holidays</td>
<td>Tuesday, January 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offices reopen following holidays</td>
<td>Monday, January 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST DAY of classes for spring semester</td>
<td>Monday, January 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty Seminar</td>
<td>Thursday, January 12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twelve Ways to Get Your Student Evaluations</td>
<td>1:30 p.m. (bring your lunch), auditorium, Draughn Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, January 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Holiday</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Day, no classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offices closed for day</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRST AU Report of spring semester, distribution on Tuesday</td>
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Two receive Quality of Life Awards in NY

A team of consultants will be on campus this week as part of its review of major issues that could impact the search for a new AU president.

The team, which will be at AU Monday through Wednesday, is led by James L. Fisher, president emeritus of George Washington University in Maryland. The consultants will examine long-simmering issues of governance and relationships among key constituents and propose ways to address problems in those areas.

The AU Board hired Fisher, who is also president emeritus of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, on Nov. 18, after presidential search consultant John Kuhnhlenz advised the university to conduct the assessment before beginning the search early next year for a new president.

Fisher, who has authored 10 books on university governance, is to report the team’s findings and recommendations to the AU Board on Feb. 3.

The review team has requested one-on-one interviews with individuals inside and outside the university. The team will also conduct focused sessions with groups of faculty, students and administrators randomly selected by Fisher.

Other review team members are:
- Gene A. Budig, former president of Illinois State University, West Virginia University and the University of Kansas. Budig is also a former president of the American League in professional baseball.
- James V. Koch, Board of Visitors Professor of Economics and president emeritus of Old Dominion University and former president of the University of Montana.
- Stephen C. Fucilexider, interim president of Norfolk State University, where he has also served as acting president. He is a former chancellor of Winston-Salem State University.
- Martha W. Tack, professor of educational leadership at Eastern Michigan University. She previously served on the faculties of Bowling Green State University and the University of Alabama, where she also served as assistant to the president.
- Kenneth A. Shuler, former chancellor of Syracuse University. He has also served as president of the University of Wisconsin System, chancellor of the Southern Illinois University System and president of Southern Illinois University.
- Farris W. Womack, former executive vice president of the University of Michigan and former vice chancellor of the University of North Carolina.
- Michael J. Worth, a former vice president at George Washington University and at the University of Maryland, College Park.
Recent book on conflict between church and state wins national award

A recent book on the conflict between church and state in America’s courts has won a national award for its author, Steven P. Brown, an associate professor of political science at Auburn.

Brown’s book, Trumping Religion: The New Christian Right, the Free Speech Clause and the Courts, won the Franklin S. Haiman Awards for Distin-
guished Scholarship in Freedom of Expression from the National Communication Association in November. The annual award from the nation’s largest group of communication scholars recog-
nizes ground-breaking research and writing in the social sciences on the subject of free speech.

Brown, who teaches constitutional law at Auburn, avoids choos-
ing sides in his analysis of one of the most divisive issues in American politics over the past quarter century. Instead, he presents a detailed analysis of the extent to which federal courts have set the stage for and then been drawn into heated political battles between liberals and conservatives over separation of church and state in the public sector.

The book, published in 2002 by the University of Alabama Press, examines the countermoves of the five major public interest law firms that had been successful for liberal groups in the 1960s and ’70s. Those restric-
tions, which ended nearly two centuries of accom-
modating religion in the public sector, came at the behest of the political left such as the American Civil Liberties Union, prompting political and
religious groups on the right to organize and fight
themselves in public institutions,” said Brown. “In
a number of cases, they have prevailed in the
courts with the argument on behalf of the free-
speech right to self-expression.”

But, he added, “The downside is that this is
the same argument used for liberal causes. Gay
rights groups, for instance, use the same argument in their attempt to organize and express them-
selves in the public sector.”

Thus, despite winning victories in court, the
conservative religious coalition created a precedent that has aided liberal causes which are anathema
to many religious conservatives.

To succeed in politics and the courts, conserva-
tive religious groups adopted some of the same
organizational, fund-raising and political tactics that had been successful for liberal groups in the 1960s and ’70s, and the result has been the same.

“Powerful interest groups, in general, tend to be
excessive in their rhetoric, and they play political
hardball,” he said.

“Unfortunately, an environment in which no one is willing to compromise is not good for political
dialogue,” he added. “Most people are in the
middle on these issues, but the ones at the ends of
the political spectrum carry on the dialogue.”

Since both the conservative groups and their
liberal opponents are well-financed and are
absolute in their views, they frequently carry their battles from the political arena to the courts,
especially when one or the other believes it can achieve results quicker there.

“There is a danger that the free speech issue
could cheapen religion, especially if you have
to make the argument that religious expression is just
another form of expression,” Brown said. “Under
that circumstance, you could win the battle but
lose the war.”

Rather than claiming rights under the estab-
lishment and free exercise clauses of the U.S.
Constitution, the conservative groups staked a
claim to the freedom of speech rights under the
First Amendment.

They argued those
rights in the courts and,
more often, before
school boards and local
governments when test
cases presented
themselves. More often
than not, Brown said,
the mere threat of legal action was sufficient for
the conservative groups to achieve their goals.

“Conservatives argued that they have the same
rights as anyone else to organize and express
themselves in public institutions,” said Brown. “In
concert with billing for copies mailed by other units.

Source:  Institutional Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Fall 2005 Credit Hours</th>
<th>Fall 2005 Enrollment</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>25,450</td>
<td>11,044</td>
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<td>English</td>
<td>22,439</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
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“...you could win the battle but lose the war.”

Steven Brown

Book about rise of New Christian
Right receives national honors

With the end of fall semester approaching, the United Way cam-
paign at AU was within $4,000 of its $140,000 goal for 2005 last week.
As of Tuesday, the campaign had received more than $136,000 in
donations and pledges from the AU community.

“The university community has been
enormously supportive of United Way this year,
and we are hopeful that a few more people will
come forward to put us over the top,” said
Campus Campaign Chair Bill Sauser of the
College of Business.

“It is our hope that no one will be turned
away in their hour of need,” Sauser added.

United Way supports 24 local charities and
organizations that serve the community.

How Auburn Stacks Up

AU departments with most student credit
hours, fall 2005

Mathematics          25,450
English               22,439
Bio Sciences          19,361
History               12,795
Management            11,044
Foreign Lang.         9,057
Sociology             9,373
Psychology            9,057
Comm & Journ.         7,088
Political Science     6,674

Source:  Institutional Research and Assessment