Campaign enters public phase with $332.4 million in donations so far

Auburn publicly launched the largest fund-raising effort in the university’s 150-year history during AU’s sesquicentennial weekend.

Five hundred prominent alumni and friends of AU assembled on campus on Feb. 3 to celebrate the start of the public phase of AU’s $500 million “It Begins at Auburn” campaign. At that event, participants cheered the announcement that AU raised $332.4 million, 66 percent of the campaign goal, during the quiet phase that began in October 2001.

The recent ceremony marked a major shift in fundraising activities. During the quiet phase of the campaign, prominent alumni and friends of the university built the framework for a national campaign while contributing major gifts of their own. In the public phase, those leaders will help volunteers and staff expand the campaign to reach all alumni and friends of Auburn with messages about the importance of giving.

Campaign co-chairs Sam Ginn and Earl “Buddy” Weaver said AU can raise the remainder of the $500 million in less than two years if Auburn alumni and friends show their love for and support of the university through contributions and volunteer efforts. Their optimism was buoyed by fundraising success in fiscal 2004-05, when gifts and pledges totaled $101.2 million, making that the most successful year for private support in the university’s history.

At the Feb. 3 event, interim AU President Ed Richardson said the ceremony provided a great start to the public phase of the campaign. “With the momentum we have from last year’s fundraising and the enthusiasm evident tonight, I expect our campaign to be a tremendous success.”

See Fundraising, page 2

Reliving Auburn history
Becky and Charles Hendrix, portraying Mary and George Petrie, were among more than a dozen people portraying historic figures from Auburn’s past during walking tours of campus on Feb. 4 as part of AU’s sesquicentennial celebration. Legendary early 20th century professor George Petrie authored the Auburn Creed, and Mary Petrie was among the town’s most prominent civic leaders of that era.

Black History Month activities


**MONDAY, FEB. 20**  “Black Boy,” one-man show by veteran actor and playwright Charles Holt, 7 p.m., Foy Ballroom.
Agricultural issues
Jerry Newey, president of the Alabama Farmers Federation, was one of several state agricultural leaders last week to present views on national policy to the Committee on Agriculture of the U.S. House of Representatives. The committee met at AU on Tuesday in one of several sessions the panel is holding with representatives of key agricultural constituencies around the nation.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 14
MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall, agenda at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate

Wednesday, February 15
BLACK HISTORY SPEAKER “A Race to Freedom,” Civil Rights pioneer Gwen Patton, noon, Foy 213; bring your lunch. HOSTS Institute of Higher Education and Office of Alumni and finance executive Kathryn L. Munoz, 1:45 p.m., Haley 3195

Thursday, February 16
PUBLIC LECTURE “Airborne on the Wings of Eagles,” Hollis Harris, chairman of Global Security Inc., provider of security systems for airports and airlines and former CEO of World Airways, 3 p.m., auditorium, AU Hotel
PUBLIC LECTURE “Unpredictable Events at Censorship and Histori- cal Monuments,” poet Natasha Trethewey and architectural historian Della Dunn, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art
COURT’S CHOICE Film Series “Comedian’s Life,” 7 p.m, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

Friday, February 17
PUBLIC WORKSHOP “New Life from Behind,” study of developmental factors in learning, John W. McDonald, director of the Brain Center for Applied Learning Research in Seattle, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., AU Hotel; sponsored by College of Business
PUBLIC WORKSHOP “Cultural Differences,” Cynda Crawford, University of Florida, 2 p.m., Overton Auditorium, Veterinary Medicine

Next AU Report
BLACK HISTORY THEATRE “Black Boy,” one-man show by Charles Holt, 7 p.m., Foy Ballroom

Tuesday, February 21
DAVIS LECTURE Syndicated columnist and author Rhetta Grimes Johnson, 5 p.m., auditorium, AU Hotel
ANNUAL MEETING AU Federal Credit Union membership meeting, 7 p.m., AUFCU Building

AU REPORT:
Editor: Ray Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Stewa McCann and Will Brinkley, AU Communications; Jamie Creaner, Agriculture; and Michael Tullier, Education. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Photo- graphic Services. Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Heflin, Director of Communications; Denise Dowdle.

Spirit of Excellence
The Office of Human Resources has announced Spirit of Excellence winners for outstanding performance in December. Recipients were, above, clockwise from left, Daniel Caldwell, Lee Messer of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and, at right, Thomas Scott of the Facilties Paint Shop.

Williams

David Williams, a 15-year veteran of the Department of Horticulture faculty in the College of Agriculture, has been named head of the department. Williams, an Auburn horticulture alumna, succeeds Charles Gilliam, who had served for five years as department chair. Gilliam has returned to his faculty position, where he focuses on ornamental production research. The appointment, announced by College of Agriculture Dean Rich- ard Guthrie, was effective Feb. 1, marking the departure of Guthrie, who is stepping down from a chair to a head system of leadership. Department chairs are elected from within the department for the a set term; department heads are appointed by the dean for an indefinite period.

Auburn’s Williams
Williams earned his bachelor’s degree in landscape and ornamental horticulture from Auburn in 1980 and his master’s in horticultural science in 1985. He worked as an extension horticulturist specialist at Auburn until the late 1980s. After receiving a doctorate in horticulture from Ohio State University in 1994, he returned to the AU faculty.

Williams’ responsibilities at Auburn have been divided between the classroom and Extension, where he has focused on home horticulture. He won the College of Agriculture Dean’s Awards for teaching excellence in 2000 and advising excellence in 2001. He received the Alabama university and college teaching excellence award from the AU Alumni Association in 2002.

Williams said that in his new role, one of his priorities will be to ensure that the department continues to meet the research and educational needs of the state’s $1.9 billion horticulture industry.

Videoconference focuses on online resources for distance education
The AU Office of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology will present a videoconference, “Evalu- ating Resources for Online Learning,” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in 328 O.D. Smith Hall.

The 90-minute, pre-recorded presentation features discussions on quality standards and access to online resources and examines major online national projects such as MERLOT, Harry and Gordon.

Information about the presentation is online at www.auburn.edu/outreach/dl/dli/events. In addition, those interested to tour the director Prasanthi Pallapa at pallapa@auburn.edu or 844-3476.

Speakers to examine censorship in use of historical monuments

AU Office of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology will present a videoconference, “Evalu- ating Resources for Online Learning,” at 1:30 p.m. Feb. 21 in 328 O.D. Smith Hall.

The 90-minute, pre-recorded presentation features discussions on quality standards and access to online resources and examines major online national projects such as MERLOT, Harry and Gordon.

Information about the presentation is online at www.auburn.edu/outreach/dl/dli/events. In addition, those interested to tour the director Prasanthi Pallapa at pallapa@auburn.edu or 844-3476.

The Samual Ginn College of Engineering will highlight the college’s opportunities for prospective students with its annual E-Day program on Feb. 24. Each year, high school students and their parents from throughout the region visit AU’s engineering college for exhibits, demonstrations and talks by engineering faculty and students.

With organized activities from 8:30 a.m.-noon, E-Day offers a chance to find out more about the Ginn College of Engineering by talking to stu- dents and faculty, experiencing interactive exhibits, and visiting classrooms and laboratories. They can also tour the Auburn campus to learn more about admissions, financial aid and residence life.

The spotlight this year will be on the Department of Aerospace Engineering, which has been a part of AU’s engineering curriculum since 1942. The department has 10 full-time faculty members and an enrollment of 240 undergraduates and 38 gradu- ate students.

Prospective students will also be introduced to the college’s programs in biosystems, chemi- cal, civil, computer science and software, electrical and computer, industrial and systems, materials, mechanical, polymer and fiber, and aerospace.

The day’s activities are coordinated by the Office of Engineering Student Services. For information, call 844-4310 or see the Web site www.eng.auburn. edu/admin/ess/sao/eday.

Fundraising

continued from page 1

The campaign encompasses all colleges and schools at Auburn as well as the library, art museum, athletics and Auburn University Montgomery. Endowments for students, faculty, programs and unrestricted accounts now make up 58 percent of the campaign’s goal.

“Endowments are vital to the future of any uni- versity. They are what sustains the university in the long term. They are what provide resources and support so far. ‘I agreed to serve on this campaign to give back a small part of what I received from Auburn,’ Weaver said. ‘I’ve been inspired by my fellow volunteers and donors and, most of all, Auburn’s students.’

The current campaign has already exceeded the $201 million raised in 1990-96 during the last major campaign. Weaver, a prominent Alabama business leader, played a major role in that effort, as well, serving on the AU Foundation Board and, for a year at the height of that campaign, as AU’s interim vice president for alumni and development.

AU Vice President for Development Bob McGin- nis said the timing of the “It Begins at Auburn” campaign, in the first decade of the 21st century, has special significance for the university. “This campaign and the donations that support it will be remembered for years to come,” said McGinnis. “It will be the foundation for this university’s future.”

Prospective students to converage on campus
Feb. 24 for Engineering tours, demonstrations

The Samual Ginn College of Engineering will highlight the college’s opportunities for prospective students with its annual E-Day program on Feb. 24. Each year, high school students and their parents from throughout the region visit AU’s engineering college for exhibits, demonstrations and talks by engineering faculty and students.

With organized activities from 8:30 a.m.-noon, E-Day offers a chance to find out more about the Ginn College of Engineering by talking to stu- dents and faculty, experiencing interactive exhibits, and visiting classrooms and laboratories. They can also tour the Auburn campus to learn more about admissions, financial aid and residence life.

The spotlight this year will be on the Department of Aerospace Engineering, which has been a part of AU’s engineering curriculum since 1942. The department has 10 full-time faculty members and an enrollment of 240 undergraduates and 38 gradu- ate students.

Prospective students will also be introduced to the college’s programs in biosystems, chemi- cal, civil, computer science and software, electrical and computer, industrial and systems, materials, mechanical, polymer and fiber, and aerospace.

The day’s activities are coordinated by the Office of Engineering Student Services. For information, call 844-4310 or see the Web site www.eng.auburn. edu/admin/ess/sao/eday.
Leaders in global campaign against hunger coming to summit at Auburn

Auburn will host university representatives from throughout the United States for a “War on Hunger” summit at the AU Hotel this weekend.

The three-day summit starts Friday and includes presentations by Peter McPherson, president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, and Lauren Bush, who is student ambassador for the World Food Programme and a niece of President Bush. Women’s basketball coach Nell Fortner, spokesperson for the AU campaign in the “War on Hunger,” will also speak.

The summit is an outgrowth of the selection of AU by the World Food Programme in 2004 to develop a model for a student-led campaign in colleges and universities to address issues of hunger and malnutrition around the world.

AU students organized the summit following a presentation by College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton, World Food Programme Executive Director Jim Morris and two Auburn students at the annual meeting of NASULGC last November. Their presentation outlined Auburn’s “War on Hunger” campaign, sparking interest in similar programs at other institutions.

“The timing appears right for a student movement to address world hunger,” Henton said. “As the world shrinks, students are becoming more keenly aware that a quality education involves not only technical competence in one’s chosen field of study, but an awareness of global issues and a commitment to making the world a better place.”

The AU campaign is led by the Committee of 19, a group of Auburn students. The group’s name is derived from the 19 cents a day it takes the World Food Programme to feed a hungry child. The committee has sponsored many events to draw attention to world hunger, including a banquet at which participants were served a small portion of soup in handmade bowls as a reminder of the millions of people who are underfed and undernourished.

On Friday, participants will hear from World Food Programme representatives and Auburn’s Fortner.

Saturday’s activities will begin with a keynote address by NASULGC President McPherson. Also that day, AU students and faculty will discuss the Auburn model for a campus campaign against world hunger, and Lauren Bush will discuss her experiences as a World Food Programme ambassador for the “War on Hunger.”

The summit will end with a session focused on how to expand the “War on Hunger” to colleges and universities around the world.

College of Education hosting alumna banking executive for Keynote honor

Banking executive Kathryn L. Munro, an expert in telecommunications finance, is on campus this week as the Keystone Leader-in Residence of the AU College of Education.

Munro, a 1970 College of Education graduate, is a prominent banking executive in several western states and was the first female owner of a franchise in the Women’s National Basketball Association.

She will present a public lecture, “Business, Basketball and Becoming a Leader,” at 1:45 p.m. Tuesday in Haley 3195 on the role of women in business, voluntarism in career development and the advantages of formal training in education for business professionals.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in education from Auburn, the Bessemer native earned an M.B.A. in finance from the University of Washington and established a career in banking in the Southwest and Pacific Northwest.

She concluded a 20-year career with the Bank of America as CEO of the banking corporation’s Southwest Banking Group.

She also directed Private Banking and Trust, Commercial Banking, Marketing and Teleservicing Operations for the Southwest, and she served in the administration of former Washington Gov. Daniel Evans, where she specialized in developing long-range economic plans for the state.

She later returned to the financial field, where she is a principal in Bridge West LLC, a private equity investment company specializing in wireless telecommunications infrastructure companies.

Recently recognized as one of the top 25 leaders in Arizona during the past 25 years, Munro is prominent in community, philanthropic, health, cultural, political and educational endeavors.

College of Education Dean Frances Kochan said Munro’s success demonstrates the flexibility of a degree in education. “Ms. Munro is a wonderful example of education’s central role in society and how we can all be educators, even if classroom teaching is not our chosen vocation,” Kochan said.

AE students win national award for best paper in their field

Two seniors in aerospace engineering at Auburn recently captured first place in competition for the best student paper at a national conference of professionals in their field.

Auburn seniors Richard Bramlette and Ryan Leurck won the award in the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Global Technical Paper Competition at the 44th AIAA Aerospace Sciences Conference in Nevada.

Bramlette and Leurck received a $1,000 honorarium for their paper titled “A Method for Control of Surface Deflection Utilizing Piezoceramic Bimorph Actuators.” The award is among the most prestigious national honors available to undergraduate students in aerospace engineering.

How Auburn Stacks Up

AU colleges with largest enrollment, fall ‘05, spring ‘06

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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.