AU to fill interim provost position internally, accepting applications

Interim AU President Ed Richardson has begun an internal search for an interim successor to Provost Thomas R. Hanley, who last week submitted his resignation from the provost position, effective March 1.

Richardson will accept applications for the interim position through Monday, Feb. 21. He said he expects to conduct interviews of selected candidates next week and name an interim provost soon afterward.

Candidates for the interim position must be full, tenured professors with some administrative experience and must not have an interest in the permanent position, Richardson said.

“I think there are a lot of people on this campus already who would do an excellent job in this position,” he added. “Hopefully, we’ll find the most qualified person and then move forward.”

Although an interim provost would be able to begin performing job duties upon his or her selection by the president, AU Board of Trustees would still need to approve the appointment at its April 22 meeting.

Hanley, who came to Auburn from his position as dean of the University of Louisville’s Speed Scientific School in October 2003, submitted his resignation from the provost position to Richardson on Feb. 9. He cited family considerations as chief among the reasons for his resignation.

Hanley has been temporarily appointed vice president of special projects, a post he will hold through May 15. In that position, his duties will likely include reporting to the president on federal and foundation funding opportunities for AU’s planned research park, development of a business plan for the Canine Detection Training Center and fundraising.

If Richardson does not name an interim provost by March 1, he and his senior staff will handle any urgent business within the provost’s purview until the interim is named.
Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 15

• Meeting: Administrative and Professional Assembly, 2 p.m., Foy Student Union, 246
• Black History Lecture: “Researching African American Genealogy,” Frazine Taylor of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, 3 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library
• AU Theatre: “Equus,” 7:30 p.m., Feb. 15-19 and Feb. 22-26, Telfair Pent Theatre, Matinee at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 20.
• Dance Display: Works by AU Dance Professor and painter Pieter Favre of Mobile at Telfair Pent Theatre gallery through Feb. 28.

Wednesday, February 16

• Conference: “Perfecting the New Paradigm: Distance Education Integration and Maturation,” Dixson Conference Center.

Saturday, February 19

• Museum Family Day: Free admission to AU’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, noon-3 p.m.

Monday, February 21

• Next AU Report.

Tuesday, February 22

• Biggie Book Group: Discussions of Stephen Brookfield’s “ Becoming a Critically Reflective Teacher,” noon and 5 p.m. Also at 5 p.m., Feb. 23. Contact Isabell Thompson at ithem@auburn.edu.
• Distinguished Faculty Lecture: “The Future of Alabama,” Wayne Flynt, 5 p.m., Dixson Conference Center. Inaugural event in College of Liberal Arts lecture series.
• Animal Meeting: AU Federal Credit Union, 7 p.m., AUFCU Building, West Magnolia Avenue.

Wednesday, February 23

• Human Resources Seminar: “Financial Planning for Retirement,” financial advisor Cindy Hayes of AEG VALIC, a.m.-11 a.m., Human Resources Training Facility, 146 N. Gay St. Register online at HR-A-Train web site or call 844-7099.

Commission seeks public input on direction for AU agriculture

An AU commission is seeking public input on the direction of the university’s agricultural, forestry, wildlife sciences and related programs. The President’s Commission on Agriculture will meet in March to assess all the options for these programs at Alabama’s largest land-grant institution. The commission is scheduled to submit recommendations to interim President Ed Richard

Two historic buildings long associated with student admissions and financial services at Auburn have reversed roles.

Mary Martin Hall, home to AU’s Admissions Office and Student Recruiting since the 1960s, and the Quad Center, a former dining hall that has been home to the Bursar’s Office for more than a decade, changed towers over the past two weeks.

Mary Martin Hall is now home to a new unit, Student Financial Services, which includes the offices of Student Financial Aid and the Bursar. Those units were merged last fall and occupy adjacent and newly renovated space in Martin Hall.

The Quad Center is the new home for the offices of Admissions and Student Affairs’ Marketing and Recruiting.

Mary Martin Hall was home to the college library from 1910 until Draughon Library opened in 1962, after that Martin Hall housed Student Affairs offices, including Admissions and Financial Aid.

The Quadrangle was constructed in 1940 and served as a dining hall for the surrounding women’s residence halls. With changes in student dining habits during the 1980s, AU closed the cafeterias in 1985 and converted the Quad Center into offices for the Bursar.

“Reconfiguring will be greatly enhanced because of the opportunity to welcome campus guests in a more central location, in a beautiful and more functional building,” said Mike Waldrop, associate director of admissions. “Tours will leave from the Quad Center, a building that Waldrop said is better suited to handle the volume of foot traffic.

John Fletcher, assistant vice president for enrollment management services, said the change will give a large boost to student recruiting. “With the move of Marketing and Recruitment to the Quad Center, Auburn will have an outstanding world-class facility that will be a great front door to the university,” he said.

Fletcher added that future renovations are being planned that will make the Quad Center even more welcoming and accommodating to prospective students and their parents.

Mike Reynolds, director of student financial aid, said having the offices of Financial Aid and the Bursar in one location will be more convenient for students. “Combining the Bursar Office and the Financial Aid Office into the Office of Student Financial Services enables the university to provide a one-stop shop for students regarding their financial affairs while pursuing their higher education goals,” he said. “The main objective of each office is to assist students in meeting their financial obligations, and this allows us to accom-

HISTORIC CMER HALL RENOVATIONS COMPLETE

The AU Bookstore Director Katy Lee, left, and Kelli Hend- derson of Human Resources presented the prize last week. Human Resources will select one participant each semester for the $50 gift card.

Located at the entrance to AU’s Campus Quad, historic Comer Hall is the link to the past as a commission develops recommendations for the future of agriculture and related programs at Auburn.

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“Reconfiguring will be greatly enhanced because of the opportunity to welcome campus guests in a more central location, in a beautiful and more functional building,” said Mike Waldrop, associate director of admissions. “Tours will leave from the steps of the Quad Center, which provides a very warm and inviting setting.”

Instead of going to Martin Hall, as in the past, prospective students and their families start their campus visits at the Quad Center, a building that Waldrop said is better suited to handle the volume of foot traffic.

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Courses cast common material in unique context for students

Concrete furniture designed and built by students in AU’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction is on display in the Dudley Hall gallery this week.

The furniture pieces are the result of a group project in the reinforced concrete design classes in the Department of Building Science. Teams of Architecture and Building Science students created the furniture and will donate it to the AIDS Outreach House.

“The students learned how to understand the engineering aspects of concrete,” said Steve Williams, a Building Science professor, who teaches one of the two concrete classes. “They learned how to work with reinforced steel. They had to build their own forms and mix their own concrete.”

Michael Hein, also a Building Science professor, teaches the second concrete class that participated in the project.

The students worked for two weeks to create the furniture, which included lighted end tables and a recliner-type lounge chair among other pieces.

Kelly O’Neal, a senior Building Science major, said the project provided a good foundation in working with concrete. “I had never really been around concrete before, but our groups were mixed really well,” she said, noting that each group had members who had experience with concrete.

Andrew Pitts, a senior Building Science major, was in O’Neal’s group. He had worked with concrete before but learned new things from the project. “We had to be very cautious, especially when we were drilling in the rebar,” he said of constructing their lighted end table.

Pitts said working with electricity proved to be one of the biggest challenges of the project. “We had to work with the light kit around the concrete so we had to be really careful.”

The students said they had to consider many different aspects of the project. For example, they had to be aware of the weight so the piece would not be too heavy to move. In some cases, this meant making the walls of the table thinner. “I learned that you have to be really careful when working with concrete,” Pitts said.

O’Neal added, “I’ve also found out why concrete furniture isn’t as popular as wood furniture.”

Although the assignment is a unique experience for the participants, students in Building Science have been working with concrete structures as part of their curriculum for more than a decade.

Michael Hein, also a Building Science professor, teaches the second concrete class that participated in the project in the reinforced concrete design classes in the Department of Building Science. Teams of Architecture and Building Science students created the furniture and will donate it to the AIDS Outreach House.

Lall receives NSF grant for Mechanical Engineering research

Pradeep Lall, a faculty member in the Ginn College of Engineering’s Department of Mechanical Engineering, has received a three-year $180,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to conduct research on the shock and vibration reliability of electronic packaging.

Lall, who is associate director of AU’s Center for Advanced Vehicle Electronics, said the proposed research will assist in developing convergent communication technologies. The center is partially funded by NSF and by industrial members.

“This grant will provide for sustained research support over a period of time to establish Auburn’s leadership in the area of damage-tolerant portable electronics,” said Lall. “The effort will also enable us to expand the scope of extreme environments to include shock and vibration.”

Gaillard to speak on Civil Rights movement in Alabama

Author Frye Gaillard will discuss his latest book on the Civil Rights movement in Alabama in a Black History Month lecture at 4 p.m. Feb. 22 in the Foy Student Union Exhibit Lounge.

Gaillard, author of 39 books, will speak on “Cradle of Freedom: Alabama and the Movement that Changed America.” His book by the same name tells the story of Alabama’s transformation from the Cradle of the Confederacy to the Cradle of Freedom.

The book covers the major events of the period, including the Montgomery bus boycott, the Freedom Rides, the Birmingham demonstrations and the Selma to Montgomery march.

Gaillard tells the story through personal accounts and interviews with both the movement’s foot-soldiers and such icons as Rosa Parks and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth.

The program is sponsored by the AU Office of Outreach, Center for the Arts and Humanities, Center for Diversity and Race Relations and Department of History.