Disability issues on campus to be focus of sessions for faculty, staff

A conference at AU this month will examine disability issues that could confront faculty, staff and administrators in the classroom or office.

The conference, “Disability Issues at Work and in College,” will be March 16-17 at the AU Hotel. Salome Heyward, an attorney and author of Disability and Higher Education, will present the keynote address at 9 a.m. on March 16.

Five other national authorities in the field will discuss accommodations for students and employees with disabilities, accessibility guidelines, information technology, telecommunications, legal issues, emergency evacuation for persons with disabilities, transition of students with disabilities from high school to college, disability harassment in the workplace, public rights of way, psychiatric disabilities in the workplace and common problems in physical access for the disabled.

Speakers include Hillary Styron, director of the National Organization on Disability’s Emergency Preparedness Initiative; David Baquis, an accessibility specialist with the U.S. Access Board; Mai Serenity Evening brings a sense of serenity to the grounds of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art. An exhibition of works by Department of Art faculty opens Friday at the museum, which is also presenting a lecture by art journal editor Jerry Cullum as part of a College of Liberal Arts series on censorship.

Museum exhibition to feature works by AU faculty members

Department of Art faculty at AU will present their work in the “Art and the World in 2006” exhibition, which starts Friday at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

The faculty exhibition will run through May 14 and features new works in a variety of media and techniques, including ceramics, drawing, painting, and sculpture. Works by 17 members of the Art Department will be on display.

The museum will open the exhibition with a public lecture by Jerry Cullum, senior editor of the Atlanta-based international art journal Art Papers. Cullum will speak at 6 p.m. on “Changing Modes of Censorship: Truth, Consequences and the Dwindling of Common Space.”

Cullum’s lecture is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts as part of the lecture series, “The Nuisance of Freedom,” which focuses on censorship.
AU department hosting annual Alabama Transition Conference

The 16th annual Alabama Transition Conference on youth and young adults with disabilities will be March 13-15, at The Lodge and Conference Center at Grand National in Opelika.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education in the AU College of Education will host the conference, which annually informs teachers, counselors, agency representatives, parents and teens about the latest research and outreach developments in the transition process. "Transition" refers to efforts of young people with disabilities — with assistance from family members, professionals and communities — to prepare for a successful transition from high school to adulthood. The process prepares these students for the transition to college or a vocation.

Events

**Upcoming Events**

**Tuesday, March 7**

**MEETING** Staff Council, 9:30 a.m., Fox 213

**Meeting** University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall, agenda at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate

**AU THEATER** “The Tempest,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peer Theatre; also same time Wednesday through Saturday, and 2:30 p.m. Sunday; for tickets, call 844-4154

**Wednesday, March 8**

**PUBLIC LECTURE** Jana Gateren, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, “Posidisa: Hispanic Writers Respond to AIDS,” noon, Foy 217, bring your lunch

**PUBLIC LECTURE** Rale Blautar of Department of English discussing his new book “Konapartitas in the Borderlands: French Exiles and Refugees on the Gulf Coast, 1815-1835,” 4 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library

**Thursday, March 9**

**FACULTY ELECTION** University Faculty voting through March 13, online at https://vote.auburn.edu/ for chair-elect and secretary-elect

**PUBLIC LECTURE** “Community, Language and a Life Waiting to be Imagined,” author and naturalist Janisse Ray, 3 p.m. Haley 2370

**Monday, March 13**

**NEXT AU Report** University Faculty, installation of officers, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall, agenda at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate

**Tuesday, March 14**

**MEETING** University Faculty, installation of officers, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall, agenda at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate

**Film festival to premiere Movie Gallery winners**

Auburn’s Jay Sanders Film Festival will premiere award-winning short videos from high school and university students across the United States and internationally on March 13 at the AU Hotel. The Auburn Film Society and the Department of Communication and Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts will present the winners of the ninth annual International Movie Gallery Student Video Competition. The free screenings begin at 7 p.m. Endorsed by the Movie Gallery Corporation in 2001, the competition awards trophies and cash prizes of $1,000 to first-place winners in the high school and college divisions. The competition is an outgrowth of the Jay Sanders Film Festival, which is named for a communication professor who introduced several generations of students to classic films during a lengthy career at Auburn.

**Correction**

The text with the photograph of "The Garden Party" on page 8 of the Feb. 27 AU Report incorrectly stated that Studio 222 is comprised of AU students. Instead, Studio 222 is a group of local artists.

**Acid rain facility moving to north Auburn in March**

Early March could see a “house warming” for AU’s acid rain research facility as it moves into its new location off Lee County Highway 72 in north Auburn.

Relocation of the acid rain research facility to the five-acre modernized site is part of the university’s efforts to make land near the facility’s previous location available for Auburn’s new research park.

“This new site is larger, more modern and has better infrastructure than our old site,” said Art Chappelka, a professor in AU’s School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences and director of the acid rain research facility.

Preparation of the new location for the acid rain research facility has involved in-kind services from the Lee County Commission as well as AU facilities. “They have done an excellent job getting things ready,” Chappelka said. “We are extremely grateful for their assistance as well as that provided by the Office of the Vice President for Research in enabling this move.”

Auburn broke ground for its new research park in November. Construction activities are scheduled to get under way in March at the site north of Shug Jordan Parkway and west of Small College Street.

Noting that Auburn launched the acid rain research program nearly two decades ago, Chappelka said, “Our mission in the beginning was to study the effects of acid rain and ozone on forests. Over the years, however, research activities at the facility have expanded to include multi-disciplinary and even national projects focused on a number of environmental and atmospheric concerns.”

Research projects at the facility include the planting of various forest and vegetation plots inside atmospherically controlled chambers. The chambers provide the isolation and control necessary to conduct quantifiable and qualified research over varying periods of time.

**Department completes name change to Polymer and Fiber Engineering**

The Department of Textile Engineering in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has completed the changeover of its name to Department of Polymer and Fiber Engineering.

The new name accompanies a new undergraduate curriculum, which college officials said was developed with input from alumni and an industry advisory board to reflect the increasing importance of polymers, composite materials and fibrous materials in a wide variety of industries.

Disability conference

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Cavall, senior attorney for Atlanta regional office of the U.S. Office of Civil Rights; Leslie Allen, an employment attorney at Balch and Bingham in Birmingham; and Scott Windley, an accessibility specialist for the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board. The conference is open to all faculty, staff, administra tors and graduate teaching assistants in the AU System, which includes the main campus, AU Montgomery, the Alabama Cooperative Extension System and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station. “This is not just for administrators,” said Kelly Hayes, director of AU’s Program for Students with Disabilities. “Every faculty member, every staff member and every GTA can find useful information in one or more sessions.” Hayes said medical, legal and technological advances enable people to succeed in college and in the workplace despite disabilities that could have stymied them in the past. As a result, she said, most faculty and staff members, whether disabled or not, will encounter persons with disabilities in the classroom, office, work site or home. “We are gaining from bringing very productive and very bright people into the classroom and workplace, but faculty and coworkers need to be involved in the process,” she said. “This conference is a way to achieve that goal.” Hayes said faculty, staff and other AU employees who are unable to attend the entire conference could attend sessions that address special topics of personal or professional interest. Advance registration is necessary to ensure adequate seating, however. Conference information and registration is available online at www.auburn.edu/academic/disabilities/cpd/cpd.html.

The conference is sponsored by the AU Committee for Persons with Disabilities, the Program for Students with Disabilities, the ADA Compliance Office and the Athletic Department.
Chicago couple endow business professorship

David and Meredith Luck of Chicago have established a $300,000 endowed professorship in the College of Business at Auburn.

The professorship will be awarded to a professor who exhibits a strong commitment to students and offers high quality instruction, research and outreach service. The professor must use the funds to strengthen and enhance his or her program for the college and must serve as a role model for students.

“By providing an endowed professorship as David and Meredith Luck have done, we will be able to recognize and reward faculty achievement,” said Paul Bobrowski, dean of the College of Business. “Retaining and attracting good faculty is the key to building great programs.”

After David Luck’s graduation from Auburn in 1971, he accepted a position as a manager trainee for the retail division of Firestone Tire and Rubber Company. In 1992, he was named president and chief executive officer of the 1,550-store Retail Operations Division of Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. After retiring from Bridgestone/Firestone in 1998, he became president, chief operating officer and director of American Builders and Contractors Supply Company.

The Lucks’ gift is among the latest new endowments in the “It Begins at Auburn” campaign to attract $500 million in additional private support for the university between October 2001 and the end of 2008. The campaign seeks additional funds for all colleges and schools at AU, the library, art museum, athletics and AU Montgomery.

AU Singers to perform Saturday at city school

The Auburn University Singers will perform at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday at Auburn Junior High School as part of the group’s annual Dessert Cabaret.

Unlike the ensemble’s Fall Show and Spring Show, the Dessert Cabaret will feature a variety of music performed by individuals and small groups. Guests will be seated at tables as they arrive, and ensemble members will serve a variety of homemade desserts with beverages.

Pre-show entertainment will include strolling singers and card tricks by master magician, Josh Singleton, one of the group’s trumpet players.

The AU Singers will open and close the show with songs from this year’s repertoire. Tickets are $10 and may be reserved by calling 844-4194.

AU faculty member wins national award for doctoral studies

David DiRamio, a first-year faculty member in the AU College of Education, has won a national award for his dissertation on student retention in distance learning.

An assistant professor of educational leadership, DiRamio will receive the Melvene D. Hardee Dissertation of the Year Award of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators this month at the association’s annual conference in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes his dissertation, Virtual Learning Community: A Student Exit Survey & Qualitative Framework, for ground-breaking research in the field of distance learning. Among its contributions to the field, the dissertation identified and developed means to measure factors that contribute to an online learning community.

DiRamio, who earned his doctorate at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, will share his findings and recommendations on improving distance learning classes in a workshop, “Student Engagement and Building Learning Community in Distance Education,” on April 13.

For registration information, call the Office of Distance Learning and Outreach Technology at 844-3476 or see http://web6.duc.auburn.edu/outreach/dl/Diramio.pdf.

New guides show graphic standards

Copies of the AU Style Guide & Identification Standards Manual are now available from the Office of Communications and Marketing in 23 Samford Hall.

The new manual is a resource to aid all units in complying with a consistent visual standard for marketing and communication materials.

The publication provides examples of the proper display of the AU logo on stationery, business cards, newsletters and other materials and includes a guide for editorial style in writing.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Auburn colleges with 2005-06 enrollment between 1,000-2,500

Note: A chart in the 02-20-06 AU Report contained some inaccurate data, which have been corrected, above.

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.