Battling for Oscar
Nels Madsen, in the foreground, has not "gone Hollywood," but Hollywood has found the AU professor. Madsen was a key player on a software design team that won an Oscar for advancing the technology of film. The black-clad batter in the background sports strategically placed lights in a process that provided the breakthrough in film technology. See page 2 for more on Madsen’s role in winning the Oscar.

Dean gives keynote address on AU role in ‘War on Hunger’ at India conference
June Henton, dean of AU’s College of Human Sciences, will discuss Auburn's role in the global "War on Hunger" in the keynote address at a United Nations-affiliated conference in India on Tuesday.

Henton will speak at the inaugural session of the Global Compact Regional Conclave in the Indian city of Jamshedpur.

Launched by United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in 1999, the Global Compact brings together business leaders from around the world to discuss initiatives such as human rights, labor, environmental responsibility and anti-corruption. The Global Compact, with more than 1,800 participating companies, is the largest corporate responsibility initiative in the world.

The theme of the conclave is "Key to Business Sustainability: Reducing Poverty, Fostering Entrepreneurial Development and Employment." Henton’s remarks on corporate social responsibility and business sustainability will focus on the role of the college, university, state and nation in fostering social responsibility and sustainability through educational, research, and outreach programs. A key component of her presentation will be the AU/UN World Food Programme partnership featuring Auburn’s student-led World Food Programme Initiative.

"We face a great challenge in higher education to help students better understand the issues of sustainability facing us today which have the potential to do irreparable harm to us as individuals and to the world community," Henton said.

"By participating in this international forum focused on corporate social responsibility, I will have a unique opportunity to showcase to the world what Auburn students have worked so hard to achieve in the ‘War on Hunger’ campaign and what they hope to accomplish in the future," the Human Sciences dean added.
Madsen wins Oscar for film technology

An Auburn faculty member has something in common with Clint Eastwood, Jamie Foxx and other major Hollywood names. Each won an Oscar in February for an achievement unrelated to other groups in this area, and why the recognition is for software, is

Madsen shared the award with co-inventors

Madsen said this approach to the body as a single integrated system as opposed to a collection of unrelated elements enhances accuracy and real-time performance. The software also enables the human motion to be applied to an animated character, making the character more visually appealing.

Madsen said these software features helped prompt director Peter Jackson to hire Giant Studios for "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy, which won an unprecedented three consecutive Academy Awards for visual effects.

Madsen shared the award with three software designers who are now at Giant Studios, an MRI affiliate that licenses technology to Hollywood studios. The design team received the award in a ceremony in California two weeks before Oscar Night on Feb. 27.

“What I believe the Academy is recognizing us for...is the utilization of marker location.”

Nels Madsen

Student Video Competition, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

environmental awareness, and the wildflowers and native plants that are part of Auburn’s natural beauty. A memorial service for AU Engineering faculty member Brian Carnahan is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Saint Michael’s Catholic Church.

Auburn faculty will vote by computer from Thursday through Monday for leaders of the University Faculty in 2006. In the second year of electronic voting, faculty will cast ballots for chair-elect and secretary-elect of general faculty and its representative organization, the University Senate. The four candidates were nomina ted by the University Senate.

The Senate will provide details of voting procedures to all persons with faculty status at AU.

Cand diates for chair-elect are Richard Persakovic of the Department of Philosophy and Christa Slaton of the Department of Political Science. Can didates for secretary-elect are Virginia O’Leary of Psychology and Andrew Newby of the College of Business and Wildlife Sciences. Their statements and biographical information were in the Feb. 28 AU Report and are online at the 2005 Archives web site under www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/wreport.html. Winners will be announced at the University Faculty meeting at 3 p.m. March 15 in the Brown Hall auditorium. At that meeting, Conner Bailey, the 2004-05 chair-elect, will succeed William D. Larkin as chair-elect for 2005-06. Debra Cobia as secretary. Larkin will then succeed John Mouton as faculty adviser to the Board of Trustees for a one-year term.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 9

• Gallery Talk: “Rodin and Michelangelo,” Catherine Walsh, curator of exhibitions, 2 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

• Professional Perspective: “Rodin in Prague,” Cathleen M. Giustino of AU Art Department, Smith Museum, 4:30 p.m.

• Environmental Institute Seminar: “Potential Environmental and Economic Benefits of Bioenergy,” AU agronomist David Bransby, 4 p.m., auditorium, Draughon Library.

• Next AU Report.

Monday, March 14

• Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Brown Hall.

• Student Video Competition, 7 p.m.-9:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder and Diane Clift, AU Communications; and Karen Naselli, Engineering. Photography: Ginn College of Engineering (page 1); Jeff Etheridge, Photographers (pages 2 and 3); and Art Department (page 4). Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachet. Director of Communications: Dondie Dowdle.

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To bee or not to bee is determined by disease, miles and insects that sharply reduced their numbers in the past decade, bees are slowly making a comeback across the nation. Sightings of Alabama’s new state insect remain rare, especially since the queen bee seldom leaves the hive, leaving the search for nectar from flowers to worker bees, which are only beginning to reemerge in significant numbers.

English Department to award prizes for best essays in World Literature

Students in a major segment of Auburn’s core curriculum now have their work judged for awards as well as grades.

Under a new initiative of the Department of English, students who write the best essays in Auburn’s World Literature sequence this year will receive cash awards. The essay contest will cover all papers written in 2005 by students in the World Literature classes, said Alexander Dunlop, coordinator of the World Literature Program. Early next year, the winners will receive prizes of $300 for first place, $200 for second place and $100 for third place.

The essay contest will help focus attention on a major part of Auburn’s core curriculum, said Dunlop, an associate professor in the Department of English. He noted that the World Literature Program is an expanded version of the sequence that was called “Great Books” until last fall semester.

A committee of World Literature faculty will judge essays that students write in the two courses in the World Literature sequence, which most students take as freshmen or sophomores. The judges will not submit nominations, themselves, but will review papers nominated by the course instructors.

Instructors who select essays for nomination may advise the students to submit their work before submitting it. The criteria for evaluation, specified in guidelines approved by the World Literature Committee, will be “originality, incisiveness, usefulness, persuasiveness and sensitivity to cultural difference.”

Dunlop said the awards program will recognize outstanding student work while promoting understanding of global diversity. He added that the awards program would also help demonstrate the faculty’s interest in students.

Including those who take both courses, the World Literature sequence attracts 6,200 students per year.

“This is a student-centered program,” Dunlop said. “We do not want to reduce students to numbers or see students reduce their experience in these courses to mere numbers and averages.”

In effect, “Our only function is to encourage student development and achievement.”

To bee or not to bee...
Sustainability project tests feasibility of plan to recycle used office paper

Last week marked the beginning of a three-week pilot program by AU Facilities Division and the Sustainability Initiative Task Force to collect paper for recycling before it hits the wastebasket.

From Feb. 28-March 18, faculty and staff in the Lowder Business Building and Funchess Hall are collecting paper products for recycling in special bins instead of tossing the paper into wastebaskets. Custodial staff will collect the paper from the bins and take it to a central collection site.

“The pilot program is really a test to see if the recycling program we are designing is ready to set up across campus,” said Lindy Biggs, a history professor who is chair of a special committee on sustainability. “We want to make sure we’ve got it right – iron out any wrinkles and fix whatever we didn’t quite get right.”

Items that can be recycled in the desk-side program include paper (white, colored or glossy paper is acceptable as well as stapled items), index cards, envelopes, magazines, phonebooks, file folders and self-carbon paper.

Items that cannot be recycled in the program include newspaper corrugated cardboard, Kleenex, paper towels, plastics, aluminum and glass.

“If we can get desk-side recycling to work, we’ll move on to other materials,” Biggs said.

Biggs said the committee is also looking for feedback about the program from faculty and staff as well as from facilities workers in the two buildings.

“Once we see if what we have in place is working, we’ll start moving it into other buildings,” she said.

Biggs said early reports are positive but she wants to hear about any aspects that are not working. “I don’t think there will be any major adjustments. I think we have a very good program outlined,” she said.

The recycling effort is beginning with office paper because it represents the largest amount of discarded materials on campus, said Biggs. She estimated that the amount of trash hauled to the landfill can be reduced by 50 percent through recycling efforts.

Donny Addison, recycling coordinator for the Facilities Division, said he will check the contents of trashpails at the two buildings during the test period to determine how much paper is going into the trash instead of the recycle bins.

Association honors Alumni Professors

The Auburn Alumni Association on Friday recognized AU’s 25 Alumni Professors at a reception in their honor.

Alumni Professors who began their five-year terms in 2004-05 are K.H. Chang and Bill Gale of Engineering, Ray Dugas of Liberal Arts, Steven Kincaid of Veterinary Medicine and Francis Rebicheaux of Sciences and Mathematics.

Other Alumni Professors and their colleges and schools are, Arthur Appel, Rex Dunham, Austin Hagan, John Liu, David Rouse, Elizabeth Guertal and Jeff Sibley of Liberal Arts; Bernard Kaltenboeck of Veterinary Medicine and Dennis Ruth of Architecture; Eric Bakker and Geoff Hill of Sciences and Mathematics; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering; Bill Buskist, Ruth Crocker, Kelly Dean Jolley, Christopher Newland and Samia Spencer of Engineering.

Each Professorship is worth $1,000 and is awarded on the basis of each professor’s quality of teaching, research and publishing.

The Alumni Association also recognized Judy Troy of Liberal Arts, who is serving a five-year term as AU’s Alumni Writer-in-Residence.

The Provost’s Office is seeking nominations for new Alumni Professors for 2005-06. A university committee selects and the Office of the Provost appoints five faculty members each year to Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Writer-in-Residence.

The Alumni Association funds the professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships and one every five years as Alumni Professorships.

Winning design

Wei Wang, an associate professor in the Department of Art at AU, recently won two “ADDY” awards for design from the Montgomery Advertising Federation. Wang, a faculty member for six years, won a Gold “ADDY” and a “Best of Show” award in the Interactive category for his personal online portfolio. A sample of the winning designs is shown above.

The “ADDY” name is copyrighted by the American Advertising Federation.