Faculty vote electronically this week

AU faculty will go to their computers this week to vote for University Faculty leaders for 2005.

The faculty will cast electronic ballots from Thursday through Monday, March 15, for chair-elect and secretary-elect of the University Faculty and its representative body, the University Senate. The winners will be announced at the spring meeting of the University Faculty at 3 p.m. March 16 in Broun Hall auditorium.

The election is the first in which faculty choose officers by electronic ballots, although students have voted electronically in recent Student Government Association elections.

Candidates for chair-elect are Conner Bailey and Mark Nelms. Candidates for secretary-elect are Patricia Duffy and Jim Gravois. Before rising to the top posts in March 2005, the winners of this week’s balloting will assist 2004-05 Faculty Chair Willie D. Larkin of the Cooperative Extension System and Secretary Debra Cobia of Counseling and Counseling Psychology, who take office on March 16.

Bailey, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, has been an AU faculty member since 1985. He was University Senate secretary in 1994-95 and was president of the campus AAUP chapter in 1999-2000.

Nelms, a professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering has been an AU faculty member since 1984. He has authored or co-authored approximately 70 publications in his discipline and has been faculty coach for AU’s student Solar Decathlon team.

Duffy, a professor in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, has been an AU faculty member since 1985. She served in the University Senate from 1991-94, is co-author of a textbook in her discipline and has received several awards for teaching.

Gravois, a reference librarian, represents AU Libraries on the University Senate. In Draughon Library, he is a specialist in foreign languages, philosophy and religion.

On pages 4-5 of this AU Report, the candidates discuss how they would present views of the faculty to the administration and Board of Trustees. Details on eligibility and voting procedures are online at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/vote_faq04.htm.
Publication cites logo by AU professor as one of the best in America in 2003

The annual national design publication American Corporate Identity has selected a logo by Dana Ezzell Gay of the Department of Art in the AU College of Liberal Arts for inclusion in its latest edition.

Gay, an assistant professor at Auburn, designed the logo for Primavera Italian Eatery, a restaurant in Silverthorne, Colo.

The American Corporate Identity competition is the only annual national competition devoted specifically to recognizing excellence in the field of corporate identity. The judging was led by David E. Carter, who has produced more books on logo design and corporate identity than anyone else in the business.

Gay is one of two members of the AU Art Department whose work will appear in the 2004 edition of American Corporate Identity. The judges previously announced that logos designed by Kelly Bryant will also be included in the publication, which highlights examples of the best of contemporary design in American business.

Scholarships available for children of employees

The University Scholars Program is accepting applications from AU faculty and staff for AU’s 2004-05 Employee Dependent Children Scholarships.

Auburn will award approximately 10 scholarships of $1,000 each to dependents of faculty and staff for the 2004-05 academic year. The scholarships are need-based, going to eligible applicants with the greatest unmet need under federal funding formulas.

Recipients must meet general scholarship guidelines of the Office of Financial Aid, with priority going to incoming freshmen who have a 3.0 high school grade point average and to enrolled AU students who have a 3.0 cumulative GPA through fall 2003.

For a dependent to qualify, the faculty or staff member must be a regular, full-time, continuing employee of the university and have been employed for at least 12 months before the application deadline of May 31.

The dependent child must be an admitted, undergraduate student enrolled at the main campus of AU, be dependent on the income of the tax return as a legal dependent and demonstrate need through the U.S. government’s Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

Application forms are available at the University Scholars Program Office in 400 Martin Hall and the Office of Student Financial Aid in 203 Martin Hall. You may also print the application in PDF format from the Auburn Web sites www.au-burn.edu/scholarship and www.ocm.auburn.edu/symposium.

For additional information, contact the University Scholars Program at 844-3250.

Crocker to discuss 19th century hospital in women’s history talk

Ruth Crocker of the AU Department of History will present a Woman’s History Month public lecture at 3 p.m. Thursday at the Special Collections and Archives Department of Draughon Library.

Crocker, Alumni Associate Professor of History, will examine the place in history of the mid-19th century New York Women’s Hospital and the controversial methods of surgeon J. Marion Sims, the hospital’s founder.

The lecture also will consider the impact of the hospital’s elite, volunteer “lady managers” on the institution’s growth and welfare institutions.

Crocker earned her 7th doctorate in women’s history from Purdue University and holds a scholar’s degree from Oxford University. At Auburn since 1988, she teaches courses in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, historical methods, women’s history and world history.

Her areas of specialization include gender, class and ethnicity in U.S. history and history of social work and social welfare.

AU Theatre to present nationally prominent dancers in concerts

The AU Department of Theatre will host a weeklong series of dance concerts and master classes March 15-21 at Tollett Theatre. Activities start Monday, March 15, with “Reconnaissance of a Dancing Man,” a solo concert by internationally renowned modern dance and tap artist Bill Evans. The artistic director of the Bill Evans Dance Company and the New Mexico Tap Dance Jam, Evans has choreographed works for more than 60 professional dance companies around the world.

On March 16, Evans will offer master classes in modern dance technique, tap and Bartenieff Fundamentals, a technique that promotes efficiency of movement and a holistic approach to the body.

Following the Evans residency, AU Theatre will present “Dance,” the department’s second annual dance concert, under the direction of Associate Professor Judith Nelson.

This year’s concert combines with that of guest professor Matthew Matthews of Network Photographers in London; Merve Kavaklı of the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University; and Naomi Chazan, professor of political science and African studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The symposium will move on March 17 to Foy 217 and conclude with the roundtable discussion “Feminism in Global Perspective” from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

The symposium is sponsored by the AU Office of the President and the AU Women’s Studies Program. Symposium organizers are Kelly Alley of Anthropology, Jill Crystal of Political Science, Yasser Gowayed of Textile Engineering and Richard Pensakovich of Religious Studies in the Department of Philosophy. For more information, see the Web site www.ocm.auburn.edu/symposium.

Syposium to provide women’s perspective on Middle East, Asia

AU will host a Presidential Symposium next week on “War, Peace and Justice in the Middle East and Asia.”

Seven visiting experts from U.S. and Middle Eastern universities, London and Afghanistan will join AU scholars on March 16-17 at Foy Student Union for public discussions of issues related to the theme of “Women, War and Peace.”

The symposium’s first session, 9 a.m.-noon on March 16 in Foy Ballroom, is a presentation on “Women in Hinduism, Islam and Judaism” by Arno Goodnitz Gold, professor of religion and anthropolog y at Syracuse University; Anna Barlis, chair of the Department of Politics at Ithaca College in New York; and Hannah Herzog, associate professor of sociology at Tel Aviv University.

Speakers for the afternoon session, “Women, War and Peace-Making,” from 1:30 p.m.-5 p.m., include Sabar Saba, spokeswoman for the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan; Jenny Matthews of Network Photographers in London; Merve Kavaklı of the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University; and Naomi Chazan, professor of political science and African studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

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Education professor to read from her new anthology at Pebble Hill event

Judyth Lechner, an AU faculty member who is an authority on children’s literature, will present apublic reading from the “Anthology of Traditional Literature” at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Pebble Hill.

Lechner, editor of the new anthology assembled, interpreted and annotated the collection of fairy tales, folk stories, myths and legends for Allyn and Bacon Publishers of New Jersey.

The reading is sponsored by the AU Center for the Arts and Humanities. Copies of the book will be available for signing.
Candidates respond to question

The Nominating Committee of the University Senate recently asked the following question of candidates for chair-elect and secretary-elect of the University Faculty, and its representative organization, the Senate. The candidates’ responses are on these two pages.

“Whoever becomes our next chair-elect will be part of the University Senate, University Faculty, and Board of Trustees. He or she will be a key player in formulating positions on various issues when there is not time to poll the faculty. How well do you feel you could represent the faculty under such conditions?”

By R. Mark Nelms, Candidate for Chair-Elect

I have interacted with faculty around the campus on a number of student projects and as a member of the SACs Self-Study Administrative Services Committee. It is always interesting and informative to discover how other faculty view campus events. I will utilize my year as chair-elect to seek out faculty perspectives from around the campus.

As Senate Chair, it will be my duty to report faculty positions on various issues to the university administration and the Board of Trustees. The faculty position may be very different from that of the university administration and/or Board of Trustees. However, it is still necessary to report the position and to try to get a sense of the entire faculty on these issues.

I have learned over many years of involvement in my professional society that effective communica- tion involves conveying complicated professional issues in simplified language that all my colleagues can understand and use to communicate with the university administration and/or the Board of Trustees will be in this light.

In addition, I would expect the committee members to be knowledgeable on a broad range of issues and to be able to discuss related questions with the committee members will be the key to formulating positions on various issues where there is not time to poll the faculty. As a result, I would feel comfortable summarizing faculty positions on various issues.

By Conner Bailey, Candidate for Chair-Elect

Independence of mind is a primary characteristic of faculty. Representing faculty viewpoints accurately is a challenge. We are highly diverse and any attempt to portray faculty viewpoints in unitary terms (“the position of the faculty”) would miss this essential point.

The nature of my research has encouraged me to work closely with colleagues across campus (anthropology, architecture, chemical engineering, community planning, family studies, fisheries, forestry, toxicology). I have served in the University Senate and on numerous Senate and University committees. I have attended most Senate meetings, Faculty Senate, and Board of Trustees meetings over the past 10 years. This breadth of exposure and involvement shapes my perspective on faculty interests and concerns.

The structure of the University Senate and the University Faculty Board provides support and advocacy for faculty members in determining and representing perspectives. Whoever becomes our next chair-elect will be part of the University Senate, University Faculty Board, and Board of Trustees in representing the faculty “position” on matters facing this university.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 9
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for information session, 3 p.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment needed.
- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Brown Hall auditorium.
- Public Reading: “Excerpts from the ‘Anthology of Traditional Literature,’” editor Judith Lechner of AU College of Education, 4 p.m., Pebble Hill.

Thursday, March 11
- Electronic Voting: Faculty elections through March 15. Information online at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/ senate/vote_faq04.htm

Monday, March 15
- Dance Performance: “Reminiscences of a Dancing Man,” modern dance and rhythm tap artist Bill Evans, 7:30 p.m., Tellair Peet Theatre. Tickets: $15, $10 and $20, box office 844-4154.

Tuesday, March 16
- Meeting and Election Results: University Faculty, 3 p.m., Brown Hall auditorium.

Wednesday, March 17
- Presidential Symposium: “War, Peace and Justice in the Middle East and Asia.” Feb. 217. Roundtable discussion: “Feminism in Global Perspective.” Scheduled speakers: Mary Jo White, University of Illinois; Bahram H. Bikfay, Kansas University; Vicky Hunsinger, DePauw University.
- Meeting: Staff Council, 10 a.m., Feb. 208.
- Neil and Henrietta Davis Lecturer: AU alumnus Eric Ludgood, vice president of CNN International, 5 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

By Patricia Duffy, Candidate for Secretary-Elect

With good planning and communications, the Executive Committee should rarely have to speak for the faculty on vital issues without time for input. If elected, I would work to ensure that critical issues as Senate agenda items, providing opportunity for the faculty body as a whole, not the Executive Committee alone, to make key decisions. If a decision must be made hastily, between the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees, I would ask to at least have time to contact the faculty senators via e-mail to get as much input as possible. I would also strive to learn as much as I can about diverse faculty views in case I am asked to provide informal input to the administration or to the media.

Through my previous university committee work, especially the Committee on Student Affairs, I have expanded my teaching of a course administered by another college and from taking classes in two colleges other than my own, I have been exposed to issues and concerns of importance to faculty in other institutions. I currently participate in two campus list-serves, the AAUP list-serve and the women’s list-serve. If elected, I would devote time to meetings with faculty groups across campus, including the faculty senators from the different administrative units.

By Jim Gravious, Candidate for Secretary-Elect

If a member of the Board of Trustees were to ask the Senate for the sense of the faculty’s opinion on a particular issue, how would I reply? Marketing Checklists are an example of such a situation. How can I make myself knowledgeable about such a divergent, multi-faceted, cross-campus issue?

There are several steps I would use to try to get a sense of the entire faculty. First, I would be sure to discuss resignation votes recently. Perhaps there would be occasions when a faculty-wide e-mail is merited. I feel that all of these steps would give me a much better sense of the faculty’s views, but they would not be foolproof. If a trustee asks me about a new issue, one that has not come up in faculty-wide conversations, how would I respond? I would ask those senators who may not express their views vocally at our monthly University Senate meetings. Third, I would emphasize to senators that they should try to poll their faculty on these issues as much as possible and relay the sentiments of their group to the Faculty Chair and me.

Fourth, I would contact leaders of the local AAUP chapter to get their input and attend their meetings.

Panel seeks nominations for Sullivan Awards

The deadline for submission of nominations for the 2004 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards, AU’s highest humanitarian service award, is March 23. AU presents the awards each April to a man and a woman from the graduating class and a non-stu- dent, who may be a faculty or staff member, administrator or a member of the community.

Submit nominations to Sullivan Awards Commitee Chair Wes Williams, AU Department of Student Affairs, 200 Cater Hall. Include a letter of nomination, a resume or curriculum vitae and newspaper articles or other documentation of the person’s humanitarian service.

Established in the 1920s by the New York South- ern Society, the award commemorates a leading late 19th and early 20th century humanitarian. First presented in 1927 at Washington and Lee University, the award is presented at universi- ties around the U.S. to honor exceptional service to humanity.

The 2003 Sullivan Award for a non-student went to D.K. Ruth, co-founder of AU’s Rural Studio.
Scientists’ research shows nutrient in fish may prevent harm from mercury

The potentially harmful effects of eating some fish contaminated by mercury may be offset or neutralized by the beneficial effects of naturally occurring omega-3 fatty acids in fish, say two scientists at Auburn.

Margaret Craig-Schmidt, professor of nutrition and food science, and Chris Newland, Alumni Professor of Communication, said they are beginning to see in research that there may be some protection from mercury that is conferred by omega-3 fatty acids that occur naturally in fish. They are challenging conventional notions with their hypothesis on this issue.

Craig-Schmidt and Newland, collaborators in research supported by the National Institutes of Health, are exploring the hypothesis that omega-3 fatty acids and methyl mercury found in fish, are challenging conventional notions with their hypothesis on this issue.

Theory — a heavy metal that concentrates in the muscle tissue of fish.

Fatty acids during the most critical developmental stage are of growing concern to scientists and consumers as to consumers. “These advisories are confusing,” Newland said. “My concern is that people may throw up their arms in despair and quit eating fish entirely.”

Both researchers say they believe such a response would be extreme. They say that attaining enough dietary omega-3 is a challenge for millions of Americans who are striving to reduce their risk of cardiovascular disease and mental decline that often accompany aging. The challenge is even greater, they say, for pregnant women and nursing mothers who want to ensure that their children get adequate amounts of fatty acids during the most critical developmental period.

AU will host its eighth annual Movie Gallery Festival, March 18 through 21, at the Auburn University Conference Center on March 18, starting at 7 p.m.

Film festival coordinator Emmett Winn, an associate professor of communication, said the festival is an outgrowth of the Film, Radio and Television degree program at Auburn. They became widely available through video rental.

They particularly highlighted its current role when organizers decided that the festival should provide a creative outlet for college and high school video producers. With Movie Gallery’s support, the competition will be a growth vehicle for all contestants.

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Newland said the conflicting warnings regarding fish consumption are of concern to scientists and consumers. “These advisories are confusing,” Newland said. “My concern is that people may throw up their arms in despair and quit eating fish entirely.”

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The result is a team that is more responsible to the needs of the client.
Signs of spring
The first signs of spring came to Auburn last week as cherry trees, shown here, and Japanese magnolias burst into bloom. Walkways in the student parking area near the AU Federal Credit Union were lined with color, signaling a respite from several weeks of drab skies and below-normal temperatures.

HUD awards grant to AU for master’s programs in community planning, public administration

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has awarded $150,000 to the community planning graduate program in the Auburn University College of Architecture, Design and Construction and the public administration program in the College of Liberal Arts.

The grant program, administered by the federal agency’s Office of University Partnerships, is part of HUD’s Community Development Work-Study Program. The grant to Auburn is part of $3 million in grants HUD announced for 19 universities around the country to benefit low-income and minority graduate students.

While completing the program of study at AU, students will work with the City of Auburn’s planning and development offices, the City of Opelika’s mayor and development offices, and the Lee-Russell Council of Governments. The University of Alabama at Birmingham and Alabama A&M University will also receive the HUD grants.

Housing and Urban Development is a federal agency committed to increasing minority homeownership, creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The federal agency also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation’s fair housing laws.

Book club to discuss ‘Girl with a Pearl Earring’ this month

The Libraries Book Club will meet in two sessions on March 24 at Draughon Library to discuss “Girl with a Pearl Earring” by Tracy Chevalier.

Open to the university community, sessions will be at 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. to accommodate the schedules of members and visitors. The meeting site has been changed to the second floor conference room of the library.

“Girl with a Pearl Earring” centers around a famous portrait with the same title by Dutch painter Johannes Vermeer.

Set in 1660s Holland, the book presents a fictional account of relationships among the painter, his wife, his mother-in-law and his 16-year-old hired female servant, Griet.

Chevalier’s book has been on the New York Times Fiction Bestseller list and was winner of Barnes and Noble’s 2000 Discover Great New Writers Award.

The book is available at the University Bookstore and other local bookstores. For information, contact Stephanie Morgan at 844-2704 or stephanie@auburn.edu.

CNN executive returns to speak at lecture series

Eric Ludgood, vice president of CNN International, will present a public lecture next week as part of Auburn’s annual Neil and Henrietta Davis Lecture Series.

Ludgood, who has a bachelor’s degree in speech communication from AU, will speak at 5 p.m. March 17 at the Dixon Conference Center.

The visiting executive, who started his career at a Columbus, Ga., television station, will also present workshops and speak at a luncheon as part of a conference hosted by the Department of Communication and Journalism in the College of Liberal Arts.

In his role at CNN in Atlanta, Ludgood refines production, programming and operational models for the cable network. He supervises the production and writing staff while handling newsroom technology and management issues.

Ludgood is also in charge of CNN World Report, a program that features news stories from 150 broadcasters from around the globe. In addition, he is responsible for recruitment of writers and producers and development and implementation of CNNI’s newswriting and producer training.

Ludgood joined CNN in 1993 as a producer, writer and copy editor and became a supervising producer the following year. From April-November 1998, he was executive producer of CNNI managing its operations and editorial style.

Previously, he was assignment manager for WXIA-TV in Atlanta from 1989-93, where he oversaw daily newsgathering and was producer of Atlanta’s top-rated morning newscast.