Richardson cites positives, adds cautionary notes

In State of the University remarks to the AU faculty last week, interim President Ed Richardson cited several positive indicators and a couple of cautionary notes for Auburn’s future.

Richardson noted that Auburn is faring well in academics, athletics, enrollment, financial management and state funding, and he said the university is poised to conduct a successful presidential search by the end of the year.

He cautioned, however, that the university must prepare for shortfalls in state funding that inevitably follow periods of prosperity. And, Richardson warned that the presidential search could be impeded by a trustee’s lawsuit over the length of terms on the Board of Trustees.

Among the success stories, he noted, is Auburn’s ranking as the nation’s top public institution among BCS schools in graduation rates for athletes. Richardson said the ranking is as much a sign of success for academics as for athletics.

Another sign of academic success, he said, is the pressure on enrollment from large numbers of high school students seeking admission to Auburn. “Enrollment pressures are as high as they have ever been,” Richardson said. While a final cutoff has yet to be set, Richardson said he would like the limit of new freshman next fall set at 4,000, approximately 200 fewer than the record number in 2005. The Provost’s Office has requested a still lower number to reduce pressure on core curriculum courses.

Financially, the university is managing its resources conservatively in anticipation of slower growth in state appropriations later in this decade. One thing that could ease the pressure for future cuts at Auburn, he said, is AU’s alliance with the University of Alabama that enables the state’s two largest universities to present a united front to the...
Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 21

**Public Lecture** “Auburn: From Loveliest Village on the Plain to City of Villages,” art and architecture historian Susan Braden of AU Department of Art, 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, South College Street

Wednesday, March 22

**AU World’s Fair** International Student Life cultural exhibits from more than 40 countries, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Haley Center concourse

**Seminar** “Teaching Special Student Populations,” Kelly Haynes of Program for Students with Disabilities and Virgil Starks of Student Athlete Services, noon, Foy 202; bring your lunch

**Meeting** Administrative & Professional Assembly, 2:30 p.m., Foy 213; agenda at www.auburn.edu/administration/gov/npn/ap/agenda/032206agenda.htm

**Concert** AU Symphonic Band, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Hall

Monday, March 27

**Next AU Report**

**Spring Break** No classes this week; most offices remain open for regular business hours, Monday-Friday

Friday, March 31

**Deadline** Registration for April 7 faculty forum to review three alternatives to current student evaluations of classes and faculty; contact Biggio Center, biggio1@auburn.edu

Tuesday, April 4

**Littleton-Franklin Lecture** Biotechnolgy and Ethics, Gregory Stock, director of Program on Medicine, Technology and Society at UCLA, 4 p.m., auditorium, Sciences Laboratory Center

Administrative changes affect Dean of Students, Office of the President

Interim President Ed Richardson says admin-istrative changes announced last week for the President’s Office and the former Office of Stu-dent Affairs are an attempt to clarify reporting lines and provide better support for students and the campus in general.

Under the revised administrative structure, Dean of Students Kent Smith reports to the President’s Office and is responsible for general student de-velopment and student support functions. Those functions include the offices of International Student Life, Student Publications and Media, Judicial Affairs, Greek Life and Student Develop-ment Programs, Foy Union-Operations, the Medical Center and related counseling services, Recreational Services and student leadership programs.

Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies Linda Glaze, who reports to Provost John Heilmann, oversees academic support functions and offices for undergraduate programs, including Enrollment Management, Academic Counseling and the Student Success Center. The latter includes the University’s legislative affairs.

Richardson noted that the changes followed recommendations from the Office of the Provost, department heads, other senior administrators and students. “These recommendations will provide the best possible support for students, campus depart-ment staff,” he said. “In addition, these adjustments will provide a seamless organization upon which the next president can build.”

Engineering professor edits book in new field of medical technology

Ram Gupta, Alumni professor of chemical engineering in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineer-ing, is the editor of a new textbook on the emerging science of nanomedicine.

Published in January, *Nanoparticle Technology for Drug Delivery* presents issues concerning the manu-facture and biological application of nanopro-ducts, which are particles at the forefront of medical technology.

Nanoparticles can increase drug solubility, en-hance availability to the body, allow tissue targeting and reduce drug side-effects. The book discusses four aspects of nanomedicine: production tech-niques, quality control, medical usage and ethical and regulatory issues. Nineteen researchers from the United States, Germany, India, the Netherlands and Russia contributed information to the work.

“These days there is a lot of excitement about nanomedicine, as it is poised to improve human health significantly,” Gupta said. “This book encompasses at least three years of research by myself and the others who contributed.”
Alumni professors also named
Alumni Association presents awards for teaching, minority achievement

Debbie Shaw, interim vice president for alumni affairs, presented awards to four faculty members and named five others as Alumni professors on behalf of the Auburn Alumni Association last week at the University Faculty’s spring meeting.

The association’s Undergraduate Teaching Awards for 2006 went to Sheri Brock, assistant professor of health and human performance; Paula Peek, assistant professor of community affairs; and Brian Gibson, associate professor of aviation management logistics.

The association presented its Minority Achievement Award for 2006 to Curtis Jolly, interim chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, citing his leadership in attracting, retaining and improving graduation rates of minority students in the College of Agriculture.

Jolly has worked extensively abroad to help bolster Auburn’s international agricultural programs since he was appointed to the faculty in 1980. After earning their degrees, many of his minority graduate students have gone on to hold significant positions in their fields in the United States, China, Japan, Indonesia and other nations.

Shaw said the Undergraduate Teaching Awards recognize the lifelong impact that good teaching has on students and alumni. “We’ve all had teachers who inspired us, mentored us and nurtured us,” she said. “This award is a great way for alumni to recognize and honor teachers at Auburn who have made a positive impact on their students’ lives.”

The award recipients were nominated by alumni, students, faculty colleagues and administrators, and each nomination was seconded by an academic dean.

Brock, who earned her Ph.D. at the University of Alabama, teaches physical education. High school physical education teachers, who were Brock’s former students, cited her rapport with students, innovative teaching methods and efforts to create extracurricular opportunities for students.

Peek, who teaches interior design, holds a master’s degree in art from Auburn. Nominators cited the Human Sciences faculty member for her classroom skills, personal attention to students and success in helping prepare students for careers.

Gibson, who teaches logistics and supply chain management courses in the College of Business, earned his Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee. Nominators cited Gibson for his quality of research and teaching and recognized him as a “multidimensional” teacher who uses a variety of creative methods in his teaching.

Five faculty members were also named to five-year terms as Alumni professors. They are Patricia Duffy of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, Mona El-Sheik of Human Development and Family Studies, George Flowers of Mechanical Engineering, Guofu Niu of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Isabelle Thompson of English.

Their inclusion brings to 25 the number of AU faculty members holding Alumni professorships.

Recognizing achievement
Debbie Shaw of Alumni Affairs presented the Auburn Alumni Association’s Minority Achievement Award to Curtis Jolly of the College of Agriculture last week. In addition, three faculty members won awards for undergraduate teaching, and five were named to Alumni professorships.

Deadline approaches for research award nominations
April 3 is the deadline to submit nominations to the Office of the Vice President for Research for the university’s 2006 Creative Research and Scholarship Awards.

Any AU faculty member may be nominated for the award. The awards include $5,000, a plaque and a place in a portrait gallery of recipients.

Awards are in two categories: Sciences, Medical Sciences, Engineering and Agriculture; and Fine Arts, Liberal Arts, Business, Social and Human Sciences.

Detailed instructions for external letters and the submission process are on the OVPR Web site at www.auburn.edu/research/vpr/internalfund.htm

Two faculty members win awards from NSF
Engineering faculty members Mario Eden and Willie Harper recently received CAREER awards from the National Science Foundation.

Eden’s project, “Targeted Approaches for Integrated Process and Product Design,” focuses on finding better methodologies for chemical process and product design.


The NSF’s CAREER awards support the early career development of faculty in scientific disciplines.

How Auburn Stacks Up
Top U.S. institutions* for new graduate students at Auburn, fall semester 2005

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

* other than AU (287)