Gulf Shores
In this site plan from TVS Alabama Inc., the most likely site for a new hotel and convention center at Alabama’s Gulf State Park is on the beach side of Highway 182 south of Lake Shelby. The hotel and convention center will be privately financed and operated in cooperation with Auburn’s academic program in hotel and restaurant management. The facility will also provide a Gulf Coast base for other AU programs.

Three finalists describe goals

Decision near on new AU provost

Auburn could have a new provost by the end of next week.

At public presentations by the three finalists last week, interim President Ed Richardson said he expects to complete the search and announce a decision next week but, he cautioned, the timetable is a goal and not a guarantee. The provost will begin serving immediately, subject to confirmation by the Board of Trustees at its April 22 meeting.

AU Board bylaws require board confirmation for appointment of the provost, who is second only to the president in matters of academic administration. All deans and the vice presidents for research, outreach and student affairs report to the provost, who is also the academic vice president. The position has been vacant since Thomas Hanley resigned in early February, effective March 1, after less than two years in office.

The new provost will not carry the “interim” designation but will serve a limited term of two to three years, covering the period of a national search for and installation of a president, followed by a national search for a long-term successor as provost.

The selection process for the current, short-term position was limited to tenured members of the Auburn faculty.

Speaking in Broun Hall on Tuesday, finalists Christine Curtis, John Heilman and William Sauser said they will not be candidates for the long-term appointment if they are appointed to the current position.

The three finalists outlined lengthy academic and administrative records and cited similar goals for the Office of the Provost and the university. All three said they will seek consensus in decision-making and will emphasize improving academics, diversity and shared governance.

Curtis, who is a chemical engineering professor, cited her previous experience as associate vice president for research, semester-conversion coordinator, presidential assistant and in other high-level roles for the provost and the president.

In all her activities, Curtis said, her driving force has been commitment to academic excellence, attention to the safety and well-being of everyone on campus and creating opportunities for all.
Barth and Jahera were ranked among top authors. Thearticle, "Prolific Authors in the Finance Field," includes Barth and Jahera among 367 authors with at least 18 appearances in 72 different finance journals. Barth was ranked at 231 with 22 appearances and Jahera was ranked at 366 with 18 appearances.

Journal recognizes finance professors among top authors

James Barth, Lower Emeritus Scholar in Finance, and John Jahera, Colonial Bank Distinguished Professor in Finance, have been cited as among the most prolific writers in the field of finance. The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

In the on-again, off-again spring of 2005, interrupted by another sudden burst of Japanese magnolia blossoms across campus during the past two weeks, the new professor in Finance, have been cited as among the most prolific writers in the field of finance. The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance, as among the most prolific writers in the field of finance. The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.

The two AU College of Business professors were recognized in the Winter 2005 issue of the Journal of Finance.
Out of reach of tsunami, former intern aids Thailand relief effort

“Where were you when the wave came?”

It is a question that Courtney Furlong, a recent Auburn graduate, has heard many times.

Furlong graduated in December following a vocational rehabilitation internship with the International Labor Organization in Thailand. She was still in Thailand on Dec. 26, when the tsunami struck southeast Asia.

Immediately after the disaster, American and European tourists who survived the tsunami began flying from the coast to Bangkok. Thammasat University in that city provided shelter for the evacuees, and Furlong joined the relief effort there as a translator between the English-speaking tourists and the Thai natives.

“I only speak a little Thai, so I helped by calling names on the intercom of people who needed to catch their rides to go to the airport and giving out information to the tourists,” she said.

“Everything was so unorganized because Thailand doesn’t really have an emergency system set up,” Furlong explained. “They never really have natural disasters – no flooding, no fire problems, no earthquakes, no hurricanes.”

She added, “When the tsunami hit, they didn’t know what to do. It was pretty much chaos.”

In early January, she traveled to the coast, the hardest hit area in Thailand, with a group from the Campus Crusade ministry to a “displaced persons camp,” which was filled with residents from nearby Nam Kem village.

At the camp, the group set up tents, handed out sleeping bags, built temporary housing, constructed bathrooms, cooked food, sorted donations, surveyed residents about the possessions they had lost, entertained children and ministered to victims and relief workers.

Furlong said it was hard to watch as volunteers surveyed the village’s surviving residents to catalog what they were missing. “I am thankful that I don’t speak fluent Thai so I didn’t have to do that. It was just too difficult because the people had lost everything,” she said. “I remember two kids – one was 9 and one was 15 – just walking around. They didn’t have parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, nothing. They’d lost everyone and everything.”

Furlong said there were approximately 4,000 refugees from Nam Kem at the camp, which she described as “the town of the living dead.”

She explained, “These people were just sitting in their tents with everything they owned.”

She will soon begin coordinating trips through Campus Crusade to travel with Thai students to the country’s southern region and help in the clean-up efforts while reaching out to distraught villagers.

“There wasn’t a single family there that was not affected by the death of a loved one,” she said. “They all feel really guilty. They said ‘If I had done this, I would still have my child’ or ‘If I had done that, my husband would still be with me.’ They all feel like it is their fault that they lost family members.”

Acting on a desire to do mission work following graduation, Furlong asked a professor last spring to help her find an internship that could lead to mission-related work. During the internship last fall, she worked with the Thai government to develop vocational assessments to help officials make proper placements for clients with disabilities. During the internship, she absorbed local culture and befriended many Thai students.

Furlong, a rehabilitation services education graduate, now works with Campus Crusade as a missionary and an English tutor at the Grapevine Campus Ministry in Bangkok.

Because she was unable to return home for graduation, Furlong said her parents came from her hometown of Lilburn, Ga., near Atlanta, to visit her during the Christmas holidays. The former intern said she and her family had planned to go to a beach resort on the coast during the last week of December, but the tsunami hit the coast first. “I was excited about going because I hadn’t gotten to see the beaches of Thailand yet and they are supposed to be the most beautiful beaches in the world,” she said.

When the tsunami slammed into the southern coast, Furlong was at a mall in Bangkok. The region where she was did not feel the earthquake that produced the tsunami or experience flooding from it. She was not aware that anything had happened until she began to receive phone calls from concerned friends.

“They knew we were supposed to visit the coast, so everyone was calling to make sure we weren’t there,” she said. “And people in America knew more about it than we did.”

Higher ed network picks AU professor as leader

James Groccia, director of AU’s Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning, has been elected 2006-07 president of the Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education. Groccia, who is also an associate professor in AU’s College of Education, was installed as president-elect on March 20 and will assume the presidency in March 2006. After a year in that post, Groccia will remain with the network’s leadership team as past-president in 2007-08.

The organization is a network of academic professionals dedicated to improving teaching and learning in post-secondary education. Founded in 1975, the international network is the world’s largest professional organization of its kind, with more than 1,400 members at 400 institutions.