Princeton Review lists Auburn among ‘America’s Best Values’

Auburn University is ranked among the nation's 77 "best value" undergraduate colleges and universities in the 2004 edition of "America's Best Value Colleges," which was released last week.

The publication by the Princeton Review, a New York-based education services company, selected Auburn as one of 77 schools it recommends to parents and students.

The book is a guide to colleges with outstanding academics, low-to-moderate tuition and fees and generous financial aid packages. It includes public and private colleges and universities in 35 states and the District of Columbia.

Auburn was also deemed "one of the best" universities in the Southeast.

"Our choice of the 77 colleges is based on data concerning academics, college costs and financial aid," the publication states. "The data includes both statistics we collect from college administrators and the opinions collected through our student survey of more than 100,000 current college students at the best colleges in America.

"We take all this data and stir it up in an algorithm based on the idea that bang for your buck means excellent academics, great financial aid and low tuition. It means value. The 77 Best Value Colleges had the best scores according to that algorithm."

The Princeton Review selected the schools on the basis of its analysis of quantitative and qualitative data that the company obtained from administrators at more than 500 colleges and surveys of students attending them.

"We identified over 30 factors by which we rated the colleges in three categories: academics, tuition and tuition GPA: the sticker price minus average amount students receive in gift aid scholarships and grants," said Robert Franek, assistant vice president for admission services at the Princeton Review. "The 77 schools we chose for this book may not be the least costly colleges in America, but they are all great education deals. We highly recommend them to students and parents seeking the best academic bang for their buck."

The Princeton Review has conducted the survey since 1992, when it first published its annual "Best Colleges."
Roshanye Dunn Powell of Music Department:

music and the traditional history that it contains,” Powell said. “They don’t know about the journey that has brought them to the present and that it is a duty for this history to be passed on to future generations.

Part of the lesson for many people, she says, is that the spiritual is the source from which modern jazz, blues, gospel, soul and other forms of contemporary music evolved.

To reach a youth culture, the message must be presented as a contemporary one, Powell says. To achieve that objective, she aligns traditional melodies with contemporary instrumentation and background. To listeners, her classically trained but politically aware voice permeates the lyrics into a musical tapestry that is unmistakably influenced by traditional African modes and rhythms, jazz, rhythm and blues and gospel.

“Many of today’s African-American adults and young people simply have had no exposure to this music and the traditional history that it contains,” Powell said. “They don’t know about the journey that has brought them to the present and that it is a duty for this history to be passed on to future generations.

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Course shows women how to reduce risk of sexual assault, deter attackers

Not all the courses Kayla Ledbetter takes at Auburn are for good situations, such as a high-paying job in a satisfying career. A course this spring is helping the freshman from Birmingham avoid and prepare for bad situations.

At the suggestion of a friend, Ledbetter squeezed a one-credit-hour course in Rape Aggression Defense, also known as RAD, into the schedule for her major, human development and family studies.

An evening course is also available to faculty, staff and others.

Ledbetter recalled a recent early morning encounter at a Birmingham gas station. She was alone.

Two men verbally harassed her. Ledbetter asked for help from the attendant, who walked her back to her car so she could leave safely.

“I realized that if I were to get in a bad situation like that again, I wouldn’t know the right things to do in order to protect myself,” Ledbetter said. “So, I signed up.”

Safe Harbor materials state that one in four women will be sexually assaulted some time in her life. To combat this problem, Safe Harbor and the Department of Public Safety, with a grant from Student Affairs, continue to sponsor the RAD prevention program.

Federal funds are shrinking for this program, but with the help of Student Affairs, Safe Harbor has sufficient support to train 10 new instructors and purchase new equipment.

“They (Student Affairs) are really involved and support our program,” said program adviser Andrea Bartels.

RAD provides women with an increased awareness of their risks, confidence in their own abilities and it teaches physical techniques to fight off an attacker. RAD does not teach the use of guns, sprays and other weapons.

The instructors show women how to use their hands, feet, voice and brain. “Ninety percent of self-defense is risk awareness and risk reduction,” Bartels said. “Rapists look for an easy target. If you look confident and aware of your surroundings, they will be less likely to attack.”

AU has offered RAD classes since 1999 and the classes have carried one-hour credit through the Department of Health and Human Performance since fall 2002. The class is 25 percent lecture, 50 percent physical techniques and 25 percent simulation.

“The students get the opportunity to simulate an attack and practice the techniques they learned,” Bartels said. “Both the instructor and the student wear protective gear.”

“We have to yell ‘NO!’ when we practice a move,” Ledbetter said. “There are a lot of tiny, shy girls in my class, and the yelling really loosens them up.”

She added, “It is really weird actually punching and kicking the instructors, but I have built my confidence and would know what to do if I were walking home at night from the library.”

Bartels said RAD’s positive impact among students has allowed the program to branch out into the community. Evening RAD classes are offered for faculty, staff and the community one to two times a year. Contact Bartels at 844-6334 for details.

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The 12-hour RAD course for students will be offered in two sections this summer and four sections this fall. Each class accommodates 40 women.

“We have received nothing but positive feedback,” Bartels said. “The class is a very empowering experience, and despite the seriousness of the subject, we make the class fun.”

“I have never had brothers, so I didn’t know how to fight,” Ledbetter said. “Punching someone sounds easy, but if you don’t do it the right way, it isn’t effective.”

Pebble Hill to exhibit works of art by emeritus AU professor

Artist Richard Millman, professor emeritus of architecture at AU, will exhibit a selection of his paintings at Pebble Hill this month.

The show opens with a public reception and artist’s discussion at 4 p.m. on Thursday. Admission is also free to the exhibition, which runs through April 30. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Pebble Hill, a historic house at DeBandeleten Street and East Magnolia Avenue, is home to the AU Center for the Arts and Humanities.

State academy honors AU professor for research paper

Norman J. Doorenbos, professor of Pharmacal Sciences in AU’s Harrison School of Pharmacy, recently received the Emmett B. Carmichael Award of the Alabama Academy of Science.

The award recognized Doorenbos for presenting the research paper that the academy selected as the best published during 2003 in the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science.

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