Inside

2  Forum to discuss threat posed by avian influenza

3  Grad programs move up in new U.S. News list

4  Sociologist seeks ways to predict, prevent genocide

State approves record funding for AU System

State appropriations to the AU System this fall will increase 17.3 percent, $42.5 million, under the 2006-07 Alabama education budget.

If state tax collections meet official projections, the AU System will receive a record $288 million appropriation out of the $6 billion education budget recently approved by the Alabama Legislature.

Of the AU System’s allocation, the main campus will receive $187.2 million for operations and maintenance, $25.4 million more than for the current year. AU’s Montgomery campus is scheduled for $26.6 million, with $34.7 million allotted for the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and $37.5 million for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Interim President Ed Richardson said the university’s record appropriation represents a strong commitment to higher education.

“The allocated funds will enable Auburn University to fund established priorities and to create a reserve for leaner budget years,” said Richardson, who credited strong legislative support for AU’s budget success.

“This budget would not have been possible without the strong support of the legislative leadership,” he added. “I am also very pleased that Rep. Mike Hubbard worked closely with us during the legislative session. The results speak for themselves.”

The state allocation includes an additional $1 million earmarked for biotechnical drug development in the Harrison School of Pharmacy. Earmarked amounts of $100,000 to $200,000 for five specialized programs at the two campuses added another $750,000 to the AU System total.

Including earmarked funds, the AU campus is slated for an increase of 16.6 percent over current state funding. The largest percentage increase, 19 percent, will go to ACES, which has been financially strapped for two decades by rising personnel costs.

Trustees to meet this week

The AU Board of Trustees is scheduled to consider a wide range of major topics at committee meetings Thursday, starting at 10 a.m., and in the board’s formal session at 8:30 a.m. Friday at the AU Hotel.

Topics include the budget and tuition for 2006-07, the presidential search, the Fisher Report, academic program review, AU-Montgomery and agricultural programs. The agenda is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees/agenda041406.html.

In full bloom

After several weeks of promise, spring arrived in full bloom last week, with warm weather bringing a bright array of azaleas, dogwoods and other flowering trees and shrubs. As usual this time of year, Samford Park around Langdon Hall, shown here, was among the most scenic sites on campus.

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

See State appropriation, page 2
**Forum speakers to discuss 'bird flu'**

The AU College of Veterinary Medicine will host a public forum on avian influenza at 4 p.m. Wednesday at the AU Hotel.

Frequently called "bird flu," the disease is threatening global bird populations and has infected some humans, prompting international public health concerns over a potential worldwide pandemic.

Speakers include Ken Nusbaum, Fred Hoer and Haroldo Toro of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Joe Giambra of the College of Agriculture.

Each will speak for 20 minutes. Their presentations will be designed for a general audience and should provide a better understanding of this topic that has been so prevalent in the news recently," said Gary Boyd, assistant dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“Our speakers will present everything you need to know about bird flu and some things you may not want to know,” he added.

Nusbaum will discuss “Public Health Concerns about Avian Influenza Viruses and the Potency of Avian Flu Being Spread to Humans.” A member of the AU faculty since 1992, he is an associate professor of microbiology. He holds a doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in viral pathogenesis from the University of Georgia.

Hoer will present “Potential Impact of an Avian Influenza Outbreak on the National and State Poultry Industries.” An Auburn employee since 1980, he is director of the Alabama Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratories and a professor of pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Giambra will present “Epidemiologic Surveillance of Avian Influenza.” An Auburn faculty member since 1977, he is a professor and agency secretary. Giambra, who holds a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Georgia, developed the first CD-ROM about poultry health and diseases.

Toro will present “Vaccination of Birds Against Avian Influenza.” A professor of avian diseases, he has been a faculty member since 2002. He holds a doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from Chile University and a Ph.D. from the Justus-Liebig University of Gießen, Germany.

---

**State appropriation continued from page 1**

All amounts are rounded to the nearest tenth. Also, budgeted figures are based on projections of state tax collections for the 2006-07 fiscal year.

- increased utilities costs resulting from new square footage and price increases; and
- funding for class room maintenance and renewals.

This money will also allow us to address emerging priorities and other needs that have been deferred from lack of adequate funding,” he said.

---

**Upcoming Events**

Wednesday, April 12

**PUBLIC FORUM on avian influenza, 4 p.m., AU Hotel; speakers are Ken Nusbaum, Fred Hoer and Haroldo Toro of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Joe Giambra of the College of Agriculture**

**BOOK DISCUSSION “The Courage to Teach” by Parker J. Palmer, 5:30 p.m., Biggins Center offices, Draughon Library; also noon Thursday; e-mail biggios1@auburn.edu for information on book purchase and discount**

**AU THEATRE “Best Little Whorehouse in Texas,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Pett Theatre; same time Thursday-Saturday, also April 18-22; 2:30 p.m. on April 23; for tickets, call 444-4134**

Thursday, April 13

**COMMITTEE SESSIONS Board of Trustees, 10 a.m.-until, AU Hotel; see www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees/agenda041406.html**

**DISTINGUISHED FACULTY LECTURE “Ways of the Master Teacher,” William Buskist, Psychology, 4 p.m., auditorium, Julie Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art**

Friday, April 14

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES 8:30 a.m., AU Hotel**

**NEXT AU Report**

Monday, April 17

**BENSON LECTURE “Judgment and Progression in Ian McEwan’s Atonement: Life, Art and the Problem of Other Minds,” James Phelan, English, Decker 342; reception and keynote narrative, 3 p.m., Draughon Library**

**SEXSEGMENTAL LECTURE “Cooperative Extension, Farm Bureau and Luther Duncan,” Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections, 4 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library**

---

**Auburn graduate programs move up in magazine’s annual rankings**

Auburn’s graduate programs in business, education and engineering all saw their standings improve in the recently released U.S. News World Report “Best Graduate Schools” rankings.

Auburn’s master’s of business administration program in the College of Business, ranked unranked last year, ranked 69th among all business school graduate programs surveyed by the magazine. Graduate programs in Auburn’s College of Engineering improved from a ranking of 80th to 72nd and graduate programs in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, improved from 77th to 74th. Among public universities, Auburn’s master of business administration programs ranked 97th nationally. Dan Grappler, associate dean and executive director of the College of Business, said a greater amount of student selectivity contributed to his programs’ higher ranking. "We raised our admissions standards and reduced the entering class size," said Grappler.

He said the College of Business program had also benefited from partnerships with other colleges at Auburn, which attracted additional, high-quality students.

The College of Education’s graduate programs ranked 51st nationally among public universities. Dean Frances Kochan of AU’s College of Education attributed the College of Education’s stronger graduate showings to efforts at the faculty and staff level to improve how they produce. “This year’s rankings speak directly to our college’s increasing strengths and reputation in teaching, research and outreach — not to mention the efforts of our faculty and staff,” Kochan said.

Auburn ranked 46th among overall graduate engineering programs at public universities and 47th overall after jumping from 48th last year. In addition, rankings of graduate programs in five individual engineering disciplines improved while another stayed the same. AU’s graduate programs rose from 27th to 26th in industrial and systems engineering; 50th to 49th in electrical engineering; 82nd to 77th in chemical engineering; from 98th to 91st in civil engineering; and from 70th to 69th in mechanical engineering.

AU’s master’s of business administration program ranked 97th nationally among public universities. Dean Frances Kochan of AU’s College of Education attributed the College of Education’s stronger graduate showings to efforts at the faculty and staff level to improve how they produce. “This year’s rankings speak directly to our college’s increasing strengths and reputation in teaching, research and outreach — not to mention the efforts of our faculty and staff,” Kochan said.

Auburn ranked 46th among overall graduate engineering programs at public universities and 47th overall after jumping from 48th last year. In addition, rankings of graduate programs in five individual engineering disciplines improved while another stayed the same. AU’s graduate programs rose from 27th to 26th in industrial and systems engineering; 50th to 49th in electrical engineering; 82nd to 77th in chemical engineering; 98th to 91st in civil engineering; and 70th to 69th in mechanical engineering.

AU-developed technologies profiled in the report include FoodSource Lure, an environmentally friendly fishing lure, and AU Meds, a medication error reduction technology.

The Foodsource Lure resulted from a collaboration of researchers in AU’s College of Human Sciences, the College of Agriculture and the College of Engineering. If a lost lure is not eaten by a fish or other aquatic wildlife, it is biodegradable within about three weeks. The technology is licensed to the FoodSource Lure Corp. of Birmingham.

AU Meds, developed in AU’s Harrison School of Pharmacy, provides hospitals with a proven tool to quickly and accurately identify and measure medication errors and to significantly reduce the occurrence of medication errors.
Looking into dark corner of human nature for way to prevent genocide

Auburn sociologist Raj Mohan has examined a dark corner of human nature in an effort to determine why people in countries around the world try to exterminate the minorities in their midst or on their borders.

Mohan, a professor of sociology in AU’s College of Liberal Arts, is among a small group of international scholars who look for patterns in cases of genocide around the world in an effort to prevent future holocausts.

As editor of The International Journal of Contemporary Sociology, he devoted a special issue in 2002 to studies of genocide, and, along with Graham Kinloch of Florida State University, he was co-editor of the book Genocide: Approaches, Case Studies and Responses, published in 2005 by Algora Publishing.

“We see genocide in the darker side of human societies worldwide,” Mohan said. “In spite of all the achievements of modern societies, it is naive to say that the human condition is improving. Uncivil behavior is always present alongside civil behavior in human nature. The condition of a society at any given time will determine which one predominates.”

Genocide, the attempted eradication of minorities or entire populations, did not end with the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. It appeared periodically in the ensuing decades, reached epic portions in Cambodia during the 1970s and flared again in Iraq, Rwanda, parts of the former Yugoslavia and other countries in the 1990s, and, in this decade in East Timor and Afghanistan. In these cases, murders ranged from the thousands into the millions and included sizeable percentages of the targeted populations.

Mohan says the world is again witnessing genocide, this time in Sudan, where bands of marauding Arab Muslims are systematically wiping out villages of virtually defenseless non-Muslim blacks in the Darfur region and neighboring Chad in sub-Saharan Africa. The killing in Darfur has escalated during the past two years and will probably continue unless the international community takes action, he said.

A native of India who has been a faculty member at AU since 1973, Mohan says the motivations that drive people to commit or condone genocide are part of human nature and, if unchecked, can spread like a plague across a society. “Lack of civility is hidden under the surface, behind a mask, in most societies, and from time to time, it comes out,” said Mohan. Once it comes to the surface, uncivil behavior can escalate quickly to mass murder and then to genocide, he added.

Whether in developed countries, such as 1930s Germany, or Third World countries, such as Afghanistan and Rwanda, genocide is an expression of an extreme form of tribalism in which members of one group consider themselves superior to members of another group. When confronted by economic problems or other setbacks, members of the dominant group may blame the weaker group and then try to solve the problems at the expense of the weaker group. As the campaign progresses, the stronger group will try to strip the weaker one of its link to humanity; once that is accomplished, the stronger group has dropped its inhibitions against removing the weaker group by any means necessary.

There are no clear tools to predict when genocide will occur, Mohan said. Uncivil behavior by a stronger group toward another does not always progress to genocide, but it can be an early warning sign, especially if previous relations have been cordial, he said. In Bosnia and Rwanda, for instance, people became swept up in hatred for another religious or ethnic group and killed neighbors and former friends who belonged to the other tribe or religion. “It is easier to kill others when you see them as less than human,” he said.

Often only a small percentage of the population takes part, while the rest of the population ignores the killings. Mohan says citizens shut out evidence that runs counter to the country’s dominant ethnic or religious group’s image of itself. He added that sociologists continue to seek a cause for such “willful blindness” to events that are obvious to the rest of the world but unacknowledged by a country’s own population.

Once genocide starts, the country’s government will seldom take steps to end it. Instead, the governing elite will often see the killing as a way to resolve an inconvenient problem. Mohan notes that political and social elites in Nazi Germany, Serbia and Rwanda’s Hutu tribe used ethnic cleansing as a way to gain more territory, wealth and “living room” for their favored people.

International action is usually slow to develop against the practice of genocide because governments do not want to intervene in the affairs of others when they have nothing to gain by doing so, but Mohan said external force is usually the only way to stop genocide.

Most cases of genocide could be stopped quickly, he said, if the international community would support alliances to put diplomatic and economic pressure on governments that instigate, condone or ignore genocide within their borders. But, he added, the alliances would have to back such measures with the threat and actual use of military action.