DeVries receives NEH fellowship for work on book

Budget guidelines included in board meeting agenda

Three honored for humanitarian service at AU

Director adding plants, programs to AU arboretum

DeVries receives NEH fellowship for work on book

Board to consider Heilman for provost

How Auburn Stacks Up

Changing face of campus
The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded a summer fellowship to Joyce DeVries, an assistant professor and art historian in the Department of Art in the AU College of Liberal Arts.

The NEH grant provides a summer stipend to cover research and travel associated with a book DeVries is writing, said Mark Graham, interim head of the Art Department.

“She will actually be in Auburn most of the time writing,” said Graham, adding that DeVries will travel to Germany for about two weeks to complete her research. By the end of the summer, DeVries plans to have a draft of her manuscript, said Graham, adding that she will return to the class-room in the fall.

“She is a strong voice on issues of women and power,” said Joseph Annell, interim dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “The majority of what we know about power and the artistic patriarchy concerns male rulers. During the Renaissance and certainly for most of history, there were few women in positions of power.”

DeVries’ work focuses on the power and patronage of Caterina Sforza, one of the most famous women of Italy during the Renaissance. DeVries is exploring how Sforza commissioned works of art and architecture that helped to establish, maintain and manipulate her public image.

In related activities with the Women’s Studies Program, DeVries has introduced the course “Gender in the Visual Arts” in the art curriculum.

The second consecutive year an Auburn faculty member has won an NEH fellowship. Penelope Ingram, an assistant professor of English, received one of the highly competitive fellowships in 2003. “It is very prestigious for the College of Liberal Arts to be awarded two NEH fellowships in two consecutive years,” said Anna-Katrin Gramberg, associate dean for budget and research in the College of Liberal Arts.

HUMAN RESOURCES SEMINAR "Health, Wellness and Fitness Activities for AU Employees,” 7:30 p.m., April 22-23 and April 26-30, Football Field House.

NEXT AU Report: Shenandoah Valley Transportation Technology Center, 10 a.m., construction site on North Duncan Drive near Magnolia Avenue.

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Christy Hartsfield really digs it. As director of AU’s Donald E. Davis Arboretum, Hartsfield admits it is the hands-on part of her job that she loves the most.

Planting new native azalea bushes, digging in logs to teach children about decomposers and maintaining a compost pile are some of the tasks that have kept Hartsfield busy lately. On the job since January 2004, Hartsfield has been surveying the arboretum visitors about what they like most about the space and developing programs that highlight the arboretum’s varying attributes.

Hartsfield has begun several projects to enhance the arboretum.

“Others may complain about doing dirty work, but Hartsfield really digs it,” she said.

“Christy Hartsfield has a lot of experience with the arboretum,” said Bruce Murray, an associate professor in the College of Education. Murray, the program coordinator, said the sessions are especially helpful for beginning readers. Kindergarten children gain a head start in reading, and first- and second-graders typically gain a full reading level through the program, he said.

Hartsfield has a lot of experience with the arboretum. She graduated from AU with a bachelor’s degree in entomology and several horticulture classes to her credit. She then gained experience working outdoors for a while.

When she decided to return to school, her interests were in industrial design. She completed her master’s in AU’s industrial design program and taught in that department for two and a half years before being named arboretum director.

Hartsfield has begun several projects to enhance the arboretum. For example, last fall she launched Arboretum Days, which are Saturday-morning sessions before home football games to provide opportunities for elementary-aged children to learn about nature. The sessions have different themes from week to week and feature lessons on water, trees, raptors, animal tracks, bird watching, insects and other nature subjects.

“I had walked around campus on game days the previous year and noticed that there really was not a lot for kids to do, especially early in the morning, until right before the game starts,” Hartsfield recalled. She said last year’s sessions were such a success that she is planning new sessions for next autumn.

Also, Hartsfield has planned a photo contest for AU’s Arbor Day celebration on April 29. The winning photo will be featured in the Arboretum calendar, another new project.

The AU College of Education is accepting applications from parents of children in kindergarten through middle-school for the college’s Summer Reading Program in June and July. Sessions are taught by junior and senior students in the college and graduate students studying reading assessment and intervention.

“Children receive a balanced individual lesson twice a week featuring explicit instruction with plenty of meaningful reading and writing,” said Murray, the program coordinator. The sessions are especially helpful for beginning readers.

The 12 tutorial lessons of 45 minutes each begin June 8. Cost is $60 and enrollment is limited. Contact Murray at 844-6934.