Play, film look at fiction by author from Columbus

Vet Med to unveil statue honoring dogs of WWII

Ag professors try to resuscitate creek on campus

Education picks three as new Holmes Scholars

How Auburn Stacks Up

Salary comparisons: AU average vs. all U.S. public doctoral institutions, 2004-05

Board asks for limit on amount of tuition increase in budget guidelines for 2006

Although a final decision will wait until June or later, the AU Board of Trustees on Friday used one key indicator to signal trustees’ desire to reduce the size of a tuition increase next fall.

The board delayed consideration of a tuition increase until its June 17 meeting or later, when the university will have a clearer picture of anticipated state revenues for the budget year starting Oct. 1.

However, trustees advised interim President Ed Richardson and Executive Vice President Don Large to budget for a 2 percent increase in tuition in planning for the 2005-06 budget year. Another 0.5 percent would go to an increase in student activities fees requested by the SGA.

The University Budget Advisory Committee — a 21-member panel of administrators, faculty, staff and students — had recommended a 4 percent increase in tuition. A 4 percent increase would cost in-state students an extra $180 per year and yield $5.3 million; the board’s preference would cut that amount in half.

Tuition and state appropriations are the largest sources of revenue for the university’s budget, and the mix of the two influences the amount of funds available for salaries and operations. AU’s budget planners are working with projections of approximately $30 million to $32 million in new revenue for the main campus next fall.

The guidelines include projections of an increase of 4 percent in wages and salaries, approximately $1 million. As with all preliminary figures, the numbers could change during development of the budget.

The uncertainty in revenues stems from an impasse in the Alabama Legislature over attempts in the Senate to reimburse higher education for costs related to retired employees that the state passed along to the universities last year.

Richardson urged support for Sen. Jim Preuitt of Talladega and Senate allies who support Auburn and the University of Alabama in their attempts to recover the funds. Richardson said the diversion of funds last year, along with inadequate funding year after year, had been major factors in tuition
Veterinary Medicine to display sculpture honoring dogs that died in WWII combat

Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine will unveil a “War Dog Tribute” sculpture Friday during the college’s fourth National Detector Dog Conference.

The 11:15 a.m. ceremony will be in the college’s new Centennial Garden next to Greene Hall and will include an address from retired U.S. Marine Commandant Carl Mundy, a 1957 graduate of Auburn.

“This bronze sculpture will pay respect to all dogs that serve mankind and will honor all of Auburn’s veterinary alumni who have served in the military,” said Gary Beard, the college’s assistant dean for outreach.

The sculpture is a gift by Betty Putney of Woodland Hills, Calif., widow of William Putney of the Auburn veteran class of 1943. Bill Putney was the commanding officer of the Third Marine War Dog Platoon in World War II that helped liberate the Pacific Ocean island of Guam. In the book “Always Faithful,” Putney described his experiences in the battle.

The sculpture is a replica of a monument placed by the Putneys on Guam in 1994. Californian artist Susan Bahary created the sculptures, which contain the names of 25 dogs that died in the battle for Guam.

The War Dog Tribute will be the first structure in the college’s new Centennial Garden, which offers an opportunity for donors to make memorial contributions to fund trees, engraved granite pavers, a wall of honor, benches and sculptures.

Auburn’s Detector Dog Conference on April 28-30 will provide education outreach and sharing of information for professionals and academic authorities in the care, training and use of dogs for law enforcement and other detection services.

T he Acting Company, an award-winning touring theatre troupe, will perform a new adaptation of Carson McCullers’ “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” at AU’s Telfair Peet Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Monday, May 2.

The touring theatre company from New York will perform at Auburn after several weeks at Atlanta’s Alliance Theatre. The Acting Company received highly favorable reviews in The Atlanta Journal-Constitution for its performance of the play, which Rebecca Gilman, a Trusville, Ala., native living in Chicago, adapted for the stage from McCullers’ 1940 classic novel by the same name.

Like the book, the play is an intense psychological drama of a family and their neighbors in a Georgia town during the Great Depression. Many of the settings and people in McCullers’ novels were drawn from the author’s memories of her childhood in Columbus.

Founded 30 years ago, The Acting Company has won several major theatre awards and has been nominated twice for Tony Awards, the most prestigious awards in American theatre. Tickets for the performance are $28 each and are available through the AU Theatre box office at Telfair Peet Theatre. Call 844-4154.

In a related activity, filmmaker Dan Griffin will discuss and screen his 40-minute documentary “Carson McCullers: Lonely Hunter,” at 4 p.m. Thursday at the auditorium of Draughon Library. The free program is sponsored by the English Department and the Center for the Arts and Humanities. For information call 844-4948.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 26

BROWN BAG SEMINAR “Financial Management of Distance Education Programs,” Richard Alshina, director of AU Distance Learning, noon, O.D. Smith Hall 328. Call 844-3476.

AU THEATRE “The Comedy of Errors” 7:30 p.m., April 26-30, Telfair Peet Theatre. Box Office: 844-4154.

Wednesday, April 27


Thursday, April 28

DOCUMENTARY AND LECTURE Filmmaker Dan Griffin, “Carson McCullers: Lonely Hunter,” 4 p.m., auditorium, Draughon Library.

Sunday, May 1

SPRING CONCERT The Auburn Singers, 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m., 8 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre. Call 844-4194 for ticket information.

Monday, May 2

NEXT AU Report.

LASTクラスfor days of spring semester.


Tuesday, May 3

MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall.

Thursday, May 5

SEMESTER FINALS May 5-7 and May 9-10.
Facility developing plan to restore crippled creek on AU’s south side

There was a time when Parkerson Mill Creek gently meandered across the south side of the Auburn campus, a thriving stream bordered by healthy native shrubs and trees and serving as a habitat for diverse species of aquatic life. But decades of growth and expansion on campus and in the city of Auburn have degraded the waterway so that today the creek is a glaring eyesore—a highly eroded ditch overrun by kudzu, banked by weeds and scraggly, exposed-root trees and devoid of living creatures.

Now, a team of stream restoration specialists and enthusiasts is out to reclaim and restore it to a healthier, more stable creek.

"Parkerson Mill Creek has been severely insulted through the years as the campus and the city have expanded," said restoration specialist Eve Brantley of the AU College of Agriculture’s Department of Agronomy and Soils. "Parts of it have been covered, and the natural stream channel has been straightened out and relocated to make room for roads and buildings. "Our goal is to transform it from an eyesore to a campus amenity, an attractive space that people can enjoy," Brantley said.

The first phase of the restoration project, designed to overhaul about 1,000 feet of the 10,000-foot open-channel portions of the stream, will be funded by a $257,500 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and cash contributions from the College of Agriculture and the Athletics Department, which has facilities that border the creek. The restoration team, which includes AU College of Agriculture faculty and state agency personnel, estimates restoring all open-channel stretches of Parkerson Mill would cost $1.2 million.

An engineering firm is developing a plan for the stream’s restoration, the key components of which will be the construction of a new, naturally curving stream channel; the development of natural open spaces along the stream corridor, providing room for walking and bike trails; and the planting of river birches, Virginia sweetspire and other native trees and plants. Construction on the restoration project may begin as early as this fall.

When the project is completed, many disciplines across the campus, including landscape architecture and fisheries, will be able to use the restored area as an outdoor classroom, Brantley added.

Our goal is to transform it from an eyesore to a campus amenity, an attractive space that people can enjoy." — Eve Brantley

Additional donations will be needed to restore the full length of the creek. For information on the project or on contributing to the effort, contact Eve Brantley at 844-3927, brantef@auburn.edu; or Cliff Webber at 844-9124, webbeec@auburn.edu.

Facility member wins award for his interactive web site

Wei Wang, an assistant professor in AU’s Department of Art, has won a bronze award for 2005 from the Horizon Interactive Awards program, an international awards competition for individuals and small-to-medium-sized firms in multi-media design. Wang received the award for the interactive web site he developed for his individual studio, Oneway Studio at www.onewaystudio.com. The competition included hundreds of entries from 15 countries.

AU Singers to perform spring show on Sunday

The Auburn Singers will present their annual spring show at Tellair Foot Theatre Sunday at 2:30 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets to the show are $8; for reservations, call the Music Department at 844-4194.

The show choir will present a variety of popular and show tunes and choreography. Solos, small groups and the entire show choir will perform in a mix of styles, including country, rock and roll, inspirational and novelty music.

The choral ensemble is directed by Thomas R. Smith, Music Department chair and director of choral activities. Other vocal ensembles in the department are the Concert Choir, Gospel Choir, Women’s Chorus and Men’s Chorus.