Bailey, Brunner join presidential search panel

Faculty members Conner Bailey and Cindy Brunner will join Student Government Association President George Stegall, AU Foundation Chair Sally Jones Hill and five trustees on the search committee for the next AU president.

Trustee Charles McCrary of Birmingham is chair of the committee. Other trustees on the panel are Earlon McWhorter, Sarah Newton, Byron Franklin and Jack Miller.

The Board of Trustees announced the members of its Presidential Search Advisory Committee last week, with the stated goal of finding a new president by the end of 2006. The first meeting of the committee will be at 9 a.m. Thursday in the president’s board room in Samford Hall.

The AU Board followed the recommendations of its presidential search consultant, John Kuhnle, in naming the advisory committee members.

“We feel that following the suggestions of Dr. Kuhnle, the top presidential search expert in the country, is the best approach,” said McWhorter, president pro tem of the Board of Trustees. “On

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College life’s a blur

Activities at the recent AU Explore festival of the College of Sciences and Mathematics literally turned into a blur for these riders of one of the more popular attractions. More than 1,800 students from East Alabama schools came to campus for the festival’s science-themed exhibits, games and rides.

Pharmacy School expanding services

The role of the pharmacist is changing. In addition to assuring that patients receive the correct medication, pharmacists today are working with other care providers to assist patients with medication therapy management and other activities to help the patients improve their quality of life.

Pharmacists in Auburn’s Pharmaceutical Care Clinic make these and other benefits available to AU faculty and staff and members of the community. Besides assisting patients with medication therapy management, the clinic’s pharmacists provide in-depth information on ways for patients to reduce the costs of their medications and improve their self-care.

AU student pharmacists are getting hands-on training in the latest professional practices by working with the school’s faculty and staff at the clinic as part of their fourth-year rotations.

The clinic, which began in 2000, recently moved into its new home in the school’s education and clinic wing, a 45,000-square-foot addition to the W. W. Walker building. The new space features 10

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exam rooms that replaced the two rooms in the previous clinic.

“This makes it much easier for us to schedule patients and gives us more flexibility,” said Emily Mann, director of the clinic’s operations. “We now have large, bright exam rooms and we’ve gotten a lot of positive feedback because it is much easier for people to get here.”

The clinic’s services fall into four main categories: disease state management, wellness and disease prevention, medication therapy management and health screenings.

Disease state management provides clients with education and assistance with managing chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Programs include the Breathe Easy respiratory program, diabetes management and lipid management.

Medication therapy management is a service where a pharmacist reviews a client’s medication profile, finds possible drug-drug, drug-disease, drug-food or drug-vitamin interactions. The pharmacist also evaluates a client’s out-of-pocket costs to determine whether there are opportunities to decrease expenses without compromising care.

“We are able to enhance the effectiveness of a patient’s medications through education and monitoring,” said the clinic’s director Kimberly Braxton Lloyd, an associate professor of pharmacy practice. Braxton Lloyd said many patients are seeing more than one physician and each doctor is prescribing a different medication for a different ailment. “We look for interactions that are not easily caught because we look at all the medications at once,” she said. “We listen to the main problem that the patient has and then optimize the response to those medications to increase the quality of life.”

The Wellness and Disease Prevention programs work to promote healthy lifestyles and include the Healthy Habits program, a smoking cessation program and the Take Control program, which focuses on women’s health issues.

The clinic also offers health screenings for cholesterol, body composition analysis, osteoporosis, glucose and H. Pylori, a bacteria associated with chronic stomach problems. In addition, the clinic gets referrals from many physicians seeking help for their patients learning how to manage their medications.

Changes are already under way at the new clinic. The facility is implementing a sliding-scale fee schedule, which Mann says is based on the salary breakpoint for AU employees’ insurance coverage. We previously had a limited fee schedule for certain testing but this is the first time that there will be a charge for every service,” she said.

The price is about much cheaper than what patients would pay for similar services at an off-campus clinic and the pharmacy school continues to “pick up the lion’s share of the expense,” Mann said. “Also beginning in May, the university will cover costs incurred by employees who enroll in the clinic’s smoking/tobacco cessation program.

In addition, plans are already under way to open a pharmacy in the clinic within the next few months. “We have a lot of services that are offered in one clinic, under one roof. You typically don’t find all these services together under one roof in the community,” Mann said. “The clinic provides information that patients either don’t have access to or information their local pharmacist just doesn’t have time to share with them.”

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further recommendation from Dr. Kuhle, as well as the recent Auburn University review committee chaired by Dr. James Fisher, we have kept the number of members small.

“It is important that the search process be transparent and dedicated to one and only one agenda – finding the best president to lead Auburn University,” said Charles McClary, who was asked to chair the Presidential Search Advisory Committee by McWhorter.

Both faculty members are prominent outside their colleges. Bailey is faculty adviser to the AU Board and a professor in the College of Agriculture, and Brunner, a professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine, is a long-time member of the University Senate. As chair of the AU Foundation, Hill is an ex-officio member of the Auburn Alumni Association Board.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, May 2

UP ALL NIGHT Draughon Library extends hours, open all night for students studying for exams, Tuesday-Friday and Sunday.

Wednesday, May 3

FINAL EXAMS Wednesday-Saturday and Monday

Thursday, May 4

SESQUICENTENNIAL LECTURE “The Vets Invade the Plains, 1945-49,” David Alsobrook, AU Ph.D. graduate and director of the Clinton Presidential Library. 4 p.m., Special Collections, Draughon Library

Monday, May 8

FINAL AU Report of spring semester; first AU Report of summer is on May 22

Thursday, May 11

COMMEMORATION 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Coliseum

Sunday, May 14

FINAL DAY “Art and the World in 206,” faculty art exhibit, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art

Wednesday, May 17

FAMILY FUN DAY Festival, 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m., grounds of President’s Home, Holt Street.

Monday, May 22

FIRST AU Report of summer term; published every two weeks, except July 1-4 holiday period, during summer

Monday, May 29

HOLIDAY Memorial Day, offices closed, no classes

Faculty-Staff Campaign extended

Employees in Building Services, shown above, take seriously the “It begins at Auburn” theme of AU’s campaign to raise $500 million in private support. Through donations by its approximately 100 staff members, Building Services became the first large unit on campus to reach 100 percent participation in AU’s Faculty-Staff Campaign. Nursing later became the first school or college to reach 100 percent participation. Campus campaign organizers stress that faculty and staff contributions, whether large or small, provide direct support for goals that are important to the individual donors while encouraging alumni and friends of the university to increase their support. Originally scheduled to end Tuesday, the campus campaign is receiving pledges and gifts through Friday. To donate or expand your gift, contact the campaign volunteer for your unit or either campaign co-chair, Victoria Tate or Christopher Roberts, or call the Office of Development at 844-2586.

Speaker to discuss AU in post-WWII era

Historian David Alsobrook, archivist for two U.S. presidential libraries, will speak on “Vets Invade the Plains: 1945-1949” at 4 p.m. Thursday in the Special Collections and Archives Department of Ralph B. Draughon Library as part of AU’s Sesquicentennial Lecture Series. Returning World War II veterans swamped American colleges and universities in the late 1940s as they took advantage of the GI Bill. Alabama Polytechnic Institute was no exception. Enrollments skyrocketed and faculty, administration and facilities were stretched to the limit — and sometimes beyond. Despite predictions to the contrary, former service personnel became leaders in academic achievement and extracurricular activities. Alsbobrook will discuss contributions the veterans made to Auburn’s expanded program in campus building and academics, as well as how they changed the face of Auburn and higher education. Alsobrook, who earned a Ph.D. at Auburn in 1985, is the director of the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Ark. He previously served as the director of the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library.
AU gains funds from state for special projects

Six AU units and programs will receive a total of $845,640 in special funding in the recently enacted 2007 Alabama Education Budget.

The special allocations are part of a record $288 million appropriation to AU in the state education budget, which goes into effect on Oct. 1. Rep. Mike Hubbard of Auburn, a member of the House Education Finance and Appropriations Committee, was instrumental in securing the targeted appropriations for AU.

The largest amount, $500,000, will go to the AU Airport to help finance a cooperative effort by the university and local governments to upgrade the airport to meet the needs of a rapidly growing local economy. The state funds serve a dual purpose by enabling the airport to secure much larger matching federal grants for aviation improvements.

The transitions program in the College of Education will receive $140,600. The program assists in the transition of young people with disabilities to partial or full self-sufficiency.

Other programs or units receiving the special appropriations, and the amounts, are the Encyclopedia of Alabama project in the College of Liberal Arts, $47,830; the Alabama Review scholarly journal in the College of Liberal Arts, $42,210; the Autism Center in the College of Education, $50,000; and Dudley Hall renovations, $65,000.

Concrete Institute honors Schindler

Anton Schindler, Gottlieb assistant professor of civil engineering at Auburn, has received the American Concrete Institute’s Wason Medal for Concrete Materials Research.

Schindler received the award during the institute’s recent meeting in North Carolina.

The Wason medal is presented annually to the author of a peer-reviewed paper that reports the best original research work on concrete materials and advances knowledge of materials used in the construction industry during the previous year.

Schindler received the award for a paper on differences in behavior of materials under certain conditions experienced in the industry.

AU college names city schools chief alumnus of year

The AU College of Education has named Auburn City Schools Superintendent Terry Jenkins the college’s Outstanding Alumnus for 2006.

College of Education Dean Frances Kochan said a major factor in the choice of Jenkins for the award was his leadership in making the city school system a model for successfully implementing college’s K-12 partnerships and initiatives.

“From opening the doors to programs like TEAM-Math and the AU Autism Center to his participation on our college’s National Advisory Council, Dr. Jenkins exemplifies the competent, committed and reflective professional we strive to help all our graduates become,” Kochan said.

Jenkins’ accomplishments reflect highly on the quality of the college’s graduates. She cited Jenkins’ statewide leadership as president of the School Superintendents of Alabama, and she noted that during his career, Jenkins has been selected as superintendent of the year in both Georgia and Alabama.

Jenkins, who earned a Ph.D. from the College of Education in 1983, moved to Auburn City Schools in 2000 after a 31-year educational career in Georgia that included 22 years as a superintendent.

Youth reading program enrolling for summer

Education majors and graduate students studying reading intervention will tutor beginning and struggling young readers during the 2006 summer session in the AU Summer Reading Program.

The program, now in its ninth year, is designed to help pupils in kindergarten through second grade, especially those who are having difficulty with their reading skills. A limited number of slots are also available for students in third through sixth grades to work with experienced teachers who are pursuing graduate degrees in reading education.

The program aids the child in developing decoding skill, reading fluency, comprehension and enjoyment of reading.

Students meet with their tutors during 12 sessions of 45 minutes in June and July. These sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from June 10 to July 20. Tuition for the Summer Reading Program is $60, which includes a parking pass. Contact Bruce Murray at 844-6934.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Distribution of space in AU buildings by function, fall 2005

- 27% Instruction
- 25% Org. Research
- 14% Auxiliary
- 14% Acad. Support
- 14% Other*

* Institutional support, student services, public service, outside agencies and unused space

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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