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Graduation is family affair for father, daughter

When Ande Sumner’s dad Gordon told her he was returning to school to pursue his master’s degree, she thought it was a good idea. When he told her he’d chosen Auburn, she was excited. When she found out they would be graduating on the same day, she thought it was “the coolest thing in the world.”

“It really is a once in a lifetime opportunity,” Ande said.

On Thursday, both Sumners will walk across the stage at Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum during Auburn’s spring commencement ceremonies, with Ande receiving her bachelor’s degree in zoology with a pre-vet concentration during the 10 a.m. ceremony and her father receiving his master’s in business administration from the College of Business’ Executive M.B.A. program at the 2 p.m. ceremony.

When she enrolled at Auburn during the fall semester of 2002, Ande was the first person in her family to attend AU. Her parents attended Jacksonville State University, where her dad received a bachelor’s degree in music education and music performance. While at JSU, Gordon Sumner was a member of the ROTC and chose a military career upon graduation. The Sumners moved many times but settled in Springfield, Va., where Gordon retired from the military in 1997 and Ande finished 7th-12th grades.

Ande said her parents have always been fond of Auburn and encouraged her to visit during her senior year of high school.

“Auburn was just beautiful and familiar and everyone was so nice,” she said. “Everything just fit with me and I fell in love. I don’t think I could have fit in anywhere else.”

Leading a cheer

Dean Emeritus James E. Foy leads the crowd in a rousing War Eagle cheer at a ceremony celebrating the start this summer of construction of the new Student Center complex south of Haley Center. The new facilities will replace the 1950s-era student union that is named for Foy, dean of students at Auburn from 1953-78.

Tiger Club change affects faculty, staff as well as Auburn students

Auburn’s Tiger Club program is changing from use of an ascending balance card with credit card features to a descending balance card with debit card features on May 17.

New cards issued after May 16 will be only for use as descending balance cards, commonly known as debit cards. To use the card for purchases, students must deposit funds into their account, and purchases are deducted from those funds.

The ascending balance option, which enables card holders to make purchases and be billed later, will end on May 31. After that date, Tiger Club cards will function as debit cards, with payment coming out of accounts established in the Tiger Club pro-
**AU to hold Family Fun Day next week**

The university will hold its annual Family Fun Day for AU employees and their families at the President’s Home on Mell Street from 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17. Approximately 4,000 people attend the event each spring. The festival treats university employees and their families to music, games, and prizes. Free food, beverages, and other treats will also be available.

This will be the third consecutive year the event has been on the grounds of the President’s Home. Since parking will be limited, event organizers recommend use of Tiger Transit shuttles, which will take passengers to and from the event, making stops at Haley Center and the Coliseum.

“The more than 75 university offices and community businesses donated multiple prizes to be given away at the event last year, and we expect that to have that many participate again,” said Albert Snipes, chair of the Family Fun Day organizing committee. Snipes is director of employee relations in AU Human Resources.

Cards with information about the event will be mailed to AU employees this week. Bring your card to the event to qualify for prizes.

**Work to start in fall on new traffic route west and south of campus**

Work is scheduled for this fall on an extension of Lem Morrison Drive across Wire Road, connecting with Samford Avenue near the Facilities Division. The connecting road is part of a multi-year AU project aimed at reducing traffic on Samford Avenue, the major east-west street on the south side of the main campus. Thousands of students cross the busy street at least twice a day as they go between the Student Residence Halls and most other campus buildings, which are near the north side of the campus.

AU is scheduled to take bids for the Lem Morrison Drive extension in September, with work to begin shortly afterward. The project will be across undeveloped university land and will not affect traffic on class days or game days this fall, said Cathy Love, who is coordinating the project for the Office of Campus Planning.

A traffic light will be installed at the Wire Road-Lem Morrison Drive intersection when the extension is opened.

**AU Report**

May 8, 2006

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**Upcoming Events**

**Wednesday, May 10**

**EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION CEREMONY**

Honoring Employees of the Year and AU employees with 5, 10, 20, 25, 30 and 40 or more years service, 2 p.m., AU Hotel

**Thursday, May 11**

**COMMENCEMENT**

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

**Sunday, May 14**

**FINAL DAY**

“Art and the World in 2006,” faculty 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, Mell Street

**Thursday, May 18**

**FIRST DAY of summer term**

Monday, May 22

**NEXT AU REPORT**

First issue of summer term; published every two weeks, except July 1-4 holiday period, during summer; deadline for delivery of items for publication is 4 p.m. on Wednesday before publication date.

**Monday, May 29**

**HOLIDAY Memorial Day, offices closed, no classes**

**Monday, June 5**

**AU REPORT**

**Monday, June 12**

**FREE SCREENING** for speech and/or hearing problems, 1:30 p.m.-4 p.m., Speech and Hearing Clinic, Haley 119

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**COSAM enrolling youths for summer science camp**

The College of Sciences and Mathematics will host its annual Y.E.S. Summer Camp for children in grades 1-10 in three sections in June and July. Y.E.S., short for Youth Experiences in Science, offers children four to six days of hands-on experiments, tours, shows and activities related to chemistry, carnivorous plants, Auburn animals, electronics, geometry, rocketry, forensics and other scientific subjects.

The first camp, June 5-9, is for children who will be in grades 1-6 this fall. Sessions on June 18-23 and July 9-12 are for children who will be in grades 6-10 in the fall.

Early bird discounts are available for persons who apply by May 12. Applications are available at 112 Toomer Hall and online under “Student Programs” at www.auburn.edu/cosam/outreach. For more information, contact Kristy Farmer at 844-7449 or farmekr@auburn.edu.
Transportation Technology Center
This aerial view shows the large scale of Auburn’s new Transportation Technology Center, which is rising along Magnolia Avenue between other buildings of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering at the top left of the photo and the College of Business, which is housed in the Lowder Building, one of the larger academic facilities on campus, at lower right. The first phase of the project, budgeted for $54 million, will provide a home for work in several departments in connection with the development and study of advanced technologies in transportation.

University Senate survey shows wide range of opinions among AU faculty
A recent University Senate survey of faculty attitudes toward the Senate produced mixed results for the Senate as a representative body and strongly positive results for senators as departmental representatives.

Almost half, 49.4 percent, of respondents said the University Senate represents the interests of the faculty and 31.8 percent disagreed. Similar results were obtained when faculty were asked to evaluate how well Senate leaders represent the faculty, with 46.6 percent responding favorably and 30.7 percent saying the leaders represent the interests of a small fraction of the faculty.

Respondents, meanwhile expressed strong support for their individual senators, with 65.9 percent saying their senator solicits input from the department’s faculty and 77.3 percent saying their senator informs the unit’s faculty about Senate discussions and issues.

AU’s Center for Governmental Services conducted the survey online for the Senate from April 17-24. The survey was open to all faculty on campus. Faculty in the Agricultural Experiment Station and the Cooperative Extension System were also eligible to participate. The survey produced 466 responses, of which 22 were attributed to ACES and AAES faculty. With an overall response rate of 21 percent, the response rate for main campus faculty was reported at 34 percent.

Conner Bailey, immediate past chair of the University Senate, said Senate leaders chose to solicit input from all faculty rather than use statistical sampling because they did not want to limit input from faculty. The range of expressed opinions reflects the diversity of the faculty, he added.

Bailey said the open survey enabled all faculty with an interest in university affairs to express an opinion, giving the Senate information about areas in which it is seen as doing a good job of representing the faculty and areas in need of improvement. The Senate report included subsets for length of time at AU and service as a member of the Senate, but few questions produced major differences along those lines.

“Therewhile we might have wished for a higher response rate, it was not an unusual response rate, and it does reflect activity of people on campus. People who are engaged in university matters provided input that we can use,” he said.

In a recent report touching on nearly all areas of university governance, Board of Trustees consultant James L. Fisher stated that some on campus had questioned the extent to which the University Senate speaks for the faculty. Bailey said Fisher’s report raised questions about which the Senate officers, themselves, wanted more information.

The survey contained nine questions, plus space for comments and suggestions. The complete report, including numerous comments by respondents, is posted online with the May 2 agenda, under “Meeting Agendas,” at the University Senate Web site: www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/au_senate.html.

Association honors Silvern for lifetime achievement
Steven Silvern, a professor in the AU College of Education, is the first recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award for Volunteerism from the Association of Childhood Education International.

Silvern, a faculty member in the Department of Curriculum and Teaching since 1978, also presented the keynote address at the association’s recent annual conference in Texas.

The association honored the Auburn faculty member for his service as an ACEI member and as “an invaluable source of information, inspiration and wise counsel in the true spirit of volunteerism.”

In ACEI, Silvern has served as chair of the research, publications and technology committees. Also, he has been editor of the Journal of Research in Childhood Education.

How Auburn Stacks Up
Increase in amount of classroom, lab space, 1996-2005

| Research Labs | 23% |
| Class Labs | 19% |
| Classrooms | 15% |

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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