Performing arts may get new venue

A performing arts center could be in Auburn’s future.

Saying that it is time for AU to start thinking about a modern facility for concerts, plays and other live performances, interim President Ed Richardson introduced the concept of a performing arts center to the AU Board of Trustees on June 17.

He noted that while Peet Theatre and the Goodwin Music Building serve academic functions, they have limited parking and neither can accommodate large crowds. Although Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum and the Student Activities Center sometimes host performances, those buildings lack the acoustics and design characteristics of a true performing arts center.

The Office of Campus Planning and Space Management is working with the College of Liberal Arts to gather information on Auburn’s needs and options for a performing arts center.

Noting that the arts enjoy strong community support, Richardson said there is widespread interest on campus and in the city for a performing arts center. He suggested that the university and the city government work together to develop a center that could meet the needs of both.

John Mouton, assistant to the president for planning and facilities, said the city’s growth and changing demographics indicate that Auburn may soon be able to support a performing arts center.

Mouton presented examples of successful designs for performing arts centers in comparable university communities. Size and mission of the centers varied but all shared the common characteristic of being specially designed for that purpose rather than as multi-use facilities.

In a 1991 report, the College of Liberal Arts cited a need for a center for the visual and performing arts. Over the next decade, AU accomplished half the goal with construction of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art on South College Street.

Interim Liberal Arts Dean Joe Ansell said last week a performing arts center would bridge a cultural gap in the community. “Other large universities either have a performing arts center on campus if they are in a rural area, or have access to one if they are in a major metropolitan area,” he said. “Hopefully, we will be in position soon to develop a performing arts center here.”
Tuesday, June 28

**Classes Begin** for mini-semester III of summer term.

**Art Exhibit and Opening reception for artist Dawn Gavin, 4 p.m.-6 p.m., Biggin Gallery. Works on display through July 22. Gallery open 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday, except July 4.**

**Thursday, June 30**

**Meeting Staff Council, 10 a.m., Foy 217.**

**Monday, July 4**

**Independence Day** holiday. No classes, offices closed.

**Thursday, July 7**

**Chautauquan Echoes: AU Summer Band conducted by Johnnie Vinson, 6 p.m., Julia Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.**

**Monday, July 11**

**Next AU Report.**

**Tuesday, July 12**

**Blue Cross Blue Shield** representative available for consulta-

tion, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Payroll & Employee Benefits, Ingram 212. No appointment needed.

**Meeting University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broul Hall.**

**Wednesday, July 13**

**Free Hearing Screening** at AU Speech and Hearing Clinic, 8:30 a.m.-11:15 a.m., Haley 1199. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. No appointment is necessary.

**Thursday, July 21**

**Chautauquan Echoes: AU Summer Choir conducted by Tom Smith, 6 p.m., Julie Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.**

**“We want to be sure the resources are there for them to continue growing and getting better.”**

By Officers of the University Senate

Conner Bailey, Willie Larkin, Richard Penaskovic, Patricia Duffy and Kathryn Flynn

**Campus Forum**

Faculty leaders: Talk of disconnect unwarrented in current environment

By Officers of the University Senate

Conner Bailey, Willie Larkin, Richard Penaskovic, Patricia Duffy and Kathryn Flynn

The University Senate reflects the strong con-
nections that unite this campus. The Senate is the one place where virtually all campus groups share a common forum. Elected representatives from academic departments meet with representa-
tives of the A&P Assembly, the Staff Council, the Student Government Association and the Graduate Student Council. Senior administrators also are part of the senate, as the president appoints nine senators from the ranks of vice presidents and

The president regularly meets with the

senate, discusses issues of the day, and is available for questions from anyone in attendance. At times rough and tumble, at other times more subdued, half a billion dollars in endowments. Why would we have such connections?

We have a vibrant Human Odyssey program that brings together scholars from the sciences and hu-

manities in our classroom. We have curricula which undergo frequent revisions to meet emerg-

ing societal needs. In many parts of campus fac-

culty and students are members of cross dis-

ciplinary teams, demonstrating willingness not only of faculty but administrative support systems to work together.

Is there a disconnect between athletics and academics? Anyone who attended the University Senate meeting of April 2005 would discount this view as a problem. At that meeting Virgil Starks, point person for efforts by the Athletics Department to encourage academic achievement by student ath-

letes, reported on progress being made in this arena. AU’s Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics has eight faculty members, including the commit-

tee chair. These faculty play important roles in setting athletic policy at AU. The relationship be-

tween athletics and students at AU is complex and important, but the term “disconnected” is not well applied.

What of the relationship between faculty and the Board of Trustees? We have come through painful years of acrimony but are emerging into what we believe is a period of cooperation and genuine efforts at understanding. Faculty are represented on board committees and sit on the board itself. There was a time when the word “disconnect” clearly fit, but that time is past.

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Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by AU faculty, staff and administrators of issues in higher education that are of special interest to the campus community but which are infrequently discussed in the commercial news media. Views in each Campus Forum are the independent expressions of the writers.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summertide. Photography: Jeff Eldridge and Terry Beeford. Publications Committee: College of Arts and Sciences, Mathematics and Physical Sciences, Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Huchel. Director of Communications: Deedee Dowdle. The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear each Monday during fall and spring semesters and every two weeks in summer term, except on the Monday of or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for advertising is the Wednesday before publication date. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to AU Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn University, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/449-9999. E-mail: sum-

m@auburn.edu.

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Veal, Cook promoted in AU Outreach

Vice President for Outreach David Wilson has announced the promotion of Don-Terry Veal, from associate director to director of AU’s Center for Governmental Services, effective Aug. 1.

Veal, a member of the Governmental Services staff since 2000, holds a Ph.D. in public administration from Northern Illinois University. He will succeed James Seroka, who will return to a full-time faculty position in the Department of Political Science. Seroka has headed the outreach unit since 1998.

Wilson also announced the promotion, effective Oct. 1, of Royrickers Cook to assistant vice president. Cook, currently special assistant to the vice president, will be responsible for AU Outreach’s role in AU’s initiatives at Gulf State Park and in West Alabama. He holds a Ph.D. in public policy and public administration from Auburn.

Also, AU Outreach has changed the name of the Office of Outreach Information and Marketing to Office of Outreach Information and Program Certification. Ralph Foster will continue to head that office. Wilson said the name change reflects the current responsibilities of the office.

Museum gift

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Alabama and strong connections to Auburn. Albert Smith grew up in Montgomery. A U.S. Navy veteran, he graduated from Auburn in 1947 with a degree in mechanical engineering. At Auburn, he met and married Jule Collins, who was born in Auburn and grew up in Lowndesboro and Montgomery, where her father, Albert Hamilton Collins, a former Auburn faculty member, was Alabama State Superintendent of Education.

After their marriage, the Smiths moved to Texas, where Albert became a pioneer in the construction of privately owned and operated generating plants for sale of electricity to public utilities and large industrial users. In Houston, Smith and a partner created and built Power Systems Engineering, later PSE Inc., into a major player in the cogeneration industry.

Now retired, the Smiths divide their time between Houston, where their three children and extended families live, and Auburn, where Jule returned to AU and earned her degree in sociology in 1999. The Smiths were recently honored in a ceremony by the Houston Symphony for their lengthy support of the arts in that city. Providing a link between that city and Auburn, they also led a delegation of art lovers from Auburn on a fine arts excursion to Houston in April.

Ag Heritage Park to host farmers’ market vendors on Thursdays

AU’s Ag Heritage Park will host a farmers’ market on Thursday afternoons this summer. Starting June 30, consumers may purchase locally grown produce from area farmers at the park on Samford Avenue. The market will be open on Thursdays from 4 p.m.-7 p.m. through the end of September.

The farmers market is a cooperative venture of the College of Agriculture, Lee County Extension and area agricultural and business organizations.