Game day plan opens sidewalks to pedestrians

Building from a successful debut of its football game day plan last year, the university will take additional steps this fall to ensure the safety of football fans, students, faculty and staff.

The most noticeable change will be improved pedestrian access along sidewalks and other walkways on campus. Vehicles will not be allowed in a number of pedestrian traffic areas that fans in recent years had claimed for parking places. Those places include sidewalks on the north side of Thach, Roosevelt and Samford avenues and the south side of Magnolia Avenue.

Also, the concourse east of Broun and Thach halls has been designated a “No Parking” area.

Aiding enforcement of the parking ban in those areas, the university has installed passive barriers to keep motor vehicles off the sidewalks.

Game day brochures and letters to season ticket holders will encourage fans to park in the large grass fields near the Ham Wilson Livestock Arena. From there, they may walk or take the Tiger Transit shuttle to the core of campus.

The area formerly occupied by the hangar on the west side of campus is being converted into a paved (See Game Day 2003, page 2)

Pilot program targets freshman retention

Auburn has begun a pilot program to increase the percentage of freshman students who continue into their sophomore year.

Fifteen students are participating in the Summer Bridge Pilot Program in the second session of this summer term.

“We know that our freshman-to-sophomore retention rate is 84 percent,” said interim Provost John Pritchett.

“We also know that there are five primary reasons that freshmen leave Auburn prior to their sophomore year — academic difficulty, family or personal reasons, dissatisfaction with their major or program, homesickness and family responsibilities,” he said.

“The biggest thing we are interested in is addressing those students who have academic difficulties in their first year. Through this pilot program, we want (See Retention, page 5)
Accrediting agency approves lab animal program in Vet Medicine

The AU College of Veterinary Medicine has earned full accreditation from the Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International.

The achievement is considered the “gold standard” in the care and use of animals in science, says Michael Hart, director of Laboratory Animal Health.

“It is a voluntary process and is very difficult to attain,” Hart said. “We earned full accreditation on our first attempt, although we had been working toward this goal for several years. It is a significant achievement for our program, and it is the culmination of the efforts of many people.”

The AAALAC is a nonprofit organization that promotes humane treatment of animals in science through its voluntary accreditation program. The organization looks at an institution’s veterinary care, facilities, personnel training, emergency planning, operating procedures and occupational health and safety program. Another primary focus is the institution’s administration and its commitment to animal health.

“The application process involved an intense self-assessment of our animal care and use program, followed by a thorough peer-review by AAALAC site visitors,” Hart said. “We have always met strict guidelines, but this is an even higher standard.”

Auburn's research and teaching programs involving animals are regulated by AU’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Public Health Service.

Hart said Auburn has made significant improvements in the past five years to upgrade its laboratory animal care facilities and programs.

Election officials across U.S. get training at AU

Auburn recently hosted 82 election officials from 26 states for a national training course on the conduct of elections.

The elections training program, which started at Auburn in 1994, is the result of a partnership between AU’s Master of Public Administration Faculty and the Election Center in Houston, an international organization of local and state election officials.

Through the professional education program, Auburn faculty have trained more than 800 election officials at various sites throughout the United States. This was the first time the program conducted the course at Auburn.

Game Day 2003

(continued from page 1)

parking lot for approximately 40 RVs. Three lots in that area are now dedicated to RVs with permits.

The central part of campus will remain a “No-RV” zone. Two new areas that will be off-limits to recreational vehicles are the Hill Dorms on the south side of campus and CDV Extension at the western edge of campus.

The administration adopted the changes on the recommendation of a university committee chaired by Associate Provost for Facilities Christine Curtis. The 12-member panel made its recommendations after examining issues of safety, liability and property damage related to game day.

Changes implemented last year, such as modular restrooms and expanded green space for picnicking, will remain. Academic and administrative buildings will again be locked on game days, although several other buildings will be open for use of their restrooms by fans.

Detailed information about Game Day 2003 can be found on the university’s Web site at www.auburn.edu/gameday. Direct questions about Game Day 2003 to the Office of Communications and Marketing at 844-9999 or by e-mail at gameday@auburn.edu.

HRD to present session for new home-buyers

The Office of Human Resource Development will present the employee seminar “Buying Your First Home” at 9 a.m. Wednesday, July 9, at the Dixon Conference Center.

Lynn Adams of the Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Alabama will discuss credit considerations, procedures in obtaining a mortgage and tips to use in shopping for a home.

To register, complete the HRD registration form on the Web at www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/ or contact Heather Crozier at 844-4145.
Auburn’s dean of engineering and the head of an AU research center say a recent designation by a federal agency will have long-term implications for the university’s instruction and research programs.

The National Security Agency, citing the quality of AU programs in information security and assurance, in June designated Auburn as an NSA Center of Academic Excellence. The designation will enable Auburn to apply for scholarships and grants from federal information assurance scholarship programs.

Larry Benefield, dean of AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and Drew Hamilton, associate professor of computer science and head of Auburn’s Information Assurance Laboratory, accepted the designation during a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Benefield said Hamilton’s ongoing work for the U.S. Missile Defense Agency was a major factor in Auburn’s designation as a Center of Academic Excellence. Hamilton’s group is conducting software vulnerability analysis for the agency to ensure that software is protected against cyberterrorism and that software shared with U.S. allies does not contain classified code.

“Not only does the designation offer greater opportunities for faculty and students at Auburn, we also have the satisfaction of doing research that enhances our nation’s information security,” said Hamilton.

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The Centers of Academic Excellence program focuses on developing information assurance professionals and sustaining new research in information assurance areas.

While the designation does not guarantee federal funding, many federal grants are available only to NSA Centers of Excellence. In addition, Auburn can now apply for scholarships and grants through information assurance scholarship programs offered by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense.

AU’s designation by the NSA came after a rigorous review that measured the depth and maturity of its graduate and undergraduate degree programs. The programs must include information security courses, information security embedded within the curriculum, faculty with backgrounds in information security, ongoing information security research and publications and centers committed to working in information security.

Upon satisfying program requirements, designated universities are authorized to certify students as trained to federal standards for professionals in security telecommunications and information security fields. The designation indicates that a university has met the training standards established by the NSA’s National Security Telecommunications and Information Systems Security Committee.
New fellowships reward creative uses of technology in classroom

The AU Office of Information Technology has established a pilot program to provide fellowships of up to $15,000 each to Auburn faculty who integrate new technologies into their teaching.

The first fellowship will go this fall to Associate Professor Betsy Smith of the English Department to help her introduce new technology into two graduate-level technical writing classes as both the subject and means of instruction.


Before meeting that goal, the students will need to master the technology and apply it to meeting a variety of communication challenges.

One goal of the classes, Smith said, is to teach the students how to master new technologies quickly and thoroughly enough to write instructional materials. Besides writing for standard-sized manuals, the students will gain experience writing for display on small screens, she added, predicting that the devices will be followed by later generations of even more advanced handheld communication devices.

Another goal, she said, is to explore the potential of Pocket PCs and similar devices as teaching aids for use in other academic fields. Many people use the devices for scheduling, organizing and planning. Some researchers also use the devices for on-site surveys and data collection, she noted.

Nick Backscheider, associate executive director of the Office of Information Technology, said Smith’s proposal drew immediate interest from members of the Educational Technology Advisory Council, a faculty group.

“She is exploring this approach within the bounds of her course and not simply using it as an add-on,” he said. “Her approach looks like a good idea, and it shows resourcefulness in integrating technology into the very structure of the course.”

Backscheider said Smith’s project provides an excellent test of the potential for educational technology fellowships. “Dr. Smith’s application made it obvious that she understands both the potential that technology brings to the classroom and the challenges faculty members face in integrating new technologies into their teaching.”

Smith will also assist AU’s Educational Technology Services Group next summer in training faculty to use Pocket PCs in their own instruction and research. The present technology will be quickly outdated, but faculty and students who learn to use this technology will quickly master later generations of the devices, she said.

Backscheider said the Educational Technology Advisory Council and the Office of Information Technology will evaluate the results of the pilot program during the coming year. If successful, ETAC and OIT will award more fellowships for the 2004-05 academic year.

For additional information, contact Backscheider at 844-9316 or see the Web site www.auburn.edu/img/etac_faculty_fellowships.html.

Shaw named assistant VP for alumni affairs

Debbie Shaw has been appointed assistant vice president for alumni affairs, effective May 15, according to Vice President Betty DeMent.

Shaw served as director of Foy Student Union for the past five years. An AU administrative and professional staff member for 20 years, she started in Housing and Residence Life and has spent most of her AU career in Student Affairs in the offices of Admissions and Student Activities.

She was instrumental in developing the first Camp War Eagle, the Freshman Year Experience program and the Student Success Center.

This summer, Shaw received the Bob Leach Award for Outstanding Service to Students from the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.

Shaw holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of North Alabama and master’s and doctoral degrees in higher education administration from Auburn.
Two faculty members in AU’s Harrison School of Pharmacy will present a winning portfolio this month at an American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy special session on innovation.

Janelle Krueger and Diane Beck will present the material on July 22 in Minneapolis on behalf of the school’s faculty.

The 50-page portfolio, “Instilling a Patient Care Culture: Engaging All Students and Faculty in the Continuous Care of Community-Based Patients,” describes and evaluates the school’s introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience program.

The program, which involves all the school’s students and faculty, uses a service-learning instructional framework that permits students to apply skills and knowledge from the classroom while meeting community health needs.

The Pharmacy School started the program in 1997 in conjunction with the entry-level Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum.

The school places all new students on pharmaceutical care teams with second- and third-year students, and each team has two faculty members. Assisting social service agencies or individuals, each team provides basic pharmaceutical care to 12 to 15 patients in the community.

As students progress through the curriculum with mentoring from the teams’ faculty members, the advanced students take on more responsibility for managing the patients’ drug therapies and mentoring junior students in the program.

Auburn’s pharmacy school was one of three programs selected by the AACP’s Council of Faculties for the 2003 Innovations in Teaching awards program. The other winners are Midwestern University’s Chicago College of Pharmacy for its program on reducing medical errors and the University of Toronto for an interactive online program.

Retention (continued from page 1)

to ease their transition, provide support services and track their progress.”

At Pritchett’s request, Johnny Green, special assistant to the provost, established the pilot program.

“I looked at Overton Jenda’s program in the College of Sciences and Mathematics and Dennis Weatherby’s program in the College of Engineering and borrowed from both as well as from programs at other universities,” Green said.

Green selected participants in the program from a list of accepted freshmen with ACT scores below the average for Auburn freshmen. Thirty students were invited and 15 accepted.

The students take courses aimed at preparing them for some of the most difficult core courses, and they receive mandatory academic counseling from faculty and advanced students.

The students participate in groups called “learning communities.” As the groups take classes together, their members create social and academic bonds with one another. Those bonds help them cope with the sometimes intimidating size of college classes and the student population as a whole, Green said. “When some of these kids get here, they are in awe of how big everything is, they may not know anyone and those things can have adverse affects on their success.

“When you group them into classes together, they create friendships and support networks for each other and they are comforted in that they see the same faces in all of their classes. This helps ease their integration into the larger student population and enhances their experience and their learning.”

Students learn about time management, organizational skills and study skills as well as mathematics and written and spoken communication.
Solar car to compete on Route 66

AU engineering students rolled out their new solar car, Sol of Auburn, on July 1 to introduce Auburn’s entry in the American Solar Challenge race that begins July 13 in Chicago.

Racers will follow historic Route 66 and conclude the event July 23 in Claremont, Calif. The 2,300-mile race is the longest of its kind in the world and is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and EDS.

“Our car is powered only by the energy of the sun,” said team captain Chris Trueblood of Huntsville, a senior in electrical and computer engineering. “Our top speed is 70 miles per hour; cruising speed is 30 to 40 miles per hour.”

The car, which is a registered, legal street vehicle in Alabama, can drive more than 250 miles per day in sunlight and more than 150 miles per day in overcast conditions.

The Solar Challenge provides students with experience in designing, building and racing a fully functional solar-electric car.

Teams focus on new and developing technologies such as batteries, solar cells and space-grade composite materials.

Thirty-one university teams from across the world will compete in this year’s race. The one with the fastest cumulative time will win.

AU’s Mini Baja vehicle wins design award

Auburn engineering students won first place for the design of their Mini Baja vehicle in June, beating 143 teams at the 2003 Mini Baja Midwest Competition in Ohio.

The Auburn Lady Tigers Mini Baja team tied with Tennessee Tech to place eighth in the same category. Overall, the two Auburn teams placed 29th and 39th, respectively.

The AU team had a first-place finish in design at the Mini Baja East competition earlier this year in Orlando, Fla. Mini Baja is an intercollegiate engineering student design competition organized by the Society of Automotive Engineers.

With the objective of simulating “real-world” engineering design, the Mini Baja competition has grown into a premier engineering design series for university teams.

The students must function as a team to design, build, test, promote and compete within a tight set of rules. Each team competes to have its design accepted for manufacture by a “virtual” firm.

“Students learn about team meetings, project management, scheduling, budgeting and working with suppliers,” said Peter Jones, faculty adviser and member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. “Then they design it, build it, run it, get feedback and do it again.”

The goal is to design and build a prototype of a rugged, single-seat, off-road recreational vehicle intended for sale to the weekend off-road enthusiast.

Winning design

Students in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering won first place for the design of their Mini Baja vehicle in June at competition in Ohio. The design winner is shown at an earlier race in Florida, where it also won the design competition.

Phillips plays major role in conference

Scott Phillips, assistant professor of theatre, was a panelist and session chair recently for the 27th Annual Comparative Drama Conference in Ohio.

Phillips’ presentation, “The End of History: Tony Kushner’s Homebody/Kabul and the Apocalyptic Context,” will be published next year in Modern Drama, an international journal of dramatic criticism.

“Homebody/Kabul,” the latest work by American playwright Tony Kushner, recounts the odyssey of a young British woman who travels to Afghanistan to search for her missing mother.

Phillips examines the work as both an apocalyptic narrative and a critique of Western attitudes toward other parts of the world since the end of the Cold War.

AU Architecture School hosts summer camp

The School of Architecture in the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction is hosting a summer camp for 20 high school students from around the region.

Led by Architecture Professor Paul Zorr, the camp introduces high school students to fundamentals of design and architecture.

Courses include an introduction to computer-aided design, studio classes and architectural history and theory.
Web site on water quality issues cited for reference across nation

With water quality emerging as one of the South’s top environmental concerns, a team of AU College of Agriculture and Alabama Cooperative Extension System experts has created one of the nation’s most comprehensive public sources of water quality information on the World Wide Web.

“I don’t know of one municipal drinking water Web site in the country where you can get this kind of information,” said Lisa McKinley, who serves as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Extension liaison for Region 4. “Any question you may have, you can answer it immediately by visiting the Alabama Web site.”

James Hairston, coordinator of the Alabama Water Quality program, says the AU team developed the site, www.aces.edu/waterquality, as the primary Web-based source of water quality information for Alabama residents.

From a national perspective, Hairston said, the site complements the USDA’s Cooperative State Research, Education and the Extension Service’s Water Quality Program Web site.

The federal agency’s program is a national partnership of university scientists, instructors and extension professionals who seek to increase public awareness of water quality-related issues and to address changing water quality needs. The section of the Alabama site dealing with drinking water and health also comprises a key component of the national site.

“People think Extension deals only with agricultural issues,” said Hairston, an AU professor of agronomy and soils. “And it’s true that agriculture is a major focus of Extension programming. But drinking water quality affects all Americans, no matter what their background.”

Hairston, a frequently cited expert in matters of drinking water and public health, provided primary leadership for the development of the Alabama site and was one of three state water quality coordinators who assisted with the development of the drinking water section of the national site, www.usawaterquality.org.

Information on the Alabama Water Quality program is organized under a general information category and eight water quality themes, which are further divided into more than 100 subtitles.

One of the most popular sections of the site is a database of frequently asked questions providing more than 2,300 questions and answers on numerous water-quality topics.

Each section of the site also is equipped with a refined key-word search. Alabama geographic information also is featured on the site.

McKinley, the EPA Region 4 liaison, cited the Alabama Water Quality program site as a major factor behind an EPA proposal to expand its partnership with Extension programs throughout the country to heighten public awareness about water quality issues.

In addition to information about drinking water, the Alabama Water Quality program site includes information about environmental restoration, volunteer citizen water-quality monitoring and animal waste management.

Freelance writers have used information gleaned from the site to prepare articles for Consumer Digest and several other national publications. Scholars from several countries also have used information from the site to prepare water quality-related information for presentations at several international conferences.

Auburn to host 4-H Congress

AU will host more than 400 4-H’ers, adult volunteers and Extension agents from across the state on July 14-16.

The annual 4-H Congress includes competitions, educational workshops, fellowship activities, an awards ceremony and election of state 4-H Council members.

Tullier gains accreditation from PRSA

The Universal Accreditation Program of the Public Relations Society of America recently certified Michael Tullier of AU’s Detection and Food Safety Center as an Accredited Public Relations professional.

To achieve APR status, Tullier passed an examination that measured his knowledge of communication theory, management science, ethics and public relations practice.

Tullier, who is communications and industrial relations coordinator for the AU center, was among 150 professionals nationally who took the certification program’s new computer-based examination.

Tullier joined AU in 2002 from LifeSouth Community Blood Center’s East Alabama branch. He is past president of the East Alabama chapter and a member of the state board of the Public Relations Council of Alabama.

He holds a master’s degree in public administration from Auburn.

Street work
Samford Avenue between Donahue and Mell is closed to traffic this summer as work crews dig up the street to install utility pipes. The new lines, which will extend AU’s central heating system, are part of a campuswide upgrade of the university’s utility infrastructure.
More emphasis on textures

Hotel renovation seeks to create new ambiance, higher standard

The new management of the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center has launched a major renovation of the building’s public areas this summer as part of a plan to upgrade the facility to a much higher standard.

Starting this summer and continuing through the 2003-04 academic year, the renovation will be a step up from plans announced last year by the previous management company. West Paces Ferry Hotel Group assumed management of the AU-owned facility in March as part of the university’s plans to bring the hotel-conference center into the academic program of the College of Human Sciences.

The interior renovation, combined with upgrades in service, will enable the new management team to define the hotel as an upscale facility comparable to hotels in major cities around the world, said Alvin Bettcher, the hotel’s director of sales and marketing. In the process, the academic program will prepare students for management careers at the forefront of the hospitality industry, he said.

Starting with the lobby, the hotel will incorporate finer fabrics into draperies and leather in seating surfaces; use darker, deeper-finish woods; add higher-grade furnishings; and take other steps to create a softer, more upscale atmosphere of casual elegance. Hallways will get new wallpaper, and rooms will gain a higher grade of linens, bed covers, towels, robes and other items associated with a first-class hotel, Bettcher said.

“Throughout the hotel and conference center, you will see much more attention to textures and details,” said Bettcher. “Textures enliven the senses, and they are among the first things people experience when they enter a first-class facility.”

Attention to textures is part of a greater emphasis on detail under the new management team’s philosophy, he noted. The attention to detail is also reflected in the staff, which is receiving training in higher standards of service at every point of contact with guests, he added.

Continuing the renovations in the fall, the hotel will replace the restaurant, lounge, kitchen, gift shop and offices on the first-floor north wing with a larger and more modern restaurant wing that will further define the theme of casual elegance, he added.

The restaurant will offer a Tuscan style menu. Special features will include a gourmet espresso bar, display kitchen and extensive renovation to the bar, which will be in the center of the dining area. A fireplace and outdoor seating will provide a rich ambiance year-round, Bettcher said.

The conference center is slated for renovation early next year. International themes expressed in the lobby and other public areas of the hotel will carry over to the conference center, Bettcher said.

Makeover upgrade

The AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center will feature plusher materials and more attention to detail in public areas of the hotel, above, and the conference center’s auditorium, below.

Some of the most noticeable effects will be in the auditorium, which will gain plusher chairs, increased seating and draperies along the walls to enhance acoustics.

The facility will also have new technology throughout, ranging from a new reservation system to inventory controls. The new computer and communications hardware and software will help the hotel staff become more responsive to guest needs and will provide students with experience in best-management practices, Bettcher said.

The upgrade is under the direction of John Russell, manager since March, and West Paces executives led by Horst Schulze, who also formulated plans with College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton and the college’s faculty to integrate the hotel’s management into the academic program.

The interior renovation is separate from the waterproofing and rebrickling project AU launched in late 2002 to raise the building’s exterior from commercial to institutional standards.

Web program will expand data storage capabilities

AU libraries, along with other departments on campus, are developing a new comprehensive, Web-based application called E-media. Administered by AU libraries, E-media will allow Auburn faculty to create, manage and store large electronic media collections in a Web-based data base.

The E-media application enables users to share electronic media collections such as photographs, graphics, audio clips, video clips and electronic documents. E-media also enables users to manipulate collections of these files and create Web-based slide shows.

For more information on E-media, go to www.lib.auburn.edu/emedia.htm or contact Todd Jennings at 844-1794 or via email at emadmin@auburn.edu.

Correction

The building pictured on page four of the June 23 AU Report was Dudley Hall rather than Telfair Peet Theatre. Dudley is undergoing exterior repairs to replace loose and deteriorating brickwork, and Peet is undergoing interior renovation. The two buildings, along with Goodwin Hall, are in the Philpott Fine Arts Complex north of Samford Avenue.