An AU faculty member has designed the entire campus of the first American-style university in China. Peter Weiss, an associate professor in the AU College of Architecture, Design and Construction, has developed the master plan and designed 33 buildings and an iconic bell tower for SIAS International University in ancient Xinzhueng City, 300 miles south of Beijing.

The faculty member in AU's Department of Building Science is the only Westerner permitted by the government of China to design a campus in that country. The university is the only one in China that is permitted to fly the U.S. flag.

The Chinese university has erected 28 of the buildings and enrollment has increased from 100 to 7,500 since Weiss began the project in 2000. With construction under way on the remaining buildings, Chinese officials are preparing for enrollment to reach 12,000 next year.

Although China has more than 2,000 colleges and universities, Weiss said he was told that the selection of an American architect was part of a broader effort to introduce the American university model into China's higher education system.

For Weiss, the journey to China began 30 miles from Auburn in Columbus, Ga., in 1999, when Chinese entrepreneur Shawn Chen asked a friend at Beacon College, a small, interdenominational Christian college for help finding an architect for an American-style university in China.

The Beacon College faculty member turned to Bruce Erick, then a U.S. Army officer at Fort Benning, who had taken classes at Auburn and at the Columbus institution, which has since been renamed Beacon University. The student recommended Weiss, his former professor at AU, and Chen (See China architect, page 2).

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China architect

invited the Auburn faculty member to view the site and discuss the project. Within weeks, the initial contract evolved into the largest project Weiss had ever encountered and one in a part of the world that was new to him.

“At that time, I knew very little about China,” recalled Weiss, who has been a faculty member of the AU faculty since 1983. “My only instruction from Dr. Chen was to build a campus for 10,000 students.” Before the campus was complete, however, enrollment was approaching 12,000.

Although written as an acronym, SIAS is a word created by Chen. The university president told Weiss he chose the name after examining the naming practices of several successful international corporations and organizations.

Weiss soon learned that the job would be one of the largest university design projects ever undertaken by an American architect. Chen wanted to build his modern university in Henan Province in China’s agricultural heartland. As part of a government-supported effort to bring capitalistic principles to the communist nation, the university would prepare a new generation of graduates schooled in American business principles.

China sends large numbers of its young people to American universities to learn about business, science, agriculture and technology, but those encountering returning graduates is far below market demand in the emerging capitalist economy. Chen informed Weiss that an American-style university in China’s heartland would be a much more efficient way to introduce capitalism to his country.

Weiss, a licensed architect with degrees from three universities, began his designs for the American-style university in March 2000. That September he made his first journey to Xiangyang, China, and began collaborating with Chinese architects and builders who are implementing his designs.

“We are building a campus with the intent to become an educational center in which students could feel comfortable and at ease,” Weiss said. “We want the campus to be a place where students can grow and develop as individuals.”

China campus icon

Peter Weiss, center, displays for College of Architecture, Design and Construction Dean Daniel Bennett, left, and Building Science Department Head John Murphy, a sketch of the belltower centerpiece of the campus Weiss designed for a university in China.

Faculty in Agronomy cited for conservation tillage system

Joe Touchton, head of the College of Agriculture, Department of Agronomy, and Crop Sciences, and Wayne Reeves, affiliate professor in the department, have received the 2004 South- ern Conservation Tillage Conference Service Award.

Touchton and Reeves received the award in June at the 24th meeting of the SCTR Conference for Sustainable Agriculture in Raleigh, N.C. The two received the award in recognition of their efforts to promote conservation tillage systems among farmers in the region.

Touchton, long a proponent of conservation tillage, joined the AU agronomy and soils faculty in 1980 and has been head of the department since 1989. Reeves, a native of Ridgecrest, N.C., was a graduate student under Touchton, who was research agronomist at the USDA-NRCS National Soil Dynamics Lab in Auburn until last year, when he was named research leader at USDA-NRCS Natural Resource Conservation Center in Valdosta, Ga.

He remains an affiliate faculty member at Auburn.

Conservation tillage, a planting system in which crops are grown with minimal cultivation of the soil, significantly reduces erosion and improves soil quality.

Sankar, Raju to present session for Ph.D. students across U.S.

Two Auburn professors have been invited to be presenters at the Ninth Annual Student Project Information Systems Doctoral Student Association conference in New York on Aug. 4.

Chetan S. Sankar of the Department of Management, in the College of Business and P.K. Raju of the Department of Mechanical Engineering of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering will conduct the panel session, “How to Secure Funding to Pursue Research and Teaching Excellence in the College of Business and Economics.”

The session will advise graduate students and faculty about research, writing and other aspects of funding.

Sankar holds the Thomas Walter professorships at Auburn and is director of the interdisciplinary Laboratory for Innovative Technologies in Engineering Education, also known as LITEE.

Raju is the program director of the National Science Foundation's project that will participate with the LITEE team in the panel session. The audited portion of the project, 50-60 minority Information Systems Ph.D. students and prospective Ph.D. students from U.S. universities.

Raji is director of Udall Center for Information Systems Doctoral Students Association and has helped organize the session.

Parking fees, fines on campus will increase at start of academic year

Parking fees and fines in Auburn will increase at the start of the fall semester in August, but a new method of payment for parking permits will cushion the financial impact on faculty and staff.

When parking permits for 2004-05 go on sale in August, Josephine Curtis, assistant director of Parking and Transportation Services, said, “A” parking permits will pay $60 for a 2004-05 parking permit, up from $30 in the past, and staff with “B” zone parking privileges will see an increase to $30 from the current $20.

Christine Curtis, who coordinated the traffic and parking study that led to the changes, said this will be the first general increase in parking fees in more than 20 years.

“If we have been so long that one could not find anyone who could recall exactly when the last increase did occur,” said Curtis, who has been a faculty member since 1976.

“Parking permits will still be a bargain at Auburn compared to our peer institutions,” said Curtis. She cited staff-faculty parking costs ranging from $60 for non-reserved spaces at the University of Alabama and $90 at the University of Mississippi, to a minimum of $220 at the University of Georgia and $415 at the University of Florida.

Partially offsetting the increase in permit fees for AU faculty and staff will be a new provision enabling employees to purchase the permits through payroll deduction over three months with zero-dollar advance payments. Curtis said, “It will be the first general increase in parking fees since 1989. The last increase was in 1989. By that time, we had seen a significant change in the parking demand.”

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Parking changes

Christine Curtis discussed new permit fees, fines and other parking changes in a recent meeting with the Staff Council. Some of the changes are the first in two decades, she said.

AU designs in China

Above is an architect’s rendering of one section of SIAS International University. The entire campus was designed by Peter Weiss. Below are several of the buildings as they near completion.
Auburn received an electrified repeat of Independence Day fireworks Wednesday night when an electrifying salute lit up the sky over campus. No damage or injuries were reported from the lightning.

**Campus Forum**

**Top performers on world business stage keep steady focus on quality**

By June M. Henton, Dean, College of Human Sciences

A wise and very successful business leader once told me, “When things get tight, the flowers are always the first to go.”

His observation is a graphic example of how executives seeking to drive up quarterly profits will often trim around the edges of quality in the mistaken belief that customers will neither notice nor care. Unfortunately, the corporate graveyard is filled with businesses that made such miscalculations.

On the other hand, a corporate culture that places high priority on understanding the customer is a culture that positions the organization to be a long-term leader in its field. In the manufacturing sector, cultures that value and target the organization to be a long-term leader in its field. In the manufacturing sector, cultures that value and target

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**Report is published every two weeks during summer term. Copies are distributed to students as tomorrow's business leaders and to faculty and staff members may join students in riding Tiger Transit's on-campus lines without charge and may purchase a pass to commute by bus from off-campus.**

Tiger Transit ridership doubled to 10,000 a day in 2003-04 from ridership in the previous academic year.

David George, director of parking and transit services, says further increases are expected fall semester due to new measures to reduce traffic congestion on campus.

George said the transit system changes should accommodate the expected demand, and the system will make other changes as necessary.
Grant to AU Veterinary Medicine will support services for animal shelters

Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine will receive $1.5 million over the next six years from Maddie's Fund, a national pet rescue foundation, to create and support a comprehensive shelter medicine program.

The California-based foundation has awarded Auburn a first-year, $250,000 grant to establish the program and will give $250,000 a year for the following five years. "This generous support will allow us to create a shelter medicine rotation and a new ambulatory service in which our students will visit animal shelters for on-site consultation, diagnostic support and teaching," said Brenda Griffin, an AU assistant research professor who will direct the program at Auburn.

In addition to the new clinical rotation, three core classes will include lectures on shelter medicine topics such as the veterinarian's role in animal sheltering, infectious disease epidemiology and shelters and strategies for pet population control.

"We are very excited about it and are greatly appreciative to everyone with Maddie's Fund for selecting Auburn for the new venture," said Veterinary Medicine Dean Timothy Boosinger.

The Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program honors Maddie, a miniature schnauzer that died of cancer in 1997. She had been the companion of a California couple who, after Maddie's death, started the foundation to help all dogs and cats have quality lives.

The shelter medicine aspect of Maddie's Fund emphasizes non-terathal control of the pet surplus epidemic through compassionate, humane strategies for pet population control.

AU is only one of three colleges of veterinary medicine programs funded by Maddie's Fund. The others are at the University of California-Davis and Iowa State University.

"We look forward to collaborating with Auburn to improve the lives of shelter pets, decrease shelter deaths and increase animal adoptions," said Laurie Pook, veterinary consultant for Maddie's Fund.

"We hope to create a pool of shelter veterinarians who will practice in this emerging field and bring an awareness of shelter issues. "Our goal is to increase everyone's knowledge and solve the animal sheltering problem," added Griffin.

Veterinary students at Auburn can also apply for Maddie's Summer Fellowships to research shelter medicine topics or choose a variety of shelter medicine electives, such as animal behavior or issues surrounding feral cats. Maddie's Fund will also help Auburn offer post-graduate training, non-terathal shelter medicine research and continuing education for private practitioners.

Veterinary Medicine

Breakthrough achieved in organ transplants

The AU College of Veterinary Medicine has developed a new canine kidney transplant procedure that promotes increased tolerance of transplanted organs between unrelated dogs.

The new procedure also offers the possibility that dogs with terminal kidney failure could be able to live extended lives without high-doses of immunosuppressive drugs. Although animals are the focus of the current research, medical schools study developments in veterinary medicine for possible implications for medical treatment of humans.

The veterinary procedure was developed by a team of AU researchers and clinicians led by Clint Lothrop and Michael Tillson. The team's research is focused on understanding the immune system's inability to reject transplants.

Lothrop says kidney failure has previously been considered a death sentence for dogs because of organ rejection and limited availability of hemodialysis. "Increasing tolerance is the key, because with it, something as simple as kernel cough could cause significant illness or even lead to the death of a dog on immunosuppressive drugs," said Lothrop.

Oak Ridge

Association honors AU's Bart Prorok for research

Bart Prorok of the materials engineering faculty of Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has received the Ralph E. Powe Junior Faculty Enhancement award by Oak Ridge Associated Universities.

The award, one of 25 presented nationally, recognizes junior faculty who demonstrate exceptional quality of research.

To assist Prorok's research in nanomaterials and nanocomposites, the award carries a $5,000 stipend from Oak Ridge Associated Universities that will be matched by an equal amount from Auburn University.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities' mission is to advance scientific research and education through academic partnerships.

The association has 91 university members, including AU, and is headquartered in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

Prorok's work on his Ph.D. at NASA-Langley as the head of safety for the International Space Station in Washington, D.C. In addition to the Ph.D. from Auburn, he holds a bachelor's degree from the Air Force Academy and a master's degree from the University of Illinois and the University of Tennessee.

Olson's work on his doctorate was supported by NASA-Langley and the Office of Naval Research human systems technology grants.

Maneuvering

Students from AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering demonstrate the maneuver-ability of their specially designed quarter-scale tractor. The Auburn team's vehicle recently won third place for maneuver-ability at the 19th place national tournament in the American Society of Agricultural Engineers Quarter-Scale Tractor Design Competition in Illinois.

Nearly 400 teachers from East Alabama schools returned to the classroom this summer as part of the TEAM-Math Summer Institute.

The institute taught teachers from more than 25 area schools gathered at Opelika Middle School, where they studied mathematics and teaching techniques under the direction of faculty from Auburn and Tuskegee University and top teachers from Alabama schools.

The participating schools will be among the first to introduce the TEAM-Math curriculum and instructional approaches into their classrooms beginning with the 2004-2005 academic year.

This is hands-on learning," said Phillip Zorot, a member of TEAM-Math and professor in Auburn's College of Sciences and Mathematics. "These teachers--and their later students, are learning by being involved. They are doing hands-on exercises such as measuring shadows cast from a flashlight and turning it into a math exercise by figuring out the angles. They are learning mathematics through personal experiences.

TEAM-Math is a partnership of 12 school districts, along with AU and Tuskegee, with a goal of improving mathematics education in East Alabama. Last fall, the National Science Foundation awarded TEAM-Math a five-year, $9 million grant as a part of the foundation's Math and Science Partnership.

Partners from Auburn include College of Educa- tion and College of Sciences and Mathematics and AU Outreach.

Tuskegee, meanwhile sent faculty from the TU Department of Mathematics and its Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

"One thing we have talked about is how learning math concepts on a higher level can help children in all disciplines," said Amy Hopkins, a first-grade teacher at Oliver Elementary School. "We are learning about activities that we can incorporate in our classroom to expand higher order thinking skills and to challenge our students."

During a session for first grade teachers, taught by Barbara Pickard of Talladega Elementary School, the teachers became students themselves as they were divided into different workstations and given a box of wooden geometric shapes. Each workstation used a different activity to teach lessons, such as how tri- angles, squares and pentagons can be used to create other shapes and how geometric shapes can be used to teach children about fractions.

At a time when technology is a major part of our society, it is important children develop critical thinking skills at an early age, Pickard said.

"We are facing a different world and our children need to be prepared," Pickard said. "What better way to teach the children than by encouraging them to participate in hands-on activities. They have more fun learning because they are learning about what they are doing."

It is this type of teaching method that is most helpful for the children, said Becky Scarbrough of Wright's Mill Road Elementary School in Auburn.

"The students learn more from their free discov- ery time," she said. "It is this type of teaching method that is most beneficial for them to learn." Teachers who attended the 10-day Institute will participate in quarterly meetings during the ac- aademic year, as well as a one-week summer institute at Auburn University.

For more information on TEAM-Math, log on to www.team-math.net.
AU asked to share faculty expertise for ‘think tank’ on homeland security

AU is one of six universities selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to send experts to a new consortium or “think tank” on homeland security. “The consortium is headed by Analytic Services Inc. and comprises the nation’s first and only Department of Homeland Security-funded Homeland Security Institute,” said AU Vice President for Research Michael Moriarty.

He added, “As a member of the winning team, Auburn is eligible to participate in research activities previously not available to our faculty, and to provide a very broad and important role for the university in the nation’s homeland security and counterterrorism initiatives.”

Auburn joins Georgetown University, Kansas State University and three other institutions across the U.S. in the consortium.

AU’s representatives to the consortium will be named later. Moriarty said Auburn’s strengths in the consortium are largely through various interdisciplinary programs involving research in engineering, chemistry, agriculture, veterinary medicine, the social sciences and business.

“We have extremely knowledgeable experts here at Auburn in such fields as information technology and network security, agricultural counterterrorism, and bio-detection,” Moriarty said.

“These areas, combined with complimentary areas of expertise among the other six universities and others comprising the Homeland Security Institute, created a very compelling package for Analytic Services in response to the Department of Homeland Security’s national search for an analytical resource.”

Moriarty added, “Auburn’s involvement in the Homeland Security Institute increases the visibility of its research program, and having Auburn on a team that integrates into the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security opens tremendous new research opportunities for our faculty.”

Analytic Services, based in Arlington, Va., is a public-service research institute chartered in 1958. The company provides analytic and technical support to federal agencies.

The new Homeland Security Institute will conduct a variety of studies that could range from a 30-day analysis to a rigorous long-range study of 12 months or more, said Ruth David, Analytic Services president and chief executive officer. David said the institute will play a key role in analyzing homeland security threats and vulnerabilities.

Emeritus professor tapped for international honors

J T. Black, professor emeritus of Auburn’s Industrial and Systems Engineering Department, is the winner of this year’s Society of Manufacturing Engineering International Honor Award in Education.

Black was recognized at the society’s annual meeting in Ohio for the successful development of manufacturing engineering programs that contribute to expanded educational opportunities.

During a career that has spanned more than 40 years, Black taught manufacturing engineering at six universities, retiring from Auburn in 1998.

He has authored more than 70 technical publications and numerous books on manufacturing processes and systems, including “Material and Processes in Manufacturing,” “The Design of the Factory with a Future” and “Lean Manufacturing Systems and Cell Design.”

At AU, Black received the Birdsong Superior Teaching Award, the top honor in the College of Engineering. He is editor-in-chief of the Journal of Manufacturing Systems and the Journal of Manufacturing Processes.

The Office of Human Resources has announced two seminars this month for AU employees as part of the university’s human resource development program.

On Wednesday, July 14, employment specialists Leanne Fuller and Tammy Waldrop will present a program on successful interviewing and effective resumes.

On July 27, Jackie Pinkard from the Lee County Area Agency on Aging, will present a session on providing care for elderly family members.

Both sessions are from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. at the HR Training Center on North Gay Street.

Employees must register to attend. Register on the Web at www.au-burn.edu/administration/human_resources/hrd/index.html or contact Kelli Henderson at 844-7939.

HR offering two seminars this month for AU employees