Sounds of summer
A sure sign of summer in Auburn is an outdoor concert at Pebble Hill. Shown here, Thomas Smith, professor and chair of the Music Department, leads the AU Summer Choir and the AU Gospel Choir in a recent late afternoon performance for music lovers from campus and town.

Hanley named provost at Auburn
AU President William F. Walker on Friday named Thomas R. Hanley of the University of Louisville as Auburn’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The provost is the chief academic officer at Auburn. The deans of all 12 AU colleges and schools, University Libraries and the Graduate School report to the provost, as do the offices of Multicultural Affairs and Information Technology and the vice presidents for research, outreach and student affairs.

Meeting in special session Friday, the AU Board of Trustees authorized the president to make the appointment, ending a search that began last fall, following the appointment of Walker as president in June 2002.

Hanley is leaving his post as dean of engineering and professor of chemical engineering in the Speed Scientific School at Louisville to assume the Auburn position.

“The position of provost is central to Auburn’s academic mission,” said Walker. “Dr. Hanley has an outstanding record as an educator and academic leader, and we look to him to provide immediate leadership as we chart the university’s course for the future.”

The AU president noted that Hanley was among finalists recommended by the search committee and

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Bad writing wins ‘dark and stormy’ award

AU faculty member Mark Silcox has demonstrated the fun of bad writing. Silcox, an instructor in the Department of Philosophy, won the top award in the science fiction category of the 2003 Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest.

The annual contest, hosted by San Jose State University, encourages writers worldwide to write bad fiction. The contest draws entrants from as far as France. The first prize of $1,000, given for writing the worst opening line of a novel, went to Linda Glaze, AU assistant provost for academic affairs.

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Auburn’s winning paragraphs of hypotethetical novels included: “It was a dark and stormy night...”

The judges this year ruled that Silcox came closest in the science fiction contest to the Bulwer-Lytton standard with: “Colonel Clapton Vorville had been one seriously bored astronaut for the first few months of his diplomatic mission on the third planet of the Ytorl system...”

Although the contest drew entrants from as far away as Australia, another Alabama writer, Marianne Sims of Wetumpka, claimed the top prize for worst fiction writing for an entry that begins: “They had but one last remaining night together, so they embraced each other as tightly as that two-flavor entwined string cheese that is orange and white...”

All the winning entries are on the Web at www.bulwer-lytton.com/
Grenell named to international fellowship of experts on small business development

The IC2 Institute, an international think tank for economic development, has named Keenan Grenell, AU’s interim assistant provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, as a senior research fellow at the institute.

Grenell, who will remain fulltime at his Auburn post, will join up to 230 academic, business and government leaders in the global network of IC2 fellows. Members include Nobel laureates, National Medal of Technology winners and CEO’s of major corporations.

The IC2 Institute, with headquarters at the University of Texas in Austin, is a think tank in which members support the research and outreach of each other while expanding the base of knowledge about job and wealth creation and new theories of capitalism. The IC2 name evolved from a shortened description of the group’s main interests: innovation, creativity and capital.

The center’s work is important to all current and prospective small business owners, and is especially relevant to minority small business leaders, said Grenell, who has conducted extensive research and outreach activities in minority entrepreneurship.

Members consult with each other and organize specialized and international conferences, workshops, seminars and discussion to promote research and outreach in development and entrepreneurship.

“IC2 is about connecting ideas, people and resources,” said Grenell. “Through this seat, Auburn is assured a seat at the table with global thinkers when development issues affecting businesses, communities, regions and countries are discussed.”

The Auburn faculty member has worked with IC2 members in the past as founder of the African-American Entrepreneurship Summit, which AU has hosted annually for nine years with sponsorship from the College of Business and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

Grenell predicted that his IC2 fellowship will lead to more international support for the entrepreneurship conference.

“The Summit’s team has worked tirelessly over the past nine years to make entrepreneurship within the African-American community a national priority,” he said. “This appointment further legitimizes the Summit’s role in this quest.”

While assisting IC2 colleagues with studies in their disciplines and geographical areas, Grenell said he expects to draw on the talents of those leaders for initiatives at Auburn, including the I-85 Corridor initiative and the work of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

Solar car team finishes 12th in race along Route 66

AU’s solar car, Sol of Auburn, placed 12th out of an original field of 30 vehicles in the American Solar Challenge cross-country race on July 13-23.

The Auburn team received three awards in the contest: The Spirit of ASC Team Award, the BP Solar Challenge cross-country race on July 13-23.

From the original starting field of 30 teams, five failed pre-race, on-site scrutiny; and five failed to qualify, leaving Auburn’s team among the remaining 20.

The Auburn team completed the 2,233-mile trek in just under 91 hours of driving time.

State deadline is Aug. 29 to register to vote on Sept. 9

Five weeks remain until the Sept. 9 statewide referendum on Gov. Bob Riley’s tax and accountability package, but new voters must meet an earlier deadline before they may cast their ballots.

For new residents and first-time voters in Alabama, the deadline for voter registration before the referendum is Aug. 29. Lee County voters may register at the Voter Registration Office at the Lee County Courthouse, 215 South 9th St., Opelika.

Information about the referendum and voter registration, including a downloadable, mail-in form, is on the Alabama Secretary of State’s Web site at www.sos.state.al.us/election/2003/

Additional information about the referendum is at the governor’s Web site at www.governor.state.al.us/