**August 22**

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2. Program offers boost to rural housing efforts
3. Lecture series schedules expert on evolution
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**How Auburn Stacks Up**

Faculty distribution at AU by rank, 2004-05

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Profs.</th>
<th>Assoc. Prof.</th>
<th>Asst. Prof.</th>
<th>Lecturer &amp; Visiting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>undergrad.</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>11.7%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>grad.</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Numbers rounded to nearest 10th.
Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

**U.S. News rates AU 38th in latest national ranking**

Auburn is ranked 38th among public universities nationwide and as Alabama’s top university by U.S. News & World Report.

In the annual survey released last week, Auburn is ranked among the nation’s top 50 public universities for the 13th consecutive year. This year’s ranking was AU’s best in the survey since 1999, when it also ranked 38th, and was a four-spot improvement over last year, when U.S. News ranked Auburn 42nd among public schools.

“Obviously the Auburn family was pleased to learn that AU has improved its national standing,” said interim President Ed Richardson. “These improvements are the result of hard work by the faculty, staff and administration and the commitment by the Board of Trustees to establish and support long-term improvements. I remain optimistic that further improvements will be forthcoming.”

AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering was ranked 67th nationally overall among engineering schools with doctoral engineering programs. The college was ranked 40th in the same category among engineering schools at public universities.

The newsstand book, “America’s Best Colleges,” which contains the U.S. News college rankings, goes on sale this week. Most of the rankings and some of the articles from the book will also be in this week’s issue of U.S. News & World Report weekly newsmagazine.

To establish its rankings U.S. News categorizes colleges and universities primarily by mission and, in some cases, region. The indicators the magazine uses to define academic quality fall into seven categories: academic reputation among its peers, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving, and (for national universities and liberal arts colleges) the graduation rate performance, or the difference between the proportion of students expected to graduate and the proportion who actually do.

**Association honors Jolly**

Curtis Jolly, a professor and interim chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology in the AU College of Agriculture, has been named one of the nation’s 10 outstanding black agricultural economists.

The recognition came recently during the American Agricultural Economics Association’s 2005 meeting in Rhode Island. Jolly and nine other honorees were selected on the basis of their contributions in the areas of teaching, research, extension and administrative duties.

**Coming and going**

With the start of classes last week, students were discovering the new, exterior entrance to the AU Bookstore on the first floor of Haley Center. Previously, students had to enter the bookstore through the building’s lobby.
Professor gets new view of higher education in year as ACE Fellow

Last year, as she approached her 30th year as a university faculty member and her 10th year as a professor and department head in AU’s College of Education, Holly Stadler began a quest for a professor and department head in AU’s College of Education, which represents 1,800 universities, associations, organizations and corporations, is the nation’s largest education association. One of 35 faculty members selected from around the United States for the ACE fellowship program, Stadler spent the 2004-05 academic year working with the chancellor of a multi-campus university system, visiting executives of other systems and attending national conferences of executives and trustees of major U.S. institutions, including Auburn.

“Before I left, I thought I had a good grasp of how institutions are run, but I wanted to learn more about how state systems are governed,” said Stadler, who heads the Department of Counseling, Counseling Psychology in the College of Education at AU. “I gained that and a lot more.”

Stadler said she became more aware of how connected all parts of higher education are to one another “I developed more of a global perspective during the past year. No matter where you are, it is easy to become narrowly focused when you are on one campus for 10 years.”

Working with a multi-campus system and meeting the leaders of large institutions and systems from around the nation, the AU professor said, she became more aware of the universal nature and complexity of major issues in higher education. “It did not take long to see that policy issues are seldom as simple or clear-cut as they sometimes seem.”

Upcoming Events

Continuing

EXHIBIT "Katioonic II," abstract art by Kyle Braund, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday through Sept. 8, Telfair Feast Theatre Gallery.

EXHIBIT "Construction," drawings on wood by Cedar Lorca Londoyn, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday through Sept. 16, Biggin Gallery.

Friday, August 26

DEDICATION of new Forestry and Wildlife Sciences Building, 3 p.m., South Duncan Drive.

Monday, August 29

NEXT AU Report.

Tuesday, August 30

LITTLETON-FRANKLIN LECTURE "Our Inner Ape," primatologist and author Frans de Waal, 4 p.m., Sciences Laboratory Center auditorium.

Friday, September 2

OPEN HOUSE newly renovated Veterinary Medicine Library, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Gary Hall.

Saturday, September 3

EXHIBIT Scottish American cultural display, noon-4 p.m., tent near Parker Hall.

Lunar Day Holiday

No classes; offices closed; no AU Report.

Tuesday, September 6

MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m, Brown Hall auditorium.

Wednesday, September 7

Research Orientation for new faculty, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Also available Thursday, Sept. 8, from 9 a.m.-11 a.m.

Mullen honored for career contributions to entomology

Thirty-plus years of significant contributions to the study of mites and ticks have earned AU Entomology Professor Gary Mullen recognition from the International Journal of Acarology. The journal presented Mullen its Acarology Recognition Award during its 30th annniversary celebration this summer in Columbus, Ohio. Presenters acknowledged Mullen’s contributions relating to mites and ticks of medical and veterinary importance, including his work with ticks and Lyme disease in Alabama.

Federal grant aids program to boost economy, quality of life in Black Belt

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded a $460,000 grant to an interdisciplinary team of faculty at Auburn for a program to benefit small landowners and residents in substandard housing in Alabama’s Black Belt and beyond.

The project is an outgrowth of work that began with efforts by rural sociologist Conner Bailey in the College of Agriculture and Mark Dubois of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to help small landowners find a market for their timber. A breakthrough came when the research team, with two additional members, linked their efforts to the work of AU’s Rural Studio to improving housing in rural West Alabama.

Recognizing that few logging operations serve the needs of forestland owners with tracts of less than 50 acres, especially in West Alabama, which contains some of the poorest counties in the United States, Bailey and Dubois reasoned that some families living in substandard housing may own land with standing timber which could be transformed into building materials for their own needs and those of their neighbors.

Architecture Professor Bruce Lindsey, who is co-director of the Rural Studio, helped the researchers promote harvesting and wood processing technologies that would be suitable for small, local landholdings and, in the process, would produce valuable construction materials for projects of the Rural Studio. Also, agricultural economist Valentina Hartarska is helping develop harvesting and processing activities that will be economically self-sustaining through use of locally available materials to meet local needs.

The project is an outgrowth of a pilot project funded by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and focused on West Alabama. The USDA-funded project will extend the geographic focus to include six regions in Alabama and the South where forestland is divided into small tracts.

New look

The formerly well-worn interior of Mary Martin Hall has been spruced up in keeping with the building’s new mission as the center of activities for Student Financial Services. The renovated building now provides one-stop shopping for AU students to handle most matters related to financial services.

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Spirit of Excellence

Each month, AU presents the Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees for outstanding performance. Recipients for June were, from left, Kathy Ford of the Office of Information Technology, Jeff Ethridge of Photographic Services in the Office of Communications and Marketing, James Barnes of Facilities and Gail Butler of Admissions.
Discount on season tickets

Theatre season starts with musical

AU Theatre kicks off its 2005-06 season with the musical comedy “The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas” on Sept. 27-30 and Oct. 4-9. In a half-price discount for season tickets, the purchase of two tickets for $100 will include free tickets to the season’s four other shows: “The Shape of Things,” which runs Nov. 9-18, is a dark comedy by contemporary playwright Neil LaBute, who also directed the movie version of the play in 2002. As in other works by LaBute, such as “Nurse Betty” and “In The Company of Men,” the play examines a person’s cynical attempt to manipulate a lonely admirer for selfish reasons.

“The Blue Bird,” on March 8-18, is a family-oriented production from early 20th century Dutch poet and playwright Maurice Maeterlinck. In the play, two small children go through a series of adventures in strange, mystical lands in search of a fabled “blue bird of happiness” that will grant all their wishes.

The final play of the season, “Metamorphoses,” April 18-22, is a modern look at Greek mythology by Mary Zimmerman, a professor at Northwestern University, who won a Tony award for the play. Online, see http://media.cla.auburn.edu/theatre.

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Professor-turned-artist exhibits works on campus and downtown

Since retiring as an emeritus professor from the AU College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999, Kyle Braund has established a new career as an artist. The Australian native, who taught at AU from 1976-99, paints in an abstract expressionist style influenced by early 20th century European and American artists such as Picasso, Chagall and Pollock.

Many of his paintings, such as “Hepcat” at left, are on display through Sept. 8 at Telfair Tort Theatre Gallery on campus and Taylor’s Bakery in downtown Auburn. The exhibitions are sponsored by the Auburn Arts Association.

AU lecture series to present evolution authority

Franz B.M. de Waal, an authority on evolution, will inaugurate the 2005-06 Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series at AU on Aug. 30.

One of the world’s best-known authorities on the social intelligence of monkeys and apes, de Waal will speak on “Our Inner Ape” at 4 p.m. at the auditorium of AU’s new Sciences Laboratory Center in the College of Sciences and Mathematics.

The speech topic is also the title of a new book in which de Waal examines the evolutionary basis for aggressiveness and cooperation in human nature.

De Waal is director of the Living Links Center at Emory University and is one of the most prominent primatologists in the world. The Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series is the oldest major lecture series at Auburn. Founded in 1966 and sponsored since 1968 by the John and Mary Franklin Foundation of Atlanta, the series also honors Mosley Professor Emeritus Taylor Littleton, who coordinated the series for many years.

Morgan named president of association

Virginia Morgan of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System has been elected president of the Association for Communication Excellence in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life and Human Sciences for 2005-06. Morgan, co-leader of Extension Communications at AU, assumed the association presidency in June at the organization’s annual meeting in San Antonio.

The association represents 700 professional communicators in agricultural, natural resources, life and human sciences and related fields in the United States, Canada and six other countries. Morgan, who has been a member of the association for 13 years, has served as vice president, chair of the Development Fund Committee and co-chair elect of the Leadership and Management Committee. She also has served as a facilitator for workshops at the regional and national levels.

A communications specialist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System since 1992, Morgan has served as co-leader of theACES Communications Department since 1999. She holds a bache lor’s degree from Auburn, a master’s from Appalachian State University and a doctorate in human resource development from Vanderbilt.

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