AU again makes U.S. News top 50

U.S. News & World Report magazine, for the 11th consecutive year, has rated Auburn University among America’s top 50 public universities. The magazine also again lists Auburn as the highest ranked university in the state of Alabama.

In its annual rankings for 2003-04, the magazine listed AU at number 44 among public universities, down one spot from a year ago, and tied with the University of Kansas, the University of New Hampshire and the University of Tennessee.

The only SEC-member public universities ranked ahead of Auburn in the national ratings were the University of Florida and the University of Georgia, both of which receive substantially higher per-student state appropriations than Auburn.

“The fact that Auburn continues to be independently ranked in the top 50 among public universities and third among the public SEC-member schools is truly amazing, considering the funding crisis that this institution operates under on nearly an annual basis,” said AU President William Walker.

Governor to take part in tax forum on Tuesday

Gov. Bob Riley is scheduled to participate on Tuesday, Aug. 26, in a public forum on the upcoming statewide tax and accountability referendum.

Other speakers for the 5 p.m. program at the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center will include State Rep. Mike Hubbard of Auburn, Distinguished University Professor Wayne Flynt and other local residents.

Voters will go to the polls on Sept. 9 to decide the fate of the tax and accountability package.

Also on Tuesday, Riley, who is also ex-officio chair of the AU Board of Trustees, is scheduled to speak at a meeting of the University Faculty in Broun Hall auditorium. Faculty and staff will have priority for seating at that meeting.

Busy band

While most other students were enjoying a break before the start of fall semester, members of the AU Band were on campus preparing for their role in the upcoming football season. In this photo, members of the drum line watch as Assistant Band Director Troy Breaux, right, demonstrates technique.
Parking spaces removed around some buildings to clear way for fire trucks

In an effort to improve access for fire trucks, the university is removing 55 parking spaces near more than a dozen buildings on the northern part of cam-

pus and 27 around the women’s residences on the south side of campus.

Meanwhile, AU has redesignated an additional parking area for faculty and staff on the north side of campus, and a new parking area will open soon on the south side of campus. For some drivers, the new parking areas will mean longer walks or reliance on Tiger Transit to reach their destinations.

The changes affect the Cater Hall circular drive, the Engineering Shop Buildings, Tiger Drive at Dun-

ston Hall, west of Langdon Annex, the north side of Ross Hall, the Foy Union-Ross Hall curve and the Burton Hall circular drive. Also, at the Hill Dorms, spaces will be lost in the perimeter parking areas of the interior parking lots.

College rankings

(continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, the publication ranked engineering programs in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineer-

ing No. 59 nationally in their field.

Among SEC-member public universities, only the University of Florida ranked ahead of Auburn in engineering. No other engineering schools from Florida.

The newstand book, “America’s Best Colleges,” which contains the magazine’s college rankings, will go on sale Monday, Aug. 25.

Many of the rankings and some of the articles from the book will be in the Sept. 1 issue of U.S. News & World Report, the weekly newsmagazine, which is on sale this week.

U.S. News uses two steps to rank colleges and universities. The schools are categorized primarily by mission and, in some cases, region, and the mag-

azine gathers data from each on up to 15 indicators of academic quality.

Indicators the magazine staff uses to capture aca-

demic quality fall into seven categories: peer assess-

ment, faculty resources, student resources, student selectivity, financial resources, graduation rate performance and alumni giving.

Now, parking violators risk towing after five tickets

Repeat violators of campus traffic and parking regulations face increased risk of having their vehicle towed, wheel-locked or barred from campus this aca-

demic year.

The Department of Public Safety is enforc-

ing new, stricter AU regulations that reduce from 10 to five the max-

imum violations a vehicle with a hangtag may incur each year. Fines increase steadily from $4 for the first violation to $25 for the fourth and subsequent violations.

In addition, starting with the sixth violation, DPS may order the vehicle towed or wheel-

locked. The university may also ban the vehi-

cle from campus.

If the vehicle does not have a vehicle registra-

tion hangtag from DPS, authorities may order the vehicle towed or wheel-locked after the second violation.

Penalties apply to fac-

ulty and staff as well as students.

Tabor steps down as Accountancy director

Associate Professor Norman H. Godwin has been appointed interim director for the School of Accountancy.

College of Business Dean John Jabra announced the appoint-

ment last week.

As interim head of the school, Godwin suc-

ceeds Torchmark Professor Richard Tabor, who returned to the class-

room this fall. Tabor had been interim director since 2002 and previous-

ly served as the school’s director from 1991-95.

“On behalf of the col-

lege, I would like to thank him for his many years of service and dedication to furthering the vision and mission of this institution,” said Jabra.

Godwin, a member of the AU faculty since 1996, received his bach-

elor’s degree from Au-

burn and his Ph.D. from Michigan State University.

Ernest & Young Faculty Fellow, Godwin was a member of the search committee for the new AU provost.

New department head for Biosystems Engineering named in Agriculture

Steven E. Taylor, a professor of forest and struc-

tural wood engineering in the College of Agricul-

ture, has been named head of the Department of Biosystems Engineering.

Taylor, a member of the depart-

ment since 1989, succeeds Clifford Flood, who is retiring.

In announcing the appointment, John Jensen, interim dean of the Col-

lege of Agriculture and director of the Alabama Agricultural Exper-

iment Station, said, “Dr. Taylor is an outstanding teacher and researcher who has the vision, the energy and the excellent leadership abili-

ities to build and sustain a premier biosystems engi-

neering program at Auburn University.”

Veternary Medicine to dedicate new hospital

Auburn will dedicate its new John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital at the College of Veterinary Medicine on Friday, Aug. 29.

The 4 p.m. ceremony will be inside the adjacent campus area on Wire Road.

“We want everyone to help us celebrate this accomplishment,” said Veterinary Medicine Dean Timothy Bossinger. “Auburn University is moving from having the oldest facility in the country to the newest, most modern one. This will allow us to make more advances in the medical care of animals and provide more assistance to our stu-

dents.”

The hospital covers 71,500 square feet and has modern surgical suites, an intensive care unit, phar-

macy, radiology section, field services unit, offices, conference room and a 66 seat classroom.

The hospital is one part of a new 120,000-square-foot, red-brick complex. Already in operation are an equine lameness laboratory with hard and soft surfaces as well as two equine wards, an isolation facility, and an equipment and maintenance shop.

Plans also call for two beef cattle wards and two dairy wards.

The AU Board of Trustees has named the facility in honor of Dr. Ernestus Tom Vaughan, dean of the veterinary college from 1977-95.

College officials began planning the project and seeking support in 1994. The Alabama voters approved an agricultural bond initiative in 1998 to provide $5.7 million toward the project. Funding sources also include $7.5 million in university funds, $7 million from the college and private support from individuals and groups.

The Department of Biosystems Engineering is in the College of Agriculture, but undergraduate stu-

dents in the program are enrolled in the College of Engineering. The dean of the colleges of Agricul-

tured faculty member six times since 1991. He is also an adjunct professor in the School of Forestry and Wildland Sciences.

Taylor received a doctorate in agricultural engi-

neering from Texas A&M in 1988 and holds bache-

lor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Florida.

The Division of Stu-

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Latest Princeton Review rates Auburn library, student newspaper in top 20

A new edition of the Princeton Review college guide gives Auburn high marks for its library, town-gown relations and student newspaper. The annual publication also gives Auburn high ratings in two categories related to athletics.

The Princeton Review’s “The Best 351 Colleges: 2004 Edition,” bases its rankings on surveys of students at the colleges and universities. The survey drew 106,000 responses at the 351 schools, but the Princeton Review did not state how many students participated at individual schools. Rankings depend heavily on how students view their own school. Based on open-ended student participation, rather than scientific sampling, the survey is popular among current and prospective college students for its unusual and sometimes irrelevant categories, such as “Jock Schools” and “Top Party Schools.”

In the more academic rankings, AU was 20th in the “Great College Library” category; the only other major Southern schools making that list were the University of Virginia and Mississippi.

Equally noteworthy are categories that most college administrators find undesirable and in Auburn did not appear. These include the controversial category of “Party Schools,” in which Alabama fell to number 11. The group also included Florida, Georgia, Clemson and Louisiana State.


HR documents placed on Web


The documents are accessible on the Web at: www.au.burn.edu/administration/human_resources/hrd/index.html

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, August 26
• Special Meeting: University Faculty, 2:30 p.m., Brown Hall auditorium. Discussion of online voting for faculty elections. Gov: Bob Riley to speak at 3 p.m. Seating priority to faculty and staff.
• Public Forum: Gov. Bob Riley and others will discuss upcoming tax and accountability referendum, 5 p.m., Dixon Conference Center.

Friday, August 29
• Dedication: J. Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Hospital, 4 p.m., College of Veterinary Medicine, Wire Road.

Monday, September 1
• Labor Day holiday. No classes, offices closed. No AU Report.

Thursday, September 4
• Wreck Tech Parade: Revival of Auburn tradition, 6:30 p.m. See page 8 for route.

Monday, September 8
• Next AU Report.

Tuesday, September 9
• Statewide Referendum: Tax and accountability amendment, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., polling places in the city and county.
• Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Brown Hall auditorium.
• Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212. No appointment necessary.

Tuesday, September 16
• Annual Fall Meeting: University Faculty, 3 p.m., Brown Hall auditorium.

Auburn to receive $3.2 million grant for wireless engineering

Auburn will receive nearly $3.2 million in funding over five years for its wireless engineering program through the Vodafone U.S. Foundation Fellows Initiative.

Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering will use the grant for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and course and laboratory development in wireless engineering.

The University of California at Berkeley and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are also grant recipients.

“The competition for this award was tough,” said Engineering Dean Larry Benefield. “It included 14 of the nation’s top 25 engineering schools. To be one of the three programs selected is testament to the strength of our wireless efforts.”

The focal point for Auburn’s activities centers on its Wireless Engineering Research and Education Center, which is building on a $25 million gift from Auburn alumnus Samuel Cano to develop a cutting-edge program in wireless engineering. A key element in program development has been the creation of an undergraduate wireless degree program – the first of its kind in the nation.

The wireless engineering degree is offered through two departments within Auburn’s College of Engineering – Computer Science and Software Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering – with hardware, software and network options.

“We began enrolling students in the wireless program in fall 2002,” said Dick Jaeger, distinguished university professor of electrical and computer engineering and the center’s interim director. “The response has been strong. We intend to use the grant to maintain and build on this momentum.”

Ginn College of Engineering
An Auburn veterinarian has been named the companion animal veterinarian of the year by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and has donated the $20,000 prize to charities that help animals.

Brenda Griffin, an assistant research professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Scott-Ritchie Research Center, recently received the 2003 Best Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award in recognition of her work to control pet overpopulation and other efforts on behalf of pets and their owners.

“This is one of the AVMA’s highest honors,” said Veterinary Medicine Dean Timothy Boosinger. “We are very proud of Dr. Griffin. She is very dedicated to promoting the bond between people and their pets, and her work to humanely reduce pet overpopulation is among the nation’s best.”

Griffin donated the cash award to the college’s student educational program, the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians and humane societies in Lee County and Columbus, Ga. “These programs and the people involved are so dedicated that they should be recognized, too,” Griffin said.

“Tammy said she was deeply humbled to receive this award. Practicing veterinary medicine is very rewarding in itself. For me the most satisfying aspects are sharing and protecting the bond between clients and their pets, and hopefully inspiring future veterinarians to take leadership roles in reducing the epidemic of homeless pets without euthanasia.”

In 1999, Griffin’s organization, Cat Nap, a program in which feral cats are trapped, neutered and returned to their home areas. The innovative program has stabilized several colonies of cats so that they maintain their territory without uncontrolled breeding.

She also started the college’s shelter medicine program in which students provide health care for animals at the Lee County Humane Society.

**Charmoin Tatum named top adviser**

The Association of Student Advancement Programs has named Charmoin Harms Tat- mum of AU one of the top three student-government officials in the U.S. and Canada for 2003. She received an award at the organization’s annual convention this month in Nashville. The association represents more than 360 higher education student alumni organizations in the two countries.

Tatum, a member of the Auburn Alumni Association staff since January 2001, is director of the Auburn Student Alumni Association and the Lifetime Achievement Awards program for the Auburn Alumni Association.

**Payroll deposit available for AU employees**

A few years ago, Horizons Restaurant in the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center has closed for renovation and will reopen in early 2004. Although lunch and dinner will not be served during the interim, the facility has moved its breakfast service for patrons to Dixon Conference Center room E, F and G.

For more information on the renovation, see the July 7 AU Report online at www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/2003AUR-archives.html

**Information Technology offers fall software training schedule**

The Office of Information Technology will offer introductory and intermediate classes this fall for users of Excel XP, Word XP and Access XP software and an update session for users of WordPerfect 11. Additional professional development offerings are also available for users of OASIS, WebCT, and Web page design and development. A complete list of offerings is available on the Web at www.auburn.edu/oit/training or by e-mail at itraining@auburn.edu.

**Scientist seeks rethinking of public fears about use of chemical agents**

As recently as the early 1970s, Americans frequently heard and widely accepted the advertising slogan “Better living through chemistry.” But does this idealism really reflect older, less enlightened thinking? Or could it be, as one expert contends, that Americans know a lot less about science than they once did?

The growing controversy surrounding the use of chlorinated products is one example of this weakening grasp of science, says James Hairston, an AU professor of agronomy and soils and Alabama Cooperative Extension System water quality scientist.

“For more than 80 years, the use of chlorine in water disinfection has been the cornerstone of safe drinking water,” said Hairston, who, as an authori- ties in water quality, says he has detected a major shift in public attitudes over the past 30 years. In the very beginning, the primary concern asso- ciated with chlorine was how to expand its use for a wide variety of purposes. Hairston observed.

“Now, an increasing number of groups cite the increased risk of bladder and rectal cancer associated with chlorine use as a reason to ban all chlorine products entirely – everything from drinking water to PVC piping commonly used in plumbing.”

On the other hand, he notes, “Chlorine and chlo- rinated compounds, after all, not only are important to the chemical industry but vital to it. Without chlorine, every facet of our lives would be adversely affected for decades. Even worse, a total ban on chlorine likely would lead to the return of deadly diseases such as cholera and typhoid that were elim- inated decades ago with the introduction of water chlorination on a vast scale. And until science devel- ops a cost-effective alternative to chlorine, that’s likely to be the case for the foreseeable future.”

According to Hairston, the controversy associated with chlorine and chlorinated products, Hairston believes, reflects a growing inability among millions of Americans to weigh the relative costs and benefits associated with modern technology.

“Very few Americans, it seems, can relate to science except in the amount of time it takes to carry out an adequate study,” he said.

“Likewise, few possess the scientific knowledge to weigh the relative merits associated with chemi- cals such as chlorine. Granted, there are pluses and minuses associated with chlorine use, but the plusses far outweigh the minuses.”

Several factors, he said, contribute to this misun- derstanding of science, most notably the “Commu- nications Revolution” and its accompanying infor- mational overload.

“There is more information than ever before,” he said. “But the same increase in data leads Ameri- cans to have to be very selective about what they choose to learn.”

Movies and other forms of popular media, Hair- stencil believes, produce both a sensitizing and desen- sitizing effect on viewers and listeners. Just as the media have been blamed for desensitizing people to violence, some movies and news accounts of envi- ronmental disasters have sensitized some people to the need for action.

To restore public faith in science, he said, scientists throughout the world would have to unite in a coor- dinated, concerted effort.

**Historic site**

The National Regis- ter of Historic Places has added AU’s Callars Cullars Rotation field to its list. The site, east of the new Jule Collins Smith Mu- seum of Fine Art, is the second Alabama Agricul- tural Experimental Station field at Auburn to make the list. The other site, the “Old Rotation” field is near- ly next to the abse- rum.
AU to renew Wreck Tech Parade on week of Georgia Tech game

With the return of an old foe to Auburn’s 2003 football schedule will come the return of a storied tradition.

For the first time since 1987, Auburn will play the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets in a game set for Sept. 6 at Atlanta’s Bobby Dodd Stadium.

And a group of Auburn students, faculty and staff plans to bring back the “Wreck Tech” Pajama Parade that was a staple of the AU-Georgia Tech rivalry for several generations.

The 2003 “Wreck Tech” Pajama Parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 4. The parade will begin near Engineering Shop 1, proceed down West Magnolia to Toomer’s Corner, turn south on College Street, west on Thach Avenue and south again on Duncan Drive, ending at Jordan-Hare Stadium. Dean Emeritus James E. Foy will be grand marshal for the parade.

“Wreck Tech is a tradition that dates back several generations in my family,” said John C. Heiser, assistant vice president for Alumni Affairs and co-chair of the parade planning committee.

The planning committee, made up of representatives from numerous student organizations and campus departments, began planning last spring for the parade, which is sponsored by the Auburn Alumni Association and the SGA.

The legend that gave birth to the parade has its roots in Auburn’s first home football game — against Georgia Tech in 1916. Back then, football teams traveled by train and the Georgia Tech team was scheduled to arrive at the Auburn station early on the morning of Nov. 7.

According to the legend, Auburn students applied a thick coating of grease to approximately a quarter-mile of rails leading into and out of the Auburn station during the night. The next morning the train carrying the Tech football squad could get no traction when it tried to brake for the Auburn station and slid halfway to Loachapoka. The Yellow Jacket contingent was forced to walk back to Auburn and that day lost the game 45-0.

AU to renew Wreck Tech Parade on week of Georgia Tech game

Tiger Transit to celebrate latest improvements

One of the new items on campus this fall is Tiger Transit’s central hub at Haley Station. The building includes a shelter for passengers, a communications post for transit officials and a new campus eatery, The Depot.

Tiger Transit will hold a grand opening of the transit hub and celebrate improvements in the system on Thursday, Aug. 28. The Depot will give away frozen yogurt from 1 p.m.-2 p.m. and 4 p.m.-6 p.m., and Aubie will visit from 3 p.m.-4 p.m.

As part of the activities, the campus radio station, WEGL, will broadcast live at the site from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Also, Sports Call, a call-in show on WAUD and other local radio stations, will broadcast live at the hub from 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

Y.E.S. camp renewal set for this fall

The College of Sciences and Mathematics is accepting applications for its annual Youth Experiences in Science program in September.

Commonly known by its initials, the Y.E.S. program is a science-oriented Saturday camp for children in grades 7 through 9.

The Athletics Department is a cosponsor of the camps.

This year’s camps will be from 9 a.m.-noon on Sept. 20 and Sept. 27.

The camps are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information and an application, visit the College of Sciences and Mathematics Outreach Web site at www.auburn.edu/cosmath/outreach.

Applications will be available online beginning Thursday, Aug. 28, or can be picked up at 108 Tichenor Hall. The deadline to register is Sept. 8.