Auburn escapes worst of Ivan

For Auburn, at least, Ivan was no Opal. The hurricane that blew through Alabama on Thursday wreaked most of its destruction up the center of the state. Unlike Opal, which passed directly over Auburn nine years ago, Ivan gave the city and university only a glancing blow. These images illustrate the storm’s impact, such as the sign at top right. Unlike the previous hurricane, which toppled huge oaks across campus, only an occasional newly planted tree, right, center, and a single, small tree in Samford Park, below, fell victim to Ivan. Due to memories of Opal and uncertainty over the path of Ivan, some residents, such as Denise Dunaway and her family, bottom right, rode out the storm in the coliseum.
Richardson says committees to review Auburn's academic-related programs

The administration will look to standing AU Senate and University committees to conduct a review of academic areas at Auburn over the next few months, interim President Ed Richardson said last week.

At the fall meeting of the University Faculty on Aug. 14, Richardson said he has completed a reorga-
nization of the central administration board and will ask Senate and University committees to review aca-
demic-related areas as the university sets its priori-
ties for the future.

Richardson said he anticipates the review will identify ways for AU to redirect resources through narrowly focused adjustments across the university, not widespread cuts in academic programs. “My intention is to shift money more toward scholar-
ships and support of academics,” he said.

“I am not in the mode of making cuts in academ-
ics,” he said. “It is far better for faculty and admin-
istrators to focus on how we make a university, not
whether we cut one.”

Richardson said the review will conclude next spring so he can present a plan for university priori-
ties and organization to the Board of Trustees in June.

By acting now, at the end of the five-year plan AU adopted in 1999, Richardson said, the administration and university will be in a better position to set the university’s agenda than they were in the late 1990s, Richardson said.

He said the Board of Trustees required expen-
sive organizational changes at that time because trustees felt that the university’s planning efforts over most of the previous decade had not done

White interim College of Education dean

Bonnie J White, Humana-Germany-Sherman Dis-
tinguished Professor in the College of Curricu-
lum and Teaching, has been named interim dean of the AU College of Education.

White replaces Fran Kochan, who has served as interim dean since July 2001 and will return to a fac-
culty position within the college.

AU Provost Thomas Hanley said a committee has been formed to search for a permanent dean in the College of Education and will meet this month.

White came to Auburn in 1976 as an instructor in what was formerly known as the Department of Vocational and Adult Education, which she later also served as chair. Upon completion of her doctor-

ate work at the University of Tennessee in 1979, she

was made an associate professor.

While working at Humana-Germany-Sherman Dis-
tinguished Professor in 2002, White is a member of the U.S. chapter of the International Society for Business Education, which she served as president in 2003-04, and the National Business Education Association, which she has served as a member of the executive board and the strategic planning and membership committees.

The author or co-author of more than 60 publica-
tions related to research and best practices in educa-
tion, White is the co-author of “The Office: Proce-
dures and Technology,” a textbook now in its fifth edition. She has received two awards for textbook excellence.

Award cites Cherry for 43 years of service in biological sciences

The American Society of Plant Biologists recently presented Joe H. Cherry, a professor of biological sciences in AU’s College of Sciences and Mathemat-
ics, with the Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership Award for more than 43 years of service in research, teaching, mentoring and professional service to the plant biology community.

Cherry joined the Auburn faculty in 1989 and is a for-
mer head of the Department of Botany and Microbiology.

Cary at twilight

Cary Hall at twilight is one of the scenes on the 2005 calendar “Twilight on the Plains.” The cal-
endar was produced by the Office of Communi-
cations and Marketing with pictures from Pho-
tographic Services. Cal-
endars are on sale for $9.95 each at Photo Ser-
tices in the L Building, the AU Bookstore, the HALEY Center, J&M and

Alumni Association seeks teaching-award nominees

The Auburn Alumni Association is seeking nomi-

nations for its Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awar-
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In addition to minority enrollment, this fall’s minority freshman class in the university’s history this fall. Minority enrollment of freshmen this semester is 450, a 20 percent increase from fall 2003.

Of that number, African-American students totaled 347, marking the largest African-American freshman class in AU’s history and an 18 percent increase since last fall.

Total enrollment of minority students has contin-
ed to increase during the past five years. Fall enrollment represents a 14 percent increase of African-American students from 1999. AU’s 1,710 African-American students now make up 7.5 per-
cent of the student population, up from 6.8 percent five years ago.

Meanwhile, AU’s Hispanic population, though still small at 310, is up 68 percent from five years ago.

The numbers represent the success of an ongoing effort to attract minority students to Auburn, said John Fletcher, assistant vice president for enrollment management in the Division of Student Affairs. AU significantly increased its scholarships, recruiting efforts and support services for minority students after making diversity enhancement a major priori-
ty in its five-year plan in 2000.

Overall enrollment was down 1 percent from last year to 29,528. Enrollment fluctuations slightly from year to year has been an upward trend since the fall of 2000.

In addition to minority enrollment, this fall’s freshman class set other records. This group of stu-
dents reflects an increase in high school grade point ave-

rages, an average of 3.55, the highest ever for an incoming freshman class. Also, the class received AU’s second highest average ACT scores at 24.3, down slightly from last year’s record average of 24.4.

Looking ahead

In remarks to the University Faculty last week, interim President Ed Richardson said he will de-
pend on AU Senate and University committees for assistance with a campuswide review of AU

operations during this academic year.

Continuing

• Art Exhibit: “Faces in the Hood,” 12 paintings on automobile hoods by urban environment artist Tyree Guyton, Biggy Gallery, opens Tuesday, runs through Oct. 8.

• Art Exhibit: “Auburn Collects,” eclectic works from the private collection of William Danlup, Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, through Nov. 25.

Thursday, September 23

• Library Orientation: Tours for new faculty, every half hour from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., starting at second floor conference room, Draughon Library.

• Public Lecture: “The Close-Mindedness of Everyday Life: On Staying the Course, Flip-Flopping and Leadership in Times of Uncertainty,” W. Kruglanski, Distinguished University Professor of Psychology, University of Maryland, 3:30 p.m., Haley 2570.

• English Symposium: “Disorienting Fiction: The Autoethnograph-

Friday, September 24

• BBG Blues: Event honoring AU alumni authors Ace Atkins and Tim Dorsey, noon-2 p.m., Pebble Hill. Open to the public.

• Blue Jean Ball: Benefit dinner and dance for School of Nursing scholarship, festivities start at 7:30 p.m. and dinner at 7 p.m., Pat Dye’s hunting lodge. Tickets are $50, and directions to the site are printed on the back. For tickets or information, call Leslie Brash-
er at 844-1157.

Monday, September 27

• Next AU Report.

• Library Exhibit: “Auburn Collects,” eclectic works from the private collection of William Danlup, Biggy Gallery.

• AU Theatre: “Galileo,” 7:30 p.m., Oct. 5-8 and Oct. 12-15, Faulk Peet Theatre.

• Library Exhibit: “Faces in the Hood,” 12 paintings on automobile hoods by urban environment artist Tyree Guyton, Biggy Gallery.

• Library Exhibit: “The Known World,” 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m., second-floor conference room, Draughon Library.

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And the band played on

Among the busiest students on campus in the fall are members of the AU Marching Band. For every minute of time on the field on football Saturdays, band members spend hours rehearsing. They are among the first students to return to campus each fall and devote most of their extra time in the fall practicing formations and musical arrangements.

Grenell speaks at national conference

Keenan Grenell, an administrator and faculty member at AU, was a panelist this month for a session of the National Minority Enterprise Development Conference in Washington, D.C.


Grenell, who is an associate professor of political science and interim assistant provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, was one of six experts for the session on “Competitive Advantages of Minority Business Enterprise.”

Speaking on, “Competitive Advantage of a Rural South Minority Entrepreneurship Model,” Grenell examined the Interstate 85 Corridor Initiative, a partnership of local governments and educational institutions in East Alabama.

A frequently cited authority on minority business development, Grenell is a founder of the African American Entrepreneurial Summit, an international conference which explores economic opportunities for minority enterprise development.

Book club to discuss novel on slavery

The AU Libraries Book Club will meet in two sessions on Thursday, Sept. 30 at Draughon Library to discuss Edward P. Jones’ Pulitzer Prize-winning book “The Known World.”

The discussions, which are open to all in the university community, are at 11:45 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the library’s second-floor conference room.

“The Known World,” with allusions to Milton’s “Paradise Lost,” tells the story of a free black man who, adapting to the slave-dependency economy and social structure of antebellum Virginia, has become a prosperous slave-owner. When he dies, everything he has built in his life falls apart, with profound implications for his family, slaves and neighbors.

The book is available at the AU Bookstore. For more information, contact Richelle Mask at 844-1734 or aullibookclub@auburn.edu.

Entomologists

AU experts speak at international conference

Seven faculty members and four graduate students in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology made presentations in August for the 22nd International Congress of Entomology in Brisbane, Australia.

The congress, held every four years, is the world’s largest entomological meeting, bringing together entomologists worldwide to share research and discuss issues.

Auburn faculty making presentations included Gary Mulker, professor; Michael Williams, associate professor and department head; Bill Moar and Kathy Flanders, associate professors; Henry Fadamiro and Xing Ping Hu, assistant professors; and Fudd Graham, research fellow and coordinator of the Alabama Fire Ant Management Program.

Entomology graduate students Vicky Bertagnolli, Elly Maxwell, Joel Tindle and John Styrsky presented research papers.

The travel was funded in large part by grants from the Calvin and Helen Jones Endowment for Program Enhancement in Entomology at AU and the Frank S. and Margaret N. Arant Endowment in Entomology.

Literary authority to speak at English Symposium

A Massachusetts authority on 19th century English literature will present a public lecture at AU’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at 3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 23.

As the first speaker in the AU English Department’s 2004-05 English Symposium Series, James Buzard, associate professor of English at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will speak on “Disorienting Fiction: The Autoethnographic Work of 19th Century British Novels.”

Drawing on concepts in his forthcoming book, Buzard discusses the work of Elizabeth Gaskell, Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot and other leading English writers of the period.