Seeking solutions
Planning consultant Lee Bourque told audiences at public forums last week that AU must do more than add parking if it is to avoid traffic gridlock. The parking planner sought input from faculty, staff and students on parking problems and discussed how other universities are handling similar problems. In the background are murals displayed in Foy by Cooperative Extension.

United Way sets $140,000 goal for contributions at AU this fall

The 2006 United Way campaign at Auburn is under way as volunteers seek to raise $140,000 in contributions by the end of fall semester. The campus goal is part of an effort by United Way of Lee County to raise approximately $1 million in local support for area charities and non-governmental social services.

Both the AU and Lee County goals remain the same as in last year’s successful campaign. Bill Sauser, associate dean for business and engineering outreach, returns as chair of the campus campaign, assisted by Dianne Townsend of the Business and Engineering Outreach Office.

Sauser noted that approximately 90 percent of funds collected locally remain in Lee County to help thousands of local residents through youth and community organizations, health services and aid to needy families and individuals.

“Dianne Townsend and I thank the hundreds of volunteers and donors across the Auburn campus who enabled us to meet our campaign goal last year,” said Sauser.

He added, “The fine agencies supported in part by United Way need our generous gifts now more than ever, so I urge everyone to dig deep in order to exceed this year’s goal by a substantial margin.”

The campus campaign relies on volunteers from across campus to distribute information packets and pledge cards to faculty and staff in their areas. The pledge cards enable AU employees to spread their gifts over the year through payroll deduction.

Gifts from AU are 10 percent to 15 percent of total annual contributions to the Lee County United Way campaign. “The campus campaign is such an integral part of community success,” said Becky Benton, executive director of United Way of Lee County.

“In our efforts to meet the needs of our community, we forge partnerships and collaborate with over 33 community agencies to strengthen services and fill gaps where services are lacking.”

United Way contributions help support a variety of local organizations, including the East Alabama Food Bank, Red Cross, Salvation Army, Achievement Center and others.

Theatre season starts this week with ‘Godspell’

CHS names new associate dean, department head

Auburn author to present reading from new book

Inside
College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton has announced the appointments of Susan S. Hubbard as the college’s associate dean for academic affairs and Leanne K. Lamke as head of the Department of Human Development and Family Studies.

Hubbard has been a member of the Human Sciences faculty for 13 years, serving in both the Consumer Affairs and Nutrition and Food Sciences departments. In her new role, she is responsible for undergraduate education programming.

As coordinator of the Hotel and Restaurant Management Program, Hubbard was instrumental in establishing an educational partnership between the HRMT Program and the West Paces Hotel Group, LLC. Among other activities, she has been faculty advisor to several student organizations.

“Dr. Hubbard possesses highly developed skills in leadership and teamwork,” said Henton. “I have no doubt that she will provide a framework for quality student learning experiences congruent with best practices in academic affairs.”

Hubbard, Lamke appointed to posts in AU College of Human Sciences

Grant aids upgrade of AU fisheries labs

The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has released $5.6 million to Auburn to establish the Center for Aquatic Resource Management. AU will use the funds to replace obsolete facilities with modern laboratories, including wet and dry floor spaces for multidisciplinary research. The announcement of the funding came from the office of U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby of Alabama, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee on Commerce, Justice, and Science.

“Auburn’s Department of Fisheries is renowned for its research in fisheries management and aquaculture technology,” said Shelby.

“The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded a nearly $1 million, two-year grant to two AU faculty members and two colleagues at other universities for research to aid in the monitoring and clean-up of nuclear-waste sites.”

Mark Barnett and Prabhakar Clement of the Samuel Cinn College of Engineering are conducting laboratory tests to assess contaminants at sites where nuclear fuels and related materials were processed. Other researchers on the project are Chunlin Zheng from the University of Alabama and Norm Jones from Brigham Young University.

The main contaminants the research will focus on are arsenic and uranium, which were used in processing nuclear fuels and related materials. The sites of primary concern are at Savannah River in Georgia; Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Idaho Falls, Idaho; and Hanford, Wash.

“The main goal of our project is to help the Department of Energy make better cleanup decisions by finding how quickly those materials move through the subsurface and groundwater,” said Barnett. “This research will help us better understand their needs by finding out how quickly the sites actually need cleaning up, as well as how to more efficiently monitor those needs in the future.”

Barnett is an associate professor and a Brasfield & Corrigan Scholar in the Department of Civil Engineering. He has more than 10 years of research experience with metals and other materials at Department of Defense and DOE sites, including six years as a research associate at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Clement is an associate professor in the Department of Civil Engineering. Before joining Auburn, he worked as a senior research engineer at the Battelle Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. His research interests include groundwater management, reactive transport modeling and design of remediation systems.
Visiting speaker at AU to discuss suburban sprawl

Historian Kenneth T. Jackson will discuss the impact of suburban sprawl this week as the first speaker in the 2006-07 Littleton-Franklin Lectures in Science and Humanities at AU.

Jackson will speak on “The Road to Hell: Transportation Policy, Suburbanization and the Decline of the United States” at 4 p.m. Thursday in the auditorium of the Sciences Laboratory Center. The title of the lecture is taken from a book in progress by the Columbia University professor.

The nationally prominent urban historian specializes in American social and urban history. He is director of the Herbert H. Lehman Center for the Study of American History and the Jacques Barzun Professor of History and the Social Sciences at Columbia.

Jackson is the author of Crabgrass Frontier, which examined factors influencing the development of suburbs in the United States, and he is editor-in-chief of The Encyclopedia of New York City. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and has been on the faculty at Columbia since 1968.

Three other speakers will be featured in the 2006-07 academic year as part of the lecture series. Roald Hoffmann, a 1981 Nobel Prize-winning chemist, will speak on Oct. 24, and medical anthropologist and author Alondra Oubre will speak on Feb. 27. The series will close with L. Hunter Lovins on April 17; Lovins is president of Natural Capitalism Inc. and co-founder of the California Conservation Project.

AU author to present reading on Tuesday

Novelist Chantel Acevedo, a new instructor of English in AU’s College of Liberal Arts, will present a public reading of selections from her award-winning book, Love and Ghost Letters, at 4 p.m. Tuesday in the Special Collections and Archives Department of Draughon Library.

The reading is part of Auburn’s observance of Latino Heritage Month during September.

The novel, which won the 2006 Latino Literacy Now Award, is set in Cuba from 1938 to the 1960s and chronicles the haunted relationship between a daughter and her exiled father.

Acevedo holds a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from the University of Miami, which she attended on a James Michener Fellowship, and is the recipient of two Fulbright awards. Her short story “Blue Exile” won the Fred Shaw Fiction Prize, and Love and Ghost Letters, published in 2005 by St. Martins Press, has been receiving praise from literary critics.

Musical ‘Godspell’ playing this week at Peet Theatre

The 2006-07 theatre season starts this week at AU with a campus-based production of the popular, Gospel-inspired musical “Godspell,” which opens at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Telfair Peet Theatre.

Performances are also scheduled for the same time Thursday-Saturday and at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Next week’s evening performances will be Oct. 3-6, with a matinee on Oct. 8. For ticket information, call 844-4154.

“Godspell” is a re-enactment in song and dance of the parables and teachings of Jesus as interpreted by playwright John-Michael Tebelak and musical composer Stephen Schwartz. Both were in their early 20s in the late 1960s, when they created the play, which won acclaim by clergy, theatre critics, educators and audiences for its upbeat messages and youthful exuberance.

From its debut in 1971 and for much of the following decade, “Godspell” was one of the most popular musicals in Broadway history, and its cheerful songs, such as “Day by Day,” helped define the lighter side of the ‘70s in popular music.

Using a cast of student actors, AU Theatre turned to visiting artist Joseph Bates to direct the musical. Bates served for 26 years as music director and coordinator of voice for the Department of Theatre Arts at Wright State University in Ohio. Tracy Olenick of the AU Theatre faculty designed AU-inspired costumes for the production.

Abstract art on display

Since retiring from AU’s College of Veterinary Medicine in 1999, Kyle Braund has become a prominent East Alabama artist. Several of his recent abstract expressionist paintings were influenced by the upcoming AU Theatre production of “Godspell.” Those paintings will be on display in the gallery of Telfair Peet Theatre over the next two weeks.

NSF unit aids AU study of fuel cells

Jeffrey Fergus of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has received a three-year, $225,000 grant from a division of the National Science Foundation for studies involving new materials for more efficient fuel cells.

Fergus is investigating materials for use in solid oxide fuel cells, such as those used in power plants and auxiliary power units. The materials have potential for use in highly efficient fuel cells that can reduce the need for more costly power systems.

Fergus, an associate professor of materials engineering, has been an AU faculty member since 1992.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Percent of fall 2006 freshmen in each AU school and college

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