Bus stop

Most riders of Tiger Transit pass through Haley Station, near the center of campus. Ridership has reached a record level this fall.

“AU’s transit system has had a sharp rise in riders this fall for the second year in a row,” George said. “We did a lot last year to make Tiger Transit a better alternative to driving and parking for most students,” he said. “Then we refined the system still more for students this fall.”

George said the system added routes and buses for the start of fall semester, provided more training for drivers, rerouted transit lines to avoid delays at the busiest intersections and improved communication about the routes and times.

The intent, George said, is to make it unnecessary for students to drive on campus during class hours and reduce the need for most students to even drive to campus. With the majority of students living off-campus, Tiger Transit has added lines to serve most major apartment complexes in the city.

“We have made a lot of progress in dependability and customer service, and it is producing results,” George said. “More than ever, we are finding that once students try Tiger Transit the first time, they start using it on a regular basis.”

George said drivers and supervisors monitor ridership, trip times and rider reactions in their attempt to identify and correct problems that could cause delays or affect the reliability of the bus service.

“The past two years, we have focused on adding routes and buses to reach more people,” he said.

Service improvements cited

More people riding AU transit

AU’s transit system has had a sharp rise in riders this fall for the second year in a row.

Tiger Transit buses carried more than 62,000 riders the week of Aug. 30-Sept. 3 and another 8,600 football revelers Saturday, Sept. 4. The total, 70,600, was 40 percent higher than the 50,000 riders the system averaged per week in early September 2003 and was nearly three times the weekly average for the same period in 2002.

David George, AU’s director of parking and transit services, attributes the increase to actions over the past two years to meet the transportation needs of students. “We did a lot last year to make Tiger Transit a better alternative to driving and parking for most students,” he said. “Then we refined the system still more for students this fall.”

George said the system added routes and buses for the start of fall semester, provided more training for drivers, rerouted transit lines to avoid delays at the busiest intersections and improved communication about the routes and times.

The intent, George said, is to make it unnecessary for students to drive on campus during class hours and reduce the need for most students to even drive to campus. With the majority of students living off-campus, Tiger Transit has added lines to serve most major apartment complexes in the city.

“We have made a lot of progress in dependability and customer service, and it is producing results,” George said. “More than ever, we are finding that once students try Tiger Transit the first time, they start using it on a regular basis.”

George said drivers and supervisors monitor ridership, trip times and rider reactions in their attempt to identify and correct problems that could cause delays or affect the reliability of the bus service.

“The past two years, we have focused on adding routes and buses to reach more people,” he said.

Bus stop

Most riders of Tiger Transit pass through Haley Station, near the center of campus. Ridership has reached a record level this fall.
Boosinger named distinguished veterinary alumnus at Purdue

Timothy Boosinger, dean of the AU College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named the 2004 Distinguished Alumnus of the School of Veterinary Medicine at Purdue University. Boosinger accepted the award Sept. 16 in a ceremony at the Indiana Veterinary Medical Association's annual meeting.

Boosinger has been described as "a color portrait" by family and friends. "He was the life of the party at any event, and his smile could light up a room," said his brother-in-law, Bertie Parish. "Boosinger was the life and soul of the party, and Auburn and Auburn have added more to my life than I can measure," said Boosinger.

"I have been blessed by the foundations and opportunities created by my mother and father, and by my parents and family who value education and more to my life than I can measure," said Boosinger. "They taught me that a distinguished career is one that makes a difference in the world."

Boosinger earned his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Purdue in 1974, followed by service in the U.S. Air Force. He then worked in private practice before returning to Purdue in 1979 to work on his Ph.D. in veterinary pathology. He received his Ph.D. in 1983 and joined Auburn's College of Veterinary Medicine that year as an assistant professor in the department of pathology.

Boosinger served on the American Veterinary Medical Association's Council on Education, the accrediting body for all 28 North American veterinary schools, and on the national Diabetes Trust Fund board of directors.

"He also served on the Agricultural Disaster Research Institute board of directors and is an associate director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station," said Parish.

"Boosinger is certified in veterinary pathology by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists and has written or co-written 37 publications and given 32 scientific presentations.

The play, which is based on the life of the 15th century astronomer and philosopher, will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday at Telfair Peet Theatre. Matinee at 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Box Office: 844-4154. Details at www.auburnuniversitytheatre.org

Campus Forum

Let’s avoid an energy crisis

By Lindy Biggs, Associate Professor

Department of History

Remember the “energy crisis” of the 1970s? Even if you didn’t live through it, you probably know about the OPEC oil embargo of 1973 that left Americans stuck in line for hours at the pump. We were told to “drive less, turn down the heat and put on a sweater, turn up the temperature on the air conditioner, consume less.”

The 1973 energy crisis was political — oil exporting countries in the Middle East were punishing the United States for supporting Israel. But it was also economic. Deprived of oil, economists and scientists point to a growing body of evidence that demand is or will soon be outstripping supply.

But I’m not going to suggest that you turn down the heat and put on a sweater. I’m going to tell you about a better solution — a movement that is sweeping college campuses, businesses and industries across the country and around the world. It is revolutionary without being a revolution. It has the power and tenacity of a stream of water to change the impact of human life on earth. It is called “Sustainability.”

Advocates of the sustainability movement talk about the “Triple Bottom Line: Environment, Economics and Equity.” They’re not political, but it’s the three together that make this movement so revolutionary. First, by using state-of-the-art technology, we can create a future that is politically, economically and environmentally sustainable. Second, “sustainable” businesses make money. The companies that are using sustainable business and manufacturing practices are at the head of the pack. Of the Fortune 500 companies, 150 have a sustainability officer. This is not fringe thinking in the 21st century.

The third piece of the bottom line is equity. Environmentalists are sometimes described as caring more about the environment than about humanity. (You know the critics’ line: “Spotted owls are more important than loggers’ families in the Northwest.”) People who care about sustainability know that the ultimate goal is not just to preserve Earth as we know it, but in doing so to create a safe and equitable global society.

The United States makes up only 3 percent of the country of the world. When we use more efficiently, we’re not just protecting our natural resources, we’re preserving the natural resources of the rest of the world.

This isn’t the old environmental movement, with adherents scolding us to get by with less (not a bad idea, but not a popular one with most Americans). Sustainability is not a political party. It is not a movement with a clear goal. It is a movement with many, many goals.

Most of our everyday technology was invented in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We can send people into space, but we drive cars with internal combustion engines that are fundamentally the same as Henry Ford used in his Model T. We use the light bulb invented by Thomas Edison. More efficient and more effective technology is available, but we’re not using it.

Let’s avoid an energy crisis by making some simple changes in our lifestyle. Curb your consumption of petroleum products that add to our petroleum deficit, create toxic waste and fill our landfills with material that will not break down for a very long time? Instead of tons of trash, we can make beautiful, non-toxic carpets and fabrics from corn products that create no toxic waste, and are recyclable.

Let’s avoid an energy crisis by recognizing our place in the global society.

Sustainability is the foundation of the national and international movement, one based on radical resource productivity. It is a movement to encourage highly creative and efficient use of natural resources, reuse of materials, and creation of non-polluting systems. This is a fundamentally rethinking of the way we make, use and dispose of things.

Universities around the country are playing a big role in sustainability initiatives by preparing new curricula for students who would like to be prepared for careers in sustainability, to encourage and staff, students and alumni who would like to be creative about using 21st century science and technology to help meet our energy needs.

At Auburn University, for instance, an interdisciplinary group of faculty, administrators and concerned citizens has established the Sustainability Initiative. This group is attempting to move our campus toward more sustainable practices, to develop an sustainability program for our students that will help them to prepare for careers in sustainability, to encourage interdisciplinary research projects and to create a regional center for information on sustainability. The Auburn Sustainability Initiative is looking for faculty, staff, students and alumni who would like to be part of this re-visioning.

Ultimately, however, sustainability is a challenge and an opportunity that will require the sustained effort of every single one of us. Ultimately, sustainability is an opportunity and a challenge for every walk of life and in every country of the world.

Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by AU faculty and staff of issues that are of special interest to the campus community but which are infrequently discussed in classes. AU Report columns are the independent expressions of the writers.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 5
- Public Lecture: “Hispanic Heritage,” Olympian Caesar Garcia, 7 p.m., Hale 3195.

Tuesday, October 8
-10. Formal: 11 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag literacy
- Panel: to discuss issues in AU Theatre play

Wednesday, October 6

Thursday, October 7
- Meeting: AU Board of Trustees, Dixon Conference Center. Committee sessions start 8:30 a.m. Board meets at 12:45 p.m., but starting time may vary, depending on length of committee meetings.
- Friday, October 8
- Mid-semester: 37th annual Football Homecoming: Annual meeting, Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag literacy
- Homecoming: Annual meeting, Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag Reground, 9 a.m.-noon, Ag Heritage Park. Induction ceremony. Auburn Newspaper Hall of Honor, 10 a.m. Dragoon Library Football, AU vs. Louisiana Tech, 2:30 p.m., Jordan-Hare Stadium.
- Monday, October 11
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder, AU Communications; Charles Martin, Veterinary Medicine and Jamie Creamer, Agriculture. Photographs: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Graphic Services. Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Dede Dowdle.

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear on the Monday following fall and spring semes-

-10. Formal: 11 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag literacy
- Homecoming: Annual meeting, Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag literacy
- Homecoming: Annual meeting, Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag Reground, 9 a.m.-noon, Ag Heritage Park. Induction ceremony. Auburn Newspaper Hall of Honor, 10 a.m. Dragoon Library Football, AU vs. Louisiana Tech, 2:30 p.m., Jordan-Hare Stadium.
- Monday, October 11
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212.

AU Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Contributing editors and writers: Katie Wilder, AU Communications; Charles Martin, Veterinary Medicine and Jamie Creamer, Agriculture. Photographs: Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson, Graphic Services. Assistant Vice President for Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel. Director of Communications: Dede Dowdle.

The AU Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear on the Monday following fall and spring semes-

-10. Formal: 11 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag literacy
- Homecoming: Annual meeting, Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Alumni Center. Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag Reground, 9 a.m.-noon, Ag Heritage Park. Induction ceremony. Auburn Newspaper Hall of Honor, 10 a.m. Dragoon Library Football, AU vs. Louisiana Tech, 2:30 p.m., Jordan-Hare Stadium.
- Monday, October 11
- Health Insurance: Blue Cross/Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 9:30 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212.
Academic program provides bilingual training for managers in construction

An Auburn faculty member has created an academic program to break the language barrier between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking construction workers.

Roger Killingsworth, associate professor in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction, has created a seminar for English speakers studying construction management and developed a workbook and audio cassette course for Spanish speakers employed in the construction industry.

Several years ago I began noticing an increased number of Spanish-speaking employees in the construction industry, and I realized that there was a real need to be able to communicate effectively." Killingsworth said.

Responding to that need, he developed the seminar course, which is offered to CADC students, particularly those in Building Science.

The seminar, Construction Spanish, includes in-depth coverage of the workbook "Workplace Spanish for Commercial Construction" and viewing of the PBS video series "Destinos," the equivalent of a soap opera in the United States. The workbook and accompanying CD provide the basis for learning and practicing Spanish construction terms and phrases while the video series provides the students with exposure to conversational Spanish.

"I decided there was an outreach opportunity there because very little if anything was available for Spanish speaking workers," he said.

Killingsworth worked with Jennifer Hoover, an AU graduate student in Spanish, to survey Alabama contractors to determine which words and terms were needed for communication on construction sites. The pair then wrote a workbook and recorded audio tapes that can be used by Spanish-speaking crews to learn basic English construction terms.

Ag Roundup, food-tasting set for Saturday

AU’s College of Agriculture and the Agricultural Alumni Association host the 25th annual Taste of Alabama Agriculture and Fall Ag Roundup from 9 a.m.-noon Saturday at Ag Heritage Park.

The event is a homecoming tradition featuring traditional and exotic food items that are either grown or processed in Alabama. The array of foods ranges from roast lamb to collard greens, and from sweet potato fries to porchetta, a gourmet Italian pork dish that is new to the United States.

Festivities include entertainment by the bluegrass band Heart Pine; exhibits from academic departments, student organizations and commodity and agribusiness groups; and an auction for vacations, hunting and fishing trips, toys and more. Auction proceeds go to the Ag Alumni Association Fall Roundup Scholarship Fund.

The park is south of Samford Avenue and west of Donahue Drive.

Admission is $5 per person and is free for Ag Alumni Association members and children 6 and under who are accompanied by an adult.

Hornsby elected Alumni Association president

Andy Hornsby, state assistant finance director, has been elected president of the Auburn Alumni Association for 2004-05. He received 49 percent of the 4,493 votes.

The Montgomery resident is a 1968 graduate of Auburn.

Hornsby defeated Jim Carroll, ’54, of Tampa and L. Nick Davis, ’84, of Thomasville, Ga.

James Ralph Jordan Jr., ’70, of Norris, Tenn., a senior specialist with TVA, was elected vice president.

Elected to the association’s board of directors were Michael Alan Watson, ’69, of Smyrna, Ga., vice chairman of Bell-South Foundation; Neil Edward Christopher, ’55, of Guntersville, a retired family physician; Sam David Knight, ’84, of Mobile, a partner with Armbricht, Jackson, LLP; and Jerry Michael Smith, ’89, of Vernon, a production forester with Weyerhaeuser Co.

The new officers and directors take office this weekend at the annual meeting of the Alumni Association.