Transit ridership nearly doubles

More people are taking the bus at Auburn University these days. AU’s Tiger Transit bus system carried nearly twice as many riders in the last two weeks of September than it carried a year ago. Ridership increased from 52,000 over those two weeks in September 2002 to 101,000 for the same period this year.

David George, interim director of parking and transit services, attributes the increase to new and shorter routes, new buses and facilities, better communication about routes and schedules, new training for drivers and a new commitment to service.

“We have continued and expanded the changes we initiated last spring, and people have noticed,” George said.

“Many people are riding the buses for the first time and others who had given up on the system in the past, before we upgraded the system, are now riding again,” he added.

(See Tiger Transit, page 2)

New provost, VP for academic affairs starts fulltime next Monday

Thomas Hanley, Auburn’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs, will assume the office fulltime on Monday, Oct. 20. Hanley has been on campus periodically since he was appointed by President William Walker and confirmed by the Board of Trustees on Aug. 1. In the interim, he has been completing the duties of his former post as dean and professor of civil engineering at the Speed School of Engineering at the University of Louisville.
Speakers to discuss access issues for disabled in higher education

Five experts on issues of accessibility for persons with disabilities will address a conference at Dixon Conference Center on Oct. 24. AU administrators, faculty, staff and GTAs have registration priority until Thursday, Oct. 16. Registration is free, but seating is limited for the three sessions.

Five speakers will present at each session: 8:30 a.m., 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Speakers include civil rights attorney Salome Heyward, who will address issues related to students with disabilities, faculty rights and responsibilities and related matters. James Terry, chief executive officer of Evan Terry Associates in Birmingham, will discuss compliance in historic buildings with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Alumni Association announces teaching awards

The Auburn Alumni Association is seeking nominations for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards. Students, alumni and others may nominate faculty from Auburn's colleges and schools. Award winners will receive a plaque and $1,000 honorarium.

Nominations are due Oct. 15. Each letter should include the nominee’s name, address and phone number.

For registration information, see the Web site http://frontpage.auburn.edu/pdc or call 844-2105 or 844-2096.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, October 15
• Health Insurance: Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative available for consultation, 10 a.m.-11:45 a.m., Ingram 212.
• Auburn Film Society Presentation: “The Language We Cry By.” noon, Foy Ballroom.
• Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall auditorium.

Wednesday, October 15
• Art Exhibit: Paintings by Melissa Richard, Biggin Hall Gallery, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday until Nov. 11.
• Art Talk: Melissa Richard, Biggin 005, 4 p.m. Reception to follow.
• Public Lecture: “Gaining Peace, Losing Ground,” Werner Fornos, former of the Population Institute in Washington, 4:30 p.m., Dixon Conference Center. Sponsored by the colleges of Human Sciences and Architecture; Design and Construction.

Thursday, October 16
• Alabama Humanities Foundation Speaker: Jeff Frederick, “Old-Fashioned Power Politics: George Wallace in Alabama, 1963-72,” 3 p.m., Archives and Special Collections Section, Draughon Library.
• Safe Harbor Lecture: Discussion of sexual assault and domestic violence, Kellie Green, 4 p.m., Goodwin Hall.

Friday, October 17
• Sunbilla Concert Series: Steve Forbert and Christine Kane, 7 p.m., Goodwin Recital Hall. Admission $15. Information online at www.sunsound.org.

Monday, October 20
• Next AU Report.
• Pharmacy Week Event: Operation Immunization, flu shots, 11:30 a.m., Walker Building, 7 a.m.-2 p.m., cost $15. Immunizations continue in 126 Walker Building through flu season.
• Italian Film Festival: “Roman Holiday,” 4 p.m., Spidle 144.

Tuesday, October 21
• Pharmacy Week Event: Body mass index screening, Foy Student Union, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
• AU Film Society: “A Strong, Clear Voice,” noon, Foy Ballroom.

Speaker to discuss sexual-assault prevention, recovery, awareness

Safe Harbor will host nationally recognized sexual-assault victims’ advocate Kellie Greene, and a used cell-phone drive this week.

A sexual-assault survivor or, Greene, will speak at 4 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16, at Goodwin Hall. The presentation, which is open to the public, is part of the Safe Harbor Awareness Week and the University Program Council Women’sWeek.

In addition to the open session, Greene will also visit classes on campus and speak to social-service providers on understanding the victim’s feelings following a sexual assault. She will also address post-traumatic stress disorder, its relationship to sexual assault and how to recognize the symptoms and get help.

In demand nationally as an authority on recovery from sexual assault and domestic violence, Greene has appeared on The View, Oprah, 20/20 and 60 minutes.

Safe Harbor, entering its fifth year at Auburn, assists victims of sexual assault and offers programs to raise awareness and reduce occurrence of such assaults. For more information about the speaker, Safe Harbor or related programs, call 844-5125.

In Auburn speech, Gorbachev seeks international effort against poverty

Former Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, who won a Nobel Peace Prize for bringing the Cold War to a peaceful end, brought a message of international cooperation to Auburn last week.

Gorbachev, speaking to an audience of approximately 4,000 at Board-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum on Oct. 6, said the lack of economic growth in the 1990s failed to materialize a decade later.

"I had hoped that countries would use their savings from ending the arms race to fight hunger in poor countries,” Gorbachev said through an interpreter.

"Instead, the gap between rich and poor nations has widened.”

Gorbachev, who now heads foundations to promote international cooperation and environmental sustainability, said the economic problems of poor nations and threats to the environment are the biggest problems facing the world in the 21st century.

In the current decade, a reassessment of authoritarianism in many countries around the world threatens to stop progress in international relations and global economic growth, Gorbachev said, adding, “Many scholars believe the 21st century could become an authoritarian century.”

Conditions are favorable for authoritarian rulers in most countries will be thwarted, Gorbachev said, allowing, “Instead of authoritarism, the United States and other rich nations need to do more to control the worst aspects of globalization and to help improve living conditions in poorer countries. He also called upon the U.S. to rebuild its relationship with the United Nations and to work with other democracies and the U.N. in a cooperative effort for democratization and sustainable economic development.

Democrats must work together for sustainable development rather than attempt military means to prevent the spread of authoritarian governments around the world, he said. “We can succeed only if we unite our efforts,” he added.
Underground project seeks to end flooding on north side of campus

One of the largest construction projects at Auburn University over the next two years will temporarily create deep trenches across campus for results that will be unseen when completed.

Also unseen, but felt, will be relief from chronic flooding that has been a problem for buildings in lowlying areas after every large rainstorm for decades. And sinkholes, an occasional problem in some parking areas, will no longer appear once existing corrugated steel pipe under those parking lots is replaced with concrete culverts.

Project manager Catherine Love of Facilities said the $11.7 million project seeks to eliminate flooding and improve drainage in a corridor from the vicinity of Drake Health Center on Magnolia Avenue to Biggio Drive south of the coliseum.

"Every time there is a heavy rain, we get a rush of water onto the north end of campus in the area around Noble Hall, Drake and Textile Engineering," said Love. "South of that area we have problems by 60 feet. Both will be 10 feet deep, with the top at least five feet underground."

The city neighborhood north of campus between Magnolia and Glenn avenues changed in recent decades from small houses on tree-covered lots to large apartment complexes with paved parking lots.

In the process, green areas that once slowed stormwater runoff have disappeared.

The second phase, starting in late 2004, will involve replacing deteriorating drainage pipes in some sections, rerouting some lines, adding others and extending the underground system along Biggio Drive to Samford Avenue.

Huffman said the plan includes covering the drainage canal along Biggio Drive to end erosion and remove a physical barrier to pedestrians south of Plainsman Park and the coliseum parking lot.

Plans for later in the decade call for connecting that storm drainage system to other lines that exit along Samford Avenue, providing controlled release along Parkerson Mill Creek, which runs past the intramural and women’s soccer fields. Love said the design for that project will accentuate, not harm, conservation plans for the area.

Flood control
Temporary flood control measures, such as this pump near Drake Health Center, will soon give way to new and expanded underground infrastructure to control stormwater flooding. The new system will alleviate problems related to storm surges and their disposal across a swath of campus from Magnolia Avenue to Biggio Drive.

Love said the campus needs to upgrade the stormwater infrastructure before starting on new buildings or major improvements to other buildings near the route of the drainage system. "It makes good economic sense to make the improvements now," she said. "With any form of infrastructure, you may not notice the improvements, but you definitely will see the consequences if you don’t act."

The project is in two stages, says Gary Huffman of Krebs and Associates, the architectural and engineering firm that developed the infrastructure plan.

The first phase, scheduled to start in early 2004, will include construction of two detention tanks underground to catch stormwater rushing across Magnolia Avenue and release the water gradually into pipes that extend to the drainage basin at Biggio Drive. One detention tank will be approximately 100 feet on each side, and the other will be 250 feet long. Both will be 10 feet deep, with the top at least five feet underground.

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Clinic fights flu with shots, nasal spray

Want a flu sniff instead of a flu shot this fall? Starting this week, the AU Medical Clinic will offer both the traditional injections and a new nasal-spray vaccine.

Fred Kam, the clinic’s medical director, says clinic staff expect to administer more than 700 influenza vaccinations this flu season, which runs from October to March.

Kam said vaccination significantly reduces a person’s chances of catching the flu.

The new nasal-spray vaccine could provide an incentive for more students, faculty and staff to guard themselves this year, Kam said.

The nasal vaccination contains more restrictions than the injection. The nasal vaccine cannot be administered to children under age five or adults over 50 or anyone who has asthma or is allergic to eggs or egg products. See clinic personnel for other restrictions that may apply.

Both flu vaccines will be available at the AU Medical Clinic from 8 a.m.-11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday and Oct. 21.

The injected flu vaccine costs $20 and the nasal vaccine costs $60.

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