Alternative Energy Initiative

Speaking to a conference of industry and government representatives and university experts at AU last week, U.S. Sen. Jeff Sessions of Alabama urged rapid development of biological alternatives to fossil fuels as a way for the United States to reduce its dependence on petroleum from unstable foreign markets. The conference brought together researchers and representatives from government and several industries as part of the Auburn Alternative Energy Initiative to address America’s energy supply issues.

Panel favors new arena, looking at future of buildings from ’60s

The Property and Facilities Committee of the AU Board of Trustees has agreed to determine in the near future whether to renovate or replace some of Auburn’s largest buildings.

The panel’s focus is on buildings that were erected during the construction boom of the 1960s and early ’70s and are showing signs of age beyond their years.

Following a discussion on the future of Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum on Oct. 20, the committee began looking more closely at the future of other large buildings from the same era, including Haley Center, Funchess Hall and Greene Hall.

Faced with the choice of extensive and expensive renovation of the aging 11,000-seat coliseum or making lesser repairs on the coliseum for a few years and moving basketball into a new arena, the committee agreed to pursue plans for the new arena.

The 264,000-square-foot coliseum, which opened in 1969, will remain open for other uses for several more years, but university planners said AU would have to spend approximately $85 million to fully restore the building as it approaches its half-century mark in the next decade.

Choosing an alternate approach, the committee authorized the administration to identify an architect and commission a schematic design for a new 9,000- or 10,000-seat arena that will cost $90 million to $100 million.

A decision on how to proceed beyond that stage will come later, based on detailed cost estimates and availability of funding. If built, the arena will be constructed next to the coliseum, which will remain available for other uses for the time being.

President Ed Richardson and Athletics Director Jay Jacobs said the costs for both options are so close that the arena is the best option. Richardson said it is easier to develop a funding plan for a new arena than for renovating the old one, and Jacobs, noting that AU’s coliseum is one of the oldest in the Southeastern Conference, said anything less than a
Renovate or replace?

continued from page 1

e new arena would amount to writing off Auburn’s basketball program for many years to come.

The committee is proceeding with fast-track author- ity granted by the board in an attempt to start
construction of a new basketball facility or begin renovating the old one within a year. Planners also are
considering the feasibility of constructing a practice facility for the basketball team, but that would
have required continued use of the coliseum for varsity games.

When basketball moves out of the coliseum, planners said, the building can be maintained for
existing offices and recreational use long enough for the university to find replacement space for those
users. Eventually, however, the cost of maintaining the building will exceed the benefits, they added.

Richardson noted that Auburn faces a similar di- lemma with most buildings constructed during the
construction boom of the 1960s and early ’70s, when the Baby Boom generation sent enrollment skyrock-
eting. With lessers craftsmanship than buildings from earlier eras and without the stricter building codes adopted in more recent decades, the ’60s-era buildings such as Haley Center will be 50 years old in the next decade. Those buildings also
have flat roofs, which require extensive mainte-
nance. When the roof is flat, repairs don’t require that the building be emptied and the building be
redecorated.

The committee asked campus planners to de-
velop more data on buildings that are entering their fifth decade of use and present their findings to
the president for recommendations to the board in the near future.

The biggest challenge, trustees said, will be to
decide whether to spend an estimated $77 million in 2011 to renovate 10-story, 400,000-square-foot
Haley Center or tear it down and build new aca-
demic facilities in its place. Other major challenges involve whether to spend $31 million on renovating
134,000-square-foot Funches Hall in 2012 and $25 million on 125,000-square-foot Greene Hall in 2013 or
replace them.

Board members said each building will be evalu-
ated separately. While some buildings from the ’60s and early ’70s may need to be replaced and some,
such as Saunders Hall, have already yielded to new construction, others said some buildings from that
era are in relatively good condition and could see their use extended with less expensive renovations.

AU Report

Thursday, November 3

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr. Richard Pinheiro, a leading forensic and DNA expert, will give his presentation, ‘DNA and the Law: Current Developments and Future Challenges.’

Friday, November 4

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

“An Approach to the Assessment of Teamwork in Cooperative and Group Learning,” noon-1:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 5

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr. Kevin Nance, associate professor of Psychology, will present a lecture, ‘Can We Talk About It? The Role of Men's Socialization in Mental Health Problems.’

Saturday, November 12

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Celebrating the Art of the Book: From Manuscript to Digital Press,” 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 13

SPONSORED CONCERT

David Grisman, bluegrass, and his band, Bela Fleck and the Flewtons, will perform at the Mississippi Theatre, 8 p.m.

Sunday, November 19

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Unveiling the History: The Lasting Impacts of the Civil Rights Era in the Northeast South,” 2 p.m.

Wednesday, November 23

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr. Margie Scaife, associate professor of Sociology, will present ‘Suey-Park’s Unanswered Questions: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Class in Alabama’s Coalfields.’

Thursday, November 24

AU CULTURE SERIES

“The Great American Novel: An Exploration of the Best-Selling Fiction Books of Recent Years,” 2 p.m.

Friday, November 25

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr. Stephen F. Austin, professor of History, will present ‘An Introduction to Civil War and Reconstruction History.’

AU Report

Saturday, November 26

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Renaissance to Revival: A Musical Exploration of Early American Music,” 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 27

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Great Performers of the Baroque: A Musical Journey from the Early 1700s to the Early 1800s,” 2 p.m.

AU Report

Tuesday, November 29

PUBLIC LECTURE

Dr. Robert Smith, a leading expert on Appalachian music, will present ‘Appalachian Music: A Cultural History.’

Newkirk named Sheffield winner

Sandi Bridges Newkirk, who recently retired from the Department of Health and Human Performance in AU’s College of Education, has been named recipient of the 2006 Pamela Wells Sheffield Award for service and commitment to the university.

She will receive the award in a ceremony at Auburn’s home football game against Arkansas State on Saturday.

The Pamela Wells Sheffield Award recognizes women who show extraordinary service and commitment to the university and the Auburn family.

Newkirk taught in the College of Education for 40 years before retiring in May. During that period, she helped create the university’s women’s athletic program and served as the first women’s volleyball coach. She has volunteered as a rape victims counselor in Lee County since 1980 and served as director for the Rape Counselors of East Alabama, a United Way agency, for 20 years. Newkirk is also involved in mediating court cases in Lee County.

“Sandra Newkirk reflects the wonderful qualities that made Pam Sheffield the epitome of an Auburn woman,” said Debbie Shaw, interim vice president for alumni affairs. “Sandra dedicated four decades of her life to making AU students the best they could be, and she continues to devote time to helping women in crisis.”

AU Report

Wednesday, November 1

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn University: Serving the Community,” 2 p.m.

Saturday, November 18

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn’s Homecoming: A Musical Celebration,” 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 19

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn University: A Tradition of Excellence,” 2 p.m.

Sunday, November 26

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Celebrating Auburn’s Centennial: A Musical Celebration,” 2 p.m.

Monday, November 27

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn University: A Tradition of Excellence,” 2 p.m.

AU Report

Wednesday, November 29

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn University: A Tradition of Excellence,” 2 p.m.

Saturday, December 1

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn University: A Tradition of Excellence,” 2 p.m.

Sunday, December 2

AU CULTURE SERIES

“Auburn University: A Tradition of Excellence,” 2 p.m.
Lechner wins Fulbright specialist grant to support his work in Asia

Professor Emeritus Norbert Lechner of AU’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction has been named a Fulbright Senior Specialist by the Council for International Exchange of Scholars.

Lechner was a professor in the Department of Building Science for 32 years until his recent retirement, and he continues as a visiting professor for the department.

“For the past three years I have been teaching energy responsive design in Thailand,” Lechner said. “The Fulbright fund will allow me to continue to do that. In May, I was invited to Korea to give lectures on the same topic. I hope to give lectures and workshops all over the world in the future.”

Lechner, who earned his bachelor’s degree from City College of New York and his master’s from Columbia, is author of Heating, Cooling, Lighting: Design Methods for Architects. The textbook is used by more than one-third of architecture schools in the United States, has been translated into Chinese and Persian and is being translated into Korean, Indonesian, Thai and Spanish.

“I have become committed to make buildings more energy efficient because they play such a large role in sustainability,” Lechner added. “Buildings use 50 percent of all energy, of which 10 percent goes into construction and 40 percent for operation. There is no way that the world could ever produce enough clean energy if buildings keep wasting energy as they are doing now.

“We have the technical know-how to make buildings very energy efficient. We are presently building zero-energy buildings. Such buildings import zero net energy during a year. At night they import energy and during the day they export energy.”

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program is designed to provide short-term academic opportunities (two to six weeks) for faculty and professionals from the United States. Shorter grant lengths give specialists greater flexibility to pursue a grant that works best with their current academic or professional commitments.

Specialist candidates are limited to one such grant per calendar year. Applications for the Fulbright Senior Specialists Program are accepted on a rolling basis, and peer review of applications is conducted eight times per year.

State organization honors College of Education magazine

The 2006 Keystone, the College of Education’s annual magazine, was one of 14 public relations projects receiving Medallion Awards at the 2006 Public Relations Council of Alabama state conference in September.

Highlighting achievements and activities in the college, the Keystone is circulated annually by the college to more than 30,000 alumni, donors and other constituents. The 2006 edition was developed by former College of Education professional staff members Katie Crew and Mike DeMent, under the direction of Michael Tullier.

PRCA members submitted more than 159 entries, and judges considered planning, originality, creativity, communications effectiveness, budget utilization and each entrant’s role in the project.

Year of the Eagle

AU’s official 2007 calendar is a tribute to Auburn’s iconic War Eagle VI, popularly known as Tiger. Photographers from AU Photo Services captured images of Tiger in a variety of settings around campus, including this view in front of the historic clock face in the Samford Hall lobby.

State organization honors College of Education magazine

Staff artists in Communications and Marketing designed the 11”x14” calendar, which is on sale at local bookstores and at Photo Services in the L Building.

Speaker to show, discuss WWI film

A ward-winning filmmaker Robert Clem will show and talk about his new film, “Company K,” in a public program at 3 p.m. Monday, Nov. 6, at AU’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Clem has written and directed films that have been on public television, the Arts & Entertainment Network, the Discovery Channel, the Learning Channel and networks abroad. “Company K” is based on a novel of the same name by William March, an Alabama native who based the book on his own combat experiences in World War I.

The critically praised 1933 novel established March as one of mid-century America’s leading authors. His other books include The Bad Seed, which was made into a highly successful movie.

How Auburn Stacks Up

AU undergraduate lecture class sections by size of class, 2006

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

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