Big dig
While new buildings go up elsewhere, this construction south of Magnolia Avenue has a different objective. The work is part of a program to eliminate flooding that has been a persistent problem in the north-central part of campus after heavy rains. The drainage project is part of infrastructure improvements throughout the Auburn campus.

AU merges design, construction units
AU last week merged the Design and Development and the Construction Management units of its Facilities Division to form a new unit, Design and Construction. Officials also announced the merger of the offices of the campus architect and campus planner and added new responsibilities for space management and space planning to that office.

AU officials said the changes will more efficiently support design, construction and maintenance of campus buildings and infrastructure.

The creation of the new units will play a major role in more than $400 million of construction projects that are under way or planned at AU over the next decade.

Meanwhile, the Facilities Division will review its Operations and Maintenance unit to ensure efficient use of resources and personnel to maintain an additional 1.2 million square feet of space in campus buildings.

Baker Melson, assistant vice president for facilities, and John Mouton, special assistant to the president, said they see the restructuring and review as a way to improve planning and operations. They added that the actions do not involve outsourcing of functions or downsizing of personnel.

The Design and Construction unit will be headed for six to nine months by an interim director, Lee Richey, who has 24 years experience managing facilities design and construction at universities. Richey will oversee the unit’s day-to-day operation but will not be a candidate for the permanent position.

The latest actions follow warnings from interim President Ed Richardson that new construction will add significantly to the university’s financial burden unless managed efficiently.

Major projects under way or planned for the near future at AU include the Science Laboratories Center, Poultry Science Building, Forestry Building, Transportation Technology Center, Student Village, Medical Center, a parking deck and a stadium expansion.

Other capital improvements include conversion of streets to pedestrian malls, flood control measures and continued development of a central heating and cooling system for the campus.

As new buildings come on line, AU will renovate and reallocate space in older buildings.
The serious issues of academic policy reduce themselves to a question between the claims of science and scholarship and those of business principles and monetary gain. 

Venek's notes that the governing boards or trustees of an institution control the budget, that is, they exercise a pernicious discretion in deciding what the body of academics that comprise the university may do with the means in hand. This implies that they interfere with the academic work, the merits of which the trustees are in no special degree qualified to judge. For Veblen the trustees are quite useless to the university for any business-like purpose but are an aimless survival from the days of clerical and ecclesiastic gradation. In fact, less of bureaucratic subordination is needed or serviceable.

At a university the range of instruction consists substantially in the facilitation of scholarly and scientific habits of thought. In academia the imposition of any appreciable measure of such accounting and standardization must unavoidably weak- en and vitiate the work of instruction, in the exact degree in which the imposed system is effective.

In sum, from a business standpoint learning and instruction at a university are a species of skilled labor to be hired at competitive wages and to turn out the most marketable output that can be obtained by shrewd bargaining with their employ- ees. In academia the pursuit of learning is a species of leisure since it has no economic or monetary end in view.

Campus Forum

Two faculty in College of Education named to endowed professorships

Two faculty members in the College of Educa- tion's Department of Health and Human Perfor- mance have been appointed to named, endowed professorships. Interim Dean Bonnie White last week announced the appointment of Mark Fischman as a Wayne T. Smith Distinguished Professor and Mary Rudisill as the Humana-Germany-Sherman Distinguished Pro- fessor. The college will honor Fischman and Rudisill in a ceremony at 5 p.m. Nov. 18 at the Auburn Alum- ni Center.

The two are prominent teachers in the college and are widely published national authorities in their disciplines. Fischman, an AU faculty member for 16 years, has conducted extensive research and writing in human development and motor skills and is testing theoreti- cal models of how people learn skills and control movement. He holds degrees from City College of New York and James Madison University and a doc- torate from Pennsylvania State University. Rudisill, who has been at AU since 1996, is an authority on early childhood motor development. Besides teaching at Auburn, she is also active in research and outreach programs that combine edu- cation and physical activities for children in preschools and elementary schools. She holds bach- elor's and master's degrees in early childhood from Florida State Uni- versity.

While the faculty members were selected for the professorships because of their demonstrated commitment to students and high-quality instruc- tion, research and outreach. Other criteria included holding the rank of profes- sor; continuing superior-level accomplishments in teaching, research and service that exceed the regular- ly expected performance of a professor; provid- ing leadership in their field at the national level; and having a professional reputation that extends far beyond the AU campus and is eminently recognized by other distinguished professors in similar roles at the national level.

The college established the professorships during the 1990s with gifts from the Humana Foundation and two alumni and their wives. Wayne T. Smith Distinguished Professorship, established in 1994, honors an AU College of Education alumnus and retired Humana executive; and the other professor- ship, established in 1999, was funded by Humana, Goody and Germany and Gordon and Miriam Sherman.

Mechanical engineering society confers Fellow status on Tippur

Hareesh V. Tippur, Alumni Professor of Mechani- cal Engineering in AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, was recently named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineering. An AU faculty member since 1990, Tippur is an expert in materials, particularly fracture mechanics in polymers, metals and composites. His research accomplishments include the development of an infrared sensor to more effectively measure damage in solid materials.
Group cites Stewart as national role model

Helen N. Stewart of AU’s Division of Student Affairs has received a Minority Access National Recruiter Role Model Award from Minority Access Inc., a Maryland-based national nonprofit organization.

Stewart, associate director of admissions and coordinator of minority student recruitment at Auburn, received the award recently in Washington, D.C.

“Ms. Stewart symbolizes Minority Access’ ideal role model — one who has assisted minorities through recruiting, teaching, mentoring and supporting minority students,” said Andrea Mickle, president of Minority Access.

Stewart has been with AU since 1999. Besides her work in the Admissions Office, she is an instructor in “U1000: The AU Experience,” AU’s introductory class for new students.

She holds a bachelor’s degree in marketing from Alabama State University and a master’s degree in higher education administration and student personnel services from Tuskegee University.

Spirit of Excellence

Each month AU presents Spirit of Excellence awards to four employees to recognize exceptional performance. Recipients for October were, from left, Willie May Buford of Housing and Residence Life, Sharon McElrude of the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Sam Singer of the English Department and, not pictured, Katie Jackson Smith of Agricultural Communications.

Confers Fellow status

Science association honors Molnar

Joseph Molnar, a professor in the College of Agriculture’s Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology, has been elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The association cited Molnar for a distinguished record of research in agricultural and social science and the relationships between technology and rural communities.

The rural sociologist’s current research focuses on barriers to sustainable agricultural practices, impact of the equine industry in Alabama and institutional aspects of aquacultural development in Central America.

The association bestows “Fellow” status on a small number of scientists each year to recognize meritorious efforts to advance science. Molnar joins three other active Auburn faculty as AAAS Fellows: Biological Sciences Professor Joe Cherry, Entomology Professor Eddie Cupp and Pharmacy Professor Norman Doorenbos.

The association, which publishes the peer-reviewed general science journal Science, is an international nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing science and serving society worldwide through initiatives in science policy, international programs and science education.

Library selected for Library of Congress project

AU Libraries will be a preservation site in a three-year, $1.4 million effort to create an archive of computer files related to defining Southern culture.

The project, funded by the Library of Congress, is a cooperative effort of six research libraries to preserve vital at-risk digital files about Southern culture and history. Other participants include Emory University, Florida State University, Georgia Tech, the University of Louisville and Virginia Tech.

“By participating in this effort, under the auspices of the Library of Congress’ National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Program, Auburn is taking a leading role in establishing standards and best practices for the storage and preservation of our digital cultural heritage — an increasingly urgent task,” said Beth Nicol, digital projects coordinator at AU Libraries and one of the project’s co-principal investigators.

The top 20 students also will receive $2,500 each. Forty more students across the nation will be listed and receive certificates designating them on the Second and Third teams.

Criteria and application materials are online at www.usatoday.com/news/education/2004-08-12-2005-college-team_x.htm. The nomination deadline is Nov. 30.

USA Today seeks nominees for College Academic team

The AU Provost’s Office and the Office of Communications and Marketing are encouraging faculty, deans and department heads to identify and nominate exemplary students for USA Today’s All-USA College Academic team.

The 20 members of the First Team will have their photographs published and their accomplishments noted in the nationwide newspaper in February.

The association bestows “Fellow” status on a small number of scientists each year to recognize meritorious efforts to advance science. Molnar joins three other active Auburn faculty as AAAS Fellows: Biological Sciences Professor Joe Cherry, Entomology Professor Eddie Cupp and Pharmacy Professor Norman Doorenbos.

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