Will architectural style stand the test of time?

Professor studies life stresses of the homeless

Film series raises funds to feed the world’s hungry

Professor wins grants for study of heart disease

On top of things

Maintenance projects on campus are easy to overlook amid all the construction that is under way. However, this project, involving repairs and repainting of the cupola atop Ramsay Hall, is impossible to overlook.

Six represent AU on commission to revive Black Belt’s economy

Six AU administrators and faculty members have been appointed to Gov. Bob Riley’s Commission for Action in the Black Belt. Members of the commission from AU are David Wilson, vice president for University Outreach; Joe Sumners, director of the Economic Development Institute; Overtoun Jenda, associate dean and professor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics; Cindy Reed, director of the Truman Pierce Institute in the College of Education; Robin Pattillo, associate professor in the School of Nursing; and Francesca Adler-Baeder, assistant professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Sciences.

Kay Ivey, Alabama state treasurer, co-chairs the commission with state Sen. Hank Sanders of Selma. The six from Auburn are among more than 100 Alabamians serving as commissioners, on subcommittees or as technical advisers. The subcommittees include agriculture, communications, community development, culture and youth, education, families, health, infrastructure, marketing and tourism, small business, skills training and labor force, transit and transport and legislation.

Jenda and Reed will serve as commissioners on the education committee. Wilson will serve on the education subcommittee. Pattillo has been appointed to the health committee and wellness and prevention subcommittee.

Sumners will serve as a technical adviser to the skills training and labor force and the community development subcommittees. Adler-Baeder will serve as technical adviser to the subcommittee on families.

For additional information on the Black Belt Commission, see the Web site www.blackbeltaction.org.

Faculty to meet to discuss SACS

The University Faculty will meet in special session at 3 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, to discuss Auburn’s efforts to be removed from probationary status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The SACS Commission on Colleges will consider AU’s accreditation status at the commission’s annual meeting Dec. 4-7 in Atlanta.

Information about the SACS review is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/specialreports/sacsdocuments.html. Information about the faculty meeting is online at www.auburn.edu/administration/governance/senate/au_senate.html.
Because buildings use more than 40 percent of all warming, we must reduce carbon dioxide emissions, of the Kyoto Accord testifies. To reduce global warming energy required.

buildings to be climate responsive. For example, in are buildings of our time that allude to earlier styles. Engineering building of the Harbert Center. These demolished.

England and, therefore, deliberately changed the especially Thomas Jefferson wanted a break with century England and of the American Colonies during the reigns of kings George I, II and III. After the Revolution War and the resulting political evolution of our country a period especially Thomas Jefferson wanted a break with England and, therefore, deliberately changed the architectural language and created a new one.

Copying history is not the same as preserving it. Old buildings should be preserved when possible and, when not, valuable parts can be saved. A good example is the stone portico on the Nichols Center that was saved when the old Broun Hall was demolished.

It is also appropriate for our new buildings to be influenced by historic buildings as is well demonstrated by the Harbert Center and the Aerospace Engineering building of the Harbert Center. These are buildings of our time that allude to earlier styles.

There is, however, one more important reason not to choose the Georgian style for AU. Imagine what would have happened if the people during the Georgian period had decided that the old Gothic style was good enough for them. There would be no Georgian style for us to copy. Imagine what would have happened if the Gothic builders had decided that the old styles were good enough for them. If all people in the past acted as we are now, then we would still be living in caves. It is ironic that inside those 250-year-old-style buildings we have the most modern equipment and thinkers.

I think that as a great teaching institution we owe it to the future to build buildings that are sustainable and that reflect our time, region and climate.

AU’s New Poultry Science Building is an example of the Georgian style in campus architecture. Greatly impacted by the sun, we must design solar responsive buildings.

The Georgian style is not solar re- sponsive to our climate, but rather it is appropriate for a cool, cloudy climate. A great university must be a model for the future.

Global warming is not just a moral issue, it is a national security issue. A recent Pentagon study concluded that climate change could well be the greatest security issue the United States has ever faced. The buildings of the Auburn campus are not just containers, they are models and prototypes for all who come to the campus.

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Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by AU faculty, staff and administrators of issues in higher education that are of special interest to the campus community but which are currently discussed in the commercial news media. Views in each Campus Forum are the independent expres sions of the writer.
NIH awards $3 million for studies of cardiac mast cells, heart disease

An Auburn professor has been awarded $3 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health for research related to heart failure in humans.

Joseph Janicki, associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, recently received $1.5 million to investigate cardiac mast cells in heart enlargement after a heart attack and $1.5 million to study the relationships among sexual hormones, cardiac mast cells and cardio-protection.

"After a person has a heart attack, the heart will get larger as it attempts to compensate for lost muscle," Janicki said. "This initially allows the heart to keep pumping a normal amount of blood, but this progressive enlargement eventually makes the problem worse. We are looking at how mast cells influence this remodeling."

Researchers use rats as models as they study mast cells, which are complex cells containing many substances that can activate collagen-destroying enzymes. Mast cells are also responsible for histamine-induced allergic reactions.

"We hope our advances will benefit both animals and humans," Janicki said. "Heart disease is the number one killer of people and is also deadly to many pets, particularly elderly cats and dogs."

Janicki’s research team is also investigating how cardiac mast cells differ between males and females.

"Women before age 60 or so do not develop heart failure like men do," he said. "The likelihood of heart failure among females increases after menopause to almost equal with males. We are looking at how estrogen hormones might be creating a difference in male and female cardiac mast cells,” Janicki added.

Citing a potential application, Janicki said drug companies might develop estrogen-like compounds to keep the heart from enlarging. However, he added, there has been no conclusive evidence so far that estrogen given to post-menopausal women will reduce the heart failure risk.

The AU veterinary college is collaborating with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in its studies of cardiac mast cells.

NIH awards $3 million for studies of greenhouse gases

Wimrock is a nonprofit agricultural development organization that works with people in more than 40 countries to increase economic opportunity, sustain natural resources and protect the environment.

In the presentation, “Carbon Sequestration in the United States for Mitigating Greenhouse Gas Emissions,” Brown will look at carbon sequestration activities in the federal, state and private sectors. She will also address issues related to the sale of carbon credits by landowners and the potential price for those credits.

Film series supports campaign to feed the hungry

In support of the World Food Programme and its “War on Hunger,” the AU College of Human Sciences is sponsoring a “Pay It Forward” film series and discussions on issues of hunger, poverty and social injustice.

The film series, which began Nov. 1 with the showing of “Hidden in America,” will continue through March. Other films scheduled include “Life and Debt” (Nov. 29), “Salam Bombay” (Jan. 10), “Afghan Stories” (Feb. 7), and “Lost Boys of Sudan” (March 7).

All films are at 3:30 p.m. in Spidle 144. Admission for each film is $1.19, with proceeds going to the United Nations’ World Food Programme, the largest humanitarian agency in the world.

The agency has selected Auburn as its lead partner to establish a comprehensive model for an international student-led “War on Hunger” campaign.

The film series is one of several campus initiatives organized by the Committee of 19, an AU student group, to help the U.N. organization in the fight against world hunger.