Holiday lights
Auburn University began its holiday celebration Thursday evening with the annual lighting of the 40-foot-high holly tree in front of Samford Hall. Fall semester classes will end Wednesday, with finals starting Friday, followed by graduation on Dec. 19. The university will close for the holidays on Dec. 22 and reopen on Jan. 5. Classes for spring semester start Jan. 13.

Inquiry in final stage
AU, SACS officials meet in Nashville
The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools may complete its examination of AU’s governance structure this week.

Representatives from Auburn were scheduled to meet with a SACS panel in Nashville on Saturday. Barring new developments, that meeting could finalize a two-year inquiry into allegations that the AU Board of Trustees violated SACS rules for governing bodies of its member institutions.

SACS launched the review in 2001, after receiving a request from the Joint Assessment Committee, an ad hoc panel of representatives of several AU constituent groups.

AU has denied the allegations and, citing concerns about possible abuses of due process protections under the U.S. Constitution, the university filed suit in federal district court in Atlanta in 2001. AU and SACS settled the case by agreeing to the court’s appointment of Columbus, Ga., attorney Richard Bradley to conduct the inquiry.

Bradley issued a report in late 2002, and he conducted an expanded study last spring at the request of SACS.

The regional agency delayed its regular 10-year accreditation review until 2004 to avoid overlapping the two reviews.

Final AU Report of fall semester
This is the final scheduled issue of the AU Report for fall semester. The first issue of spring semester will be Jan. 12. For updates on news between issues, see the daily e-mail transmissions of AUDaily or the AU Home Page on the Web at www.auburn.edu.
to the Auburn University community:

To the Auburn University community — faculty, staff and students. Please know it was not my intent to violate the unwritten rules and protocols prevalent in college athletics. Now, through negotiations, the matter has become a source of embarrassment for those who most deeply love and care for Auburn. If there is any good to be found in the situation, it is that Coach Tuberville and I agree to much more open lines of communication in the future, and I know we will come out of this stronger than we were. As I have told many reporters, I am glad to confirm that our program is in much better shape than it was when Coach Tuberville first arrived. Our athletics are now true “student” athletes who are here to learn; our program is clean. We have much to accomplish in the coming months and years both on our athletic fields and in our classrooms and labs. I pledge to you my continued effort to see that we reach for and exceed the goals we have set for Auburn.

War Eagle! William F. Walker

Retired pharmaceutical executive to receive honorary degree at Dec. 19 commencement

Auburn University will present an honorary Doctor of Sciences degree to retired pharmaceutical executive Edward L. Wampold of Atlanta during fall commencement exercises Dec. 19.

Wampold will become the 151st person in 147 years to receive an honorary degree at Auburn. AU also will confer 1,421 degrees to new graduates at the 2 p.m. ceremony at Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum. AU will award 11,166 bachelor’s degrees, 243 master’s degrees, 55 doctorates and seven specialist degrees.

A native of Montgomery, Wampold twice had his education interrupted by volunteer service in World War II and the Korean war before earning his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology at Auburn University in 1974. His contributions to school psychology, special education and child development have been prima- nary in the areas of intellectual and behavioral assessment, and in risk and protective factors for children who are at risk for cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems. Wampold, a faculty member since 1979, received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology from Auburn, and his doctorate from Vanderbilt University in 1974.

Halpin, a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology, has been active at all levels of education through teaching, research, service and outreach. A frequently cited authority in education and psychology, she has authored or co-authored more than 250 research publications and presentations. Halpin has been a faculty member in the College of Education for 29 years. She received her bache- lor’s degree from Jacksonville State University and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia.

The AU College of Education recently honored its three newest distinguished professors in a ceremony at the Auburn Alumni Center. Honorees for 2003-04 were Joseph Buckhalt, Wayne T. Smith Distinguished Professor; Glennelle Halpin, Mildred Chesnee Fraley Distinguished Pro- fessor; and Marie Kraska, Mildred Chesnee Fraley Distinguished Professor.

Buckhalt, a professor in the Department of Coun- seling and Counseling Psychology, is a licensed psycholo- gist. His contributions to school psychology, special education and child development have been prima- nary in the areas of intellectual and behavioral assessment, and in risk and protective factors for children who are at risk for cognitive, emotional and behavioral problems. Buckhalt, a faculty member since 1979, received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in psychology from Auburn, and his doctorate from Vanderbilt University in 1974.

Halpin, a professor in the Department of Educa- tional Foundations, Leadership and Technology, has been active at all levels of education through teach- ing, research, service and outreach. A frequently cited authority in education and psychology, she has authored or co-authored more than 250 research publications and presentations. Halpin has been a faculty member in the College of Education for 29 years. She received her bache- lor’s degree from Jacksonville State University and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Georgia.

Marie Kraska, a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technol- ogy, has served as a consultant for research, data analysis, program planning and a financial officer for local school systems nationally and the World Bank Internationally. Kraska joined the College of Edu- cation in 1988. She holds a doctorate from the University of Missouri-Columbia, a master’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout, and a bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Sin- Stevens Point.

The Wayne T. Smith professorship was estab- lished in 1996 through a gift from prominent health systems financial officer Wayne Smith, who holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the AU Col- leges of Education.

This is the first year the Mildred Chesnee Fraley Distinguished Professorship has been awarded. It was established in 1997 by Mr. and Mrs. Charles L. Fraley of Richmond, Va., as a bequest and was funded through the Fraley estate in 2002. Mildred Fraley was known as a woman of leadership and her hus- band while both were students at Auburn. The estate gift also provided endowed scholarship funding and an endowed fund for excellence.
Conference links AU, South Africa

A delegation from Auburn established links between Alabama and South Africa at a recent international conference on entrepreneurship organized by AU faculty and administrators.

Experts from five AU colleges and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System had key roles in the “Empowerment Through Entrepreneurship” conference in November in Cape Town, South Africa. AU colleges represented were Business, Engineering, Education, Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Organized by an Auburn-based organization, the conference examined ways to boost regional economic development in a global economy through individual and small-business initiatives.

With the Western Cape of South Africa as a context, the 14 presenters from AU gained fresh perspectives and new ideas for addressing problems in economically stressed sections of West Alabama, said Keenan Grenell, AU’s interim assistant provost for multicultural affairs.

Grenell is founder of the African-American Entrepreneurship Summit, which coordinated the conference. Don-Terry Veal, associate director of AU’s Center for Governmental Services, was conference director.

“The purpose was to get South Africans talking about new ways to create business opportunities in their own country, but we learned at least as much from them as they learned from us,” said Grenell. “It was truly a symbiotic relationship.”

“The conference really opened my eyes to opportunities for collaborative research and outreach between our faculty and professors in the South African universities,” said Bill Sauser, associate dean for business and engineering outreach. “There are wonderful opportunities in business, engineering, nursing, education and agriculture.”

Grenell said the United States could learn from South Africa about how to create a whole new order of how we treat people. “If each of us can persuade one other person to do the same, we can create a whole new order of how we treat people.”

Herbal medicine is subject of HR seminar

Norman Doorenbos of AU’s Harrison School of Pharmacy will present the Human Resources Development Seminar “The Healthy Employee: Herbal Medicine” from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Thursday in Foy 202.

For information or assistance, contact Melissa Askew or Pat Deery at 844-4143.