

Auburn Report

November 3, 2008

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Vol. 41 No. 27



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Marching against hunger

An energetic band of students set out on Oct. 17 on a 60-mile march from Auburn to the Alabama Capitol in Montgomery to raise awareness about the issue of world hunger. The marchers completed their journey in three days. The student-led Committee of 19 organized the trip as the latest in numerous activities to mobilize students at Auburn and across the nation in a campaign to improve the plight of poor and often malnourished people in industrialized as well as developing countries.

Provost finalists to visit campus in November

Three finalists for the position of provost and vice president for academic affairs at Auburn are scheduled for campus visits in mid-November.

The finalists are Tom Apple, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Delaware, who will visit on Nov. 11-14; Mary Ellen Mazey, dean of Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University, who will visit on Nov. 16-19; and J. Bruce Rafert, vice provost and dean of the Graduate School at Clemson University, who will visit on Nov. 19-22. Times and locations will be announced through AuburnDaily.

The new provost will succeed John Heilman, who is retiring at the end of the year after serving three years in the position and 35 years on the Political Science faculty. Heilman has also served as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and special assistant to the president.

As the chief academic officer at Auburn, the provost and vice president for academic affairs reports to the university president. Also, as the second-ranking officer of the university, the provost will act for the president on behalf of the university when the president is not available.

The provost is responsible for all academic matters, including budget and space. Reporting to the position are the 13 deans of the colleges and schools and the dean of libraries; the associate provost and vice

president for research; the associate provost and vice president for outreach; the associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs; the associate provost for undergraduate studies; the executive director for information technology; the director of institutional research and assessment; and the director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

A nine-member search committee chaired by College of Sciences and Mathematics Dean Stewart Schneller conducted the search which led to the selection of the three finalists.

"On behalf of the search committee, we are pleased to bring forward three well-qualified candidates with diverse academic backgrounds, who are currently serving as deans at notable land-grant universities," said Schneller. "We look forward to their enlightening visits to our campus."

Apple, who holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from the University of Delaware, has been dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at that institution since 2005. Previously he was vice provost at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institution from 2002-05, where he taught from 1991-2005 and held several administrative positions, including department chair, interim vice provost for institute diversity and dean of graduate education from 1997-2005.

Mazey, who holds a Ph.D. in urban geography from

the University of Cincinnati, has been dean of the Eberly College of Arts and Sciences at West Virginia University since 2005. She previously served from 1998-2005 at Wright State University as, respectively, a department chair, interim dean and dean of the College of Liberal Arts. She also served as a faculty member and administrator at Wright State from 1983-94 and, between stints at Wright State, as director of the Office of University Partnerships in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Rafert, who holds a Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Florida, has been vice provost and dean of the Graduate School and a professor of physics at Clemson since 2004. He previously served as dean of the Graduate School and dean of distance learning at Michigan Technological University from 2001-04. Also, Rafert held a series of academic and administrative positions at Florida Institute of Technology from 1984-95. From 1978-84, Rafert taught at, respectively, the University of South Florida, Alcorn State University, Appalachian State University and Stephen F. Austin University.

Additional information, including each candidate's cover letter and vita, will be posted online at www.auburn.edu/administration/provost_search/.

— Katie Wilder and Roy Summerford

New program at campus pharmacy to cut drug costs for Auburn employees, families

Starting Nov. 10, Auburn employees and their dependents who are covered by the university's Blue Cross Blue Shield health insurance plan will be able to fill prescriptions for generic drugs for free at the university's employee pharmacy in the Harrison School of Pharmacy.

Auburn will offer the benefit under a voluntary program for employees with Blue Cross Blue Shield coverage who agree to fill all their prescriptions at the university's pharmacy in the W.W. Walker Building. Employees who enroll in the new TigerMeds program will receive most generic drugs for free.

The new program will be available through the Auburn University Employee Pharmacy at the Pharmaceutical Care Center in an effort to help the university employees and their families reduce medical costs, says Kimberly Braxton Lloyd, the center's clinical director.

Braxton Lloyd, who is also an associate professor in the Harrison School of Pharmacy, said Auburn is able to extend the benefit to faculty, staff and their families because the employee pharmacy benefits from a contract for state institutions that saves the university money on some medications.

Auburn is passing the savings on to its employees by waiving the co-pay for most generics and, therefore, covering the full cost of those drugs, but only if they purchase their medications through the employee pharmacy, she explained.

"This voluntary program is a way for families to save money at a time when everyone wants to hold down their expenses, especially health care expenses," said Braxton Lloyd.

She added, "For this to work, it is important that employees and dependents who choose to participate transfer all their medication prescriptions, not just generics to the Auburn University Employee Pharmacy so that the university can save money on all medications and help pass the savings on to the employees."

Under the university's drug-purchasing agreement, Auburn can offer the benefit to employees and their families but not to the general public. Although the Harrison School of Pharmacy administers both the employee pharmacy in the Walker Building and the student pharmacy in the Auburn University Medical Clinic, the TigerMeds program is available only at the Walker Building facility.

She said the center's services could provide significant savings to patients who take prescriptions, especially if the prescriptions are the higher priced Tier 2 and Tier 3 drugs, as classified by Blue Cross Blue Shield. Generics are classified as Tier 1 drugs, for which the patient pays up to \$10 per prescription. Many patients, however, have a mix of Tier 1 generics, Tier 2 name-brand drugs with a co-pay of \$25 each and

higher priced Tier 3 name brands, with a co-pay of \$40, rising to \$50 on Jan 1.

The co-pays for Tier 2 and Tier 3 will remain the same at the university's employee pharmacy. However, if the employee is interested in maximum savings, Braxton Lloyd said Pharmaceutical Care Center pharmacists may be able to recommend medications with similar therapeutic benefits in lower tiers. In such a case, the pharmacist will consult with the individual and coordinate care with the patient's physician.

"Often, we can help you move from a drug with a co-pay of \$25 or \$50 to zero co-pay just by finding a generic that offers the same medical benefit," said Braxton Lloyd. Even in cases in which the physician has prescribed a more costly medication, often the pharmacist can confer with the physician concerning alternatives that will be just as effective, she said.

University and Pharmacy School administrators said employees and their families can save two ways by using the benefit.

"TigerMeds is one way we, as employees, can take charge of our health care expenditures while at the same time assuming more responsibility for our health," said Lee Evans, dean of the Harrison School of Pharmacy. "Optimizing the way we use medications is important to decrease our out-of-pocket expenses for medications and to help control the spiraling increases in our insurance premiums."

Executive Vice President Don Large added that the TigerMeds program could help slow the rising cost for health insurance for employees and the university, which pays 60 percent to 80 percent of the total cost. "Since Auburn University is self-insured, every dollar we save on medications is added back to the insurance fund to help cover our healthcare costs," Large said. "Therefore, if we save on medications, this helps control the costs of our insurance premiums."

Braxton Lloyd said one of the chief advantages of the Pharmaceutical Care Center is its location in the Pharmacy School near the center of campus. "It is located within walking distance for many employees on the main campus and Dormitory Drive provides access for drivers."

The university maintains five reserved parking places on the north side of the Walker Building for people to park while getting prescriptions filled.

After an initial consultation, some of the activity can be handled by phone or fax from the patient or physician, and a courier from the center will deliver the prescriptions to the faculty or staff member at his or her place of work on campus.

"This voluntary program is a way for families to save money at a time when everyone wants to hold down their expenses, especially health care expenses."

Kimberly Braxton Lloyd

Braxton Lloyd said university employees also benefit from the pharmacy's ties to the Harrison School of Pharmacy through facilities that contain state-of-the-art equipment and staffing by members of the school's faculty. "Our expertise is medications and we work to optimize drug therapy," she said. "We want to share this expertise with the Auburn University community. We even have a pharmacist on call after hours."

The intent, she said, is to help university employees. "Only university employees and their families covered by Auburn's Blue Cross Blue Shield plan may use this benefit, and, even then, everyone will still have access to off-campus pharmacies when they need it," she said. "We are part of the Auburn Family and our only interest is serving our family here."

The TigerMeds program will start on the main campus and will expand later to Auburn Montgomery and off-campus employees. "We will work quickly to extend this benefit to all," she said. "We hope to have everyone who is interested in participating enrolled by early 2009."

More information on the Auburn University Employee Pharmacy and the TigerMeds program is available online at www.auburn.edu/TigerMeds and by e-mail at TigerMeds@auburn.edu.

— Roy Summerford

Auburn Report

The Auburn Report is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Executive Director of Communications and Marketing: Deedie Dowdle. Auburn Report Editor: Roy Summerford. Communications and Marketing contributing editors, writers and photographers: Mike Clardy, Katie Wilder, Charles Martin, Neali Vann, Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Humble. Other contributors are based in colleges and schools throughout the university.

Issues of the Auburn Report appear every other Monday during academic terms, except on the Monday of or the Monday after some major U.S. holidays. Copies are distributed free by campus mail to full-time faculty and staff at campus offices. Deadline for delivery of items for publication is noon on Tuesday before publication. Direct inquiries, suggestions and news items to the Auburn Report, 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Telephone: 334/844-9984. Electronic mail: summero@auburn.edu.

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Campus Forum

Alabama education leaders urge 'Yes' vote on 'Rainy Day' Amendment 1 in election Tuesday

By Joseph Morton, State Superintendent of Education; Bradley Byrne, Chancellor, Alabama Community College System; Jay Gogue, President, Auburn University; and Malcolm Portera, Chancellor, The University of Alabama System

Education is the cornerstone of our families' well-being and our communities' economic health. While much of the nation is experiencing net job loss, our state has steadily announced new and expanding industries, adding many thousands of new jobs. These new industries decided to locate in Alabama because their leaders know they can rely on our commitment to produce an educated and well-trained workforce.

At a time when reading scores, graduation rates, research funding, work force development programs, and every other benchmark of quality have climbed to all time highs, we absolutely cannot afford to endanger our state's hope for the future. Every citizen of Alabama has a stake in preventing that outcome. We must maintain this progress despite difficult economic times.

Even though Alabama looks forward to continued net job growth, we are not immune to the effects of the recession now challenging America. While Alabama's fiscal health is more stable than many other states, proration of the education budget is inevitable. Tax revenues that comprise the Education Trust Fund will not stretch to cover the education budget that lawmakers in Montgomery approved earlier this year. By state law, Alabama cannot operate a state budget that goes into a deficit, so administrators will be forced to cut essential services from education budgets that have already experienced substantial cuts.

Taking a major financial hit now – just as our state's economic development efforts are dovetailing with our educational progress – could force us to take a backward step at a critical time. The citizens of Alabama – not just educators, or economic developers – cannot afford to take that risk.

With that in mind, we ask all citizens to vote "yes", on Tuesday, Nov. 4, for the "Rainy Day" Amendment 1. The only statewide Constitutional referendum on

the ballot, it is an important option that will allow us to sustain some momentum, and minimize the negative impact on our educational institutions and keep them moving forward.

Approval of the Amendment will allow schools, colleges and universities to tap into a "Rainy Day Fund" set up for just this kind of financial emergency.

Six years ago, state leaders created a savings account from a small percentage of earned oil and gas royalties. Voters approved that measure at the polls.

Funds were set aside beginning in 2002 to help cover a future shortfall of up to \$248 million in the Education Trust Fund, including a mechanism requiring the money would be paid back into the rainy day account for use again when needed. Money was borrowed from the fund in 2003 and repaid. The referendum on the ballot Tuesday simply updates that amount to \$437 million.

This money is not a handout, not a give-away, and not a new tax. It is simply a rainy day option that will help your schools, colleges and universities weather this financial storm.

We know that no one likes to borrow money. A wise family on a tight budget would not borrow money to go on a cruise, but they would take out a loan to send their children to college because education is that important.

Your "yes" vote on Tuesday is not just a temporary fix. It is an investment in the future of education in Alabama. We urge you to join us in voting "yes" for Amendment 1 on Nov. 4.

Campus Forum is a periodic discussion by faculty, staff and administrators about issues in higher education that are of special interest to the campus community but which are infrequently discussed in the commercial news media.



Library at night

Other than residence halls, brightly lit Draughon Library is often the busiest building on campus in the evening, especially in the last half of the semester as students focus more of their attention to completing papers and catching up on their studies.

A similar photo appears in the 2009 Auburn University calendar, "Twilight on the Plains."

The calendar is on sale for \$10.75 at Photographic Services in Foy Hall, University Bookstore, local off-campus bookstores, online at www.auburn.edu/ photo and by phone at 844-4560.

Produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing, the 11"x14" wall calendar features dusk and nighttime scenes shot by Jeff Etheridge and Melissa Humble of Photographic Services, with graphic design by Tracey Spates.

Need to change, add to or subtract health insurance, other benefits? November is open enrollment time

Is your medical insurance up to date and meeting your family's needs? Do you want additional coverage for dental, vision or other conditions? Are you taking advantage of Flexible Spending Accounts?

The Office of Payroll and Employee Benefits is reminding AU employees that November is the month when faculty and staff may add or make changes in their health, dental, vision, cancer and supplemental disability insurance plans. The changes take effect on Jan. 1.

Faculty and staff may also enroll in flexible spending accounts, which enable employees to reduce their taxes by setting aside money from each paycheck to offset out-of-pocket

medical expenses for the individuals and their dependents. The participant's take-home pay will reflect these savings.

To comply with Internal Revenue Service regulations, employees must enroll in the Flexible Spending Accounts during the month of November.

Since Nov. 30 falls on Sunday this year, all open enrollment documents must be received in the Payroll and Employee Benefits Office no later than 4:45 p.m. on Dec. 1.

Look for additional information about the open enrollment period through campus mail. For assistance, call 844-4183 or visit Payroll and Employee Benefits in Ingram Hall.



Charles Martin

Electronic voting

Alabama Democratic Chairman Joe Turnham, left, and Alabama Republican Chairman Mike Hubbard, center, listen to Auburn University professor Juan Gilbert explain his Prime III electronic voting system during a recent mock presidential election at Auburn. Gilbert has presented the technology before the U.S. Congress and says he hopes to see it adopted widely in the 2010 elections.

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

PARADE Old Student Union to new Student Center, 11 a.m.

DEDICATION Auburn Student Center, 11:30 a.m.

DEDICATION James E. Foy Information Desk, 12:15 p.m.

DISCOVER AUBURN LECTURE "Bats: Friendly Masters of the Night Sky," Troy Best of Biological Sciences, 3 p.m., Special Collections and Archives, Draughton Library

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

FORUM "Academic Freedom in the Classroom," Jim Bradley, Ruth Crocker, Susana Morris and Leanna Pepper, 3:30 p.m., Haley 2116

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

MEETING Board of Trustees, time TBA, The Hotel at Auburn University
MUSICAL RECITAL Ramon Vasquez on trumpet, 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

ANNUAL MEETING Auburn Alumni Association, 9 a.m., Alumni Center
TASTE OF ALABAMA, FALL AG ROUNDUP 9 a.m.-noon, Ag Heritage Park

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

MEETING University Senate, 3 p.m., Broun Hall

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

FILM SCREENING "Eugene Walter: Last of the Bohemians," 3 p.m., Draughton Library

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

UNIVERSITY THEATRE Oscar Wilde's "Lady Windermere's Fan," 7:30 p.m., Telfare Peet Theatre; also 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 and Nov. 19-21 and 2:30 p.m. Nov. 16; Box Office 844-4154; information online at <http://media.cla.auburn.edu/theatre/>

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

NEXT Auburn Report

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

JCSM FILM SERIES Stanley Kubrik's 1968 classic "2001: A Space Odyssey," 2 p.m., auditorium, Jule Collins Smith Museum

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

HOLIDAY BREAK for Thanksgiving, Wednesday-Friday, offices closed, no classes

EXHIBITIONS

JULE COLLINS SMITH MUSEUM "The Indian Gallery of Henry Inman," paintings, prints and artifacts focused on Southeastern Creek and Cherokee leaders and warriors of the early 1800s, through Nov. 8; "Visions of Victory," classic and historic sports photos, through Nov. 29

BIGGIN GALLERY "Room for Tourists," contemporary photography, through Friday, Nov. 7



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

New location

The Auburn University Federal Credit Union is open for business in its new building at the corner of West Donahue Drive and East University Drive. The larger, off-campus building features increased parking, four drive-throughs, safe deposit boxes, expanded lobby hours and an expanded lobby and member services area.

The credit union's telephone number is unchanged, 844-4120.

Once on open ground, with ample space for expansion, west of the main campus, the credit union's former building is now surrounded by parking area and the new Village complex of residence halls, which is slated to open in 2009.

The credit union's old building on West Magnolia Avenue will be converted for use by the university Business Office.

"Lady Windermere's Fan"

Oscar Wilde play coming to Peet Theatre in November

The Auburn University Theatre will present the Oscar Wilde play "Lady Windermere's Fan" in November.

Performances in Peet Theatre are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Nov. 13-14 and Nov. 19-21, with a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. Nov. 16.

Originally presented in 1892 as "Lady Windermere's Fan: A Play About a Good Woman," the four-act melodrama is one of Wilde's best-known works. Built around the actions of a woman who suspects her husband is having an affair, the play presents a satiric view of late-Victorian society.

With a cast of student actors, the campus production

is directed by Theatre Department faculty member Daydrie Hague, who cites parallels between Victorian England and modern America. "The mirror that Wilde claims to have held up to the elite of London society in 1892 might also reflect our own, with its intense materialism, moral hypocrisy and its struggle to allow women full and free choice over every aspect of their lives," said Hague.

She added, "So the best answer to the question 'Why this play?' may be that our greatest dramatic works are worth re-visiting not just because they are extraordinarily entertaining, but also because the questions they ask are as relevant, as compelling and

as critical to consider as the day they were first performed."

Wilde's play has inspired several film adaptations, including the 2005 motion picture "A Good Woman," starring Helen Hunt.

For box office or ticket information or reservations, call 844-4154.



Gossom to describe experiences as pioneering black athlete

Actor, author, athlete and Auburn alumnus Thom Gossom Jr., will present a public reading from his memoir, "Walk-On," at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

The memoir chronicles Gossom's barrier-shattering journey to become the first black athlete to graduate from Auburn University. It has been described as a story of overcoming adversity, gaining success, losing it, regaining it and in doing so making history.

The author will sign copies and "Walk On" will be available for purchase at the museum.

Gossom lettered as a wide receiver on Auburn's football team from 1972-4. During his four football seasons at Auburn, Gossom not only walked on, he started three years for Coach Ralph "Shug" Jordan. He was Auburn's second black scholarship football player to complete his eligibility. However, Gossom is quick to point out that this book is not solely about issues of race. "Everyone who went to school in the '60s and '70s lived through a historic time," Gossom said. "This is a human interest story. The book is based on my personal experiences during a time of great change."

Gossom is a Birmingham native and 1975 mass communication graduate from Auburn. As an actor, his television credits include "West Wing," "Boston Legal," "Close to Home," "Jack and Bobby" and "My Wife and Kids." His film credits include: "Fight Club," "The Chamber," "Jeepers Creepers II" and "XXX State of the Union."

This event is sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts & Humanities, the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art and the Auburn Alumni Association.



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Grand opening

Auburn will host a grand opening celebration for the new Student Center on Wednesday, Nov. 5. The festivities start with a parade from Foy Hall to the Student Center at 11 a.m. Dean Emeritus James E. Foy, the grand marshal will be joined by Aubie, the Auburn University cheerleaders and Tiger Paws. Other activities include the Student Center dedication at 11:30 a.m. and dedication of the James E. Foy Information Desk at 12:15 p.m. Information about the event is online at www.auburn.edu/deanofstudents/grandopening.html.

Mason announces

Zee, Weete named to positions in Auburn's Office of Research

John Mason, Auburn University associate provost and vice president for research, has announced two upper-level appointments in the Office of the Vice President for Research.

Ralph Zee will serve as acting associate vice president for research, and John Weete will serve as the acting assistant vice president for technology transfer and commercialization at Auburn. They have agreed to serve until searches to fill the positions are complete.

Zee is a professor and associate dean for research in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. He served as acting associate provost and interim vice president for research from January 2007 until September 2008. Zee joined the Auburn faculty in 1986 and has received honors and awards such as Outstanding Faculty of Materials Engineering and Alumni Professorship.

Formerly a professor and associate dean at Auburn, Weete served as vice president for research and economic development at West Virginia University and president of the West Virginia University Research Corporation for nine years before returning to Auburn as executive director of the Auburn Research Park in 2007.

College of Business creates ethics center for organizations

The College of Business has established a new ethics center to help organizations avoid unethical practices and to teach students about appropriate business conduct. The Auburn University Center for Ethical Organizational Cultures conducts surveys to help clients determine if their organizations are operating in a proper manner.

"If we find an unethical culture, we will help the management develop a plan to correct it," said Achilles Armenakis, the James T. Pursell Sr. Eminent Scholar in Ethics. "The small things we find now may keep the organization from doing much worse later, like 'cooking' the books."

James T. Pursell Sr., founder of Pursell Technologies Inc. in Sylacauga, is presenting an annual award to fund the center. In 1998, he began supporting Auburn's eminent scholar chair and program to help emphasize the significance of ethics to students.

"The College of Business eminent scholar program exposes Auburn University students to the importance of ethics in managing organizations," said Pursell. "This new ethics center will complement the instructional program by conducting applied research within organizations and providing managers with the tools to assess an organization's culture and to develop and maintain ethical management practices."

Pursell is a 1952 graduate who came up with the idea of selling specialty controlled release fertilizers under the Sta-Green brand name. In March, the Auburn Alumni Association presented him with a 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Armenakis says Pursell's support will help organizations using the ethics center avoid pitfalls that are increasing in today's business culture. He cites ethical problems found during annual surveys of 2,000 businesses by the Ethics Resource Center in Washington, D.C., which asks if participants have observed misconduct. More than 50 percent said yes. When asked if they reported it, more than 40 percent of the respondents said no. Misconduct encountered in the workplace might include conflict of interest, lying and abusive behavior.

"They either said they feared retaliation or felt it would not do any good to report it," he said. "We want to help companies have ethical cultures and to foster an environment that does not punish those who report unethical behavior."

Armenakis and other Auburn faculty and graduate students are conducting a case study with Pursell Technologies Inc. to develop research methodology for studying other organizations. "As we do studies for clients, we will present the research findings to students to help them see proper management practices and to avoid things that might be considered minor infractions, but that are unethical and cause harm," he said.

More than 30 faculty members in the College of Business devote a total of 150 classroom hours to teaching ethics. Graduating students also are asked to complete a questionnaire about their confidence in their grasp of ethics, as are various alumni and employers. "The cultures of organizations they join have been established already and the new graduates often face pressure to conform," Armenakis said. "We want our students to recognize unethical situations and to make the right decisions."

He said outside speakers also are used to illustrate the importance of proper workplace behavior. Previous speakers have included Jeffrey Wigand who exposed tobacco companies' use of nicotine to make users addicted; Roger Boisjoly of Morton Thiokol who warned about the O-ring problems before the space shuttle Challenger explosion in 1986; and Roy Vagelos, retired CEO of Merck pharmaceutical company, who wrote the book, "The Moral Corporation." Wigand will be back on campus this week, speaking to classes in the College of Business.

— Charles Martin

For civil engineers

Professor's 'dirty' book (about soils) becomes best-seller

An Auburn professor's "dirty" book has become a best-seller in its field, but the book is "dirty" only in the sense of being about soils.

"Soils Magic," a book by Civil Engineering faculty member David Elton, has become a best-seller for its discipline. Elton's book has sold more copies than any other American Society of Civil Engineers book, exclusive of conference proceedings.

The book is used by universities, Boy Scouts, public schools and service organizations to explain inexpensive, simple experiments that often have unexpected results. In the book, Elton seeks to teach the principles of soil mechanics in an amusing and insightful way. His "Soils Magic" experiments have been performed in venues all around the U.S., including the Stardust Hotel in Las Vegas.

"I enjoy helping people learn about civil engineering and geotechnical engineering in particular," said Elton. "'Soils Magic' provides just the right balance of fun and education to get people's attention and teach them."

Elton recently received a National Science Foundation grant based on "Soils Magic." The three-year, \$300,000 grant, written with James Hanson of Califor-

nia Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, involves new methods and technologies for teaching soil mechanics. "We're excited to have this project and to be able to develop new ways for students to learn and to involve technology in learning" said Elton.

"Dr. Hanson and I have great students that will benefit now, as will those that follow," he added.

Work based on the book is being distributed glob-

ally and designed for universal access, and "Soils Magic" videos are available on YouTube.com.

A faculty member at Auburn University for 23 years, Elton has taught more than 2,000 students, many of whom have seen "Soils Magic" in his undergraduate laboratory.

— Sara Borchik and Roy Summerford

Mammogram Day scheduled for Nov. 14

Mammogram Day, part of a program to encourage early diagnosis of breast cancer, has been set for Nov. 14 from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

The program is available for Auburn employees and their spouses covered under the AU Blue Cross Blue Shield insurance program. Participants are eligible if they are 35 or older, have never had a mammogram or have not had a mammogram in the last two years. There are 68 spots available, by appointment, on a

first-come-first-serve basis. Dr. Kam from the AU Medical Clinic will be the referring doctor; upon request, results can be sent to your individual doctor.

To make an appointment, call Colleen Alsobrook, EAMC Breast Health Navigator at 528-4370 and mention you are participating in the Auburn University Mammogram Day program. Mammograms will be done at Auburn Diagnostic, 1527 Professional Parkway.

Art gallery exhibiting 'boundary-pushing' works by leading photographers

The Department of Art in Auburn's College of Liberal Arts is presenting "Room for Tourists," an exhibition of contemporary photography at Biggin Gallery through Friday, Nov. 7.

The exhibition features artists Anthony Faris, Dale Kennington, Mary Anne Mitchell, Laura Noel, Jerry Siegel, Constance Thalken and Chris Walker. The exhibition is curated by Paula Katz, director and curator of Herron Galleries at Indiana University.

Several artists will be present at a public reception from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. on Friday, the final day of the exhibition.

"Photography has become an increasingly important part of many artists' practice, if not the sole basis of their artistic output," said Curator Paula Katz. "At the same time, the plethora of objects being described as 'photography' and its various modes of presentation, make it increasingly hard to define and pinpoint a unified and singular photographic practice. Artists are pushing boundaries to define the most contemporary practices at the same time returning to historic models of picture-making."

Katz said the exhibition showcases a variety of current photographic practices. "Rather than try to narrow and define the hallmarks of contemporary photographic practice, the exhibition seeks to celebrate the diversity; it is meant to be an exhibition of images to visit and ponder," she said.

"Jerry Siegel's Black Belt panoramas are beautiful vistas for the eye to wander, while Anthony Farris's

Polaroids serve as instantaneous snapshots of a singular time and place," Katz said.

She continued, "Shooting from the same window in Paris over a week's time, Dale Kennington's photographs explore the range of possibilities from a very

controlled experience, while new layers of meaning through juxtaposition are created by the presentations of Laura Noel and Chris Walker. Mary Anne Mitchell's black and white images complicate the dynamic between subject and viewer."



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Space careers

Leading military and technology industries in Huntsville hosted 90 Auburn students in business and engineering as future career prospects at the Space and Rocket Center and other area locations Oct. 23-24. Staff and faculty from the College of Business also attended the event.



Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Silent sentinel

Looking east toward campus, a silent cannon greets the dawn at the Kappa Alpha house. The onset of cooler temperatures has been marked by a return of colorful skies over Auburn, especially at sunrise and sunset.

News Briefs

Journal cites department, professor

In its fall 2008 issue, the Journal of Advertising ranks the Department of Marketing in Auburn's College of Business no. 5 among academic programs in its field in terms of advertising research productivity for the period 1997-2006.

Avery Abernethy, a professor of marketing, tied for no. 3 internationally among individual contributors. Abernethy, who held the same position in a similar study published in 1998, is one of only nine scholars worldwide who has been ranked in both studies.

Karcher appointed assistant dean

Robert Karcher has been promoted to assistant dean of engineering student services in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Karcher, the college's director of engineering student services for 10 years, recently received his doctorate in education from Auburn. In addition to his leadership of engineering student services, Karcher works closely with professional and alumni groups. He also coordinates a non-credit survey course for engineering freshmen designed to introduce them to the various fields of engineering.

AuburnReport

November 3, 2008



Auburn students will help dedicate the new Student Center this week, starting with a parade. See page 6.

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html

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| <p>1 Finalists for provost to visit campus during November</p> <p>2 New program for employees offers savings on prescription drugs</p> <p>3 Education leaders urge passage of Amendment 1 on Tuesday</p> | <p>4 November is open period to make changes to health insurance, taxes</p> <p>6 Zee, Weete named to administrative posts in Auburn's Office of Research</p> <p>6 College of Business creates new center to promote ethics</p> |
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