Hello from Enrollment Services-Operations!

Many of you are familiar with what we do, and we have worked directly with you in the recruitment of prospective students. However, allow me to introduce our department to those of you that are new or that we have not had the privilege of meeting. Operations is responsible for three areas that are essential in our relationships with high school counselors: prospective student communication campaigns, admission processing and admission reporting. We look forward and welcome the opportunity to work with counselors in any of these areas.

As the 2009 application process comes to a close, admission processing has handled more than 18,000 applications and more than 100,000 supporting documents.

In an effort to improve the coordination between Auburn University and high school counselors and to better serve our prospective students, we have designed some improvements for the coming months.

The application processing date has been moved from June 1 to August 1 by online submission. The new application processing date will better accommodate the schedules of students and high school counselors. In addition, requiring online submission will improve application processing in terms of efficiency and timeliness. Transcripts may also be sent electronically via eScript or cdoc transcript services. In addition, we accept transcript PDFs at admtran@auburn.edu.

We are also excited to announce the launching of an online student applicant tracking system. Utilizing the online system will allow you to monitor your students through the admission process!

Please contact us at 334-844-6429 or me directly at gilbesu@auburn.edu if there is anything we can do to make the Auburn process work better for you.

Thank you for all you do in preparing our students and guiding them through the college selection process.

Sincerely,

Susan Allen ’97
Director, Enrollment Services-Operations

Byers Continues Academic Journey at Auburn

Preparing for and attending college has always been a task with obstacles. For some, the obstacles are more difficult and the term, “Auburn spirit” takes on new meaning.

Diagnosed with cancer in her senior year in high school, Chelsea Byers, an Auburn University freshman from Spring, Texas, has since devoted much of her time as an advocate for cancer awareness and research. She has raised more than $3,000 through selling the American Cancer Society’s 2009 Faces of Courage calendar, in which Chelsea was selected as the face of January.

One of her goals has always been to attend Auburn, and now she is setting her sights on a degree in industrial engineering. “My goal is to focus on making strides for ergonomic and aesthetic improvements in the medical field,” Chelsea said.

“Even though I was accepted into the college of engineering at a top Texas school, my heart was set on Auburn from the first time I set eyes on the campus and was welcomed by the community and faculty. My interests were confirmed when Professor (Clark) Lundell gave me a personal tour of the ID department on my first trip to Auburn.”

An element that “sealed the deal” for Chelsea was the Heritage Scholarship. It allowed her to attend Auburn at the cost of in-state tuition.

“While I never would have chosen to travel this road, my diagnosis has changed my perspective on life, cemented my goals, expanded my mind and given me the opportunity to share my story and, hopefully, make a difference in the world,” the AU freshman added. “I believe that Auburn has been and will continue to be a fundamental aspect of my life that will be experienced by everyone I interact with and remembered wherever my future takes me.”

Chelsea’s Web site is www.caringbridge.org/visit/chelseabyers and the details of her journey are featured under “My Story.”
Auburn University’s goal is to build a freshman class of highly qualified, actively involved students. Basic admissions criteria are as follows:

**Standardized Test Scores required:**
- ACT Composite English, Math, Reading and Science with Writing
- or
- SAT Composite English and Math with Writing

**Grade Point Average:**
- All courses recorded on transcript

Applications for admission are accepted beginning August 1 preceding the student’s senior year of high school. A completed application consists of an ACT* or SAT score with writing component, high school transcript, application for admission, $40 application fee and Activities and Interests form. Beginning with the 2010 entry term, all applications for admission must be submitted online. The first decisions are made in the fall and continue through February. There are two types of admission:

* Writing component score required only once.

**EARLY ACTION**
- Initial application deadline: October 1 (weekly thereafter)
- Notification: October 15 through February 15

Criteria used:
- High School GPA and ACT or SAT

**REGULAR DECISION:**
- Three rounds:
  - November 15 (application deadline November 1)
  - December 15 (application deadline December 1)
  - February 15 (application deadline February 1)

Criteria used:
- High School GPA and ACT or SAT:
- Additional factors:
  - Activities
  - Course selection
  - Essay
  - First generation status
  - Leadership/service positions
  - Legacy status
  - Residency status

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIP CONSIDERATION IS DECEMBER 1**
Auburn University receives approximately 19,000 applications each year for a freshman class that is limited to 3,800-4,000 students. The number of qualified applicants exceeds the number of students that the university can enroll. While the applicant pool for freshman admission to Auburn University is large and well qualified, the university’s goal is to build a freshman class of highly qualified, actively involved students who will be successful during their years at Auburn and beyond.

Auburn University primarily bases admissions decisions on academic factors including high school grade-point average and the applicant’s best composite score from a single test date on standardized academic tests (Auburn accepts both the ACT and SAT). The university recognizes the importance of other factors in addition to academic achievement. Thus, for many applicants, after the initial academic review a more comprehensive review of the entire application will occur. Factors included in this more comprehensive review (in no particular order) include: rigor of high school course selection, school and community activities, work experience, Alabama residency status, legacy status, leadership and service positions, answers to essay questions, first-generation college student status, and performance of previous students from the applicant’s high school.

Applications for admission are accepted beginning August 1 preceding the student’s senior year in high school. The first decisions are made during the fall and continue through February.

Students can begin applying for admission August 1 at www.auburn.edu/apply. Applicants with excellent academic credentials can be admitted by Early Action beginning in October. Early Action decisions are made by October 15 for students who have completed an application by October 1. Early Action decisions are strictly academic; based on a combination of high school GPA and the ACT or SAT score of the applicant; other factors are not considered. Students who meet the Early Action criteria will be accepted on a weekly basis from October 15 to February 15.

Admission decisions made based on criteria other than Early Action criteria are determined in three rounds beginning November 15. Those decisions will include acceptance and non-acceptance. These decisions are based primarily on academic achievement but also evaluate other factors submitted in the application process. First-round decisions will be made November 15 for students who complete an application by November 1. Not all students in the applicant pool will receive a decision in the first round. Applicants for whom a decision is not made will be notified of a continuing review of their application. Second-round decisions will be made December 15 for students who complete an application by December 1 and once again, not all students in the applicant pool will receive a decision. Third-round and final decisions will be made by February 15 for all applicants with a decision pending and those who complete an application by February 1. The priority application for admission deadline is February 1.

Once students have been accepted, they will be asked to pay a $200 tuition deposit to confirm their spot in the freshman class. This deposit must be paid by May 1 prior to students enrolling at Auburn University and is non-refundable. Once their deposit has been received, they will receive their student identification number along with instructions for the online housing application. On-campus housing is not required at Auburn University for incoming or currently enrolled students, and housing is not guaranteed for all freshmen. Housing is provided on a first-come, first-served basis, and students for whom on-campus housing is a high priority are encouraged to pay their deposits soon after being accepted for admission.
In 2006-07, the percentage of Learning Community students in good academic standing at the end of the academic year was 7 percent higher than that of the entire freshmen class. Also, a higher percentage of these students persisted through their first year. Learning Communities can benefit any student interested in getting connected to other students, their college, or the university as a whole.

Caleb Rotton, a student in the 2006-07 Liberal Arts Learning Community, describes his Learning Community as “a launching point into his college experience.” He goes on to explain that there isn’t a single aspect of his college experience that doesn’t connect him somehow to his Learning Community. He met his best friends in his Learning Community. Taking his first college classes with other students he knew made the transition to new academic demands more manageable, and his exceptional academic standing is proof. Finally, he knew he could always go to his Learning Community instructors for help or advice when he needed it. Caleb still stops by whenever he has a question or needs a reference letter and reports that he still sits with his old Learning Community friends when he happens to have a class with them. While the structure of the Learning Community only lasts through students’ first year, the support network is there for the remainder of their college experience.

Learning Communities at Auburn are cohorts of 25 students who share a common interest in either an academic college or a topic, such as environmental awareness. The cohort takes several classes together including a university course (a one-hour elective course focusing on the transition to college and study skills) and one to three core curriculum or major specific courses. Additional organized activities may be included which relate to the Learning Community topic, such as a late night review session or off-campus trip. Living-Learning Communities are the same structure as Learning Communities, except all students in the cohort live in the same residence hall. Students must have applied and been guaranteed housing to be accepted to an Living-Learning Community.

There are many benefits to participating in a Learning or Living-Learning Community. Students immediately meet other students with common interests, who will be facing similar academic demands. Students also have the opportunity to get to know a faculty member or administrator in their college who shares similar interests. This person serves as a valuable resource for transitioning students, and this relationship often lasts throughout their college experience. Finally, students experience connections among their classes and within their classes to a topic that interests them, providing more meaning to their general education courses. For example, an assignment may be writing a paper in English class concerning a topic being studied in World History.

Please visit www.auburn.edu/learningcommunities for a complete list of Learning and Living-Learning Communities available in 2009-10 and call 334.844.5972 for further questions.

Opening for the fall semester of 2009, The new Village Community will house men and women in eight residence halls. Auburn’s social sororities will be housed in three of the buildings and a fourth building will house members of the Honors College. The remaining four buildings will be coed housing both freshmen and upperclassmen. Pictured in front of the new development is the Auburn University High School Counselor Advisory Board.
Listening to Larry Wit, associate dean for academic affairs in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, talk about Auburn University and its environment for learning, you would think he was born, raised and earned all his degrees here on the Plains, but none of that is the case. The Chicago, Ill. native came to Auburn in 1979 as an assistant professor straight from the University of Missouri, where he earned his Ph.D. in zoology/physiology.

His research and teaching interests include physiological ecology, energetics of foraging, overwintering strategies of ectotherms and physiological adaptations to unusual environments.

In addition to his academic workload, Wit also spends time talking to high school counselors and recruiting students, which began before 1990 when he would visit the high schools in Lee County to perform “show and tell” laboratory experiments to kindle an interest in science and Auburn University.

Wit says recruiters from Auburn’s Office of Admissions and Recruitment visit about 40 to 50 schools annually, and he goes with them on about one-third of those visits, mainly to talk with high school counselors around the state. “On campus there are a number of events, War Eagle Day and TALONS Day sessions,” Wit said.

In talking with prospective students, the COSAM associate dean tells what Auburn University can offer them. “I tell them Auburn is the biggest small college in the nation,” Witt says. “What that means is that with more than 24,500 students, Auburn can offer students the opportunity to have classes with first-class faculty, many of whom are world-renown in terms of their area of expertise. Those are the people with whom students can interact in class and engage in research. It also means Auburn offers first-class facilities and a wide variety of extracurricular activities.”

Wit adds that any large university can offer that, but what makes Auburn truly special, in spite of our size, is the friendly environment and the family atmosphere students encounter. The Auburn spirit is a concept that is hard to explain but impossible to miss if you’ve been here very long. That’s an environment where learning takes place.”

After years of working with students, Wit admits the one thing he has never heard a student say is, “I wish I hadn’t come to Auburn.”

**Dr. Wit at a Glance**

Hometown: Chicago, Illinois  
Major: B.S. Zoology; M.S. Zoology; Ph.D. Zoology/Physiology  
Favorite Food: YES!  
Favorite Wife: Nancy  
Favorite Music: Classical, Sacred Choral, Southern Gospel  
Children: Three and holding  
Grandchildren: Three and counting  
Hobbies: Photography/Reading  
Favorite Part of Job: Teaching Mammalian Physiology and helping students  
Least Favorite Part of Job: Making up tests
Important Dates and Deadlines

Admissions Decisions
Early Action
Begins October 15, 2009
Continues
November 15, 2009
December 15, 2009
February 15, 2009
www.auburn.edu/admissions

Campus Visitation
Monday–Friday
9 a.m–11 a.m. and 1 p.m–3 p.m.
www.auburn.edu/visit

Scholarship Deadline
December 1, 2009
(Freshman Scholarship priority deadline for Freshman and General scholarships)
www.auburn.edu/scholarship

Financial Aid Priority Deadline
March 1, 2010
www.auburn.edu/finaid

Application For Admission Deadline
February 1, 2010

Tuition Deposit Deadline
May 1, 2010

The Auburn University Student Center, which opened in November, is the new hub for campus activities. Make it a part of your next campus visit.