



Richardson Named AU Interim President

Edward R. Richardson was unanimously approved as interim president of Auburn University on Jan. 20 at a specially called meeting of the AU Board of Trustees.

Richardson, former state school superintendent, succeeds William F. Walker, who resigned as AU president on Jan. 16.

In a statement to all university employees on Jan. 16, Walker said, "It has been my pleasure to serve this great institution for the past 16 years as dean, provost and president. I have informed Earlon McWhorter, president pro tem of the board of trustees, of my intentions. As the university moves into this period of transition, I would like to

call on all members of the Auburn family to pull together and begin a healing process. The days ahead for Auburn University are bright, and I wish you all luck in the future."

In remarks to the board following its vote, Richardson said Auburn's current one-year probation sanction from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the ongoing inquiry into the men's basketball program by the NCAA were two problems he would address at the outset of his tenure.

"The issues of the SACS probation and the NCAA investigation into the



Richardson

basketball program are of great importance and require a great deal of our attention at this time," he said. "But there are other issues that require our attention and demand a willingness to make difficult decisions."

Richardson also cited his familiarity with Auburn, born of a 24-year association with the university, as preparation for the interim presidency.

He said he was pleased to receive the appointment, but had mixed emotions out of his respect for Walker, who he said had accomplished much in his

(Richardson, continued on page 2)

AU Trustee W. James Samford Jr. Dies

W. James Samford Jr., a member of the Auburn University Board of Trustees since 1987, died December 29 after a lengthy illness. He was 53.

The Opelika native was the great-grandson of Alabama Gov. William James Samford, for whom AU's historic Samford Hall is named.

In April, the Board of Trustees voted to rename Auburn's baseball park, Plainsman Park, the W. James Samford Stadium at Plainsman Park. Samford led efforts to construct the facility in 1996 and to add renovations in 2001.



Samford

Before the 2003 season, *Baseball America* named Plainsman Park the top collegiate baseball facility in the nation.

Six years after Gov. Guy Hunt appointed him to the Board of Trustees, Samford's fellow board members elected him as president pro tem—a position he held until June 2003.

Gov. Don Siegelman reappointed him to the board for a 12-year term in 1999.

Samford earned a B.A. in political science from AU in 1972, and his law degree from the University of Alabama in 1978.

From 1978-1980, he was an attorney for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., in Washington, D.C.

Gov. Fob James appointed Samford to the Alabama Public Service Commission in 1980.

Samford, who was an Air Force veteran, later served as senior legal adviser to James before going into private law practice in Montgomery.

Samford's ties to AU went beyond his great grandfather. His father, William J. Samford, was AU's general counsel for 17 years, and his first cousin, the late Thomas D. Samford III, was AU's general counsel for 29 years. His grandfather, Thomas D. Samford, was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1902-1906 and 1914-1947. ❁

Selection Committee Approves New Trustees

The Auburn Trustee Selection Committee has unanimously approved three new potential Auburn University trustees, and a fourth could go to the Alabama Senate this spring.

The Selection Committee, which met Jan. 8 at Gov. Bob Riley's call, quickly approved the trio of state Revenue Commissioner Dwight Carlisle of Alexander City, Gadsden city planner Charles Ball and Fayette school principal Sarah Newton.

The three were nominated in 2003, but did not become trustees because the state Senate never considered their names.

Approval by a majority of the Senate is required to become a trustee.

Riley said that after speaking with most of the members of the Senate Confirmation Committee, he expects no problem with Senate confirmation.

Senate President Pro Tem Lowell Barron, whom Ball would replace on the board, also says he sees no problem with approval of the three.

Other trustees who will be leaving the board are state Rep. Jack Venable, D-Tallassee, and Charles Glover of Vinemont.

The terms of Barron, Glover and Venable officially ended on

Jan. 1, 2003, but the state constitution allowed them to carry over until the end of 2003 because the Senate had confirmed no replacements.

In addition to those three seats, two more seats are now open following the death of trustee Jimmy Samford and the appointment of Ed Richardson as AU's interim president.

Sen. E. B. McClain, chairman of the Senate Confirmation Committee, said, however, the newly vacant seats will not become involved with the three others and will be handled separately.

Riley said a meeting of the Auburn Trustee Selection Committee would be called soon to consider replacements. ❁

Richardson

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tenure, and about leaving his job as state superintendent of education.

Richardson, who abstained from the vote on his appointment, indicated he would resign as state superintendent of education. Richardson will also resign his position on the Auburn Board of Trustees. An at-large vacancy on the board will be created by his resignation.

Gov. Bob Riley, who presided over the meeting and made the motion to approve Richardson's appointment, said his conversations with Richardson over the past few weeks made it increasingly clear to him that Richardson was the right person to lead Auburn and "unite the board, the faculty, the students and the alumni."

"Ed Richardson is a man of great knowledge and great character and I am convinced he is the right man to lead Auburn in this time of turmoil," Riley said.

Richardson has been state superintendent of education since October 1995. During his eight-year tenure, he led the state Board of Education's adoption of the highest high-school graduation requirements in the country and spearheaded the board's efforts to establish school financial, academic, discipline and safety standards.

Before he became state superintendent, Richardson was superintendent of schools for the Auburn City Board of Education for 13 years. He spent nine years as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the Montgomery County school system and served nine years as principal of Andalusia High School.

Richardson holds a bachelor's degree in science education, and master's and doctoral degrees in educational administration — all from Auburn University.

Forbes, Modern Physician Recognize M.B.A. Programs

Programs in AU's College of Business ended 2003 with favorable rankings in two magazine surveys.

The M.B.A. ranked 26th nationally among public universities and 53rd overall in a *Forbes* magazine survey.

The survey of the nation's top 85 business schools found that an investment in an M.B.A. degree still generates a good return, despite the nation's uncertain economy and job market.

"The bottom line for any business school is return on investment. This is the first time that we have been included in the *Forbes* survey, and we are pleased at the national recognition for Auburn University," said Dan Gropper, director of AU's M.B.A. Program. "While we are pleased that we came in 26th among public universities and 53rd in the nation overall, we are committed to strengthening our program for our students."

The *Forbes* survey measured an M.B.A. graduate's return on investment in a business school in dollars and cents.

"Our latest survey, which measures return on investment at 85 schools, concludes that B-schools paid back quite nicely for the class of 1998—a class that worked through the boom and bust since graduation," said *Forbes*.

Harvard University's M.B.A. program was No. 1 in the nation, according to *Forbes*.

Modern Physician magazine has ranked the Physicians Executive M.B.A. program in the College of Business as the 14th best in the nation.

(M.B.A., continued on page 6)

Auburn COMMONS

Editor: Kevin Loden. Contributing editors: Bob Lowry, Roy Summerford, David Granger, Mitch Emmons, Leigh Stribling, Jim Killian, Mike Clardy and Cheryl Cobb. Photography: Jeff Etheridge and W. T. Megginson, AU Photo Services. Design: Donna Seay. Director of Communications: Deedie Dowdle. Assistant Vice President, AU Office of Communications and Marketing: John Hachtel.

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Questions and suggestions should be mailed to 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Telephone 334/844-9999. E-mail: commons@auburn.edu

Mockbee Recipient of 2004 AIA Gold Medal

Samuel “Sambo” Mockbee, the late founder of Auburn University’s Rural Studio, was chosen in December as the 2004 recipient of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Gold Medal.

The Gold Medal is the highest individual award presented by the AIA and is awarded to individuals whose significant bodies of work have lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture. Among the 59 past winners are such luminaries as Thomas Jefferson, Frank Lloyd Wright and I M Pei.

Jamie Aycock, Gulf States regional director for AIA, nominated Mockbee for the award.

“Sambo and the Rural Studio he founded have transcended both the architectural profession and the academy and have found shelter in the hearts of the populace,” Aycock wrote.

“We want to expose students to their social responsibility as



GENIUS—In this 1999 photograph, Sambo Mockbee talks across the fence in front of one of the structures at the Rural Studio.

architectural citizens, along with the principles of design and construction,” Mockbee said in 1998. “Everybody wants the same thing, rich or poor—not only a warm, dry roof, but a shelter for the soul. If it doesn’t have that, it isn’t architecture.”

As a Gold Medal recipient, Mockbee’s name will be chiseled into the AIA’s granite Wall of Honor at the organization’s

Washington, D.C., headquarters. Mockbee’s widow, Jackie, will accept the Gold Medal at the 2004 American Architectural Foundation Accent on Architecture Gala on March 3 at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C.

In 1993, Mockbee and Rural Studio co-founder D. K. Ruth began taking students from AU’s College of Architecture, Design

and Construction to the Rural Studio’s base in Newbern, Ala., a town about 160 miles from campus in rural Hale County. The West Alabama county is one of the poorest in the U.S., with more than 1,400 substandard dwellings. Since then, students, in consultation with local residents, have produced architecture that challenges all convention in terms of methods, materials and forms. The students use such discarded objects as tires, scrap wood, bottles, cardboard and hay as structural materials. The buildings

they create are an enlightened fusion of traditional vernacular and innovative avant-garde that break down stylistic stereotypes.

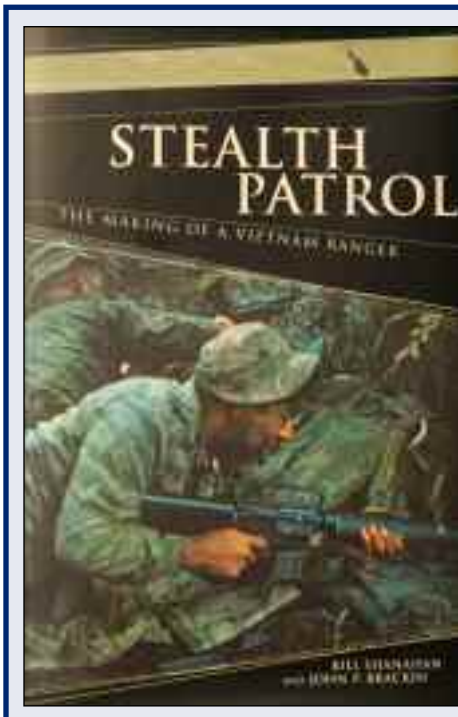
Since its inception, architectural students at the Rural Studio have built several new homes and numerous community projects including a farmer’s market, children’s center, a chapel, a bus stop and community center and an open-air pavilion.

In addition to serving as Alumni Professor of architecture at Auburn, Mockbee was a partner in the firm of Mockbee/Coker in Memphis, Tenn., and Canton, Miss. He received a bachelor’s degree in architecture from AU in 1974. He began practicing architecture in 1977. In 1989, the AIA elected him to its College of Fellows. Mockbee died of complications from leukemia in December 2001.

Mockbee was a visiting professor in the schools of architecture and design at Harvard University, the University of Virginia, Yale University and the University of California at Berkeley. He was the only person represented twice—for his work with Mockbee/Coker and for the Rural Studio—in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum/Smithsonian Institution’s first National Design Triennial exhibit titled “Design Culture Now,” held in New York City in 2000.

In 2000, Mockbee’s work with the Rural Studio earned him a “genius grant” from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. In 1998, he received the first Apgar Award for Excellence from the National Building Museum for his efforts to promote the practice of architecture

(Mockbee, continued on page 5)



A VIETNAM TALE—Freelance writer and 1994 AU graduate John P. Brackin has just published his first book, *Stealth Patrol: The Making of a Vietnam Ranger*—a 296-page Vietnam War tale he coauthored with Army veteran Bill Shanahan, who served from 1968-70 with an elite recon group known as the Lurps—later known by its more familiar name, the Rangers. According to a reader’s review at Amazon.com, the story, published by Da Capo Press, “comes to life through insightful and entertaining prose.”

Licensing Deal Launches Commercial Venture

Auburn University has signed a licensing agreement formally launching its first commercial development venture under a new technology transfer model.

Aetos Technologies Inc., an Auburn-based firm, has joined AU to commercialize and market technologies developed by a team of researchers under the direction of Vitaly Vodyanoy in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The first technology to be marketed under the agreement is an ultra high-resolution, dark-field optical microscope that enables the observation of living cells in extremely fine detail and in real time.

“We believe Dr. Vodyanoy’s microscope has the potential to revolutionize the dark-field opti-

cal microscope market, and will be the basis of a highly profitable company,” said Chuck Ludwig, Aetos Technologies president and chief executive officer.

“This new business model can significantly improve the way university technology transfer can be achieved and greatly enhance the value of its intellectual properties to the university.”

Under the agreement, AU holds minority ownership in Aetos Technologies, while accruing a major share in revenues generated. “The model provides a means whereby the university can secure a higher return on its research developments that are commercialized,” said Vice President for Research Michael Moriarty. “Auburn owns a 45-percent share in the company,

but up to 60 percent of the revenues generated will flow back to the institution.”

Development of the new technology transfer model began in the aftermath of an AU technology showcase in November 2002 in Birmingham, sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research and its Office of Technology Transfer.

“It was at this Auburn Day event that we first met Tom Lawrence, who has been instrumental in developing our new tech transfer model and in formulating this first business venture,” said Jan Dowdle Thornton, OTT director.

Lawrence, a venture capitalist and business development consultant, says the new Auburn model provides a nontraditional

approach to university technology transfer.

“Current university technology transfer has seldom been satisfactory to either the university or to commercial enterprise,” Lawrence said.

“Technologies developed through university research typically are funded by contracts and grants. Once the research is complete and the results published, the technologies rarely have opportunities for commercial exposure, and when they are licensed to commercial developers, the university typically retains rights to a much lower return than what might be possible under a different process.”

The new process does not replace traditional technology transfer, Thornton said.

“The traditional tech transfer licensing process still will be used for many of the university’s research developments,” said Thornton. “However, when a technology is suitable for this new model, such as having extremely high commercial potential, we will pursue the formation of a venture company to develop and market the technology at a higher value to the university.”

With Alabama government facing budget uncertainties in the current financial climate, Moriarty believes the new Auburn technology transfer model is a promising and needed asset for higher education.

“We are seeking ways to reduce costs and increase revenues,” Moriarty said.

“This new technology transfer venture is exciting, and may provide much needed new revenues to the university.”



ROBOTS GALORE—Teams of high school students from across the East came to Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum, in November for the South’s BEST robotics competition. The Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and College of Sciences and Mathematics sponsored the event. BEST (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology) is a non-profit volunteer organization that links educators and industry to inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science and technology through participation in a sports-like, science- and engineering-based robotics competition. For more information log on to www.southsbest.org

SACS Decision Places AU on 12-Month Probation

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, of which Auburn University is a member, placed AU on 12-month probation in December.

SACS cited five areas of concern, saying AU failed to demonstrate sufficient compliance with the agency's criteria for: institutional commitment and responsibilities in the accrediting process; clear and effective protections against minority control of the governing board; administrative oversight and financial control of intercollegiate athletics; and Board of Trustees involvement in day-to-day administration. SACS requests additional documentation to show compliance.

The probation resulted from a complaint filed in 2001. In May 2001, AU began a self-study in

preparation for AU's regular 10-year accreditation review in February 2004. The self-study committee made nearly 100 suggestions and recommendations, and, although no university is required to respond, the AU administration called for a response to all of them.

"This response demonstrates Auburn's strong commitment to the principles of accreditation, and is a good model for us to follow in responding to recommendations and suggestions we may receive from the visiting SACS team next month," said Linda Glaze, assistant provost and co-director of the self-study.

The AU administration has stated that the priority is to ensure AU's full accreditation remains intact.

The administration also emphasized that AU remains fully accredited, and has achieved an academic reputation that is the strongest in the state and ranked among the top 50 public universities in the nation (one of only five Southeastern Conference schools to achieve that recognition) by *U.S. News & World Report*. Also cited were other AU accomplishments, including continued demonstration of sound financial management during a time when other universities are facing serious economic obstacles, and the higher quality students choosing to attend Auburn. Since the accreditation self-study began, faculty have been invited to join Board of Trustees' committees and to sit as non-voting members

on the Board. Also, the president pro-tem of the Board decided to form a committee governing conflicts of interest after three new trustees are confirmed and seated.

SACS will consider the results of the probation review and its 10-year accreditation review of AU at its annual meeting next December. ☀

Mockbee

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as a social good. He has received additional awards from the Caring Institute, the Graham Foundation, *Architectural Record*, *Progressive Architecture*, the Mississippi Governor's Office, California State Polytechnic University, Texas Tech University, Mississippi State University, the Auburn University Alumni Association and the Auburn University College of Human Sciences.

Museums throughout the U.S. and Europe have featured exhibits on Mockbee and the Rural Studio, including New York's Museum of Modern Art and Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian and the National Building Museum, both in Washington, D.C., and museums in Atlanta, Chicago, San Francisco, Toronto, Paris, London, Barcelona, Vienna and Tokyo.

Since 1857, the AIA has represented the professional interests of America's architects. The AIA has 72,000 licensed architects as members who adhere to a code of ethics and professional conduct that assures the client, the public, and colleagues of an AIA-member architect's dedication to the highest standards in professional practice. ☀

Journal Ranks AU Meat, Poultry High

Meat & Poultry, the business journal of the North American meat and poultry industry, has ranked the Auburn University College of Agriculture's animal sciences and poultry science departments 10th nationally for service to the industry.

It also ranked AU's Department of Poultry Science fourth in the nation for its programs specializing in poultry processing.

"This ranking validates what we've been thinking internally—that we're moving in the right direction," said Don Conner, poultry science department head. "We are gaining recognition within the industry as a significant contributor to poultry meat safety and quality."

Meat & Poultry said the AU departments earned the top-10

ranking based on the exceptional research opportunities in poultry science at Auburn; the muscle-foods career track in animal sciences; joint specialization in the areas of food safety and sanitation, food processing, muscle biology and chemistry, product development, and plant food management; and the new poultry science building and the meat science laboratory and beef teaching unit nearing completion on the AU campus.

Lowell Frobish, chair of AU's Department of Animal Sciences, says plans are under way to add a swine research facility to the meat science laboratory, which will further improve the study of muscle foods.

In its rankings, *Meat & Poultry* noted the AU Poultry

Products Safety and Quality Program, one of Auburn University's Peaks of Excellence programs. AUPPSQP's mission is to promote the production of wholesome, high-quality poultry products in a globally competitive manner.

"The AUPPSQP makes Auburn's poultry science program one of the strongest in the country, especially when you look at the number of faculty members involved in the processing side," AUPPSQP director Patricia Curtis said. "Industry is looking for help in meeting consumer demand, and that's what the poultry products area is providing."

The rankings appeared in the November issue of *Meat & Poultry* and were based on a survey of faculty members from more than 40 universities. ☀

Two Named to Endowed Posts in Wireless Program

AU Engineering Dean Larry Benefield has announced the appointment of nationally prominent electronics researchers Vishwani and Prathima Agrawal to named professorships in Auburn's wireless engineering program.

Benefield named Prathima Agrawal, a leading researcher in Internet architecture and computer networking, as head of the wireless engineering program in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. She is also Auburn's first Samuel Ginn Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The engineering dean named Vishwani Agrawal as the first

Danaher Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering in the Ginn College of Engineering.

The couple will start their new appointments later this month. Both will teach in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Prathima Agrawal was formerly executive director of Telcordia Technologies' Mobile Networking Research Department and assistant vice president of its Network Systems Research Laboratory in New Jersey.

Vishwani Agrawal previously taught in the Electrical and



Prathima and Vishwani Agrawal



Computer Engineering Department at Rutgers University.

"Prathima will be our point person on all things wireless," said David Irwin, head of Electrical and Computer Engineering. "She has a demonstrated ability to push this technology far beyond today's boundaries."

Irwin added, "Vishwani will take the lead in our electronics testing area with a presence that I believe will bring Auburn to a dominant international role in this area."

Prathima Agrawal's recent work at Telcordia Technologies, formerly Bellcore, in Morristown, N.J., focused on mobile wireless Internet systems.

Prathima Agrawal was also head of the Networked Computing Research Department at

AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, N.J., and visiting professor in Rutgers' Wireless Networking Laboratory.

The holder of 30 U.S. patents, she earned a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering at the University of Southern California.

Vishwani Agrawal was a member of the technical staff at Agere Systems and served in a similar capacity at Bell Labs, and has also been a visiting professor at Rutgers University.

His research interests include VLSI circuits that are used in products ranging from cell phones to automobiles to home automation to literally thousands of other applications.

Vishwani Agrawal, whose Ph.D. is from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, is a member of the advisory boards of the electrical and computer engineering departments at two universities. He holds more than a dozen patents in his field. ☼

M.B.A.

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Auburn's program is only four years old, yet ranked among many prominent universities that have medical schools.

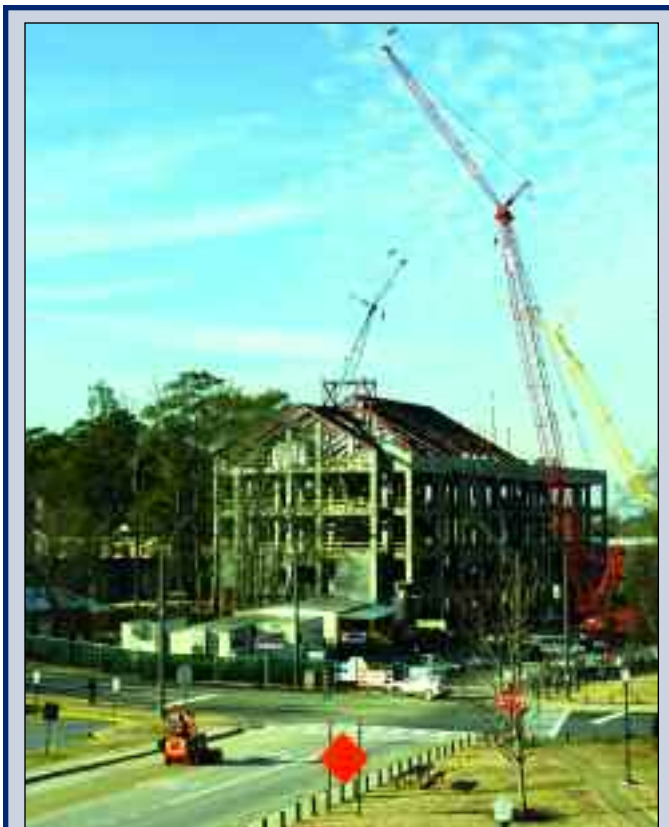
"Our overall M.B.A. strategy for advancement includes developing focused options that serve specific industry niches, and the physician program is a key part of that strategy," said Gropper.

Stanley Harris, the Everett Professor of Management who teaches in the PEMBA Program, said Auburn's program would have ranked higher had *Modern Physician* taken into account "that unlike the other schools on the list, our tuition includes books, a laptop computer, lodging and meals while the physicians are on campus, and the costs for study trips to Washington, D.C., and Europe.

"I am pleased that our young program has received this well-deserved recognition," Harris added.

Modern Physician ranked the University of North Carolina's program as No. 1. The only other Southeastern Conference-member school in the rankings was the University of Tennessee at No. 10.

Auburn's tuition is \$49,875, but it was held back in the ranking due to the relative youth of the program. ☼



ON THE RISE—Construction crews continue their work on AU's new 135,000-square-foot Science Laboratories Center on Roosevelt Drive. Two buildings are scheduled for completion in 2004 and a third in 2005.

Raptor Center Gets New Role in Education Program

Birds in AU's Southeastern Raptor Rehabilitation Center will soon have a renewed role in Auburn's educational program.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has lifted restrictions on the center's educational raptors, enabling the center to take birds to schools, wildlife conservation events and other educational activities. A disease outbreak last summer caused the center to temporarily stop the programs.

"We're thrilled to once again provide our public programs," said Timothy Boosinger, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Our staff has resumed our outreach efforts to take these magnificent animals back into local schools and other venues. The birds are used to teach the public about raptors and their ecological role in the environment."

Auburn's golden eagle, Tiger, and bald eagle, Spirit, are part of the educational collection but have been sidelined from pre-game flights due to other health concerns. Twenty-six-year-old



Tiger was grounded in 2002, and Spirit underwent surgery earlier this year to remove small rocks he had swallowed.

"They are doing well and should be able to participate in some educational programs," Boosinger said.

The center also temporarily stopped admitting and releasing raptors this summer after the illnesses. Eight birds in the educational collection died and four more were euthanized, as were eight suspect wild birds in the rehabilitation section.

Boosinger said the center's rehabilitation section is awaiting approval from the Fish and Wildlife Service to begin accepting wild birds again.

A series of postmortem diagnostic tests by the Alabama State Diagnostic Laboratory revealed that nutritional deficiencies, rather than the initially suspected organism, *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, caused the outbreak.

"Testing has shown that the affected birds died from complications associated with malnutrition due to an improper diet," said Boosinger.

"Investigation into feeding records indicates that the educational birds were switched to an

inappropriate, all-quail diet in the spring of 2002," he said, adding that the narrow-based diet lacked necessary nutrients.

Initial testing pointed to *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*, but more sensitive tests have since revealed that a known raptor mycoplasma, *Mycoplasma gypis*, cross-reacted with the test agent, leading to a false-positive result. *Mycoplasma gypis* has not been identified as a source of disease in normal, healthy raptors.

"None of the birds had *Mycoplasma gallisepticum*. It was all diet-related," Boosinger said.

The lack of essential nutrients, such as vitamin A, opened the door for a variety of illnesses that the birds' immune systems would have otherwise fought off.

He said the center has adopted new feeding protocols and reporting procedures to prevent such problems in the future. 🌻

CVM Open House Set for April 24

The AU College of Veterinary Medicine will host its 27th Annual Open House on Saturday, April 24, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., at its campus on Wire Road. Activities include college tours and scientific displays, plus a dog agility course, animal art exhibit, petting zoo, teddy bear surgery, parade of breeds of dogs and horses, and many other attractions. More than 5,000 people are expected to attend the yearly event that is coordinated by veterinary students.

Junior and senior high school students, as well as college students, can talk with on-site counselors, who can be helpful in suggesting courses for a future career in veterinary medicine. Scientific exhibits will include anatomy, ultrasound, small animal surgeries, large animal exhibits, endoscopy and other veterinary disciplines.

For information, call the College of Veterinary Medicine at 334-844-3699 or 1-800-483-8633. The college web site is <http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu>. 🌻

Chinese Honor AU Fisheries' Liu

John Liu, a professor of fisheries and allied aquacultures in AU's College of Agriculture, has received the Sichuan Province of China's 2003 Golden Summit Award for his contributions to economic development and social progress in the province.

Sichuan Governor Zhang Zhongwei presented Liu the Golden Summit, or Jinding, Award on Oct. 16 in Chengdu, Sichuan's capital city.

The Golden Summit Award is named for the Golden Summit Temple, which is more than 9,000 feet above sea level atop Sichuan's sacred Mount Emei.

The province's governor cited Liu's "enthusiastic support to economic construction and social

progress in Sichuan province and prominent contributions to international exchange and friendly cooperation between Sichuan and foreign countries."

Liu, who has been internationally cited for his research in catfish genetics, serves as an adviser and international expert for Sichuan's transgenic fish program and as an adjunct professor of molecular biology at Sichuan Agricultural University.

He has been instrumental in helping Sichuan researchers secure grants from the Chinese government and has presented numerous lectures and seminars on catfish genomics to scientists in Sichuan and to Sichuan delegations visiting AU. 🌻



SCHOLARSHIP—On Nov. 25, 2001 Johnny Micheal Spann, a 1992 Auburn graduate and CIA intelligence officer, was the first U.S. combat casualty in the war on terrorism in Afghanistan. In honor of Spann, AU established a scholarship endowment for family members of U.S. military and federal personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty. The endowment honors the life of Spann and other AU alumni who have given their lives while serving their country. In fall 2003, Auburn's Greek Life Office organized an effort that raised more than \$50,000 for the endowment.

The Spann family is escorted by U.S. Marines serving with AU's Marine Naval ROTC program. Pictured from left are Gunnery Sergeant Scott Duplechain (USMC, Assistant Marine Officer Instructor, Auburn Naval ROTC), Randy Dunavant (brother-in-law), Tammy Spann Dunavant (sister), Johnny Spann (father), Gail Spann (mother), Tonya Spann Ingram (sister), Abigail Ingram (Tonya's daughter and Mike Spann's niece), Staff Sergeant Marshall Paull (USMC and sophomore at AU), and Private First Class Charles Jordan (USMC and freshman at AU).

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E-mail: aurecords@auburn.edu.

Phone: AU Records, 334-844-1117.

Mail to: Alumni Center, AU Records, 317 S. College St., Auburn, AL 36849.

To correct or update address information:

Office of the President
107 Sanford Hall
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama 36849

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