



## City to Provide Police Service for Campus

Auburn University has agreed to contract with the city of Auburn for police services and has transferred all sworn public safety officers within AU's Department of Public Safety to the city of Auburn Department of Public Safety, university and city officials announced.

The move, which became effective July 1, will be mutually beneficial financially, result in no decrease in police services for either the university or the city and minimal job loss among AU public safety personnel.

"Over the past several years, the city has approached the university several times about making this move," said Ed Richardson, interim president of AU. "After being satisfied the university would not compromise the safety of our students and will save money, I've decided that now is the time for us to take advantage of this offer—particularly since we're in the process of looking for prudent cuts that result in long-term savings.

"Eighty-four percent of our students live off-campus and are policed by the city, anyway. At any given time, our Department of Public Safety is policing only a small portion of our student body. Basically, this agreement will allow for better coordinated, more streamlined and more effective police protection of our students whether they be on or off campus."

The move transfers 29 AU public safety officers to APS at the same or increased pay and with comparable benefits. AU will attempt to find other positions on campus for other AU public safety personnel, including clerical and other support staff.

Under the agreement, AU will pay the city of Auburn approximately \$2 million—less the value of vehicles and other equipment transferred to APS—for the first year of the services. As attrition occurs among the transferred offi-

cers, AU's costs will decrease until the university and the city re-evaluate the arrangement at a future date.

In the first year, AU officials estimate the university will save approximately

*(Police, continued on page 2)*



**POLICE ACTION**—AU and the city of Auburn are expected to benefit following a contract that transfers responsibility for campus police services to the city.

## Business Hires New Dean



Bobrowski

Paul Michael Bobrowski, associate dean of Syracuse University's Whitman School of Management, has been named dean of Auburn University's College of Business, Provost Thomas Hanley announced.

Bobrowski, who has been at Syracuse since 1990, was in charge of the Whitman School of Management's M.B.A. and M.S. programs. His previous academic experience was at the University of Oregon and Indiana University.

Bobrowski was selected for the Auburn job from a list of six finalists.

"Dr. Bobrowski has established a well-earned reputation for high academic quality and leadership in business education and the private sector," said Hanley. "We are pleased that he has accepted our offer to come to Auburn.

"Dr. Bobrowski's dual experience in the academic world and the business world will be a plus for our business faculty and students."

*(Dean, continued on page 4)*

## Message from the President

Dear Auburn Friends and Supporters,

Auburn University is changing the way it has conducted business over the past several decades. Because of the economic conditions that face public-assisted higher education, Auburn needs to re-examine its goals and mission and decide what it can realistically accomplish as an institution of higher education.



Public funding for state institutions throughout the U.S. is dwindling, with no end in sight. We cannot wait for a miracle from Congress or the legislature, because it is not coming. Yet, we must evolve creatively and strategically so the Auburn we know and love doesn't fall behind or slip into mediocrity.

In preparation for that effort, I'm in the midst of reorganizing and streamlining operations in our athletics department and our administrative areas across the campus.

Difficult decisions are inevitable as we move forward with changes to balance our budget, shape our future and hopefully lessen tomorrow's tuition burden on our students. Some of these are hard choices that touch the lives of people, but they have to be made for the success of our university.

None of this takes away from my chief task upon being appointed interim president, which was to remove Auburn from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools probationary status. I firmly believe that in December, SACS will clear Auburn from probation. Our response to SACS was comprehensive and details the steps Auburn has taken to ensure compliance with concerns expressed by SACS. It can be linked from our main Web page at [www.auburn.edu](http://www.auburn.edu).

The report includes two resolutions unanimously adopted by the Board of Trustees concerning the Board's role in governance and athletics; one states the commitment of the board and the university to the accreditation process, while the other clearly assigns responsibility for intercollegiate athletics to the president.

SACS will send a team to campus later this year to review our compliance, and will consider Auburn's request to lift probation at its annual meeting in December.

As I noted above, change can be difficult, especially for a large organization with a long and distinctive history such as Auburn. The Auburn of 30 years ago bears little resemblance to today's university, just as the challenges shaping its future bear little resemblance to yesterday's challenges. Tomorrow's Auburn must change yet again, and our best approach regarding change is to choose how we manage it. Making the adjustments beforehand will enable AU to avoid a major crisis in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Ed Richardson

### Auburn COMMONS

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

*Auburn Commons* is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing at Auburn University. Issues appear four times annually and are distributed by mail to alumni, state legislators and campus offices.

Questions, suggestions and comments should be mailed to 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, Ala. 36849. Telephone 334/844-9999. E-mail: [commons@auburn.edu](mailto:commons@auburn.edu)

## Police

(Continued from page 1)

\$400,000 with the new arrangement.

Auburn Mayor Bill Ham said the city and the university will benefit from a larger number of officers available on any one shift and from increased efficiency in handling calls and complaints from both students and the general public.

"Obviously, there is some financial benefit to the city, but there are other factors that, I believe, go beyond the bottom

line," Ham said. "If we have a bigger organization dealing with all the aspects of policing both the city and the university, then we can bring a greater police presence to bear when the situation warrants, on or off campus. That should be of comfort to students, their parents, the general public and our police officers.

"Also, this arrangement will prevent any hesitation about which matters fall under the city's jurisdiction and which fall under the university's jurisdiction." The

agreement will also eventually result in AUDPS staff moving out of the Dawson Building, which is slated for elimination with the planned construction of a parking deck at the north end of Jordan-Hare Stadium.

"I will remain vigilant with respect to the protection and safety of Auburn University students, faculty and staff," Richardson said. "Mayor Ham has assured me the city will keep the lines of communication open with me and with other appropriate adminis-

trators about public safety matters that affect our students.

"I plan to conduct an annual assessment of this new relationship and present the findings to the AU Board of Trustees." ❁

# AU a Top Producer of African-American Engineers

Auburn University is ranked 17th nationally among colleges and universities in graduating African-Americans with bachelor's degrees in engineering, according to a new survey by *Black Issues in Higher Education*.

It was the fourth consecutive year that AU appeared in the publication's top 25.

*Black Issues in Higher Education's* rankings are based on graduation data from colleges and universities provided to the U.S. Department of Education for the 2002-03 academic year. The data comes from public and private institutions and includes historically black and predominantly white institutions.

"We credit the BellSouth Minority Engineering Program in bringing our enrollment and graduation numbers to these levels," says Larry Benefield, dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. "This program has proven that a well-structured academic support network can make a real difference in the education of our students."

According to *Black Issues*, since fall 2000, AU has ranked in the top 25 for African-American graduation rates. The Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has averaged 35 baccalaureates annually over the four-year period.

"Much of the credit for these numbers is due to Dr. Dennis Weatherby, who has directed this program since its inception," said Benefield. The program provides tutoring and mentoring to underrepresented minorities entering the engineering curriculum.

Benefield also acknowledged the work of the students who comprise the core of the pro-

gram, adding, "Their desire to succeed and a strong work ethic have really made it the success it has become."

The College of Engineering's academic support programs have been successful because Auburn has focused on the issues of retention and the creation of an environment that fosters success, says Weatherby, assistant dean for minority affairs in the college.

During the 2002-03 year, Auburn produced 33 African-American engineers, ranking ahead of such programs as Ohio State University, No. 18 with 32 graduates; Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, No. 22 with 28 graduates; Purdue University, No. 32 with 23 graduates; and Stanford University, No. 36 with 22 graduates.

North Carolina A&T State University was No. 1 and Georgia Tech second in the survey, with the University of Michigan rounding out the top 10.

Among schools in the Southeast, Auburn ranked ahead of Mississippi State University at No. 25 with 27 graduates; the University of Tennessee at No. 25 with 27 graduates; the University of Alabama, ranked No. 44 with 19 graduates; and the University of South Carolina at No. 44 with 19 graduates.

"Auburn Engineering has made retention and graduation of our minority students the hallmark of our success," Weatherby said. "BMEP has taken a very proactive approach to retaining students. Instead of waiting for students to drop in whenever they feel like they need assistance in their coursework, we ask program participants to maintain a weekly tutorial schedule that consists of

several one-hour sessions between class times.

"This arrangement allows students to view their participation in BMEP as an integral part of their academic schedule."

Research suggests that providing structured academic support in this way is more effective in meeting the students' academic needs, Weatherby says. The sessions provide assistance in mathematics, chemistry and physics, and include one-on-one tutoring and collaborative learning group study that allow them to benefit from upper-level engineering students as well as from their classmates.

"The goal of the sessions is not just to complete assignments in order to prepare for exams, but to master principles that students will ultimately use in their engineering courses and on the job as engineers," Weatherby added.

Brandi Mia Tate of Ethelsville, Ala., a sophomore in electrical and computer engineering, agreed.

"I felt like I had a comfort blanket around me when I joined BMEP. . . . They bent over backwards to help me," she said. "I don't know what I would have done or where I would be right now if it wasn't for the program. Their encouragement helped me to do my best." ☀

## Conservation Tillage Award Goes to AU Agronomy Faculty



Touchton

Joe Touchton, head of the Auburn University Department of Agronomy and Soils, and Wayne Reeves, affiliate professor in the department, have won the 2004 Southern Conservation Tillage Conference Service Award.

The two received the award at the Southern Conservation Tillage Conference for Sustainable Agriculture in Raleigh, N.C., in recognition of their efforts to promote conservation tillage systems among farmers in the southeastern United States.

Conservation tillage is a planting system in which crops are grown with minimum cultivation of the soil. It significantly reduces soil erosion and improves soil quality.

As a researcher, teacher and administrator in the AU College of Agriculture, Touchton has contributed to the move toward conservation tillage. He joined the AU faculty in 1980, two years after organizing the first SCTCSA in Georgia. He has been department head since 1989.

Reeves, a graduate student under Touchton, was research agronomist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Soil Dynamics Lab in Auburn until last year, when he was named research leader at USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Center in Watkinsville, Ga. He remains an affiliate faculty member at Auburn. ☀

# AU's Work on Church Ranks among World's Best

A tiny church in rural Perry County—redesigned and rebuilt by four students from Auburn University's Rural Studio—has been named among the top 100

best designs in the world by New York-based *Metropolitan Home* magazine.

The Antioch Baptist Church in northwest Perry County is No. 73 in the magazine's rankings.

"The spirit of much-beloved architect-educator Sam Mockbee lives on in a tiny Alabama church," the magazine says in its June issue. "(Students) from the workshop Mockbee founded transformed materials salvaged from a derelict chapel into a striking house of worship wrapped in glass and metal."

Mockbee, who died in 2001, co-founded the Rural Studio, a part of AU's Department of Architecture in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction.

Andrew Freear, co-director and associate professor at the Rural Studio's Newbern Campus in west Alabama, calls the Antioch Baptist Church an "extraordinary achievement" by four of his former students.

"In terms of the extraordinary achievements of the Rural Studio, this is one of the best," he says. "The church is very sophisticated spatially, programmatically and in its details. Spiritually, it sets a beautiful context for the next 100 years of this small congregation."

It reminds you of a project completed by an architect with many grey hairs, not great youth."

Freear says a church leader approached him about the possibility of rebuilding the structure, which became a 2001-02 thesis project for "four very talented architecture students"—Jared Fulton, Marion McElroy, Gabe Michaud and Bill Nauck.

Freear said the church has a small congregation based on only four families. The old church lacked a restroom and baptismal font, and was losing membership.

The original building had foundation problems and was sagging, so a decision was made to replace it, he said. The students used all of the salvageable materials from the original church, including roof and floor joists, wall paneling, tongue-and-groove boards and corrugated metal.

"To reuse almost 75 percent of the materials from the original building sends an extraordinary message to the world," said Freear. 🌸



**IMPRESSIVE DESIGN** — The Antioch Baptist Church, redesigned and rebuilt by students in AU's Rural Studio, was named among the top designs in the world by *Metropolitan Home* magazine.

## AU's Brinker Named to U.S. Forestry Research Council



Richard Brinker, dean of Auburn University's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, has been appointed to the federal Forestry Research Advisory Council.

Ann Veneman, secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, appointed Brinker to the council.

"This council serves an important role reporting on forestry research within federal and state agencies, forestry schools and forestry industries," said Veneman. "Now that FRAC has a full complement of highly qualified members, I look forward to its first meeting this August so we can continue to tackle important issues that lie ahead."

"Our newest members represent a broad range of groups concerned with forestry research," said Joseph J. Jen, USDA Undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics. "Our strength is in our diversity of backgrounds and expertise, and I look forward to reviewing recommendations generated by FRAC."

The Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service and the Forest Service reviewed nominations for new members.

Brinker, who has been at AU since 1988, has a B.S. in forest management and a Ph.D. in forestry from LSU and an M.B.A. from the University of Southern Mississippi. 🌸

### Dean

(Continued from page 1)

Bobrowski, 54, said what drew him to Auburn was its status as the state's premier land-grant university and its national status.

"Obviously, the College of Business is extremely well known and is among the top schools in the United States. It's going to be a privilege to work in this kind of environment.

"I graduated from state universities, and have a great appreciation for state institutions and for the citizens of the state overall. With Auburn being a land-grant school, being among the elite public institutions, it is very attractive for me."

Bobrowski said he understands his No. 1 priority as dean at Auburn will be funding—both public and private.

"I believe the funding issue with the legislature at Auburn is probably not much different from any other public university," he said. "I think what's going to be the key to my success is to find new ways to connect with alumni and friends of the college and identify new friends."

For more information about the new dean, visit online at [www.ocm.auburn.edu/news\\_releases/bobrowski.html](http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/news_releases/bobrowski.html) 🌸

# Panhorst Named New Director of Smith Museum

**M**ichael W. Panhorst has been named director of Auburn University's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Panhorst, who will assume his duties at Auburn on Aug. 15, is currently director of the Chesterwood Museum in Stockbridge, Mass. Chesterwood is one of 25 historic sites of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"I feel it is an honor and a privilege to be able to join the staff of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art, the staff of Auburn University and the many dedicated volunteers and donors who have brought this museum into existence," Panhorst said. "The outstanding new building and important collections enable the museum to serve Auburn, the state, the region and the nation in new and innovative ways."

Panhorst, a native of Montgomery, returns to his home state with nearly three decades of experience as a director, curator, researcher, writer, editor, teacher and project manager at museums and universities throughout the eastern United States.

"We are very excited that we were able to attract Dr. Panhorst to accept the position at our museum," said Thomas Hanley, AU provost and vice president for academic affairs. "His experience should prove extremely beneficial in our quest to grow the Jule Collins Smith Museum into one of the finest university-affiliated museums in the country."

Previously, Panhorst was the founding director of the Marshall Fredericks Sculpture Museum at Saginaw Valley State University in University Center, Mich. His achievements there included



Panhorst

growing, appraising and establishing policy for the museum's collection, building its endowment to \$1.1 million and raising the museum's goal of \$2.5 million in a capital campaign.

Panhorst holds a bachelor's degree in art administration from the University of Alabama and master's and doctoral degrees in art history from the University of Delaware. He is



This 1890 oil painting, *Mere et Son Enfant Dans Un Village (Mother and Son in a Village)* by Pierre-Auguste Renoir (1841-1919) was part of the art collection Bill L. Harbert donated to the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University.

widely published, having authored or co-authored numerous art-related articles, essays, encyclopedia and dictionary entries, Web sites, CDs, videos and government reports.

The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art is home to Auburn University's permanent

collection of American and European art. It is the state's only university museum and an outreach arm of AU's College of Liberal Arts. The nearly 40,000-square-foot building offers all the amenities of a modern art museum to thousands of visitors every year. 🌸

## Harbert Donates Art

**B**irmingham businessman and Auburn University alumnus Bill L. Harbert has donated a "significant collection of European art" to The Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at AU.

Museum officials say the collection of 14 works includes six works by Marc Chagall, three by Pierre-Auguste Renoir, two by Salvador Dalí and one each by Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró and Henri Matisse.

The collection was featured in an exhibition entitled *French Masterworks from The Bill L. Harbert Collection*, one of the inaugural exhibitions for the museum's opening on Oct. 3, 2003.

The collection has been appraised at \$2 million.

"A gift of this magnitude truly illustrates not only Mr. Harbert's love of the arts but also his love of Auburn University," said Ed Richardson, interim president of AU. "This world-renowned collection ensures that the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will continue to be recognized as a source of pride and cultural enrichment for the Auburn community, the state of Alabama and region."

Amassing an impressive and eclectic collection has been a life-long pursuit of Harbert. Beginning with the gift of a painting from his mother 50 years ago, Harbert spent the past half-century gathering works of art from around the world.

After serving in the infantry in Europe from 1943-1946, Harbert graduated from Auburn with a degree in civil engineering in 1948. He helped to form the Harbert Construction Corporation in 1949, and eventually purchased and led Harbert International, Inc. and Bill Harbert International Construction, Inc.

Harbert has traveled to such diverse locations as Israel, Ecuador, Colombia, India, Hong Kong, Tanzania, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Panama, Trinidad, Angola, Korea, Thailand, Bahrain, the Marshall Islands and the United Arab Emirates.

Although now retired, Harbert continues to travel extensively and to build his collection.

"My collection has been in my home and in my office and nobody could see it," he said. "I donated it to Auburn so that other people could have an opportunity to enjoy it as I have." 🌸

# After Three Days, Thompson Left UA for Auburn



**V**irginia N. Thompson of Opelika initially resisted the urge to follow her two older brothers to the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa when she graduated from Jeff Davis High School in Montgomery.

After her freshman year at Auburn University, however, she decided to transfer to Alabama. It took her a mere three days to

discover she had made a mistake.

Thompson transferred back to Auburn for her sophomore year and went on to graduate Cum Laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1978.

One of the two newest members of the AU Board of Trustees, Thompson has sustained a successful 15-year career in accounting and marketing.

She is now marketing director of the East Alabama Medical Center, where she is known as a persuasive communicator with a strong commitment to education. Thompson gives tirelessly to Auburn students through internships and classroom support.

She agreed to a question-and-answer about her Auburn experiences and views on the university and the Board of Trustees.

## **Where were you born and raised?**

I grew up in Pike Road, Ala., on a dairy farm and graduated in 1975 from Jeff Davis High School in Montgomery.

## **Why did you choose Auburn?**

My two older brothers attended the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. I actually attended Alabama a total of three days. For whatever reason, Tuscaloosa did not fit me well. I came to the "Loveliest Village" and found home.

## **Why were you interested in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees?**

I believe this is a rare time in Auburn's history. A time for healing fractured constituencies, for leadership that is strong. With the finances of the state in limbo, Auburn needs persons with financial creativity. With a half-a-billion dollar budget, we need persons that understand "big business." I love Auburn. I love education. This is the greatest university in the state of Alabama and through its mission of education, research and outreach, Auburn can change the economic conditions of this state. We are educating people to make life better for others and I want to have a stronger role in moving Auburn into the future.

## **What special talents do you believe you bring to the board, and how would they be applied?**

Auburn would make best use of my financial skills in the areas of development and fund-raising. Much of my work experience has been in finance and accounting, working with trusts and estates. When you couple that knowledge with the many strong personal and business

relationships I have across the state (primarily because of my husband's work as a United Methodist minister), I bring value to the development arm of Auburn . . . I would like to be a part of [a] team, possibly involving Foundation and Development, and the Alumni Association, to creatively look for ways to draw industry, business and alums into stronger financial relationships with Auburn.

## **Getting Auburn off SACS probation is obviously the No. 1 priority of the board right now. What would you say is the No. 2 priority? What are other priorities?**

Hiring a strong, highly qualified president in the next three to four years and making sure that Auburn stays financially strong are issues that the board must address.

## **What is the most important duty of a board member?**

There is not just one duty that takes priority. Safeguarding and managing resources, helping to set the vision of the university and then taking a role in policy setting to achieve that vision, are all equally important. But the personal characteristics of a trustee are also important. A good trustee must be an active listener, always prepared for meetings, tolerant of other viewpoints, think and act strategically, be a person of high integrity that is committed to doing what is right for the university as a whole.

## **With new board members, do you see the board changing in any way (other than becoming more diverse)? If so, how?**

Absolutely, the board will change. New members bring strong personalities and new and varied experiences into each committee and board meeting.

## **Should AU strictly be a land-grant university and concentrate on those programs (engineering, agriculture, etc.) or should it continue its pursuit as a comprehensive public university?**

This university has particular strengths that are unique—and we should never forget those. We also don't need to harm successful programs and schools by stretching our scarce resources too far simply to create a more comprehensive university. But, we cannot ignore that the economy, technologies and the needs of the state are changing. Auburn must be willing and ready to adjust to this changing environment.

## **What do you hope to accomplish during your term?**

I hope to accomplish many things, but no decision that the board will make will have a greater impact on the Auburn community than who we hire as our next president. It is imperative that we search and find the strongest, most highly qualified person in the nation to lead Auburn University through the rest of this decade and beyond. In the next three to five years we will be called upon to find a person with varied gifts and talents. Our next president must be a leader of good character, a visionary and planner. The president must be a good administrator with a huge understanding of the business of education, and must have relational skills that enable him/her to work with many conflicting and varied constituencies.

# New Trustee Has Connections with Alabama Power



**C**harles D. McCrary, one of the two newest members of the AU Board of Trustees, has made a career with Alabama Power Company, joining the company following his freshman year at AU.

McCrary remained with the utility through positions of increasing responsibility with its parent company, the Southern Company, until he was named president and

CEO of Alabama Power.

After earning his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from AU, he began his drive to the top of the company. In addition to his degree from Auburn, McCrary also earned a law degree from the Birmingham School of Law.

When he's not on the job, McCrary says his hobbies include golfing, riding his motorcycle and restoring old cars and jukeboxes.

He is very active in many civic organizations in the Birmingham area, including the Metropolitan Arts Council, where he serves as Chairman Emeritus; the Birmingham Regional Chamber of Commerce, where he serves on the Board of Directors and Trustees; and Children's Hospital, where he serves on the Board of Trustees. He is also a member of the AU Foundation Board of Directors.

McCrary agreed to answer questions about his Auburn experiences and share his views on the university and the Board of Trustees.

**Where were you born and raised?**

Birmingham, Ala.

**Why did you choose Auburn ?**

My father went to Auburn. From my youth, I was an Auburn fan and wanted an engineering degree from Auburn.

**Why were you interested in becoming a member of the Board of Trustees?**

The challenge and the hope that I had a resource or skill that Auburn could use. It is an honor because my Auburn University education gave me a firm foundation in life.

**What special talents do you believe you bring to the board, and how would they be applied?**

An understanding of corporate governance, a working association with business leaders in the state and a large dose of how the legislative process impacts our citizens.

**Getting AU off SACS probation is obviously the No. 1 priority of the board right now. What would you say is the No. 2 priority?**

**What are other priorities?**

No. 2 financial security, present and future. No. 3 achieving the highest quality product possible.

**What do you think the board's relationship with the administration and the faculty should be?**

Respectful.

**What is the most important duty of a board member?**

Fiduciary responsibility.

**With new members on the board, do you see the board changing in any way (other than becoming more diverse)? If so, how?**

Difficult to say since I don't have a first-hand point of reference. I look forward to working with the board and being able to help shape its direction.

**With state support for public universities continuing to shrink, how do Auburn and other public universities survive without sacrificing quality?**

As with any business, one either increases sales (students) and/or increases price and/or decreases expenses. The formula is simple. Execution of that formula is the key to quality.

**What do you hope to accomplish during your term?**

There should be a determined focus by all parties on providing the highest quality of educational experience for our students. I firmly believe with any good organization or business, you have to focus on the people in addition to the product.

**Should AU strictly be a land-grant university and concentrate on those programs (engineering, agriculture, etc.) or should it continue its pursuit as a comprehensive public university?**

Auburn can't be all things to all people. Whatever it does it should be of the highest quality.

**Where would you like to see Auburn 10 to 20 years from now?**

No. 1 in value and quality.

**The University of Alabama's president has announced a goal of recruiting an additional 8,000 students to push UA's enrollment to some 28,000, making it the state's largest university. Auburn continues to turn away qualified students in keeping with the board-mandated cap of 25,000 students. Should Auburn continue to grow in enrollment or remain where it is?**

Auburn should maximize its assets. Being the biggest is not my goal. Being the best quality, best value, most respected, offering strong academic programs, are the goal descriptors I would use.

**What do you think is most special about Auburn?**

The culture and the character. As a graduate of Auburn I feel that these two characteristics help to make Auburn the type of university that it is.

**What special memory do you have about your time at Auburn?**

Many memories, many I'll never forget—several I hope others forget.

**Is there anything you would like to add that is not covered in these questions?**

I feel it is a great honor to serve the university that helped to give me my start. I am humbled and honored by the confirmation to serve as a trustee. I pledge to do my best to support the students, faculty, alumni, administration and citizens of Alabama.



**STORM ON THE PLAINS** —  
 Thunderstorm forecasts were more than common for the campus in July. Auburn University Photographic Services' Jeff Etheridge was on a hill near the intersection of Shug Jordan Parkway and Wire Road when he captured the scene at left. Etheridge is in the process of photographing images for the department's 2005 calendar.

### Visit Auburn Online Community

The Auburn Online Community (AOC) is a service to AU alumni and friends that allows members to log in securely and access online services such as updating address information, finding friends from Auburn University, enabling a permanent e-mail address and more. Check [www.aualum.org](http://www.aualum.org) for more information.

*Auburn University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution.*

Readers may now find electronic updates of Auburn Commons online at [www.auburn.edu/commons](http://www.auburn.edu/commons). Updates are sent by e-mail eight months a year in addition to the printed issues mailed in January, April, July and October. To ensure you receive *Auburn Commons*, please submit any changes in information (i.e. postal address, e-mail address or name change) by e-mail to [aurecords@auburn.edu](mailto:aurecords@auburn.edu), or call AU Records at 334/844-2944 or write to: Alumni Center, AU Records, 317 S. College St., Auburn, AL 36849.

*Auburn Commons Updates Now Sent by E-Mail and Available Online*

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

Auburn C O M M O N S

PRSRST STD  
 Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. Postage Paid  
 Permit No. 530  
 Montgomery, AL