



AU Begins 2005 With SACS Probation Lifted

AU administrative and faculty leaders say the lifting of probation by Auburn's accrediting agency in December offers a chance for the university to take a fresh look at the future.

"With this episode behind us, it is now time for all of us within the Auburn family to work together and to renew our efforts toward making Auburn everything it needs to be," said interim President Ed Richardson. He issued the statement after the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools ended the probation it imposed on AU one year earlier.

"I am appreciative of the efforts of all those who have worked extremely hard to allow us to achieve full compliance with the SACS standards," Richardson said.

In ending probation and reaffirming Auburn's accreditation, SACS agreed that AU had taken steps to address the association's concerns about university governance.

SACS will require the university to issue a report next September describ-

ing its progress in implementing changes adopted by the AU Board of Trustees. Those changes came in response to the accrediting agency's rec-

ommendations regarding the board's code of ethics for trustees and regular evaluation of the president.

(SACS, continued on page 6)



To commemorate the completion of the Auburn University football team's championship 13-0 season, the departments of Intercollegiate Athletics, Trademark and Licensing, and Communications and Marketing developed the above design for use on souvenir merchandise.

Reviews Find No Conflict of Interest With AU Trustees

External reviews completed in December supported earlier findings by the Board of Trustees Audit Committee that all trustees are complying with the board's code of ethics, state laws and the standards of the university's accrediting agency.

Prominent civil rights attorney Fred Gray of Tuskegee and Birmingham business executive and attorney John J.

Mahon, president pro tempore of the University of Alabama Board of Trustees, reviewed ethics reports and data on the business relationships of AU trustees at the request of interim AU President Ed Richardson, who referred to their findings during an oral presentation to the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on Dec. 3.

The presentation was part of the university's efforts to end the year-long probation, which SACS lifted on Dec. 7, when the association reaffirmed AU's accreditation.

Richardson also cited an analysis by William Weary, president of Fieldstone Consulting. Weary, a former official of the Association of Governing Boards,

(Trustees, continued on page 6)

Message from the President

Dear Auburn Friends and Supporters,

The New Year is off to a great start here at Auburn University.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools probation has been lifted. Coach Tommy Tuberville's football team capped a 13-0 Southeastern Conference championship season Jan. 2 with a Sugar Bowl win over Virginia Tech. We have new, permanent direction in our athletic department with the hiring of Jay Jacobs as athletic director. Our faculty continue to excel in both research and instruction, and our students



continue to exhibit academic excellence. In 2004, AU received more gifts and pledges than in any year in its history.

The lifting of the university's probation by SACS was the culmination of a year of difficult work toward that end by many outstanding people. I am appreciative of the efforts of all those who worked to allow us to achieve full compliance with the SACS standards. Most importantly, I am appreciative of each member of the Board of Trustees, all of whom were willing to take any and all steps I asked them to take to have this university's reputation completely restored through the removal of probation, and to Gov. Bob Riley, who has supported all of our efforts and selflessly made himself available to meet with SACS on several occasions. I also want to thank all members of the Auburn family – administration, faculty, staff and students – who keep the mission of Auburn foremost in their minds and activities.

With this episode behind us, it is now time for all of us to work together and to renew our efforts toward making Auburn everything that it needs to be – an outstanding learning environment for young minds, a leader in innovative research and an important economic engine for the state of Alabama. As interim president, I have already identified six top-priority university initiatives that I believe will move us toward a brighter future for Auburn and I look forward to working with many of you as we shepherd those initiatives toward completion.

I would also like to use this space to publicly congratulate Coach Tuberville, his staff and our football team on an outstanding season. The Bowl Championship Series notwithstanding, our Tigers are national champions. More importantly, the coaches and the team have conducted themselves in a manner that reflects well on this university and is illustrative of what we call the Auburn Spirit. Our football program is run well and by the rules. The team and the coaches are champions both on and off the field.

It is my sincere hope that the lifting of the SACS probation and our recent football success will serve as rallying points for the Auburn family. The example of selflessness we witnessed from the 2004 football team is one that we should emulate university-wide. Just like football is a team sport, growing a university to its full potential takes a team effort. Students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni and trustees all have their specific roles, but all contribute to the university as a whole. By pulling together as a university community, we can accelerate progress on things we agree on and more quickly and civilly work through our differences. When we do so, we will strengthen even more an already outstanding institution and make Auburn a champion in every respect.

War Eagle,

Ed Richardson

Museum Wins Top Publication Awards

AU's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art has, for the third year, won multiple first place awards in the Southeastern Museum Conference Publication Design Competition.

The AU museum received three first place awards and one second place award for designs by museums with operating budgets of \$500,000 to \$2 million.

Dana Ezzell Gay, an assistant professor in the Department of Art, designed the first-place winning publications: JCSM Newsletter, Gary Chapman: Paintings brochure and the JCSM AfterHours postcard series.

The JCSM Opening Invitation and Materials Packet, designed by Shannon Bryant-Hankes, received second place. 🌸

AU Needs FANS Support

If you are willing to show prospective students what Auburn University means to you, you can help AU by serving as a volunteer in the Auburn Alumni Volunteer Network. For more info, go to www.aualum.org/alumni/fans.html 🌸

Auburn COMMONS

Editor: Kevin Loden. Contributing editors: Roy Summerford, David Granger, Katie Wilder, Diane Clifton, Jamie Creamer, Mitch Emmons, Jim Killian, Karen Nesbitt, and Charles Martin. 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

AU Professor's Quest Leads to Advanced Technology

A major breakthrough in microscope technology by an Auburn researcher was unveiled to a national scientific audience in December.

A microscope using technology invented by Vitaly Vodyanoy of the College of Veterinary Medicine provides far higher resolution and has other significant advantages over current top-of-the-line research microscopes. The new technology enables medical and other researchers to observe living cells in extremely fine detail and without delays or extra steps for processing which are typical of current high-technology microscopes.

"The new technique extends light microscopy, offering a unique view of live cells and cell processes while they are occurring," Vodyanoy said.

Aetos Technologies Inc., which licensed the technology from Auburn University, announced the national market entry of Vodyanoy's microscope technology at the American Society for Cell Biology Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C.

The patented technology is based on a model Vodyanoy developed nearly 10 years ago to support his research on other projects. The veterinary researcher said he designed and built the first model because no other microscope could meet his needs.

The microscope accessory will be the first market offering by Aetos, a company created in October 2003 to introduce the inventions of AU and other researchers to commercial markets. "This is our Phase 1 microscope product," said Aetos President and Chief Executive

Officer Charles Ludwig.

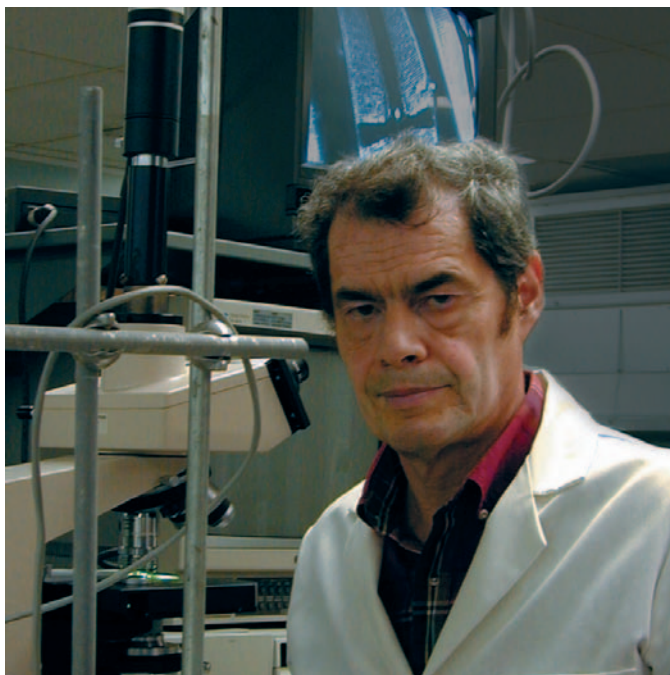
Trademarked as the CytoViva 150, the microscope accessory is adaptable to most major research and clinical microscopes current-

ly on the market and will sell for about \$15,000 per unit, Ludwig said. The price is a fraction of the cost of comparable but lower-resolution technologies, added

Barbara Foster, a nationally recognized microscopy expert and marketing consultant working with Aetos.

The journey from laboratory bench to a marketable product was achieved in about 10 months. "We took Dr. Vodyanoy's proven technology and developed it into a high-end, extremely versatile and cost effective package," said Aetos CEO Sam Lawrence.

AU Vice President for Research Michael Moriarty noted that Auburn owns a 45 percent share in Aetos, but up to 60 percent of the company's net income will flow back to the university. A portion of revenue from marketing the discovery will support additional studies in veterinary and human medicine by a research team that includes Vodyanoy and 15 colleagues in the College of Veterinary Medicine. 🌻



Vodyanoy in his lab

AAA To Host Lifetime Achievement Awards March 5

The Auburn Alumni Association will be hosting the 4th annual Lifetime Achievement Awards Ceremony and Banquet on Saturday, March 5, 2005, at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the Association's highest honor, established to recognize extraordinary achievement by members of the Auburn family. This year's recipients are Leah Rawls Atkins '58, founding director of the AU Center for Arts and Humanities at Pebble Hill; M. Miller Gorrie '57, CEO of Brasfield & Gorrie Construction firm; Don Logan '66, chairman of AOL Time

Warner's Media and Communications Group; and the late John M. Harbert III '46, who built a one-man construction company into a diversified corporation. For more information go to www.aualum.org/about/lifetime.html or contact Liz Peel @334-844-1146.

Recognition Reception Scheduled for March

The Auburn Alumni Association will host its annual Alumni Scholars, Professors, and Awards Recognition Reception on Friday, March 4, 2005. Thirty-two Auburn Alumni Association Endowed Scholars will be recognized along with 26 Alumni

Professors and the Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence and Minority Achievement Award recipients.

Leadership Conference Slated for February

The Auburn Club Program will hold its Club Leadership Conference, Feb. 11-12, 2005, at the Alumni Center. The Club Program consists of 109 clubs from across the U.S.; each club can send up to four officers to the Conference. It is a two-day conference filled with informative sessions. For more information, go to www.aualum.org/clubs/ or contact Molly McNulty at 334-844-1145. 🌻

AU Study: Family Ties Missing Link For Homeless

In a study of homeless people, Carole Barber Zugazaga of AU's College of Liberal Arts has found distinct differences and a hidden common stress factor among different categories of the homeless.

While, as expected, all the homeless were dealing with major financial stresses, Zugazaga found that a second common factor in the lives of most of the homeless people in her study was the absence of a family safety net.

Zugazaga, an assistant professor of social work, noted that the circumstances many people associate with homelessness — economic disasters, drug or alcohol abuse and sexual or physical abuse — are not unique to the homeless. But an absence of strong family ties can be a tipping point for people with any of those problems.

“Many homeless people have experienced severe mental trauma, but so have many other people in the general population,” the AU faculty member said. “The difference is that most people have family support and the homeless either do not have that kind of support or are unwilling or afraid to seek it.”

The results of her study of homelessness, which was an outgrowth of Zugazaga's dissertation in public affairs at the University of Central Florida in 2002, were recently published in the *Journal of Community Psychology*.

The national non-profit organization Partners for the Homeless states that as many as 3 million people in America are homeless for short periods each year, and 10 percent to 20 percent of those are homeless for extended periods.

Zugazaga said she quickly learned that stereotypes, such as laziness, did not apply. Many of the homeless worked at least

part-time, and some worked full-time but were unable to pay for housing or had been swamped by financial emergencies. She said

the experience prompted her to want to learn more about the homeless and look for ways to improve their plight. ☀



The main building of the Sciences Laboratory Center is in the final stage of construction and is scheduled for completion early next year. The \$39 million complex will be the site of most lab courses in AU's core curriculum and will provide modern facilities for advanced research in the College of Sciences and Mathematics and related fields in other colleges at Auburn.

NIH Awards AU \$3 Million For Cardiac Study

An Auburn professor has been awarded \$3 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health for research related to heart failure in humans.

Joseph Janicki, associate dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, recently received \$1.5 million to investigate cardiac mast cells in heart enlargement after a heart attack and \$1.5 million to study the relationships among sexual hormones, cardiac mast cells and cardio-protection.

“After a person has a heart attack, the heart will get larger as it attempts to compensate for lost muscle,” Janicki said. “This initially allows the heart to keep pumping a normal amount of

blood, but this progressive enlargement eventually makes the problem worse. We are looking at how mast cells influence this remodeling.”

Researchers use rats as models as they study mast cells, which are complex cells containing many substances that can activate collagen-destroying enzymes. Mast cells are also responsible for histamine-induced allergic reactions.

“We hope our advances will benefit both animals and humans,” Janicki said. “Heart disease is the number one killer of people and is also deadly to many pets, particularly elderly cats and dogs.”

Janicki's research team is also investigating how cardiac mast cells differ between males and females. “Women before age 60 or so do not develop heart failure like men do,” he said.

“The likelihood of heart failure among females increases after menopause to almost equal with males. We are looking at how estrogen hormones might be creating a difference in male and female cardiac mast cells,” Janicki added.

The AU veterinary college is collaborating with the University of South Carolina School of Medicine in its studies of cardiac mast cells. ☀

AU On Commission To Revive Black Belt Economy

Six AU administrators and faculty members have been appointed to Gov. Bob Riley's Commission for Action in the Black Belt.

Members of the commission from AU are David Wilson, vice president for University Outreach; Joe Summers, director of the Economic Development Institute;

Overtoun Jenda, associate dean and professor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics; Cindy Reed, director of the Truman Pierce Institute in the College of Education; Robin Pattillo, associate professor in the School of Nursing; and Francesca Adler-Baeder, assistant professor in the Department of Human

Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Sciences.

Kay Ivey, Alabama state treasurer, co-chairs the commission with state Sen. Hank Sanders of Selma.

The six from Auburn are among more than 100 Alabamians serving as commissioners, on subcommittees or as

technical advisers. The subcommittees include agriculture, communications, community development, culture and youth, education, families, health, infrastructure, marketing and tourism, small business, skills training and labor force, transit and transport and legislation.

Jenda and Reed will serve as commissioners on the education committee. Wilson will serve on the education subcommittee. Pattillo has been appointed to the health committee and wellness and prevention subcommittee.

Summers will serve as a technical adviser to the skills training and labor force and the community development subcommittees. Adler-Baeder will serve as technical adviser to the subcommittee on families.

For additional information on the Black Belt Commission, see the Web site www.blackbeltaction.org.

Visit AU Alumni's Online Community And Join The AAA

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 for more information.

Members have been vital to the Auburn Alumni Association throughout its 108-year past. To learn about all the benefits of being a member, visit www.alumni.auburn.edu/



Dr. Jamie Bellah, director of Auburn University's Southeastern Raptor Center, presented Gov. Bob Riley the center's first commemorative shadow box at the capitol. The display has a portrait of golden eagle Tiger and the lure used during her homecoming flight before the October 9 game against Louisiana Tech University. Joining the presentation was Nadira, a Sakar falcon, being held by education specialist and trainer Marianne Worley. AU's raptor center will auction similar displays with lures and other falconry gear during Auburn Alumni Club meetings next year to support the center's mission of rehabilitation, conservation and education.

AU Faculty Member Receives National Honor

Francesca Adler-Baeder, an assistant professor in AU's College of Human Sciences, has received the Family Life Early Career Achievement Award for 2004 from the National Council on Family Relations.

The National Council on Family Relations presents the

award annually to recognize significant achievement in the fields of child development and family life.

The 2004 award recognizes the AU faculty member for developing an educational program that helps children and adults learn how to develop positive

roles and relationships in stepfamilies.

Taught widely across the United States, "Smart Steps for Stepfamilies," is a 12-hour course that teaches remarried parents and their children how to build successful stepfamily relationships.

(Continued from page 1)

“We fully intend to provide SACS with every report they request,” said Richardson.

Gov. Bob Riley joined Richardson in presenting Auburn’s case to SACS during the past year and again at the association’s annual meeting. Riley was instrumental in the selection of new members to the AU Board and the appointment of Richardson as interim president in January, and Richardson helped the board develop a code of ethics, new bylaws and changes in operating procedures to comply with SACS recommendations. “The lifting of probation is an acknowledgement that there has been real change at Auburn University,” Riley said following the SACS announcement.

“Clearing this university’s name with regard to its accreditation status has been my top priority since assuming the interim presidency at Auburn,” said Richardson. “I have been confi-

dent all along that we would hear the news we’ve heard today (Tuesday), and I hope we can now move Auburn toward better days.”

Richardson added, “I am convinced that if all Auburn people put aside whatever differences may have existed in the past and concentrate on working together for the common good, this university’s future is filled with promise.”

Alluding to the pending search for a permanent president, Richardson said, “I am further convinced that, by working together, we can make Auburn more attractive to the top-quality president this university deserves.”

Willie D. Larkin, chair of the University Faculty, described the SACS probation as a “wake-up call” for the university. “We certainly don’t want to repeat this or place our university at risk — ever again. Auburn has a bright future, but leadership must be the key.”

Larkin said he hopes adminis-

trative and faculty leaders will seize the opportunity to establish stronger working relationships with each other. “The faculty have always known that the year-long probation was never about the academic side of the house,” he said. “However, regardless of who was at fault, we now have a great opportunity to mend fences and move the university in a positive direction.”

A key to success, Larkin said, will be the ability of everyone involved to put aside hurt feelings from the past and commit to working together for the future of Auburn.

He added, “It should be noted that when the faculty question decisions made by the administration and the Board of Trustees, we are not being disloyal to Auburn. On the contrary, it only means we are practicing due diligence in the process of shared governance.”

John Mouton, faculty adviser to the Board of Trustees, said Auburn has made significant advances in governance since the Joint Assessment Committee filed a letter of complaint with SACS in 2001. “Those advances can have a profound impact on our collective future,” he said, “provided that the administration, the board and the faculty collaborate, with discourse as needed, for the overall and long-term benefit of the university.”

Mouton said university activities and discussions over the coming year will have a major impact on Auburn for many years beyond. “The messages emerging from our community in the near-term will impact the consideration of potential candidates for our presidency, the recruiting and selection of which is as important to our future as the lifting of the probation,” he added. 🌸

Trustees

(Continued from page 1)

reviewed the study by Gray and Mahon and agreed with their findings.

The independent reviews came in response to a recommendation in November from a SACS committee that reviewed AU’s efforts to comply with the association’s recommendations on university governance. In its final report, the SACS committee had questioned whether some business relationships of trustees were in compliance with the board’s code of ethics. While

Richardson arranged for the additional reviews from outside sources, the board’s audit committee re-examined trustees’ ethics filings and confirmed its earlier finding that all relationships complied with the code of ethics.

The results of the latest reviews, along with other SACS-related materials, are at www.auburn.edu/administration/specialreports/sacsdocuments.html. 🌸



A mild November provided ideal conditions for late season flowers and butterflies. Those conditions led to scenes such as this image captured by Tibor Barcza, a research assistant at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Forsythe Voted President Of Retailing Association

Sandra Forsythe of AU's College of Human Sciences has been elected president of the American Collegiate Retailing Association.

Forsythe, Wrangler Professor in the Department of Consumer Affairs, previously served as vice president, secretary, development chair and newsletter editor of the association, which represents educators with special expertise in collegiate retailing.

A member of the Auburn faculty since 1991, Forsythe has conducted extensive teaching and research in consumer behavior and her work has been published in *Journal of Retailing*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Applied Psychology* and other professional and academic publications. She is also a former editor of the *Clothing and Textiles Research Journal*. 🌸



Alabama Farmers Federation President Jerry Newby, left, presents the federations 2004 Service to Agriculture Award to John Jensen Dec. 6 during the organization's 83rd annual meeting in Mobile. The award is the highest honor given by the state's largest farm organization. Jensen, former interim dean of AU's College of Agriculture and director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, currently serves as special assistant for agriculture to Auburn interim President Ed Richardson. Prior to his service as interim dean/director, Jensen was head of the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures at Auburn and is known internationally for his work with aquaculture.

Burque Wins State Educator Award

Angie Colvin Burque, an assistant clinical professor of social work at AU, has been named Alabama Educator of the Year for 2004 by the Alabama/Mississippi Social Work

Education Conference.

Burque, an AU faculty member for 12 years, is field coordinator for the undergraduate social work program in AU's College of Liberal Arts. 🌸

Auburn Research Discovery Could Save Many Lives

Filters made from microfibrous materials developed by an Auburn researcher could help save thousands of lives by removing carbon monoxide from fires at a rate 10 times more efficient than filters currently on the market.

Bruce Tatarchuk, an AU professor of chemical engineering, and his research team developed the ultra-small fibrous material to block carbon monoxide from fuel cells. The team quickly realized, however, that because the material — called MiniOx (or “miniaturized carbon monoxide oxidation technology”) — is more efficient, thinner and longer lasting than other materials used for filters, it could have applications beyond fuel cells.

“We have also been researching materials to filter out biological and chemical contaminants, so we had that pretext,” Tatarchuk said. “At the same time, we know the fuel cell is very sensitive to poisons, more sensitive in fact, than human lungs. So, when we saw that this catalyst was doing so well for carbon monoxide with the fuel cells, we knew there was potential for the broader, human application.”

Carbon monoxide kills thousands of people each year as a result of poor ventilation or fire in homes, factories, public buildings, high-rise office buildings, aircraft and vehicles.

Tatarchuk said tests conducted under the authority of

IntraMicron Inc., which licensed the technology from AU, suggest that MiniOx filters easily exceed standards for carbon monoxide-removal efficiency for fire-escape products set by U.S. and international agencies.

At 4 millimeters thick, the MiniOx filters are one-tenth the size of current models, and they can last for hours instead of the 15-minute life of filters now in use. In addition, the new filters are not affected by humidity.

With its reduced bulk and substantial resistance to humidity, the MiniOx filter is much easier to breathe through, Tatarchuk said, adding that he foresees MiniOx being incorporated into light, folding masks that can be

widely used. Also, he said, a MiniOx disk could be added to gas masks worn by military, first-responders and others whose masks currently include filters for hydrocarbons, acid gases and other contaminants, but not carbon monoxide.

“If people in high-rises or in homes had access to these light, folding masks, we could potentially prevent a lot of the deaths that currently result from fires,” he said, noting that smoke inhalation is the leading cause of death in building fires.

Tatarchuk said the material could also be used in air-circulation units to remove carbon monoxide from aircraft cabins and homes. 🌸



Caroline Draughton

Former First Lady of Auburn University Caroline Draughton Dies At Age 94

Caroline Marshall Draughton, widow of former AU President Ralph Brown Draughton, died Jan. 7. She was 94.

As AU's first lady during her husband's presidency, which ran from 1947 through 1965, Mrs. Draughton developed a reputation as a jovial and gracious hostess who had a special rapport with Auburn students. Perhaps her greatest affinity was for married students and, through AU's Dames Club, she created her own special 'degree' for wives of students called the P.H.T., or Pushing Hubby Through, degree. Her special relationship to married students resulted in a married-student housing complex being named the Caroline Draughton Village. Later, student dorms built in 1980 were also named the Caroline Draughton Village Extension.

After her husband's death in 1968, Mrs. Draughton stayed in Auburn and remained active in the Episcopal Church, Girl Scouts and the Red Cross.

Mrs. Draughton was a graduate of Huntingdon College in Montgomery where she earned membership into Mortar Board honorary. Huntingdon honored her in 1963 as its Alumna of the Year.



Auburn University is an equal opportunity employer/educational institution.

Readers may now find electronic updates of Auburn Commons online at 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, 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 Commons

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