Gogue To Become Auburn’s 18th President

Jay Gogue, who has headed universities in New Mexico and Texas, came to Auburn in March for a whirlwind tour of get-acquainted meetings with university and community leaders and a packed ballroom of faculty, staff and students at the Hotel at Auburn University.

The next day, as Gogue and his wife Susie were on an airplane headed back to Texas, the AU Board of Trustees selected the University of Houston president and UH System chancellor as Auburn’s 18th president.

The Presidential Search Committee had unanimously recommended Gogue (rhymes with “rouge”), and the AU Board voted unanimously for the selection.

“The Auburn family found the same exceptional qualities in Dr. Gogue that we discovered during an exhaustive and comprehensive search for Auburn’s next leader,” said Charles McCrary, chairman of the presidential search committee and a member of the Board of Trustees. “He is a visionary leader who is committed to academic excellence. We welcome him back to campus as Auburn’s new president.”

The new president is scheduled to start at AU on July 16. President Ed Richardson, who had planned to retire at the end of June, agreed to remain through July 15.

“We cannot thank Dr. Richardson enough for his straightforward and steady leadership,” said Earlon McWhorter, president pro tem of the AU Board. “He focused resources on academic progress, strengthened recruitment of Alabama’s brightest students, reinvigorated Auburn’s research mission and set the stage for the new president to continue moving Auburn forward.”

The board authorized McWhorter to negotiate a starting salary with Gogue, subject to board approval.

Gogue was the only finalist who allowed his name to become public in a presidential search that began two years ago, but search consultant John Kuhnle of the Korn Ferry executive search firm said the fit between Gogue and AU was the best he has encountered in more than 100 executive searches.

A native of Waycross, Ga., Gogue and his wife, the former Susan McGoogan, are both 1969 graduates of AU and both earned mas-

Future First Couple
Susie and Jay Gogue met with university and community leaders in March shortly after arriving on campus. By the next afternoon, they were on their way back to Texas as the next First Family of Auburn University.

A new look
Auburn began this decade with plans to return to traditional building styles and make the campus more pedestrian friendly. Evidence of the changes is visible in this view, which looks north past the Thach pedestrian way to a Pharmacy Building addition in front of the school’s 1970s-era north wing and shows buses rather than cars on the street.

(Gogue, continued on page 4)
Message from the President

Dear Auburn Alumni and Supporters,

The search for Auburn University’s 18th president has concluded, and I believe the search committee and the Board of Trustees have found and hired the right person at the right time in the history of this institution. His proven record of leadership, his familiarity with the role of a land-grant institution and his long-time connection to AU make him an outstanding choice. As a former president at New Mexico State and current president of the University of Houston, he understands the key issues Auburn will face in the coming years, and I have every confidence that Dr. Gogue will lead Auburn to even greater levels of academic and economic success.

Even now, AU alumni and friends have many reasons to look to the future with great optimism and confidence.

In its 2007 rankings, U.S. News & World Report ranked Auburn the 39th best among public universities. This is the 14th consecutive year that Auburn has ranked in the top 50. In other surveys, our Architecture and Industrial Design programs both ranked in the top six degree programs nationally in DesignIntelligence’s “America’s Best Architecture and Design Schools 2007.” The Department of Fisheries was named the top fisheries graduate program in the country in 2006 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Physicians’ Executive M.B.A. program was ranked fourth among top M.B.A. programs for physician executives in 2006 by Modern Physician.

And that’s just four areas of academic excellence. For a complete list of AU’s academic rankings since 2002, I encourage you to visit www.ocm.auburn.edu/rankings.html.

Auburn’s objective is not to be the biggest school in Alabama, but to be the best school. In the fall semester 2006, Auburn set a record for overall enrollment (23,547) and a near-record for new freshman enrollment (4,092). And our new students are not just numerous, but also very bright. The entering freshman class for the current academic year averaged an ACT score of 24.3 and a high school grade-point average of 3.56. Forty percent of our students are from outside Alabama, and these students are willing to pay three times state tuition rates to attend Auburn. Auburn University has and continues to enjoy a strong demand for enrollment. Applications are up approximately 40 percent over the past three years.

In December 2006, I appointed Larry Fillmer to the newly created post of executive director for the Institute of Natural Resources, which includes the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts and the Alabama Water Resources Center. The AU Board of Trustees approved $3 million from the university’s general budget to fund the Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts, which will coordinate and promote specific agriculture and natural resource-based programs from across campus to benefit the state. The AU Water Resources Center has the mission to improve the management and use of water in the state and the Southeast by addressing problems caused by saltwater intrusion, contamination, weather, lower water tables and inadequate distribution systems. More than any other issue, I believe the quality and quantity of water will become critical for the nation in the near future.

I am pleased to bring you up-to-date regarding the efforts of the Office of Development. Private giving to the university broke a record during the 2005-06 fiscal year by reaching $105.3 million, which topped the previous year’s record of $101.2 million, representing an outstanding achievement for the “It Begins at Auburn” campaign. To date, the campaign has generated more than $466.9 million, or 93 percent of the campaign goal, and is the highest level of campaign giving in Alabama history.

As we undergo a change in leadership in July, the university is well positioned to engage and fulfill a strategic vision for the 21st century.

War Eagle!

Ed Richardson
Message from the Provost

It is an invigorating and promising time for the academic community at Auburn University. The university’s reputation and integrity have been greatly strengthened under the leadership of President Ed Richardson. We thank him for that leadership and for his dedication to academic quality. And we look forward to continued emphasis on academic excellence under President-designate Jay Gogue.

Students and faculty are central to academic excellence, and during the 2007 academic year Auburn has taken steps to enhance the quality of both. The upcoming fall class of 2007, strengthened by the Spirit of Auburn scholarships, will set new records for academic quality as measured by ACT and SAT scores as well as high school grade-point averages.

Additionally, this year, we have sought to strengthen the foundation for faculty excellence through measures including renewed emphasis on annual faculty evaluations, academic program review and post-tenure review. Post-tenure review and academic program review were piloted in 2006-07, and we expect to continue them because of their value in recognizing and supporting quality in our academic programs and faculty.

By continuing to increase the quality of Auburn’s students and faculty we help to assure Auburn’s ascendancy in public higher education. I have every expectation that the year to come will be highly reaffirming of the Auburn Spirit.

War Eagle!

John Heilman

Farmers Federation, Alfa Give $1 Million for Agriculture Research

The Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center in Belle Mina, one of 12 active research facilities operated throughout the state by the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, will be getting a much-needed facelift thanks to a financial pledge from the Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance.

Jerry Newby, president of the Federation and Alfa, has announced that his organization has committed $1 million, to be paid over a five-year term, toward a $1.8 million facility upgrade at TVREC.

“The Alabama Farmers Federation and Alfa Insurance are glad to support farming by renovating and upgrading the Tennessee Valley Research and Extension Center in Belle Mina,” Newby said. The contribution is part of Auburn University’s “It Begins at Auburn” Campaign and will count toward the College of Agriculture’s $27.7 million goal in the $500 million overall campaign.

“When the College of Agriculture approached us about making a contribution to its campaign, we looked for a project that would benefit Alabama farmers both now and in the future,” Newby said. “Improving the facilities at the Tennessee Valley center will meet this goal by providing researchers and Extension personnel the tools they need to serve rural Alabama.

“The TVREC is involved in research that benefits farmers, not just in the Tennessee Valley, but also throughout the state,” he said. “In addition to being our state’s premier cotton research facility, it is home to projects that focus on livestock, horticulture, grain crops and much more.”

Newby added, “In years to come, research being done there on irrigation, pest management and cropping practices should improve the profitability of agriculture.”

The remaining $800,000 needed for completion will be sought through state and federal funding sources. The total $1.8 million renovation will include laboratories, offices, a new auditorium and a 150-seat meeting room.
AU’s Next President Wins Rave Reviews in Visit

Even before the Board of Trustees voted to offer the AU presidency to Jay Gogue, the 1969 Auburn graduate made it clear he would love to return to his alma mater as its leader. And many in the university community told him they would love to have him in that role.

“There are very few positions that would entice me away from the University of Houston and the UH System,” he said. “However, the opportunity to lead my alma mater to its next level of excellence is indeed a once-in-a-lifetime possibility.”

Gogue, who had been at Houston since 2003, said he had planned to stay there much longer. However, members of the AU Search Advisory Committee convinced him to allow his name to be considered for the Auburn presidency. After he did so, Gogue quickly became one of the front-runners from among more than 60 candidates who met the search advisory committee’s criteria as a proven, nationally respected leader.

In the end, the University of Houston president was the only finalist willing to compete for the AU presidency by coming to campus without the guarantee of a job offer.

Cindy Brunner, one of two faculty representatives on the search advisory committee, said her first impression of Gogue was that he seemed to be exactly what Auburn was looking for in a president. “He set the standard,” she added.

The other faculty representative, Conner Bailey, said he wanted more finalists to come to campus to show the AU community what an outstanding list of candidates the search was attracting. Like Gogue, the other finalists held top-level executive positions, but unlike the UH president, they were unwilling to risk those positions by revealing their names without a guarantee from Auburn, Bailey said.

Among those joining AU Trustee Charles McCrary, the committee chair, in calling all the finalists “stellar,” Bailey noted that Gogue was number one or two on the list of every search committee member.

McCrary said Gogue stood out in an outstanding field of candidates. “This is the guy who I think is just head and shoulders above everybody,” he stressed.

Earlon McWhorter, a search advisory committee member and president pro tem of the Board of Trustees, said Gogue had been his favorite since their first meeting. After meeting with Gogue again and then watching the candidate and his wife, Susie, draw enthusiastic audiences on campus, McWhorter said, “I am even more certain that they are a perfect fit for this university.”

Under the Alabama Constitution, Gov. Bob Riley is president of the AU Board of Trustees, but by tradition the governor rarely attends meetings of the board. Riley, saying he wanted to be part of the special occasion, attended and joined the board in unanimously voting to offer the AU presidency to Gogue.

Having met Gogue earlier in the day, Riley said he was extremely impressed. “This gentleman supercedes our best expectations,” Riley said. “This is a great day for Auburn.”

In meetings with Auburn constituents, Gogue said he does not approach the presidency with set goals. Instead, he said, he wants to “hit the ground listening” to people throughout the university community, then use that input in developing a course of action.

Responding to questions about the role of land-grant universities in American higher education, Gogue noted that from their origins in 1862, land-grant institutions had made education attainable to the children of the working classes while laying the groundwork for economic development in their states and the nation. The challenge, he said, is to continue the progress into the 21st century.

Winning support
In a packed ballroom at the Hotel at Auburn University, Jay Gogue quickly won over an Auburn audience. As Gogue answered questions about his approach to university governance and his personal history in higher education, the students, faculty, staff and alumni responded enthusiastically. The Board of Trustees expressed similar sentiments, voting to name Gogue as Auburn’s next president.

Gogue
(continued from page 1)

Jay Gogue earned a Ph.D. in horticulture from Michigan State University and had extensive experience as a faculty member, senior administrator and president at other land-grant universities. He taught and was vice president for research at Clemson and served as provost at Utah State under George Emert, a former executive vice president at Auburn.

Gogue served as president of New Mexico State University, another land-grant institution, from 2000-03, and has been president of the University of Houston and chancellor of the 56,000-student UH System since 2003.

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Portal Art Adding Visual Identity to Colleges, Schools

In the 151 years since AU’s founding, its colleges and schools have carved out unique memories for their students and alumni.

University officials are seeking to reflect upon that history by placing sculpted panels on pedestrian walkway entry portals, with each scene depicting the history and mission of the nearest AU school or college.

“This is a form of public art that captures the many facets of Auburn,” said Catherine Love of AU’s Office of Campus Planning and Space Management. “The portals will also have terra cotta rosettes copied from those on Samford Hall.”

The entry portals will have two 10-foot-high columns, with each column having four 18-by-24-inch panels, one on each side, showing various aspects of a college and its related professions. As matching columns, they will have the same four panels, but on different sides.

The first two sets of panels, representing the Harrison School of Pharmacy and the College of Sciences and Mathematics, were added in February to columns at the west end of Thach pedestrian corridor and at the east end of Roosevelt pedestrian corridor, respectively.

Pharmacy’s images include a mortar and pestle, patient and pharmacist, opium poppy, and serpent and chalice, the traditional symbol of the practice of pharmacy. Depicting the College of Sciences and Mathematics are an astronomer, microbiologist with a microscope, mathematician and chemist.

“We are planning to expand this program to include all 13 colleges and schools, as more portals and pedestrian facilities are constructed,” Love said. “It is a step toward our goal of improving the beauty and interest of our outdoor spaces.”

Associate Professor Gary Wagoner of the Department of Art in AU’s College of Liberal Arts and his former student, Joanna Campbell Blake, who worked with sculptor Raymond Kaskey on the World War II Monument in Washington, D.C., are designing and sculpting the panels.

“The deans give us photos or a list of themes they feel best portray their schools,” said Wagoner. “Joanna and I work collaboratively on the designs, which are drawn to scale, transferred to an oil-based clay and then sculpted in relief.”

Blake, a 1999 Auburn graduate, sculpts in her Washington studio and sends molds of the elements sculpted to Auburn, where Wagoner creates and fires the finished terra cotta panels in the studio. The molds are being saved for possible future reproductions as well.

“To have such artistic talent as that of Gary and Joanna right here at Auburn University makes this project all the more special,” Love said.

Show Your Support for Auburn University With the Spirit of Auburn Credit Card

Auburn graduates, not only in Alabama and the Southeast, but from throughout the world make extraordinary strides in improving the lives of others through their efforts at work, in the community and by their service as volunteers. Wouldn’t it be a waste if young talented, deserving students weren’t ever given this opportunity to live the Auburn experience, to go out into the world and make a difference, to be ambassadors of the Auburn spirit and to be living examples of the Auburn Creed?

Alumni and friends of Auburn can help shape the future of academically gifted student leaders who deserve the chance to make their mark in the world. Share your Auburn spirit by participating a program that funds scholarships awarded to these worthy scholars.

The Spirit of Auburn credit card is available to alumni, students and friends of the university. AU’s partner, Bank of America, gives the university a percentage of the amount of consumer purchases made on the Spirit of Auburn card, which funds the new Spirit of Auburn Scholarship Program. The credit card program will fund 500 new scholarships for fall 2007 incoming freshmen. Cardholders can do their part by using the card for normal, everyday charges at the gas pump, the grocery store or anywhere. Each use of the card helps provide an Auburn educational experience to students who have worked hard to earn the opportunity. And cardholders will be rewarded too when they redeem all the points earned for cash back or travel. To apply for the card, call 1-866-438-6262 and mention priority code FAA3DD.

Portal art
A brick mason attaches terra cotta panels to one of the entry portals at the east end of the Roosevelt pedestrian corridor. The panels provide historical links to a nearby college or school, which in this case is the College of Sciences and Mathematics.
High-Achievers Gain Advantage in Admission to AU

Starting June 1, Auburn will implement new admissions procedures for the 2008 and later freshman classes. The changes in AU’s admissions process will shift the advantage from early applicants to the most qualified applicants.

Wayne Alderman, AU’s dean of enrollment services, said the changes will help high-achieving students gain admission and enable the university to raise the overall quality of its freshman class. “In order for the university to shape our freshman class, we will give priority to the best students, even if they apply later in the year,” he said.

“Auburn continues to experience growing numbers of applicants each year,” Alderman added, “but we can only enroll a limited number, so we want to make sure that we are not turning away the best-prepared students.”

In the past, the earliest applicants who met eligibility requirements were the first ones considered for admission, even if later applicants had better credentials. Although all students had to meet AU criteria for ACT or SAT scores and high school grade point average, this practice made planning difficult and sometimes led to the university turning away persons with relatively high ACT or SAT scores who applied after the freshman class had been filled.

Visit AU ALUM Network and Join the AAA

The Auburn ALUM Network (online directory) is a service to AU graduates that allows members of the Auburn Alumni Association to log in securely and access online services such as updating address information, finding fellow graduates, enabling a permanent forwarding e-mail address and more. Now graduates can also enjoy the ALUM Career Center where they can post a résumé and search for jobs.

Check www.aualum.org/aoc/ for more information.

Members have been vital to the Auburn Alumni Association throughout its past. To learn about all the benefits of being a member or to join your Auburn Alumni Association, visit www.aualum.org/membership/.

Prospective freshmen who apply early will still be among the first group considered for admission, but their grades and ACT or SAT scores will be considered in the fall, in competition with a larger pool of applicants.

The ACT composite average for the 4,092 students in the 2006 freshman class was 24.3, compared to a national ACT average of 21.1 and a statewide average of 20.2. High achievers, who are considered for Spirit of Auburn Scholarships, are those who have an ACT score of at least 28, with the top awards going to students with ACT scores of 33 to 36 or equivalent SAT scores. Students must also have and maintain a high grade point average. Students with lower scores may still qualify for other scholarships or financial aid.

Prospective freshmen will have to complete their junior year of high school before they can apply to Auburn. The university will begin receiving applications for the 2008 freshman class on June 1 but will wait until Oct. 1 to begin mailing letters to applicants informing them of their status.

Decisions, which normally follow a review period of four to six weeks, will be announced on a rolling basis after Oct. 1. Also in October, AU will mail housing information to accepted students who have made their tuition deposit. In addition, information regarding Camp War Eagle will go out in the spring only to students who have made a tuition deposit.

Students who apply by Dec. 1 will receive priority consideration for scholarships, with the first scholarship offers being extended on Oct. 15. March 1 will be the priority deadline for financial aid. Another important date for the 2008 freshman class will be Feb. 15, when admissions decisions for deferred applicants will be mailed. Applications received after Feb. 1 will be considered on a space-available basis.

Accepted students will face a May 1 deadline to submit an enrollment deposit, but, unlike in the past, the deposit will be non-refundable.

Laufer Selected as Director of Museum

Provost John Heilman has appointed Marilyn Laufer to be director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

The appointment, which became effective April 2, was the result of a national search organized by the museum search firm Opportunity Resources Inc., in cooperation with a search committee of university faculty, staff and museum advisory board members.

“Dr. Laufer brings experience in both universities and museums,” Heilman said. “She has the knowledge, talent and background to best position the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art as a premier university art museum.”

Laufer has been a faculty member for 11 years in the Department of Art in AU’s College of Liberal Arts. Since April 2006, she has served as the acting co-director of the Jule Collins Smith Museum, together with Robert Ekelund, Auburn professor emeritus of economics.

She holds a Ph.D. in art history from Washington University in St. Louis. She has more than 25 years experience as a curator and served briefly as interim director of the Sioux City Art Center and as co-director of the Birke Art Gallery at Marshall University.

License To Learn

Vanity Tags Benefit AU Scholarship Program

If you’re an Alabama resident, do you share your Auburn pride by sporting the AU vanity license tag on your vehicle? If so, then you are making a difference in a young person’s life, because proceeds from vanity tag sales benefit the AU License to Learn Scholarship Endowment Fund. For the 2006-07 school year, $1.9 million in scholarships was awarded to 674 students. The cost of the tag is only $50, plus the regular Alabama state vehicle fee of $24.25. There is no extra cost to order a personalized AU tag. Get your AU tag at your local Department of Motor Vehicles.

Visit www.aualum.org/membership/.
Hollywood Tells Story of AU Grad’s Pursuit of Spy

A major motion picture released nationwide in February tells the story of a 1995 AU graduate who was instrumental in the capture of one of the most notorious spies ever on American soil.

The motion picture “Breach” stars Ryan Phillippe as FBI agent Eric O’Neill, whose undercover work led to the 2001 capture of a high-ranking FBI employee, Robert Hanssen, who had been selling national security secrets to the Soviets and, later, the Russians for two decades.

O’Neill, a political science and psychology major at Auburn, joined the FBI’s special surveillance group at age 22. Within four years, he was working on a secret, internal investigation involving one of the agency’s most veteran agents. In an attempt to nab the Russian mole, FBI superiors assigned the young investigator as Hanssen’s assistant.

The movie describes the intrigue and dangers O’Neill faced during three months of working with and building a case against Hanssen, who is portrayed in the film by Academy Award-winner Chris Cooper.

A major break in the investigation came when O’Neill secretly took Hanssen’s handheld organizer, had it copied and returned it.

“Later, faced with overwhelming evidence against him, Hanssen pleaded guilty to 15 counts of espionage and conspiracy.

O’Neill, a resident and native of suburban Washington, D.C., visited Auburn to attend an advance screening for members of AU’s student alumni association.

“The whole time I was with him, it was constant tests, mind games, messing with me, invading my personal space, and doing everything to keep me off balance and see if I would slip up. It was grueling,” O’Neill said in an interview with Auburn Magazine.

“Red carpet treatment

Aubie steps out of a limousine that the Auburn Student Alumni Association used in a promotion for the advanced screening of “Breach.”

Bevly Honored by International Society

David Bevly of AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering is one of 10 professors from around the world who will receive SAE International’s Ralph R. Teetor Educational Award as outstanding engineering educators.

Bevly, a faculty member in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is to receive the award during the SAE 2007 World Congress, this month in Detroit. Originally known as the Society of Automotive Engineers, SAE now encompasses diverse transportation-related industries.

At AU, Bevly is director of the GPS and Vehicle Dynamics Laboratory.

Engineering Center

Hall Dell, left, a senior in mechanical engineering, and Michael Taylor, a classmate in mechanical engineering, pause during a tour of the new Sen. Richard C. and Dr. Annette N. Shelby Center for Engineering Technology, which is being built on the north side of the Auburn campus, facing Magnolia Avenue Phase I of the complex is expected to be completed this fall, and will house Industrial and Systems Engineering, Computer Science and Software Engineering, administrative offices and wireless engineering and other laboratories, as well as classrooms and auditoriums for instruction.
Flying high

Seen from atop Haley Center, an AU banner flies high above the construction site for the new student center. When it opens in 2008, the $50 million complex will reflect the style of residence halls at the top left rather than Haley or Parker Hall in the background.