



AUBURN COMMONS

An Official Publication of Auburn University

Volume 6 ❖ Number 3 ❖ Summer 2007

New AU President Devotes First Days Meeting Leaders

The first week was a busy one for Jay Gogue, who assumed office July 16 as the 18th president in AU's 151-year history.

The first day was devoted to getting acquainted with leaders of major campus constituencies; the first at 7 a.m. with student leadership. The second day was spent on learning the nuts and bolts of Auburn's administrative structure, starting with emergency preparedness. For much of his first six months, Gogue says, he plans to meet leaders and representatives from the full spectrum of AU constituencies, both on campus and off.

Following a pattern that he used successfully as president of New Mexico State University and president and chancellor of the University of Houston System, Gogue said he wants to "hit the ground listening."

Gogue, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in horticulture from Auburn in 1969 and 1970, respectively, and a Ph.D. in horticulture from Michigan State University in 1973, explained that he learned early as an administrator to listen carefully for fresh insights from others.

"It is important to develop some degree of trust with one another before we can talk about objectives," he said. "Many times others know more about a subject than I do, and I want to learn from them. I want to get to know the people and listen to what they have to say."

Over a three-month period, Gogue will try to visit every academic department on campus, spending an hour in each. In those sessions, he will ask the faculty to talk about two things in their department that they are most excited

about. "They may have a lot of things they are proud of, but when they narrow the list to those two things, that sets the tone for the discussion," he said. "I am here to help people achieve success in their disciplines, so I look for those who champion ideas."

Also, Gogue said, he would like to meet with church leaders and other representatives of the religious community in Auburn to let them know the importance of the role they play in the life of the university as well as the city.

Not all the new AU president's attention has been devoted to persons on campus at Auburn and AUM. In the weeks leading up to the start of his duties on campus, Gogue phoned and wrote letters to numerous alumni and visited members of Alabama's legislative delegation in Washington. Expanding on that start, he plans to visit all 67 counties in Alabama to meet with local and state elected officials and AU trustees on their home turf.

The university enjoys strong support across Alabama and the nation, Gogue noted. "It is important to reach out to these people, who care a great deal about Auburn, and let them know that they are appreciated. They are important." ❁

Richardson Cites Capacity for Progress

In his final official report to the AU Board of Trustees in June, President Ed Richardson said the university has accomplished most of the goals and initiatives he outlined in the first year of his presidency and is poised for rapid advancement under his successor, Jay Gogue.

Richardson, who retired on July 15, attributed progress during the past three and one-half years to hard work by many individuals and a commitment to unity from all sectors of the university family.

Citing the progress of the capital campaign and looking to AU's future, he said, "Our

capacity is greater than some would predict."

Richardson took office in January 2004 with Auburn under probation by its regional accrediting agency. Board members cited his leadership in getting the probation lifted by the end of the first year, as well as clearly establishing the administrative authority of the president, significantly improving the university's finances and launching a series of academic and administrative initiatives.

Noting extensive progress toward several goals, Richardson urged the board to continue exploring ways to strengthen the relationship

(Progress, continued on page 6)



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Message from the President

Dear Auburn Alumni and Supporters,

It is an extraordinary honor to have been selected as the 18th president of Auburn University. Susie and I are excited about returning to Auburn and working more closely with the AU family.

One of the most frequent questions I've been asked lately is, "What were the major factors in your decision to take the job?" The answer is two-fold. Susie and I have two degrees each from Auburn, and our daughter has a master's degree from



here. Auburn has always held a special place in our hearts. So when the opportunity to return as president arose, I knew that if the people at Auburn thought it was a good fit, we wanted to come back. The second part of the answer involves Auburn alums, who have a passion for their alma mater. Through good times and bad, they love and believe in this institution.

Our arrival is exciting for many reasons, and it comes at a time of great opportunity to build on Auburn's recent success in fiscal responsibility and national recognition for academic and research programs.

For those who have recently visited campus, you have seen that the face of the AU campus is changing with a number of construction projects, including a 156-acre research park and the 340,000-square-foot Shelby Center for Engineering Technology. These are only two examples that demonstrate the incredible intellectual and human resource that this university represents in terms of an educated workforce, the community service we provide, and the benefits that we bring to the cultural, civic, and economic life of Alabama and the Southeast.

From now until the end of the year, I will meet with every academic department on campus. In those sessions, I want to know the areas in which faculty members are the most proud and excited. I am here to help faculty achieve success in their disciplines, so I look for those who champion ideas.

As alumni, we also seek your help as we define new opportunities for the institution while building on the successes of the past. I want us to be partners as we elevate Auburn University to its place among the nation's top-tier universities.

War Eagle!



Jay Gogue

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 resumé and search for jobs.

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

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

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Auburn COMMONS

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Submit questions or comments to 23 Samford Hall, Auburn, AL 36849. Telephone 334/844-9999. E-mail: commons@auburn.edu.

Message from the Provost

It is an exciting time for academics at Auburn University. The arrival of President Gogue marks a reaffirmation of the centrality of instruction, research, outreach and service to Auburn University. At this historic juncture, the Provost's Office is pleased to have a number of academic accountability measures in place, such as Academic Program Review, Post-Tenure Review, Department Head Training and a revised Faculty Dismissal Process. These measures ensure that we review and assess academic programs and faculty and are held accountable to students, parents, alumni, faculty and citizens. We embrace, even more enthusiastically, a new initiative aimed at student quality enhancement. This new initiative—the Student Writing Initiative—was introduced at the June 2007 Board of Trustees meeting and will involve increasing the writing and writing feedback opportunities of undergraduate students at Auburn University. This initiative will engage with colleges and faculty in enhancing the writing skills of our graduates. This will ensure a competitive edge for Auburn graduates as students receiving an Auburn degree will be even more valuable to future employers.

We will keep the alumni informed as this initiative progresses.

War Eagle!



John Heilman



Auburn Fisheries Station Named in Honor of E. W. Shell

The Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquaculture's 1,600-acre North Auburn Upper Fisheries Research Station has been renamed the E.W. Shell Fisheries Center in honor of a long-time department head who was instrumental in building AU fisheries into a world-class program.

AU faculty, administrators and guests participated in the naming ceremony at the fisheries unit in April.

Shell was a faculty member in the College of Agriculture from 1959-94, including more than two decades as head of the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures.

The Butler County native earned bachelor's and master's degrees in fisheries from Auburn in 1952 and 1954, respectively. After earning a Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1959, Shell joined the Auburn faculty as an assistant professor, working with Homer Swingle, who had established the fisheries program at Auburn in the 1930s. Swingle Hall now carries his name.

When Shell succeeded Swingle as department head in 1973, he led efforts

to expand field facilities with specialized laboratories and ponds that enabled the program to broaden its role from national to international prominence. The following two decades saw numerous additions to the North Auburn fisheries. These included a fish hatchery and field classroom, fish nutrition and fish processing labs, a fish market building for consumer research and teaching, a fish disease laboratory and a building for fisheries management and ecology.

The additions also included a fish genetics

lab, office building and greenhouse complex in 1990-91 and 70 new ponds ranging in size from 0.5 acre to 10 acres, plus 13 rebuilt or renovated ponds between 1973 and 1994.

While developing the North Auburn site, the department expanded its graduate education program and became a global leader in freshwater fisheries. David Rouse, current head of the department, says the North Auburn fisheries site was central to the program's growth in prestige as well as size, and remains central to the department's operations today. ☺



A year after crews began site preparation for AU's new Student Center, workers have erected the concrete frame of the three- and four-story complex of buildings and are constructing the roofs and external walls. The \$50 million complex south of Haley Center will have several times the space of the 1950s-era James E. Foy Student Union, which this new facility will replace.

Center Enters New Era Honoring Former First Lady

AU celebrated the memory of one of its longest serving first ladies on May 22 with a ceremony at Pebble Hill, home of the newly renamed Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities.

Born in Orrville in Dallas County, Ala., in 1910, Caroline Marshall Draughon came to Auburn with her husband, Ralph Brown Draughon, in the fall of 1931 when he accepted a position in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute history department. Each remained an active member of the community until his death in 1968 and her death in January 2005.

From 1947, when her husband was named acting president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, until his retirement in 1965 as president of Auburn University, “Miss Caroline” was a prominent and popular advocate for students, faculty and staff.

As first lady, Caroline Draughon led efforts to link faculty, staff, students and alumni more closely to the university. Among those efforts, she helped establish a freshman reception, organize a club for wives of male students after

World War II and establish the Campus Club service and social organization.

AU established the newly renamed Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts in 1985 to develop and offer programs in Alabama schools, towns and communities that

strengthened the bond between the academic community and the general public.

The center conducts statewide programs on state and national history, culture, literature and literacy enhancement and has sponsored hundreds of activities featuring writers, artists and scholars in Alabama communities. ❁



President Ed Richardson, right, meets with Ralph B. Draughon Jr. and Ann Draughon Cousins at a Pebble Hill ceremony in honor of their mother, former AU First Lady Caroline Marshall Draughon.

Ann Martin, Cratus Bailey

New Scholarships Honor Former AU First Ladies

Family members of Ann Martin and Cratus Bailey have honored the two former AU first ladies by establishing in their names scholarships for horticulture majors at Auburn.

President Emeritus James E. Martin, AU president from 1984-92, has given \$25,000 to the “It Begins at Auburn” fundraising campaign to create the Ann Freeman Martin Award as part of the AU Campus Club’s First Ladies Award Program.

Meanwhile, the children of the late Wilford S. Bailey, AU president in 1983-84, have established the Cratus Hester Bailey scholarship.

Under the First Ladies’ program, the Campus Club annually presents \$1,000 scholarships in the names of wives of Auburn’s past presidents. For the 2006-07 academic year, six horticulture students received First Ladies scholarships. The Martin and Bailey gifts, along with another gift of \$25,000 from

the Campus Club, will increase that number to nine in 2007-08.

Former AU President Martin said he decided to honor his wife through a scholarship gift when representatives from the Department of Horticulture and the Campus Club informed him about the First Ladies Award program. “Ann and I are always interested in scholarship programs because we firmly believe a good university should be able to recruit outstanding academic students just like it does good athletes,” Martin said.

During Martin’s presidency, he helped lead the effort to gain passage of legislation enabling the state government to sell vehicle license plates on behalf of colleges and universities in Alabama, with proceeds going to the institutions.

Jim Martin was preceded in office at Auburn by Wilford Bailey, an AU veterinary professor whom the Board of Trustees in 1983 named

interim president while a committee conducted a search for a new president. Before he left the post in 1984, the board officially named Bailey the school’s 13th president in recognition of his leadership. Like Martin, Bailey was named president emeritus following his retirement.

At the time of Wilford Bailey’s death in 2000, the Baileys had been married 58 years. ❁

Huettel named to lead international society

Robin Huettel, a professor of plant pathology and nematology in AU’s College of Agriculture, has been elected president-elect of the Society of Nematologists for 2007-08. She will serve as president in 2008-09.

The society is an international association formed to advance the science of nematology. Nematodes, or roundworms, are the most numerous multicellular animals on earth. ❁

Building Renamed to Honor Leader in Engineering

AU dedicated the newly renamed Charles E. Davis Aerospace Engineering Building on June 23 in honor of a leading figure in America's aerospace industry.

Widely known as "Buddy" rather than Charles, the Auburn alumnus has played a critical engineering role in the development of missiles and aircraft for national defense and space exploration.

The building, which houses the Department of Aerospace Engineering, will now be called

the Charles E. Davis Aerospace Engineering Hall, or simply Davis Hall. Davis and his wife Charlotte recently committed a \$4 million gift to the College of Engineering, the third largest individual gift in the college's history.

Engineering Dean Larry Benefield said the gift will enable the Department of Aerospace Engineering to expand its fluid dynamics and advanced simulation lab capabilities, relocate the wind tunnel facilities and expand the college's hardware-in-the-loop simulation program.

Buddy Davis is a 1959 Auburn graduate whose work with the Thor rocket, the Harpoon missile and the KC-10 aircraft aerial refueling platform played a vital role in the evolution of U.S. defense systems. He also had a lead role in the Apollo rocket program, and his design work is still evident in the assembly, transport and launch pad systems used in the space program. 🌟

AU Gets \$1 Million Boost for Biofuels Research

Biofuels research at AU has received a \$1 million annual boost through a contract between Auburn's Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering and the Birmingham-based Masada Resource Group LLC.

The project will involve faculty from the AU-based center and the Department of Chemical Engineering in collaboration with AU's Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts, which is dedicated to exploring broad solutions to energy concerns.

"As crude oil resources are depleted, the cost of fuel and petroleum-based chemicals is rising. It is critical that this nation identify cost-effective alternative sources of energy," said Harry Cullinan, AC-PABE director and principal investigator.

Cullinan noted that biomass, one of the most promising sources of alternative energy, can come from a variety of renewable plant and waste materials. He said refineries fueled by biomass can provide a strong, sustainable alternative for the production of chemicals and fuels. Integrated biorefineries combine innovative biomass and waste conversion processes with the conventional production capabilities of facilities such as pulp and paper mills to produce a wider range of fuel, chemical and renewable energy products.

"This partnership has the potential to reinvigorate Southeastern industry sectors that have been stagnant and identify ways to turn waste into a valuable resource," said Larry Fillmer, executive director of the Natural Resources Management & Development Institute, which houses AU's Center for Bioenergy and Bioproducts and the Water Resources Center. 🌟



Engineering student Paul Hutchinson of the Cupola Engineering Society briefs Charlotte and Charles "Buddy" Davis on architectural aspects of Auburn's aerospace engineering building. The building was recently named the Charles E. Davis Aerospace Engineering Building and will also be known as Davis Hall.

New AU Trustee Confirmed by State Senate

The Alabama Senate on May 29 approved the appointment of Gaines Lanier of Lanett to the Auburn University Board of Trustees.

Lanier, chairman and chief executive officer of the J. Smith Lanier & Co. insurance brokerage firm, became a trustee immediately upon confirmation and took his seat at the board's June 28 meeting.

The State Senate voted unanimously for Lanier's appointment on a recommendation by the Senate Confirmations Committee.

Lanier represents District 5, which includes Chambers, Cherokee, Cleburne,



Lanier

DeKalb, Etowah, Marshall, Randolph and Tallapoosa counties. That seat was held previously by Charles Ball.

Lanier graduated from AU in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He earned a football scholarship to Auburn and lettered at defensive tackle in 1972-74.

In recent years, he has served on the AU College of Business Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees for the Chattahoochee Valley Educational Foundation and the Board of Directors for the Roosevelt Warm Springs Institute for Rehabilitation. 🌟

New student housing to link Auburn's past, future

New student housing with 21st century amenities and early 20th century aesthetics moved several steps closer to reality at June's meeting of the AU Board of Trustees.

The Village is a new student housing development planned for the west edge of campus between Wire Road on the west and Donahue Drive to the east. The new housing for 1,680 students is scheduled for completion by fall 2009.

The AU Board gave the go-ahead for the architect to complete the plans and for AU to solicit bids and award a contract for construction.

Campus planners estimate the housing project to cost approximately \$120 million and related costs, such as dining facilities and parking, will add approximately \$37 million. The funds will come from bond income and other revenues and would be partially or completely offset by rental fees.

The new housing will provide additional on-campus housing for freshmen and accommodate learning communities of students with similar majors or shared academic interests and provide new space for sororities.

John Mouton, senior adviser to the president, said The Village will form a new western gateway to campus. The pedestrian concourse that now ends at the west side of Haley Center will be extended to form the central axis for the new student housing village. The central open space, designed to encourage outdoor gatherings, will be bordered by residence halls, a pedestrian concourse, the planned basketball arena and a food service facility with indoor and outdoor dining.

Reflecting the style of the Quad Dorms, which date from the 1930s and '40s, the new village will consist of four-story brick buildings constructed around a series of quadrangles and green spaces, all connected by tree-lined walkways.

Planners say the master plan and building design are grounded in the character and image of Auburn and are inspired by the neoclassical architectural styles of buildings such as Samford Hall, the Quad Dorms and other campus buildings that were constructed before 1950. The design is a departure from that of CDV Extension to the west of the

planned village. Those suite-style apartments, built in the early 1970s, have not held up as well as the older housing areas and are slated to be removed in the near future.

Most accommodations in the new housing development will be in four-bedroom suites which will include a common living room, kitchenette, four individual bedrooms and two baths. Bay windows in the main living area will provide natural light and offer views of exterior green space.

Plans call for individual bedrooms to provide each student a private sleeping area, closet and study area. The residence halls will also include group meeting and study rooms on each floor and are designed to accommodate the latest technologies for electronic communication and data services.

Architects for the project are Williams-Blackstock, Birmingham. Hoar Program Manager in Birmingham is managing the project's development. ☺



AU will introduce the learning-communities concept to student housing in The Village, a development planned for the western edge of campus. Five buildings in the development will house students who have majors or academic interests in common. Construction is to start soon on the buildings, which have been given fast-track status.

Progress

(continued from page 1)

between the main campus and AUM, including aligning academic calendars and extending Tiger Transit service to Auburn Montgomery.

Richardson commended the board for making a major commitment to improving scholarships for high-achievers. He also urged the board to seek a way to reward students whose high school records are less distinguished but who have outstanding work habits and academic potential.

The AU president's report came during a busy session for trustees. Among highlights, the board:

- Gave the go-ahead for construction of a new 9,600-seat basketball arena to replace Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum, which was completed in 1969 and would require tens of millions of dollars to renovate. The arena is

projected to cost \$92.5 million, with about two-thirds of the funding coming from a bond issue to be financed from athletic revenues. The remainder would come from private contributions.

- Authorized development of the first phase of an Equestrian Center on the west side of Shug Jordan Parkway. An anonymous donor has committed \$3.5 million toward construction of the \$7 million center.

- Authorized the administration to proceed with improvements to the AU-owned Auburn-Opelika Robert G. Pitts Airport, including construction of a new terminal.

- Elected Paul Spina to succeed Earlon McWhorter as president pro tem of the AU Board. Sarah Newton was elected vice president of the board. ☺

Are Your Medicines Affecting Fish?

AU Seeking to Improve Wastewater Treatment

Synthetic chemicals designed to help human health may be having unintended consequences downstream from wastewater treatment plants, according to an Auburn University researcher. The problems can include fish with both male and female characteristics and the creation of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms.

Willie Harper, assistant professor of civil and environmental engineering, is looking into how synthetic, or man-made, chemicals are broken down by wastewater treatment plants and the possible effects on the environment. He says pharmaceutical and personal care products, such as aspirin, antibiotics and birth control pills, contain chemicals that can pass through treatment plants either unaltered or only slightly degraded.

“These chemicals serve their intended purposes and then are passed through the human body into the wastewater,” said Harper, who has been studying wastewater treatment

for 15 years. “We are studying how well they are broken down by bacteria at the treatment plant and we want to create new technology for use in wastewater treatment. We want to prevent problems downstream.”

Chemicals that act as endocrine disruptors are designed to affect hormonal stability, such as in birth control pills to prevent pregnancy. However, after the chemicals pass through the body, a residue can remain intact even after going through a wastewater treatment plant.

“These chemicals can affect fish by disrupting their endocrine system. If this happens, then they develop abnormally,” Harper said. “Some synthetic chemicals can ‘feminize’ a male fish, giving it female characteristics. Some male fish have been found with ovaries.”

In September, fish were found in the Potomac River near Washington, D.C., that had both male and female attributes. While scientists are concerned about this situation and others, Harper says the first step is to learn the fate of chemicals as they pass through the treatment process.

“The treatment plants are doing a good job to clean the water based on current regulations, but they are not designed to remove certain chemicals to even safer levels,” he said. “We want to help treatment plants address these concerns.”

Using National Science Foundation grants, Harper has set up three small-scale treatment plants where he can control the treatment process and the kind and amount of chemicals being treated. His lab, like large plants, removes chemicals through activated sludge treatment in which biomass, or biological material, is used to remove pollutants.

Harper’s AU research group was one of the first in the world to show that the biomass particle size is a critical factor in the adsorptive removal of steroidal compounds. As these clumps of microorganisms get smaller, he says, they have more surface area and thus they provide more sites for removal of synthetic chemicals. “Biomass particle size can be controlled by practitioners both at the design stage and at the operating stage,” Harper said.

“The information we have provided will be of interest to water pollution control facilities that are concerned about pharmaceutical compounds.

“We were also one of the first groups to show the specific degradation mechanism of how the active ingredient in birth control pills is broken down.”

These research results may be useful to chemical engineers and pharmacologists in the design of synthetic chemicals that degrade well during treatment, or for identifying chemicals that will be persistent. The results also should help regulators develop water quality criteria.

Harper’s group is also addressing the possibility that antibiotic residues help create antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms. Along with Mark Liles of Biological Sciences, Harper is investigating the idea that biological wastewater treatment plants are a source of antibiotic-resistant microorganisms.

“We want to learn more about the reservoir of antibiotic-resistant mechanisms available to the activated sludge microorganisms,” he said.

This is a major public health issue, he says, and it has become more important as water quality surveys have revealed the broad range of antibiotics present in water after it goes through wastewater treatment plants.

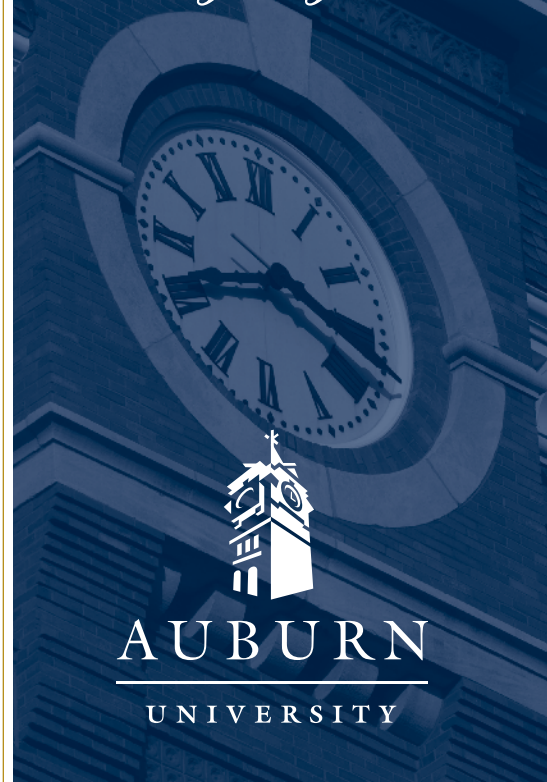
“Antibiotics are designed to kill infections. However, if they get into the environment, they can cause naturally occurring microorganisms to develop antibiotic resistance. We would then have a microorganism that is much more difficult to kill,” he said. “We have already found evidence that some activated sludge microorganisms are extremely resistant to a broad variety of common antibiotics. We need to direct more research into this issue.”

Water research was highlighted in June during AU’s Water Resources Conference hosted by the newly created Water Resources Center. The center, part of AU’s Natural Resources Management & Development Institute, has an interdisciplinary team of more than 50 faculty who specialize in various types of water research. 🌊

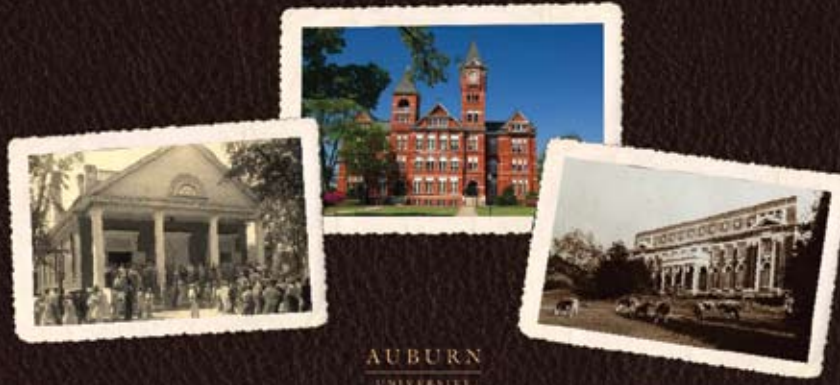


Laura Steele, who graduated from AU in May, catches a stream of data in this promotional photo for the Ginn College of Engineering. Photographed by Jeff Etheridge of the Office of Communications and Marketing, the picture won second place nationally in the Portraits and People category in judging by the University Photographers Association of America. Etheridge also won first place in the Posters category for a poster for AU Theatre, and OCM received a special commendation for *Neath the Sun-Kissed Sky*, a hard-cover book celebrating AU’s sesquicentennial in 2006.

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Highlights



HALLMARKS OF AUBURN
2008 CALENDAR



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Auburn University's official 2008 calendar pays tribute to its past leaders, professor, and alumni. Toward recognizing and perpetuating the memory of some who have served long, achieved much, and contributed exceptionally to the progress of this institution, the Board of Trustees has named buildings in their honor. *Hallmarks of Auburn* is an 11"x14" 12-month calendar and sells for \$9.95. To order, contact AU Photographic Services at 334/844-4560, auphoto@auburn.edu or www.auburn.edu/photo.

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