

AUBURN COMMONS

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Freshmen Set ACT Record as Enrollment Increases

Auburn's freshman class for 2008-09 boasts the highest average ACT score in school history at 25.9, more than a point increase on a 36-point scale over last year's then-record 24.8.

In addition, the university's enrollment of undergraduate students surpassed 20,000 for the first time, and enrollment of international

student numbers of 934 set another school record.

In numbers released after the 15th class day of fall semester, Institutional Research and Assessment lists main campus total enrollment as 24,530. Undergraduate enrollment of 20,037 is up from 19,812 last year, and graduate student enrollment of

3,519 is up from 3,375.

At the undergraduate level, enrollment of new, first-year freshmen is 3,984.

First professional enrollment — students in Audiology, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine — is 974.

At 25.9, Auburn's new freshmen have an average ACT score well above the national average of 21.1.

"A one-point gain may not sound like a lot, but the ACT scale only runs from 1 to 36," noted Drew Clark, director of institutional research and assessment. "The same improvement would amount to about a 50-point increase on the SAT scale."

Clark continued, "On any scale, what this tells us is that we have been fortunate enough to recruit not just a few bright students but a large number of new freshmen who are more ready than ever for the challenging academic environment that Auburn is committed to providing."

The numbers reported by Institutional Research and Assessment are official enrollment numbers, which are calculated after the 15th class day of every fall semester. This fall, the 15th class day fell on Sept. 8. ❖

Auburn Bested Most Countries in Olympics

If Auburn University had been its own country in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games, its 18 medals would have tied for 14th place in the world with Spain and Canada.

The 31 current and former Auburn athletes who competed in China led to Auburn being ranked sixth among U.S. universities in terms of student-athlete participation, according to *Forbes* magazine.

Tiger representatives hailed from 13 countries and competed in 24 events, winning

three gold medals, 10 silver and five bronze in 13 events. The school finished with more medals, 13, in swimming than any other school in the country.

The 18 total medals tripled the former Auburn school record of six medals at a single Olympics.

Auburn now has 46 Olympic medals all-time from 27 athletes. A list of the athletes and results is online at http://ocm.auburn.edu/olympic_facts.html. ❖



Within days of returning from the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, Brett Hawke, an Auburn assistant swimming and diving coach, and Auburn student-athlete Alana Dillette, who swam for the Bahamas, made a brief presentation to the Board of Trustees in August. All Auburn's Olympians will be honored at a later date.



AUBURN
UNIVERSITY

Message from the President

Dear Auburn Alumni and Supporters,

The Auburn University System has recently adopted a strategic plan that will guide our institution for the coming years. While it contains many reasons to grow excited about Auburn's future, there are two I would like to share with you.

First, it represents a collective effort of the University, its stakeholders and those who care deeply about it. Ideas and suggestions were requested from throughout the Auburn Family, and focused on answering a simple question: what should Auburn be in 10 years?



More than 1,300 individuals participated in an Internet survey, and more than 30 meetings were held on and off campus to gather a wide range of views and recommendations. The new plan represents the best-of-the-best in strategic thinking from students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

The second reason the strategic plan gives cause for excitement is that it is a living plan that will evolve and grow as we implement its specific, measurable action items to strengthen our University. It will not collect dust on a bookshelf.

If you have not read the plan, we hope you will do so. It is available on our Web site at www.auburn.edu/strategicplan.

Thank you for your interest in Auburn University. We are excited for what the future holds as Auburn continues to serve our state and nation and fulfill its instruction, research and extension missions.

War Eagle!

Jay Gogue

New Web Cams Provide Multiple Views of Campus

Want a bird's-eye view of Samford lawn? Ever wonder what Jordan-Hare Stadium looks like on a weeknight? Thanks to Auburn's new Web cameras, visitors to the university's Web site can log on and view in real time what is happening on campus from several different locations.

Ten new cameras provide feeds of high-traffic, popular sites around campus including Cater Lawn, Toomer's Corner, Jordan-Hare Stadium, Samford Lawn and the Harrison School of Pharmacy. Seven of the cameras are

operated by Auburn's Office of Communications and Marketing. All 10 cameras may be viewed at www.ocm.auburn.edu/webcams.

"These cameras are the window back to a place many alumni and friends remember fondly," said Mike Clardy, manager of News and Web Services with Auburn's Office of Communications and Marketing. "Through our lenses people can get an idea of how much the campus has changed and how beautiful it is today."

The cameras will also serve as a recruiting tool for future students. "We're in competition with many other universities to gain the attention of prospective students," Clardy said. "The Web cameras give them another way to view our campus and hopefully entice them into making a visit." 🌟

Auburn COMMONS

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Spirit of Auburn Card Supports Scholarships

The new Spirit of Auburn credit card featuring the WorldPoints® program contributes to Auburn's scholarship fund while building rewards for you, too.

By using this card for all your everyday purchases, you share the Auburn spirit by benefiting students who most deserve academic scholarships – at no additional

cost to you – and you ultimately help shape the future of Auburn. And cardholders will be rewarded when they redeem all the points earned for travel, merchandise or cash rewards. This is the only card that directly supports your alma mater. For more information about the card, or to apply, go to www.auburn.edu/spiritcard. 🌟

Auburn Faculty Play Crucial Role in Launch of Online Encyclopedia About Alabama

Over the past five years, experts on Alabama's history, culture and other subjects about the state have been sharing an encyclopedic array of knowledge with one another. On Sept. 15, they displayed the results of their collective efforts with the launch of the online Encyclopedia of Alabama.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley and other government leaders joined educators, information technology experts, arts and humanities leaders and others in a Birmingham ceremony for the launch of the online encyclopedia, which seeks to eventually contain knowledge about all things Alabama.

Free to any viewer and available on the Web at www.encyclopediaofalabama.org, the site contains hundreds of articles written and edited by experts in their fields. The articles, providing detailed examination of topics about the state, encompass numerous subsets of 12 broad areas: agriculture; arts and humanities; business and industry; education; folk life; geography and environment; government and politics; history; peoples; religion; science and technology; and sports and recreation.

September's launch brought to fruition nearly a decade of planning and activity capped by five years of intense development by experts in each of these fields, with financial support and encouragement from national and state leaders in the arts and humanities, as well as government leaders.

The project started in 2001-02 with initial efforts by the Alabama Humanities Foundation and the University of Alabama Press and a planning grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Project planners soon turned to the state's most acclaimed historian, Wayne Flynt, who held the title of University Professor in Auburn's College of Liberal Arts.

Flynt agreed to serve as editor in chief of the online encyclopedia, and John Pritchett, Auburn's provost at the time, committed Auburn to development of the online encyclopedia. In 2003, the Encyclopedia of Alabama established its editorial offices at Auburn, with Jeff Jakeman of the History Department as editor. The effort was soon joined by Auburn's



University Professor Emeritus Wayne Flynt helped launch the Encyclopedia of Alabama in September. Flynt served as the encyclopedia's executive editor during more than five years of development.

College of Liberal Arts, Office of Information Technology, University Libraries and faculty and administrators from a variety of academic departments, colleges and schools.

At the ceremony, Flynt said the Encyclopedia of Alabama provides a broad and enlightening look at the state from a range of knowledgeable sources. "The content of the articles in the Encyclopedia constitutes a magnificent tapestry of the human spirit," he said. "All readers, and I do literally mean all readers, are going to find a piece of this tapestry that enraptures them and amazes them."

Flynt added, "We have made no attempt to hide or to exaggerate or to embellish the truth of this state, but I'll guarantee if you read them all you will burst with pride at the end of the story."

Auburn, the University of Alabama, other academic institutions, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, several state agencies and a variety of associations, museums, libraries, newspapers and organizations around the state are among more than 40 EOA partners.

Meanwhile, academic experts in each of the subject areas contributed articles and reviewed the articles of others in their field. Noting that the encyclopedia launched with approximately 500 articles, Jakeman said the number could exceed 1,000 within two years. The encyclope-

dia also has 2,000 images, and Jakeman said he expects that number to grow rapidly, as well.

"The beauty of the project is that it will continue to expand, and it will be kept up to date," said Jakeman. "We started out with articles of statewide interest and we are moving down the list to include articles of regional interest within the state."

Jakeman describes the online encyclopedia as a hybrid product possessing the immediate access and easily updated entries of general interest online Web-based encyclopedias with the accuracy and depth of traditional print encyclopedias, where all entries are written by recognized experts in their fields and then edited and fact-checked.

The encyclopedia was available to the public for several weeks while the editorial staff, contributors and information technology experts applied finishing touches before the launch.

Jakeman said the site is already a popular resource for teachers and students in Alabama schools and will become more so in the future. But scholars are not the only people getting information from the site, he added. Other users include persons interested in tourism, history, art, geography, politics and other aspects of life in Alabama, he said. ☀



ESPN and Paramount Pictures have selected Auburn's marching band as one of the top 8 marching bands in the country. A production crew was on campus Sept. 12 to film the band as it performed the theme song from the Indiana Jones movie series. The taped performance will be put online and fans will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite college marching band. The other university bands selected include LSU, Clemson, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Oklahoma and Southern California. Each university represented will receive \$5,000 for being selected and the winner of the online voting contest will receive \$25,000 for a first-place finish.

For 16th Consecutive Year

Auburn in *USNWR*'s Top Ranks of Public Universities

Auburn is ranked 28th among land-grant universities and is in the top 50 of public universities overall for the 16th consecutive year, according to the annual survey by *U.S. News & World Report*. Auburn placed 45th among the top 50 public universities.

Auburn is one of 75 institutions with land-grant status under the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890, by which Congress set aside land in each state for use by colleges in educating children of the working class, today's middle class, in agriculture, engineering and various professions as well as the liberal arts.

"The comparison to other land-grants is critically important to us, because land-grants share certain common academic qualities," said President Jay Gogue. "Our strategic plan calls for us to steadily increase our measures of quality among this distinctive group."

He added, "Beyond the specific rankings, having worked in other states for much of my career, I am astounded at what higher education in Alabama has been able to accomplish. The state has two universities ranked in the top 50 of public institutions,

and two ranked private institutions, plus a highly ranked medical school. This is a major achievement."

Gogue noted that Auburn's new strategic plan calls for increasing its selectivity of prospective students and increasing its graduation rates, both of which could positively impact future rankings, but indicated the university is "most interested in the success of the students who attend Auburn and in quantifying how much they learn while they are here." Auburn is participating in national assessments to measure such data.

The undergraduate program of Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering is ranked 51st nationally overall and 28th among public universities that offer doctoral programs in engineering, moving up from 57th and 34th, respectively, from the previous year.

The College of Business was ranked 52nd among the more than 500 undergraduate business programs accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Auburn's various national rankings and achievements can be found on the university's

Web site at www.auburn.edu/rankings.

"The *U.S. News* ratings are based on indicators that some prospective college students may value, such as general reputation or selectivity," said Drew Clark, director of Auburn's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment. "But Auburn also uses assessments that provide direct information on equally important indicators of quality, such as how much students are actually learning and what kind of college experience they have."

U.S. News establishes its rankings by categorizing colleges and universities primarily by mission and, in some cases, region.

The indicators the magazine staff uses to capture academic quality fall into seven categories: academic reputation among its peers, retention of students, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, alumni giving and (for national universities and liberal arts colleges) the graduation rate performance, or the difference between the proportion of students expected to graduate and the proportion who actually do. ☺

Auburn University In The News

Auburn Named a National Research Center

Auburn is part of the first group of institutions to be named National Centers of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Research by the Homeland Security Department and National Security Agency. The designation, which applies to 23 institutions across the nation, provides opportunities for Auburn to receive federal funding for information assurance research. Universities with the designation have the opportunity to apply for scholarships and grants through federal information assurance scholarship programs. The designation recognizes information assurance programs in computer science and software engineering, electrical and computer engineering, management, mathematics and poultry science. Drew Hamilton, director of the Auburn Information Assurance Center, is the principal investigator for the program at Auburn.

Professor **Ed Williams** of the Department of Communication and Journalism has been chosen as a recipient for the College Media Advisers' 2008 Distinguished Adviser Award. The award is a national honor given to advisers who have provided exemplary service to their institutions and students and who subscribe to and operate under the CMA Code of Ethics. Williams will receive the award at the organization's October convention in Kansas City.

Alumni Professor **Ram B. Gupta** of the Department of Chemical Engineering, has released his third book, "Hydrogen Fuel: Production, Transport and Storage." Gupta and contributors suggest that hydrogen might be the next great fuel source, as it is available worldwide and water is its only byproduct. The book describes aspects of hydrogen fuel, including production from renewable sources such as solar, wind and biomass and non-renewable sources, purification, storage, transport, safety and codes.

Levent Yilmaz, an associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering, has been appointed editor-in-chief of *Simulation: Transactions of the Society for Modeling and Simulation*

International. Yilmaz will direct the editorial activities of the flagship journal of the leading society devoted to advancing the discipline and profession of modeling and simulation.

Thomas Walter Professor **Pradeep Lall** of Mechanical Engineering has been selected as a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a designation that recognizes significant achievements in and contributions to the engineering profession. Lall has authored or co-authored two books, more than 200 technical papers and 11 book-chapters. He is the associate editor for the *IEEE Transactions on Components and Packaging Technologies*, *IEEE Transactions on Manufacturing and ASME Journal of Electronic Packaging*.

The Army Research Office in the U.S. Department of Defense has awarded a three-year grant to Mechanical Engineering Professor **Hareesh Tippur** in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering for basic research on novel multiphase structural foams with unique interpenetrating architecture.

The National Science Foundation has awarded the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering's AT&T Minority Engineering Program almost \$600,000 for scholarships over the next five years. The first scholarships through the NSF's Scholarships in Science,

Technology, Engineering and Mathematics program will be awarded at Auburn in fall 2009. The Auburn project seeks to develop an interdisciplinary group of engineering majors and involve them in the college's minority program activities, which include peer tutoring, collaborative learning, an interactive learning lab and a student life skills component

Henry Burdg, director of the Auburn Technical Assistance Center, has achieved examiner recertification and recently was appointed senior examiner for the 2008 Alabama Quality Award. Modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the Alabama Quality Award recognizes and honors organizations for innovations in areas of production.

Jennifer Wood Adams, an assistant professor in the Department of Communication and Journalism, and graduate research assistant **Melissa Voynich**, who graduated Aug. 9, have won the Top Three Faculty Paper Award in the newspaper division of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The award recognizes their article, "The Use of Design Technology in the Classroom: A Switch from QuarkXPress to InDesign?" in Journalism and Mass Communication Educator. ☺



An Auburn professor and a St. Clair County environmentalist, shown above, plan to demonstrate a unique use for biofuels in a cross-country drive this fall. In the photo at top left, Wayne Keith, left, of Springville, discusses his biotruck's gasification unit with Biological Sciences Professor David Bransby, center, of Auburn, and Alabama Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks, right, during a recent demonstration in Montgomery. The "gasifier" is mounted on the bed of a 1991 Dodge Dakota V8 pickup, shown on the right. The truck travels about one mile per pound of wood and can reach 80 miles per hour. Keith and Bransby drove the bio-truck on a nationwide tour in September and October to raise public awareness of renewable energy and its economic, environmental and social benefits.

Auburn Researcher Studying Climate Change for NASA

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has awarded a \$1 million grant to a researcher in Auburn's School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences to study the monsoon climate changes across southern and eastern Asia.

"This area is controlled by monsoon climate which is of crucial importance to Asia mainly because it brings the water that supports human life, plants and animals," said Hanqin Tian, an ecology professor and the project's principal investigator. "Land cover and land use changes are expected to have significant impact on the variability and intensity of the Asian monsoon."

With 20 countries affected, Tian said many environmental scientists are concerned that land cover and land use changes caused by urbanization, deforestation and biofuel production, may affect local, regional and global climates.

Tian is working with researchers from Georgia Tech, the Marine Biological Laboratory, MIT and the International START Secretariat. START is an acronym for SysTEM (sic) for Analysis, Research and Training, an international organization of scientists and specialists in the study and analysis of global change.



The team is collaborating with the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Atmospheric Physics, the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Geographical Sciences and Natural Resources and the National Institute for Environmental Studies of Japan. The team's research will evaluate the impacts of land cover and land use changes on climate, water and carbon cycling.

Tian's goals are to understand the interactions among land use, ecosystems and climates and to project the impacts of changes in the categories until 2050. To make these projections, he will create a model of regional climate, ecosystem, land use and economy using

NASA satellite pictures, remote sensing and field observations.

"This area is very important in terms of economic development, and it has developed very quickly in the last 20 or 30 years," Tian said. "Although the land area amounts to only about 20 percent of the entire area of the planet, the population of the area is more than half that of the planet. That is a very small area to support the population. An important question is: How will it be sustainable?"

He said NASA is interested in this project because the space agency shares similar goals of being able to perform global inventories of land use from space and to understand the consequences of land use on the carbon and water cycles.

"Land is used for urbanization, food production and fuel production," said Tian. "There is a large demand for energy. People want to use land for energy, to live and for food, so all are competing for land."

Tian's team just completed a \$1.65 million project, also funded by NASA, which focused solely on China's ecosystem sustainability. This newly funded project expands the focus from China to the entire region of monsoon Asia. 🌍

Researchers Develop Material Coatings to Fight Spread of Diseases

Researchers in Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering have produced new antimicrobial coatings with the potential to help prevent diseases from spreading on treated surfaces.

Combining a widely available disinfectant and nanotechnology, the discovery has implications for hospitals, schools, offices, airplanes and other places where contaminated surfaces lead to the rapid spread of diseases.

Led by Virginia Davis of Chemical Engineering and Aleksandr Simonian of Mechanical Engineering, the Auburn researchers mixed solutions of Lysozyme, a natural product with antimicrobial properties found in egg whites and human tears, with single-walled carbon nanotubes.

The nanotubes, known as SWNTs, are strong pieces of carbon one nanometer in diameter that keep the chemical intact in

the coating. Among the smallest units of measurement in scientific use, a nanometer is equivalent to one billionth of a meter, or, roughly, one billionth of 3.2 feet.

Davis noted that Lysozyme is used in some commercial products such as certain brands of mouthwash. "However," she added, "Lysozyme itself is not as tough. Single-walled carbon nanotubes, on the other hand, are among the strongest materials known to man. While they are 100 times as strong as steel, they have only one-sixth the weight."

By using layer-by-layer deposition, the team demonstrated the inability of intact *Staphylococcus aureus* cells to grow on these antimicrobial surfaces.

"Disinfection generally requires rigorous cleaning with solvent that must remain wet for a given period of time to ensure that surface germs are killed," said Davis. "In contrast, we have created a surface that is inherently

antimicrobial, so how long it is wet is not an issue."

Davis' research paper, "Strong Antimicrobial Coatings: Single-Walled Carbon Nanotubes Armored with Biopolymers," was recently featured in the journal *NanoLetters*, which is frequently cited by top researchers in the field of nanotechnology.

"The material presented in *NanoLetters* is only the beginning," said Davis. "We plan to adapt processing to enable the assembly of coatings on a much larger scale. As a foundation for future applications, the combination of single-walled carbon nanotubes with DNA, proteins and enzymes enables a range of possibilities for sensing and smart-functionality capabilities."

Graduate student Shankar Balasubramanian and postdoctoral fellow Dhriti Nepal worked with Davis and Simonian on the research project. 🌍

Groundbreaking Held for New Basketball Arena

Construction on Auburn's new \$92.5 million basketball arena officially began with a groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 29.

The 243,792-square-foot facility, located across Roosevelt Drive just north and west of Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum, is scheduled to open before the start of the 2010-11 basketball season.

Plans for the new arena were announced in June 2007 and the construction bid to BL Harbert Construction was awarded in June 2008.

The arena, with a capacity of approximately 9,600, will include more than 29,000 square feet of student-athlete space, a two-court practice facility, coaches' offices, the Athletic Ticket Office, an Auburn Team Store, the relocated Lovelace Museum and two food courts along with other amenities.

The new arena will feature chair-back seats along with bleacher seating for students. The building also will provide improved facilities for the student-athletes, including men's and women's locker room suites with sports medicine facilities, lounges and team meeting rooms. Along with a strength and conditioning center, a two-court practice facility will enable the men's and women's basketball teams to practice simultaneously or while the arena is in use for other purposes.

The facility will have 12 luxury suites on the arena level that will open to the inside and



With the frame of a new basketball arena rising behind them, Auburn trustees and President Jay Gogue joined Athletics Director Jay Jacobs and head basketball coaches Jeff Lebo and Nell Fortner for the Aug. 29 groundbreaking that marked the official start of construction on the university's new arena. Scheduled to open in 2010, the arena will replace Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

outside of the arena for multiple entertaining opportunities throughout the year. Loge Box seating will also be available, as well as on-site food preparation.

The seating configuration will offer better sight lines and will move fans closer to the court. The most distant seat will be just 43 feet in elevation from courtside, compared to

60 feet in elevation at Beard-Eaves, with two-thirds of the seats in the new facility being less than 27 feet in elevation from courtside.

The facility will also be the site for concerts and cultural events, convocations and other community gatherings, and it will be adjacent to the new Village student housing complex. ☀

Engineering Adds National Academy Member to Faculty

Oliver D. Kingsley Jr., Auburn's first member of the National Academy of Engineering, has joined the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Kingsley, who is a member of the State of Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame, is credited with revolutionizing the operation of U.S. nuclear power plants, and he has received every major United States and international award available to professionals in the civilian field of nuclear energy.

"Mr. Kingsley brings to Auburn a double distinction," said President Jay Gogue. "He combines a stellar career leading top organizations along with membership in the National Academies, one of the highest honors that can be achieved by an engineer. He will be a great asset to Auburn in identifying and

recruiting other members of the Academies."

Auburn's strategic plan, approved by its Board of Trustees in June, calls for increasing the number of members of the Academies among its faculty, which "distinguishes leading national universities, helping them attract the best students and other top faculty to their institutions," Gogue said.

A native of Ozark, Kingsley graduated from Auburn with honors in 1966 with a bachelor's degree in engineering physics. He began his career with the U.S. Navy Nuclear Submarine Force, and joined Southern Company in 1971, where he held various positions in the nuclear division, including managing the Farley Nuclear Plant. In 1985, he began a three-year tenure as vice president of nuclear operations

for Middle South Utilities. After significantly improving the Grand Gulf Nuclear Plant, he was named chief nuclear officer of the Nuclear Generation Group at the Tennessee Valley Authority and was credited with the turnaround of the agency's nuclear program and the restart of all shutdown units

In 1997, he joined Unicom as president and chief nuclear officer of its nuclear generation group. Under his leadership, the company's nuclear program experienced marked improvement and growth, and in 2000, Unicom merged with PECO to create Exelon Corporation. Before his retirement in 2004, Kingsley served as president and chief operating officer of Exelon Corporation and as chief executive of Exelon Generation. ☀

AUBURN
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Highlights



The new Auburn University Student Center has quickly joined Haley Center, next door, as the busiest buildings on campus, moving the center of campus activity to the shadow of Jordan-Hare Stadium. With construction of the Student Center complete except for a few finishing touches, the focus has shifted to the grounds around that building and Haley, where work crews are building walls and pathways as a prelude to landscaping that will create a parklike campus green in an area bounded by residence halls, the Student Center, Jordan-Hare Stadium and Parker Hall. The work around Haley and the Student Center also includes reconstruction of the Haley Concourse. Although creating temporary pedestrian traffic jams, the concourse project is part of a larger program to extend and connect pedestrian ways through the center of campus from north to south, similar to the Thach and Roosevelt pedestrian ways that carry foot traffic from east to west.



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