

AUBURN COMMONS

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Auburn University Enrollment Reaches All-Time High

Auburn University's fall semester enrollment is at an all-time high and applications to the university continue to increase, according to numbers released by AU's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment.

AU's total enrollment of 23,547 exceeds its previous record of 23,333 set last fall. In addition to this record, AU received an unprecedented 15,921 applications for fall semester 2006 from new freshmen, a 12 percent increase from the 14,249 applications received for fall semester 2005.

"Indicators for Auburn's future are very bright and our record enrollment is an example of that," said AU President Ed Richardson. "These numbers are evidence that there is still a great demand for an Auburn education. In fact, our demand for

2007 is already exceeding what we would have expected."

A record 691 minority freshmen enrolled fall semester represents a 17 percent increase over last year's 574 minority freshmen enrolled. Of those 691 freshmen minorities, 481 are African American, an increase over last year's 398 African American freshmen.

The total number of freshmen enrolled is 4,092, down slightly from last year's record of 4,197.

"While the number of new freshmen enrolled for fall 2006 is less than our all-time high from last year, that number reflects the university's desire to manage our enrollment to match our available resources," said John Fletcher, AU's assistant vice president for enrollment management services.

AU enrolled 2,472 new freshmen from in-state, a slight increase over the 2,468 in-state freshmen last fall and 1,620 out-of-state new freshmen compared to last fall's 1,729.

AU's freshman class averages a 24.3 ACT score and a 3.56 high school grade-point average.

Fletcher attributed the increase in overall enrollment partially to an increase in the number of transfer students enrolled. AU enrolled 1,278 new transfer students, an increase from 1,057 enrolled last year.

Fletcher also cited AU's ranking among the top 50 public institutions for the 14th consecutive year by *U.S. News and World Report* as an important factor leading to increased enrollment.

Other fall semester enrollment numbers include 19,367 undergraduates, up from 19,254 last year; 935 first-year professional (veterinary medicine and pharmacy) students, up from 910 last year; and 3,245 graduate students, up from 3,169 last year.

The numbers reported are official enrollment numbers, calculated after the 15th class day of every fall semester. ❁

Richardson Named AU's 17th President

At its Sept. 1 meeting, the AU Board of Trustees removed the "interim" from the title of Ed Richardson, naming him the 17th president of Auburn University.

The former interim president, who has led the university for two years, will carry the title of president during the final stage of the search for his successor.

Richardson said he still plans to retire as soon as his successor is on board, and Board member Charles McCrary, chair of the presidential search advisory committee, said the change in title should not affect the search. McCrary said the committee still expects to

identify finalists around the end of the year.

Trustee Dwight Carlisle, who was absent from the meeting, recommended in a letter to Board President Pro Tem Earlon McWhorter that Richardson be named president, and other members concurred. Faculty representative Conner Bailey said the Executive Committee of the University Senate also supports the appointment at this stage of the search.

The appointment came at a meeting involving adoption of the university's budget for 2006-07 and extended discussions of

(Richardson, continued on page 5)



Message from the President

Dear Auburn Alumni and Supporters,

As we approach the second half of Auburn University's second century, we continue to embrace the opportunities that are afforded to us. Perhaps the greatest opportunity for a land-grant institution in today's economy is that of exploring alternatives to fossil fuels and developing ways to make marketing those alternatives feasible.

At Auburn, we have long had faculty researching these alternatives. In several colleges and schools on campus, faculty have been busy exploring ways to use Alabama's abundant natural resources to help reduce our dependence on oil. To cite just one example, David Bransby, a



professor of energy crops in the College of Agriculture, has become the nation's foremost expert on and advocate for using switchgrass, an abundant and native grass, to make ethanol. We have researchers looking into the potential of poultry litter as an energy source and, from a processing standpoint, a team looking at ways to make biorefineries more efficient.

Due to Auburn's established research in this area, I recently created the Auburn Alternative Fuels Initiative and the Board of Trustees approved a budget for Fiscal Year 2007 that funds this initiative with \$3 million from our record state appropriation to help grow our research on alternative fuels. This is an exciting initiative with great potential for Auburn, Alabama and the U.S.

Even as we aggressively explore global opportunities, we must not neglect our core mission – the education of our students. To be most effective in our instruction, we need to attract the best students. To attract the best students, we must be competitive with our peers in our scholarship offerings. Our Board of Trustees is keenly aware of the need to increase the university's scholarship funds and, as a result, the recently approved budget also included \$2 million for scholarships for next fall. Moreover, I am extremely pleased that your Alumni Association has pledged an additional \$1 million. I want to thank both the Association's leadership and you, the members, for that very important investment in our students.

One additional highlight of the recently approved budget is that our faculty salaries are now at 99 percent of the regional average. This is significant in that we are becoming more competitive for more outstanding faculty – yet another essential component of a great university.

Finally, Auburn is again ranked among the top 50 public universities in the country in *U.S. News & World Report's* most recent rankings. Auburn has been included in the top 50 now for 14 consecutive years, an achievement that would not have been possible without outstanding leadership from the Board of Trustees, the administrative team, faculty, staff, students and alumni. Thank you all for helping make Auburn the great university it is today and for making its future ever brighter.

War Eagle!



Ed Richardson

Chang to Chair CSSE

Kai Chang has been named chair of the Department of Computer Science and Software Engineering in AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

He succeeds James Cross, who has returned to full-time teaching and research duties. "Dr. Cross has done an outstanding job as chair, particularly as it relates to the implementation of our new wireless engineering program," said Engineering Dean Larry Benefield.

An Auburn faculty member since 1986, Chang has won three Outstanding Faculty awards, holds an Alumni Professorship and has served a summer faculty fellowship with NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. He holds a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati. ☺

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 past. To learn about all the benefits of being a member or to join your Auburn Alumni Association, visit www.aualum.org/membership/. ☺

Auburn COMMONS

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Auburn Films War Eagle Moment At Old Faithful

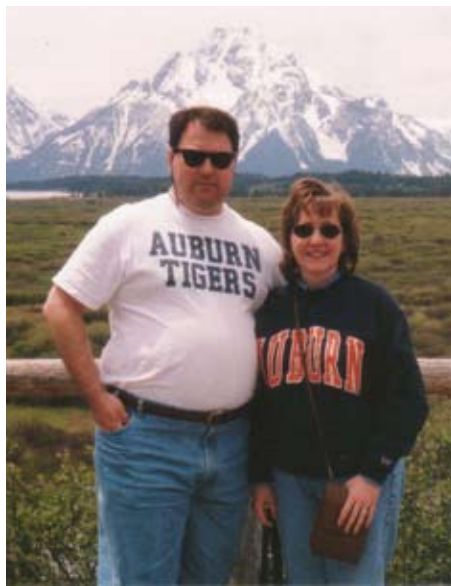
On a cold, rainy, miserable day in June 1999, Beth Newman '86 and her husband Jim '93 were visiting Yellowstone National Park. While waiting to see Old Faithful, Newman spotted a brightly colored orange and blue umbrella amid a sea of dark raingear. Newman made her way through the crowd and said, "War Eagle" to the couple huddled under the umbrella. They talked for a few moments and watched Old Faithful erupt. The familiar, happy feeling that comes with being a part of the Auburn family washed over Newman.

That moment became the inspiration for "War Eagle Moment 2006: Old Faithful" filmed at Yellowstone National Park. Last year's commercial, which was based on an airport encounter, won a Grand Award among peer universities from the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. Hundreds of Auburn alumni and fans wrote in to share their favorite "War Eagle moment" stories.

At some point in your life, you will have your own "War Eagle" moment – in the most unlikely of places, you'll hear someone call out "War Eagle!" Whether you are in the state, across the country or even in a foreign land, it will make you feel less of a stranger in a strange place, and more a part of a family that is 200,000 strong and growing.

The commercial, which was produced by AU's Office of Communications and Marketing, appears during Auburn's televised football games. The story was inspired by actual events, as submitted by the Newmans. To view the commercial and behind-the-scenes photos visit www.WarEagleMoment.org

Tell us about your War Eagle moment. The story you submit may become part of the Auburn University advertising campaign or Web site. Submit your stories to moment@auburn.edu or visit www.WarEagleMoment.org to read favorite submissions. ☺



Beth and Jim Newman's experience at Yellowstone National Park inspired the 2006 "War Eagle Moment 2006: Old Faithful" commercial.



Behind the scenes on the set of "War Eagle Moment 2006: Old Faithful," the production crew generated rain with the help of a firetruck from Bridger Fire Department in Bozeman, Mont.



Old Faithful erupts roughly every 92 minutes and is a main attraction in Yellowstone National Park.



Building Projects Complement Engineering Mission

Ross Hall is what some could call the jewel of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. Its refined exterior coupled with its state-of-the-art interior has been an AU landmark since the era of the Great Depression.

But last year, after 75 years of housing Auburn's brightest chemistry and engineering students, the building shut its doors for a massive restoration.

Completed in 1930 after less than a year of construction, the building first opened its doors to reveal highly sophisticated laboratory facilities. It quickly became one of the most recognizable and elegant works of Georgian architecture on the Auburn campus. From

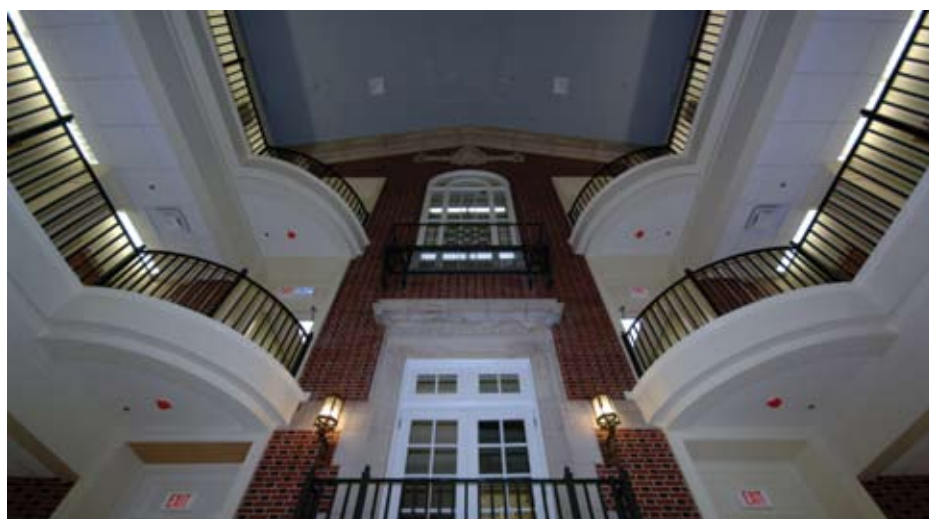
Ross Hall came generations of chemists and engineers.

In 2005, the college began a \$13 million renovation and expansion of Ross Hall. Special attention was paid to preserving the integrity of the building's original architectural elements. The historic façade has become a focal point in the new atrium and you can still find the names of the founding fathers of modern chemistry carved into its cornerstones.

With this key project finished, Auburn Engineering is awaiting the completion of another major building complex. Named for U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby and his wife, the Sen. Richard C. and Dr. Annette N. Shelby

Center for Engineering Technology will house research laboratories, classrooms, lecture halls and administrative and faculty offices for a multitude of engineering programs. Thanks to the senator's hard work, \$65 million in federal funding has been committed to the construction of the center.

Phase I is slated for completion in November 2007 and will echo AU's Georgian and Neoclassical architectural heritage with arched passageways and open-air courtyards. Phase II, with an expected completion date of 2009, will house the Department of Mechanical Engineering and an Advanced Research Laboratory that will include clean room facilities. ❁



The north façade of historic Ross Hall is now the centerpiece of the building's new atrium.



The Shelby Center's large courtyards will provide students with a great place to meet and study.

Hitchcock Wins AHF Award

Bert Hitchcock, Hargis Professor of American Literature in AU's College of Liberal Arts, has won the 2006 Alabama Humanities Award from the Alabama Humanities Foundation.

A noted scholar on Southern writers, Hitchcock served as head of the English Department from 1977-90 and has held the Hargis Professorship since 1999. An authority on 19th-century American literature as well as Southern literature, Hitchcock has been co-editor for three editions of the textbook anthology *American Short Stories*, which is widely used in colleges and universities. ❁

Huffman Wins Pollock Award

Dale Huffman, professor emeritus in the AU College of Agriculture, recently received the 2006 R.C. Pollock Award of the American Meat Science Association.

In 1963, with a Ph.D. from the University of Florida, Huffman joined the AU faculty in the Department of Animal Sciences, where he taught undergraduate and graduate courses and directed a research program that led to many breakthroughs in the meat industry. He worked closely with various meat and livestock companies to develop practical applications for his research findings, with the work resulting in two patents and new beef and pork products, including McDonald's McRib and McLean Deluxe sandwiches. ❁

Guide Ranks AU Among Top Schools in U.S., Canada

Auburn has been named one of the nation's best institutions for undergraduate education by *The Princeton Review*.

The New York-based education services company features AU in *The Best 361 Colleges*, the 2007 edition of its annual guide to North America's best colleges. Only about 15 percent of the four-year colleges in America are featured in the book, which includes a two-page profile for each school and student survey-based rankings of top 20 colleges (from among those profiled in the book) in various categories.

The book's profile on AU states the university has excellent programs in business, agriculture, engineering, nursing and architecture.

The rankings are based on *The Princeton Review's* survey of students attending colleges featured in the book. Students rated their schools in several areas and reported on their campus experiences. Rankings categories

range from best professors, administration and campus food to lists based on student-body political leanings, interest in sports and other aspects of campus life.

The book cites AU as having an outstanding library, good "town-gown" relations and friendly, happy students who are among the nation's best sports fans. ☺



With rapid progress over the summer, exterior work has been completed on the Miller Gorrie Center, the new home for the Department of Building Science in the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Advanced technologies taught in the college were used in construction of the \$9.3 million facility, which is set for completion in October.

Richardson

(continued from page 1)

scholarships and increased recruiting of high-achieving students.

Richardson said Auburn will use portions of its record state appropriation for 2006-07 to fund additional scholarships for in-state students and a new alternative fuels initiative.

He added that the record appropriation is also being used to increase faculty salaries to 99 percent of the regional average for peer institutions and to support initiatives within AU's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

"We were pleased and very appreciative of the Legislature and Gov. Riley for the appropriation we received in the most recent legislative session," Richardson said. "These additional funds will allow us to address some of Auburn's and the state's greatest needs. This is a good start."

The state education budget for 2006-07 contains \$187.2 million for operations and maintenance at the AU main campus, an increase of \$25.4 million over the current budget year, which ended Sept. 30. Including the AUM campus, the Alabama Cooperative

Extension System and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment station, the state allocation to AU for 2006-07 is \$288 million, an increase of \$42.5 million.

The state appropriation is included in a \$733 million AU budget approved by the Board of Trustees for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. The main campus portion is \$550.8 million.

Richardson announced a commitment of \$3 million toward additional scholarships for in-state students. He said \$2 million would come from the AU general fund and an additional \$1 million from a new foundation through which the Auburn Alumni Association has committed to make available revenue from its affinity credit card program.

"The Board of Trustees has established providing additional scholarships to in-state students as a high priority," Richardson said. "With the appropriation we received this year, we were able to fund this priority now so that additional scholarships would be available for fall semester of 2007."

He added, "I also want to commend the Auburn Alumni Association for its commitment

of funds for these scholarships. This is a great example of how the alumni, too, saw a need and helped the university address that need."

Richardson also announced a commitment of \$3 million to the Auburn Alternative Fuels Initiative, a new endeavor aimed at advancing economic development in the state by reinvigorating natural-resource based industries and establishing new industries based on energy and value-added products from renewable biomass. He said \$2 million would come from the general fund and an additional \$1 million from the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

He said the new state money is also being used to meet a goal of making AU more competitive in attracting and retaining talented faculty. Budget forecasts project that AU salaries will reach 99 percent of the Southern Regional Education Board average in the coming year, meeting a goal set by the AU Board in 2000. This year, Auburn's faculty salaries reached 97 percent of the regional average. ☺

Archives Adds Material to Rickenbacker Collection

AU Libraries recently expanded the collection of University Archives materials on Eddie Rickenbacker, pioneering race car driver, air-combat hero of World War I and founder of Eastern Air Lines.

Among the new items with special significance for historians is a 1918 memorandum from Mason M. Patrick, chief of air service for the American Expeditionary Force, recommending that Rickenbacker and two other AEF pilots undertake a trans-Atlantic flight. Patrick considered the three as America's most qualified aviators based on their flying experience in World War I. The general also wanted the American military to get credit for the daring feat.

The first non-stop, solo trans-Atlantic flight took place nine years later, when in 1927 Charles A. Lindbergh made the jump from New York to Paris.

Other materials shed new light on the early days of auto racing. In 1919, Eddie's younger brother, Dewey, contemplated following in his footsteps as an automobile racer. Big brother advised against this choice; Eddie asked his mother to inform Dewey that she had been worrying about the safety of the Rickenbacker boys long enough. Eight days later, Eddie advised Dewey that automobile racing promoters merely wanted to use the Rickenbacker name as a public relations device. These two

letters have been added to the collection.

The new materials also document Rickenbacker's career in the aviation industry. These items reflect his leadership in the industry as chief executive officer of the pioneering commercial aviation company he founded, Eastern Air Lines. Among other things, the material concerns corporate communications, labor-management relations and the use of stock options as employee incentives.

AU historian David Lewis, who published a biography of Rickenbacker last year, said

the materials open fresh insights into the early days of aviation. "Auburn has achieved national and even international recognition with this collection," he added.

Bonnie MacEwan, dean of libraries at Auburn, said the Rickenbacker papers constitute one of the library system's premier manuscript collections. She noted that Lewis, a national authority on the history of technology, has been instrumental in building the collection while writing what critics have called the definitive biography of the aviation pioneer. ☀

AU Raises Scholarship Total to \$15.5 Million

Auburn University is offering a school record \$15.5 million in scholarships for the 2007-08 academic year, including more than \$2 million worth of new scholarship offers for Alabama's top high school students.

"Thanks to commitments from alumni, the Board of Trustees and friends of the university, we have crossed a milestone in scholarship funding at Auburn," said AU President Ed Richardson. Noting that the number and amount of scholarships have been rising rapidly, Richardson said, "Students entering Auburn next fall will have more opportunities for financial

assistance than ever before."

The \$15.5 million in scholarships for next fall surpasses the previous record of \$13 million in the current year.

A key part of the surge in scholarship aid for the coming year is due to the new merit-based Spirit of Auburn Scholarship Program. The Board of Trustees recently committed \$2 million to establish the program as part of a comprehensive effort, including establishment of "learning communities" in new campus housing, to boost academic standards that are already in the top half of public institutions in the South.

More than 500 students will receive Spirit of Auburn Scholarships next fall. Priority will be given to students who are accepted to Auburn by Dec. 1.

Students with the best combination of grades and college entrance scores will be eligible for full four-year tuition, with other allowances and admission to the AU Honors College.

Spirit of Auburn scholarship awards start at \$1,500 per year. Students may also have the opportunity to include such individualized educational opportunities as studying abroad or participating in an undergraduate research project.

Spirit of Auburn Scholarship recipients will be eligible for additional scholarships through academic departments, schools and colleges and the university's general scholarship program ☀



The South Campus Residence Halls have long been the largest collection of student housing at Auburn. In recent decades, on-campus availability of student housing has decreased while demand grew. Reversing that trend, the Board of Trustees on Sept. 1 approved an 18-acre site west of Wallace Center for new residence halls to house 1,600 students in six or seven buildings.

AU Awards First Scholarships in New Program

Forty students in this fall's freshman class at AU are part of an innovative program that combines scholarships with a series of academic and social initiatives to help talented but atypical freshmen adjust to life as Auburn students.

The 40 new students are the first to enter Auburn with financial aid from the university's new Provost Leadership Undergraduate Scholarships. Known as PLUS scholars, the students are receiving \$2,000 scholarships, renewable for up to three years.

Part of a pilot program to boost diversity among Auburn's student body, the PLUS scholarships are awarded to academically qualified students who are first-generation college students, exhibit financial need under federal guidelines and/or add to the diversity of the Auburn student body. All PLUS scholars must be United States citizens or permanent residents, with Alabama residents receiving first priority.

The PLUS Retention Program, however, involves far more than scholarships, said Overtoun Jenda, AU's associate provost for diversity and multicultural affairs.

Along with the financial aid, the scholars will participate in initiatives to help them overcome obstacles that confront most college stu-

dents but are often overwhelming to those with special circumstances, said Jenda. He noted that first-generation college students, students with insufficient financial resources and students from minority populations often cite isolation and lack of a network for academic and social support along with financial worries, as reasons for dropping out of college.

However, he noted, students from more diverse backgrounds often lack these advantages. "Our goal is to help these students overcome the isolation and other challenges so they can become fully integrated into the university community and complete their degrees," Jenda said. "When we do that, the entire student population benefits from the variety of experiences and viewpoints these students bring to campus."

In addition to the financial help provided by the scholarships, PLUS scholars receive assistance through peer mentoring by older students, leadership training in multicultural organizations, workshops in college survival skills and counseling services at AU's Multicultural Center.

A key initiative of the program, Jenda said, is the cohort system, in which groups of 10 or 15 PLUS scholars take classes together during their freshman and sophomore years. That

approach, he added, will provide the students with a built-in network of peers who can encourage and help each other in and out of class. Additional help, he noted, will come from mentors who have had similar experiences and succeeded.

Information on AU's PLUS program is available at www.auburn.edu/diversity.

Education Receives Gift to Produce More Math Teachers

The AU College of Education has received a \$1.8 million estate gift from an anonymous donor to help improve the quality of mathematics education in the nation's schools.

Reflecting a national pattern, fewer than 100 of the college's 2,300 students major in mathematics education, despite a nationwide shortage of math teachers. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, in the 1999-2000 academic year, 68.5 percent of middle school students and 31.4 percent of high school students nationally were taught by math teachers who lacked certification and a major in the field.

College of Education Dean Frances Kochan said the gift will help the college identify and recruit more students with proficiency in mathematics and prepare them for teaching careers in that field. "In the College of Education, we strive to help each student become the most competent, committed and reflective professional possible," Kochan said.

"Financial support provided by donors plays a pivotal role in recruiting and retaining quality students," she added.

The estate gift will eventually assist multiple undergraduate and graduate students through full tuition scholarships. Scholarship applicants are expected to have scores on the mathematics section of the ACT in the upper 10 percent. Students who are enrolled in undergraduate and graduate mathematics education programs and maintain a 3.0 grade-point average will be eligible for support. The college has awarded 92 undergraduate student scholarships and 11 graduate awards for the 2006-07 academic year.



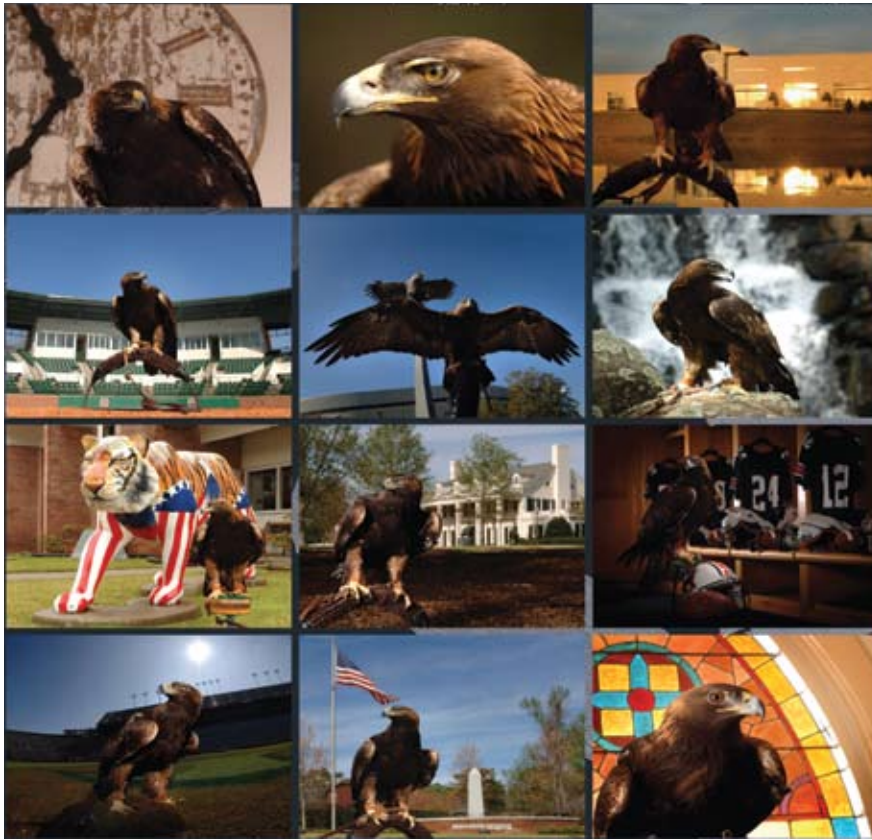
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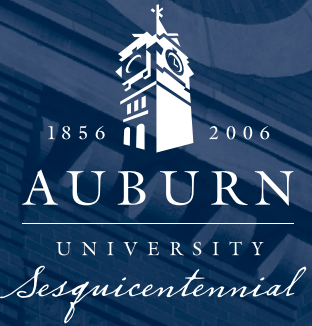
Worley

Auburn University celebrated its outstanding academic achievements on Sept. 7. The Faculty Awards for Excellence in Instruction, Research and Outreach were held at the Telfair Peet Theatre. This event was part of AU's year-long sesquicentennial celebration and marked the first time these annual awards have been given in a combined formal ceremony. The celebration also honored Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award winners and Alumni Professors. Receiving awards were Joseph Kicklighter, professor of history, and Robert Lishak, associate professor of biological sciences. Both received the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. Davis Worley, professor and interim chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, was presented with the Creative Research and Scholarship Award and David Bransby, professor of agronomy and soils, received the Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach. AU President Ed Richardson hosted the event and Leah Rawls Atkins, a scholar of Alabama and Southern history and director emerita of the AU Center for the Arts and Humanities, served as master of ceremonies.



AU's official 2007 calendar features War Eagle VI, known to Auburn fans as Tiger. *Tiger: A Tribute*, measures 11"x14" and sells for \$11.95. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Tiger's home, the Southeastern Raptor Center. To order, contact AU Photographic Services at 334/844-4560, auphoto@auburn.edu or www.auburn.edu/photo.

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