Campus plans turn pedestrian

Mary Ann Taylor-Sims stepped onto a Tiger Transit bus and rode to work. Although it took her slightly longer than when she drove and parked on campus, the ride was smooth and she didn’t have to deal with impatient drivers.

This test run convinced her that the move to make Auburn a pedestrian campus is a good one. She thinks employees should give Tiger Transit a chance and accept that they might not be able to park close to work.

“I have encouraged everybody that I know to try it; it does work,” said Taylor-Sims, the Administration and Professional Assembly’s Student Affairs representative.

Making Auburn’s core campus pedestrian will be accomplished in phases.

“We have been working slowly to make this campus pedestrian,” said Christine Curtis, special assistant to the president. “We have had a multi-step plan.”

She said phase one is to improve campus pedestrianization and traffic safety by establishing a Haley transit hub, rebuilding Quad Center parking lots and removing on street parking on Thach Avenue, Samford Avenue and Donahue Drive.

Phase two involves expanding the Tiger Transit service by increasing the number of routes and customer service.

In phase three, new buildings are constructed and roads will close accordingly.

Phase four involves closing more roads and enforcing the zones that are restricted, and in phase five the plan is assessed and evaluated.

As parking has decreased in the past few months, many employees and students have
expressed their concerns. “Parking has been a sore subject for a lot of people,” Taylor-Sims said.

Curtis agreed that this is a concern for many people, but believes the Tiger Transit system is the answer.

Although safety is the primary reason for making Auburn’s core campus pedestrian, Curtis said it will positively affect other areas as well. “People become important because it’s quieter and sounds of people become heard,” Curtis said. “You have more of a sense of community.” It is expected to take up to three years to complete.

The idea for a pedestrian campus originally started in November 2000 when the University hired Idea, Inc., to evaluate and improve Auburn’s image.

One of the things recommended was a pedestrian campus, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2001.

The next year, Sasaki Associates recommended a pedestrian campus as part of the master plan, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2002.

Reactions so far have been mixed, but Taylor-Sims thinks this is normal. “I think this might be viewed as negative initially,” she said. “Just like anything, there’s a transition period where people have to get used to it.”

CAMPUS
Continued from page 1

It has to be close to campus. Parking is always an issue. One building, or more.

These are a few key phrases heard at many Board of Trustee meetings and across Auburn’s campus in the past five years, or ever since discussion began over the location for a new student union.

Five years and $5 million later, a site was approved by the Board of Trustees on May 7.

The student village will be south of Haley Center, covering an A-zone parking lot and part of a B-zone lot. The expected completion date is in 2007.

“What you’re seeing is a combination of several years of discussions between student leadership, trustees, facilities people and architects,” said Paul Spina, a trustee and a member of the Student Center Committee.

Spina said in April 1999, students voted to increase fees to pay for a new student union, which came to about $38 per student per semester.

Ballrooms and meeting rooms will be part of the plan.

He said the cost for the union is close to $50 million, and a parking deck is planned as well.

“A deck at the north end of the stadium would free up parking spaces,” Spina said. “Economy is involved in sharing the parking deck and using part of Haley (Center) as a part of the village.”

He said the first phase will see the construction of the parking deck and the second phase will be the construction of the student village.

If needed, more buildings can be built near the Concourse.

Wes Williams, vice president for student affairs and associate provost, said student affairs employees are excited by the Board of Trustees in June 2001.

The James E. Foy Student Union will still be used for some student activities.

See UNION, Page 3
Office of the Dean of Students organizational changes

An Office of the Dean of Students hasn’t existed since James Foy’s time, until now.

Kent Smith was appointed the Dean of Students in January, and now his office is going through organizational changes.

“We added judicial affairs and international student affairs under the Office of the Dean of Students,” Smith said.

Jim Hardin, senior program advisor, and Nejla Orgen, admissions advisor and advisor for the International Student Organization (ISO), recently moved to Foy Student Union and are now included in the Office of the Dean of Students.

On a daily basis, Hardin handles student discipline issues and student emergencies. He also approves permits for the Concourse and responds to parent inquiries to Student Affairs.

“Handling disciplinary issues and other things I do make sense to be under the dean of students,” Hardin said. “Most schools are looking toward having a dean of students, and from an organizational standpoint, it just made sense to move.”

Nejla Orgen works with International Student Life and International Student Admissions and also advises ISO.

She works with undergraduate international students applying to Auburn University to make sure they have all of the necessary paperwork.

“It’s very exciting to be together,” Orgen said. “The International Student Office has found a good home under the umbrella of the Office of the Dean of Students.”

UNION

Continued from Page 2

about the new union.

“We’re excited that this will be happening and we know it will be a wonderful space for our students and staff,” Williams said.

“Students have waited a long time and we are all looking forward for the entire Auburn University campus to enjoy the space.”

Bradford Boney, the Student Government Association (SGA) president and a member of the Student Center Committee, is happy with the location, which he feels is central to campus.

“If you look at flow of traffic with classrooms, the new student center will be right in the middle of everything,” he said.

Initial discussions five years ago began with one idea.

“We started talking about a site and discussed a big box,” Spina said. “But as you know, we don’t have a lot of space to put it in.”

Consultants then recommended breaking up the one big building into smaller buildings connected together.

“A meeting place for students will help attract students, and I think the village itself will allow it to take more of a community feel,” Spina said.

He has been impressed with people in student leadership roles, such as former SGA president Jonathan McConnell and Boney.

“We had lots of long meetings, we had different opinions and we went though every possible scenario,” Boney said.

He said they had help and advice from many people in Student Affairs.

Spina feels it is a place designed with students in mind.

“If we do it right, it will be a political, social and business center for students,” Spina said.

“All of our design is geared toward the students.”
Darkrooms cleared in wake of digital age

William White often went to basketball games to take pictures for The Auburn Bulletin, but had to leave before the game was over to develop his pictures by deadline.

He had to go into the darkroom to process his film, expose the negative on photographic paper and plod through another litany of chemical dunkings.

Now, after the dawn of the digital camera, White allows himself the pleasure of staying for the entire game because all he has to do when he gets back to the office is scan the pictures into the computer. This saves him time and money.

“Because I am not having to process or print, I can stay much longer,” said White, the editor of The Auburn Bulletin and a photojournalism instructor at Auburn. “I have increased my ability to cover news events.”

The digital revolution had the same effect on The Auburn Plainsman and the Glomerata. The darkrooms that were once an integral part of the photojournalistic process have recently been dismantled.

But they had been gathering dust for several years.

Although the digital age brought with it convenience, some people still remember the darkrooms with fondness and wish they were still around.

“I believe it’s a sad day in history when the darkroom dies,” said Katie Brumbeloe, the photo editor at The Plainsman. “I think the digital camera is great, but it’s nice to have the darkroom as a learning lab to learn what it takes to make your own prints. You learn a lot more than opening up Photoshop.”

White agreed, and said he thinks every photographer should use a darkroom to develop photos when starting out.

“You can do everything you did in the darkroom on a computer,” White said. “The problem is people have no darkroom experience, and they scratch their heads and look at a tool, wondering what it does.”

Many wondered what the digital age would do to businesses such as Cameragraphics in downtown Auburn, but it still has plenty of business.

“The business is going strong,” said John Oliver, co-owner of Cameragraphics.

“We can still print digital pictures for cheap, and people are buying new digital cameras from us.”

White remembers back in 1970 when The Plainsman and the Glomerata offices had a combined darkroom on the top floor of the student union.

“You could say the deadlines and hours were different, and there were personality conflicts,” White said.

Jan Waters, the General Manager of The Plainsman, said paper’s darkroom will now be a storage room.

The same is true for the Glomerata.

Although the day of darkrooms is coming to a close, White said a photographer’s real love is taking pictures, and that hasn’t changed.

“Others of us love to sit in the darkroom, and I’ll just work more and all of a sudden it’s the early morning show on the radio,” White said.

“But you can do the same thing with a computer.”
Martina Janska is looking for information on community service activities she can get involved with while in college. She is especially interested in getting involved with helping children, but is having trouble finding a helpful Web site. Soon, this will change and Janska will be able to visit one Web site that tells her everything she needs to know.

This Web site is called a Promise Station, and it will enable tracking, evaluating and reporting of the University’s service activities. Information about volunteering, connecting with youth and the national America’s Promise movement will be provided in one convenient place.

The University of Promise staff at Auburn, with help from the national America’s Promise office, is developing this Promise Station. “MaeOla Bolton will be visiting Auburn University in the near future to educate the University of Promise staff and the Promise Leadership Team regarding the use of the Promise Station, the campus-to-campus survey and the survey results,” said Julia James, Student Affairs program advisor.

A date for the launch has not yet been set.

Colin Powell started America’s Promise – the Alliance for Youth, when he served as chairman of the founding event in 1997, The Presidents’ Summit for America’s Future. Organizations, companies and universities across the United States have become partner organizations in America’s Promise. They pledge to give their time, resources and skills toward improving the lives of America’s youth.

“As a member of the Auburn family, every group, college, department, office, student and staff member is invited and encouraged to participate as the University responds to America’s Promise – the Alliance for Youth,” James said.

In 2001, Auburn University showed its commitment to children by entering into a partnership with America’s Promise, becoming a University of Promise. Such a university is an “institution committed to deploying its wide range of assets to building the character and competence of children and youth. A University of Promise is a catalyst, convener, provider, partner innovator and civic generator, and plays a crucial role in the successful transition to adulthood,” according to a University of Promise publication.

Peggy Bearden, from Maplesville, Ala., often wondered about what her daughter Rebecca was doing at college and how she could help. She had to search long and hard for the university numbers she needed and never knew in advance little details such as when finals were scheduled.

Bearden could have saved a lot of trouble if her daughter had gone through Camp War Eagle this summer instead of three summers ago. This summer, Student Affairs will send a parent calendar to families of incoming freshmen who went through Camp War Eagle.

“Parents are starved for this kind of information,” said Andrea Bartels, Student Affairs program advisor and the awareness and outreach coordinator for Safe Harbor. “This will put it in one place.”

The calendar includes resources for parents such as important dates, information on residence halls, midterm and final dates and tips for helping their children make the transition.

“Each issue will highlight a different issue students in transition face,” Bartels said.

“August focuses on the first day of college and encouraging students to participate in campus activities.”

Bartels said the idea for the calendar came from an existing calendar at the University of Florida.

Auburn’s calendar will go to print July 1 and be mailed at the end of the month.

“It’s a great way to highlight the Division of Student Affairs and the role we play in students and parents’ lives,” Bartels said.

She is thankful to Student Affairs as well as other
departments for contributing the time and money to a project that wasn’t originally in the budget plans.

“We’ve had a great response from other departments,” Bartels said. “It really has been a collaborative effort. It’s a great opportunity to get our information to parents on an ongoing basis.”

Bearden thinks the calendar is a great idea and wishes it was in place when her daughter first came to school because back then she had to find ways of getting information other than Auburn’s Web site.

“For me, it would have been great because I didn’t have a computer at that time,” Bearden said.

Two kids pose with Aubie.

For more information, contact Julia James at 844-4452 or Carole Miller at 844-5822.
Auburn’s Safe Harbor program conducted in-house training for new and current employees on July 12. The training session was located in the Magnolia Room of the East Alabama Medical Center Health Resource Center from 8:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

“The July 12 training is set up to help our staff efficiently and effectively communicate during critical incidents,” said Paula Carnahan, the training and services coordinator for Safe Harbor.

For some of the employees, the training was a refresher, while for newer faces it was a learning experience.

The training included lectures and hands on activities, all emphasizing the importance of communication between the students who have been sexually assaulted and authorities such as police, through Safe Harbor employees.

“The biggest resource we have is people,” Carnahan said. “There are many people that have special skills that don’t get involved. We want good communication through the administrative chain.”

Some lectures that day focused on the legal aspect of counseling and give valuable guidelines for avoiding lawsuits.

Auburn’s Safe Harbor program will also host a national conference for providers who care for victims of sexual assault Sept. 9 and 10 called “Progress on the Plains: A Conference for Professionals Serving Victims of Sexual Violence.” It will be held at the Auburn University Hotel and Dixon Conference Center. Speakers include: Barry Burkhart, Auburn professor of psychology; Heather Karjane, director of health and human development programs at the Education Development Center in Newton, Mass.; Det. Sgt. (ret) Joanne Archambault, a 22-year veteran of the San Diego Police Department; Dr. Audrey Murrell, associate professor of business administration, psychology, public and international affairs at the University of Pittsburgh; John Jarvis, FBI.

“Some of the best in the nation are coming,” Carnahan said.

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New admissions publications in works

New admission publications are in the works, two of which are new and one that combines information together.

The first publication is for parents of prospective students and the second is on diversity.

Both are new publications never produced before.

The third publication is a combination of things.

“The financial aid/scholarship publication is an opportunity to combine those existing publications together into one,” said John Fletcher, assistant vice president for Student Affairs. “It’s going to be information about financial aid on one side and information about scholarships on the other.

The publication dates are sometime in the near future and have not been decided yet.

For more information, contact the Division of Student Affairs at 844-5810.
New freshman programs in works

Bradford Boney, SGA President, and Penny Helms, SGA Administrative Vice President, went to Texas A&M University looking to enhance their own leadership skills. The idea they found instead would greatly enhance the leadership skills and the drive of another group of people as well – Auburn freshmen.

“Texas A&M has a program every year called the COSGA (Conference on Student Government Associations), and we try to send representatives every year from Auburn University,” said Tamara Bowden, coordinator of student programs and leadership. “We sent Bradford Boney, Penny Helms, and Sarah Gholston, SGA Cabinet Advisor, and they came back and said one neat thing Texas A&M does is it has nine freshman leadership programs.”

These programs are similar to Auburn’s Freshman Forum.

“We have Freshman Forum, which is an incredible forum, but it has changed over time,” Boney said. “It’s been the only true freshman program; it’s become the only representative of the freshmen class. That is not what it was meant to be.”

After hearing the idea from Boney, Gholston and Helms, Bowden decided to start something similar, by offering seven freshman leadership programs at AU. The long-term goal is to give all freshmen an opportunity to get involved quickly. She said Freshman Forum only takes about 45 people and usually has more than 300 applicants.

Tiger Tuesdays will meet every other Tuesday from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Foy Student Union, starting September 14th.

“Wouldn’t it be great if all of our freshmen meet on Tuesdays, we give it a cool AU name, and then after the leadership session is over they have a fun activity,” Bowden said. The social activities will be sponsored by the University Program Council (UPC) and held at least once a month in the Foy Ballroom. Bowden said each Tiger Tuesdays program will have between 30 and 45 freshmen.

Fall 2004 Tiger Tuesday programs offered include: Freshman Forum (FF), REACH Community Connection (REACH), Emerging Leader Institute (ELI), Career Connection (C2), Future Leaders in PEACE [Programs Emphasizing Acceptance, Change and Education] (FLIP), Faculty Assisting in Life and Leadership (FALL), and Exploring Leadership for Freshmen (ELF).

Bowden will be heavily involved with the REACH program, which encourages freshmen to get involved with community service.

This year-long program will view presentations in the fall from service organizations, and then focus during spring semester on facilitating service projects and fund raisers designed to aid the agencies sharing information with the group the semester before.

Bowden said Student Affairs and the Student Government Association (SGA) have been supportive of the program, and students are excited about the chance to be mentors.

“So many students and staff have been excited about the program and are willing to spend their time and energy towards its success, without each one of them there is no way the program could get off the ground.”

Returning Auburn students such as Rob Windle, REACH facilitator and Tiger Tuesdays co-coordinator, have had ample opportunity to test their leadership skills and sharpen their communication and organization techniques. “I think there is great leadership potential within Tiger Tuesdays, perhaps the best part being it gives upperclassmen a chance to share experiences with freshmen,” Bowden said. Boney agreed.“I have such a passion for freshmen,” Boney said. “It’s the year you will learn the most. This will be a great tool.”
July Flowers, Summer Sightings

Did we miss something?

We invite all Student Affairs staff to make the In Touch newsletter a publication that serves all members of the Student Affairs family. Please contact Wes Williams (wes@auburn.edu) and give him your ideas!

Created by Mary Jo Woods, Pete Pepinsky, Wes Williams