Reaching a Milestone

Student Counseling Receives Accreditation

Auburn’s Student Counseling Services has become the first and only student counseling center in Alabama to earn accreditation by the International Association of Counseling Services (IACS).

The IACS encourages and aids counseling services to meet high professional standards, informs the public about centers that are competent and reliable, and fosters communication among counseling services. IACS granted three-year provisional accreditation to the AU center last fall.

“We measured up to IACS accreditation standards,” says Vern Russell, director of AU Student Counseling Services. “The accreditation applies to the functioning of the counseling services as a unit. We now have three years to address IACS recommendations for full accreditation.”

Those recommendations include increased professional staffing to meet the needs of Auburn’s 22,500 students.

IACS praised the AU center for its skilled and dedicated staff, its outreach efforts and its networking within the university.

In a survey of IACS accredited counseling centers, 50 specific benefits to accreditation were listed, including:
* Enhances the status of the center in the university community.
* Gives opportunity for outside review and evaluation of center.
* Periodic outside review encourages meeting standards of practice and provides valuable input.
* Campus recognition with respect to allocation of resources, source of ideas for improvement in center overall operations and staffing patterns.
* Statement of standards and annual self-study convey quality to users.
* Formal affirmation that center meets or exceeds standards of practice.

Continued Success in Mascot Competition

Aubie Places 5th in Nation

Our Aubie is at it again! Auburn can be proud of our tiger for placing 5th at the annual mascot competition held in Orlando, Florida earlier this year. Aubie has been training for this event all year. He was judged on his skit, impromptu, creativity, theme, crowd interaction, and other factors. The mascots must be able to handle different situations, such as music, children, toys, etc.

More than 100 mascots registered for the competition, but only 14 were selected to participate in the competition. Aubie submitted a two-minute video capturing those special “Aubie moments.” The other competition is fierce, so Aubie sets high standards. Aubie has been competing since 1987 and has placed in the top six every year since then. Aubie has also attended the competition more times than any other mascot in the country.
Student Affairs has a new website! Normally this type of announcement generates little attention. However, the new site brings a focus and philosophy never seen within the online world of Student Affairs. The new site for the Division of Student Affairs is the first step toward developing a “family style” of design for all web areas under the Student Affairs umbrella.

This change in focus is purposeful for several reasons. First, it gives the visitor a better understanding of the interrelatedness of all Student Affairs units. Second, it allows the visitor to get used to the “surroundings” (i.e. navigation, online services, etc.) for each unit better by not having to reorient him/herself when traveling from unit to unit. Last, it just plain looks better.

Along with the “family style” appearance, several new features for Student Affairs have been developed. These include a Student Profiles section (highlighting several impressive AU students), the online Parent’s Guide (which utilizes the excellent guide produced by FYE and repositions it as a general guide for all parents), an Auburn Fact Book section which presents facts and figures in a visually pleasing format, a Student Statistics section which gives a more in-depth examination of the “Auburn student,” and the Guide for Student Success (which again utilizes the excellent work by FYE as it repositions the U1000 text as a general guide for all college students, past, present and future).

We invite you to examine the Division of Student Affairs website further. You can access it through the “Quick Links” menu on www.auburn.edu (just scroll down to “Student Affairs”).

Aubie’s accomplishment of placing 5th brings positive attention to Auburn and is a reflection of Auburn spirit.

This year’s Aubies are Drew Rodgers (Head Aubie) from Birmingham, Jeremy Legg from Franklin, TN and Taylor Griswold from Montgomery.

Aubie tryouts begin in April. The candidates are judged on creativity, theme, prop usage, character development, and overall impression. Final callouts will be at 9 p.m. on April 9th in Cater Hall.

Fall semester, the Admissions office opened its first Telecounseling Center, with 11 computers and 18 paid students ready to talk to prospects. “They [the prospects] love us,” said Kris Robertson-Street, coordinator of the Telecounseling Center. “We keep hearing compliments about our calls and what a difference they make. It lends a personal feel and helps them realize that Auburn is not just a large university - it has a face, feel, and a name.”

The center operates 4-8 p.m. Sunday through Thursday to catch prospective students after school and extracurricular activities. The four-hour days consist of 15 minutes of briefing, 3 ½ hours of calling, and 15 minutes of wrapping up. Currently, staffers are calling accepted students, reminding high achievers about Merit Monday, and answering financial aid concerns.

Auburn is on the cutting edge because very few large public universities in the South have a Telecounseling program, according to Street. She projects that the Telecounseling Center will be a mainstay on campus. “It is going to be an integral part of student recruiting in the 21st century,” said Street.
Since the 1970s, students have been going to Study Partners for free tutoring. The program was on the ground floor of Haley Center until a fire in the fall of 2000. After the fire, tutors and students were left hopping from one classroom to the next. “Our numbers were off last year because students didn’t know where to find us,” said Kathryn Jarvis, coordinator for academic support services. Then one day as she was looking out her window at the library, an idea struck: Why not locate Study Partners there? In November 2001, Study Partners made the move to its new home in Ralph Brown Draughon Library Room 176.

The program opened in January. Traffic has increased dramatically, which helps the library reach students who might not have otherwise studied there.

Supplemental Instruction, another service of academic support that uses the approach of group study sessions, is also reaping the benefits of the new facility. Jarvis said she wants all Student Affairs staff to know about these programs so they can refer students.

Study Partners is offered 3-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and Supplemental Instruction is offered at different hours depending on class need. For more information, call the Academic Support office at 844-4388 or contact Dafni Greene.

Study Partners is one of the most used services at Auburn University. More than 2,500 students go to Study Partners each year. More seniors and juniors use the service than freshman and sophomores.

Calculus, physics and chemistry are the most popular subjects.

More than 30 undergraduate and graduate students are trained and paid to work as tutors. Tutors are referred by a faculty member, have at least 3.0 overall GPA, and an A record in the subject they are tutoring.

Supplemental Instruction has been proven to raise a students’ scores ½ to a full letter grade with twice a week attendance.

Study Partners Finds a New Home

Breaking News

Student Affairs AVP Searches

Five scheduled campus interviews will have been completed by April 16 in two assistant vice president searches, one for EMS and the other for Student Life.

For the student life position, finalists are David Grady of the University of Iowa, and Nancy McDaniel of AU. Finalists for EMS are Elva Bradley of University of Alabama; John Fletcher of AU, and Kelli Kilpatrick of Duke University.


The searches are being led by committees chaired by Larry Wit, associate dean, College of Sciences and Mathematics (EMS search) and Dan Bennett, dean of the College of Architecture, Design and Construction (SL search).

“The search committees have 12 and 13 members to ensure wide representation within Student Affairs and the rest of the University,” said Vice President Wes Williams. “Each two-day interview provides opportunity for students, staff and faculty to meet each candidate and provide feedback which will be considered in our hiring decisions.”
A major misconception about the events of last semester is that all of the tension that was experienced by this university was simply a response to the actions of a few fraternity members. In reality, the pictures taken at those parties were the spark that ignited a powder keg of years and years of weak race relations on this campus. So many minority students have come and gone from this university without feeling the sense of “family” that other students feel.

In light of the problems from last semester, Auburn has finally decided to take strong action. Through the efforts of P.E.A.C.E., students and faculty are now able to come together and talk about some of these problems. This interaction will benefit students of all backgrounds by giving them the opportunity to see Auburn through the eyes of other students as well as give a variety of perspectives on a wide range of topics.

The key to building strong race relations on this campus is to get students of different backgrounds to interact with each other on a regular basis. Interaction is the key to knowledge, which is the key to tolerance and acceptance. With that in mind, any program or event that will bring students together should be embraced. BSU will do its part by inviting Panhellenic and IFC organizations to participate in Tiger Stomp. Hopefully, this will lead to efforts from other organizations to bring students together. By staying on this course, we will be able to make real change and strengthen the Auburn family.

In Touch Guest Article
Diversity and Tolerance on Campus

A major misconception about the events of last semester is that all of the tension that was experienced by this university was simply a response to the actions of a few fraternity members. In reality, the pictures taken at those parties were the spark that ignited a powder keg of years and years of weak race relations on this campus. So many minority students have come and gone from this university without feeling the sense of “family” that other students feel.

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Sanford Johnson
President 2001-02
Black Student Union

Student Affairs Sponsors Tolerance & Diversity Programming

The P.E.A.C.E. (Programs Emphasizing Acceptance Change Education) programming committee was formed fall semester “to plan and implement diversity programming for the campus community, primarily students and organizations; and to serve as a clearinghouse for other university-wide programming efforts.” The committee is made up of professional staff members as well as Auburn University students.

Events in the past few months promoted by P.E.A.C.E. include a “Listening to Heal” lecture presented by the National Coalition Building Institute, a unity breakfast, a unity and peace march, an essay contest, a jazz and poetry night, an interactive drama and several seminars. Louis Willie, co-chair of the Birmingham Pledge Task Force, led one of these discussions in late January and reflected on his journey toward diversity and tolerance. Willie challenged almost 300 students to openly express opinions and ask questions.

Dinner breaks have been perhaps the most successful event, according to Dr. Nancy McDaniel, interim assistant vice president for student life. The meals involve a small group of students representing different interests and ethnic backgrounds that come together at Cater Hall to informally discuss diversity.

“These students might not otherwise get together in this type of setting, and we provided an atmosphere for them to think, talk, and interact with one another,” said McDaniel. “The students are encouraged to challenge what they have believed and heard in the past, and to open themselves up to new understanding and experiences.”

Consultant Kevin Clayton addresses Auburn administration in a recent seminar on diversity.

Step Show

The Black Student Union will be sponsoring its annual step show “Tiger Stomp” at 7:00 p.m. on April 20th. This year, executive officers from National Panhellenic Council, Panhellenic Council and the Interfraternity Council will join in a unity step routine during the show.

“The event is not only open to the campus,” said Kai Mumpfield, BSU administrative vice president. “Groups from across the state, as well as the Boykin Center and Auburn Boys and Girls club will perform.”

Step show winners will be given a monetary award that they can use for their organization. For more information, contact the Black Student Union office at 844-1389.
Planning for a new student complex/village, continued as Sasaki Associates presented its final draft comprehensive master campus plan during a visit April 4-5. An open forum was held April 4, in the RBD Library, First Floor Auditorium. Input from students, faculty and staff was heard.

Sasaki Associates and the Student Complex Building Committee discussed site recommendations before the April 5 Board of Trustees meeting. Sasaki is developing a comprehensive master plan for the campus. That plan embraces the student village concept which has been adopted by the Student Complex Building Committee and the Board of Trustees.

Digging In to Make Progress
Construction Targeted Toward Improving Campus Security & Image

Thanks to the efforts of 2001-2002 Miss Auburn Lauren Bricken, the facilities division, faculty and students, the loveliest village on the plains is now becoming the safest village on the plains. With the increased lighting, landscape changes, and installation of additional emergency phones, Auburn University students and their parents can feel more at ease about the safety of campus.

Bricken appealed to Interim President William Walker and the Board of Concessions, stressing the need for lighting improvements. In January, $335,842 was allocated for lighting improvements. The Auburn family was very supportive of her efforts. “Auburn faculty, students and organizations sent letters that were then included in my funding request.”

There will be 14 new emergency poles and 152 new light fixtures.

Christine Curtis, associate provost for facilities, has been a major proponent of the project. “The lighting contract is under way and many of the lights are installed,” Curtis said.

Landscape changes have contributed to campus safety also. The facilities division has been trimming hedges that might obstruct views, and the greenhouses between the upper and lower C-zone parking lots have been torn down. “This is a major improvement that has been encouraging to girls that live on the hill,” Bricken said. “This area served as a threat to girls as they walked between the buildings at night.”

Students will also have access to campus telephones. Curtis said an emergency phone project has been funded, the materials have been ordered and many of the phones have already been installed around campus. A representative at the police station answers the calls and then the requests for escort rides are radioed to on-duty police officers or Tiger Transit drivers.

Making the campus safer is a continuing process, but Curtis and Bricken are encouraged by the many new improvements. “Without the combined efforts of the facilities division, the faculty and the student body, none of these improvements could have been made,” said Bricken. “Auburn University is definitely a safer campus.”
Orienting Students

The Freshman Year Experience and Students in Transition Office is preparing for upcoming orientation programs. Thirty-six new counselors were selected at the beginning of February to lead Camp War Eagle. The new counselors are training on a weekly basis.

“The staff gets 75% of its work done in the spring -- from mailing brochures to planning the program,” said Mark Armstrong, director of Camp War Eagle. “The summer is implementation, and that responsibility falls on the camp counselors.”

Camp War Eagle 2002 will have expanded programming on diversity, Armstrong said.

SOS (Successfully Orienting Students) programs for summer freshman and summer and fall transfer students will continue into August. In March, SOS will be introducing its newly structured Parent Program.

More than 10,000 visitors will come through these programs in the next six months. Armstrong asks that offices that participate in these programs realize the importance of their involvement when it comes to sending brochures and scheduling. “We can’t answer all of the questions,” said Armstrong. “We need the experts to inform our students.”

SAfE Harbor Plans Events

In 2001, SAfE Harbor Women’s Center planned 11 events, yet only 100 people participated. Disappointed with this turnout, the center is taking a new approach this year by hosting fewer programs that are geared more to students’ interests. Previous programs were open to the community, but focused on the student body.

“Students just didn’t attend,” said Paula Carnahan, program coordinator for SAfE Harbor. “We believe the events this year will really appeal to our students.”

SAfE Harbor began spring semester with a Tiger Transit kick-off party on the concourse sponsored by the Auburn University Public Relations Club. Aubie, Miss Auburn and Student Affairs staff promoted the importance of “Safety in Numbers.” Students picked up free Cokes and T-shirts, pens, and nail files displaying the phone numbers of both the Tiger Transit and SAfE Harbor. March 15, SAfE Harbor joined with UPC Tiger Nights to sponsor Chris Kilmartin, a stand-up comedian who uses humor to talk about the perceptions of males and crimes against women. In April, the center will focus on safety while exercising with a 5K “Bring a Buddy” run. Pairs register together in several different divisions including male, female, co-ed or special needs categories and can walk or run. There will also be a special needs division. A vendor carnival for students will be at the finish line. Carnahan said she would “love to see Student Affairs professionals and buddies out there” supporting the event.

SAfE Harbor is a part of the Student Counseling Center within the Division of Student Affairs and is funded totally by a Violence Against Women Act sub-grant awarded through the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA). SAfE Harbor has 40 peer educators and volunteers who share one office, scheduling for presentations, distributing information, creating materials and evaluating programs. Volunteers are integral elements of the events. Carnahan said “All volunteers are treated as staff; we are a close-knit group.” Established in 1999, these volunteers and staff members continue to promote SAfE Harbor’s services for victims and its awareness education programs. For more information on SAfE Harbor or on any of these events, please call 844-5123.

UPC Splashes into Spring

With Auburn’s annual “Splash Into Spring” just around the corner, the University Program Council is busy making final plans for the week. Approximately 8,000 students participate in this spring tradition. This year Splash will be April 8-13, with a new theme each day at the Eagle’s Cage. Each night UPC will host a special program, including a comedian, talent show, outdoor movie, and a “Survivor” game show. The week will wrap up Saturday with an outdoor MusicFest at Bibb-Graves Amphitheater.

“The week’s events will cost approximately 20% of UPC’s annual budget and it takes 300-400 student volunteers working” estimated Jeff Coats, UPC advisor. Splash Into Spring began in 1980 as a fundraiser for the library, and because of its success, it continues to be a popular Auburn tradition more than twenty years later.

For more information on Splash into Spring, call the UPC office at 844-5292 or email upc@auburn.edu.
March 15, campus groups led by UPC organized an all-night carnival style event for Auburn students. Late night programming has already become a trend on campuses in the North, and has caught on at West Virginia University, University of Georgia and University of Florida in recent years. The concept of these events is a return to traditional on-campus activity.

Simultaneous activities in Foy Union from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. included Latin dance lessons, caricature art, and a concert. A breakfast was served around midnight.

Career Expos 2002

Career Expos at Auburn University provide students a connection to summer jobs, internships, and career opportunities. For the past 10 years, Career Development Services (CDS) has offered these networking events. Approximately 1,500 students attend each Expo after hearing about the event from a friend or by taking notice of the many banners and fliers, marquees, emails, and Plainsman ads that flood the campus weeks before. Over 150 companies usually come to recruit students during a two-day period, but this year the Feb. 26th Career Expo was only one day due to the downward trend of the economy.

“It’s very important that our students take advantage of this opportunity to meet many companies in the convenience of one location,” said Melvin K. Smith, coordinator of special events for CDS. Despite popular belief that the Expo is only for juniors and seniors, job hunting is open to all ages, from freshman to alumni. Smith recommends freshmen involvement for summer jobs, internships, and other experience. Many alumni come seeking a career change or to build contacts.

Success rate data on job placement of participating students is not available, but the benefit of the Expos is clear. “The event helps students learn how to network and think on their feet,” said Smith.

“You have to be prepared to sell yourself,” he said.

Companies often ask to meet with faculty members about the curriculum and skills they are teaching the students. “We get excellent evaluations from the companies, praising Auburn students for their knowledge, appearance and professionalism,” Smith said.
A new mentoring initiative began in January to provide opportunities for developmental relationships and personal connections between university administrators and fraternity presidents.

The Fraternity Mentoring Program consists of 26 mentors who act as role models, guides, and friends for 26 IFC and NPHC chapter presidents. The mentors have a one-year commitment, and are expected to correspond weekly.

“We began thinking about this program as early as last spring as a way to help fraternities have an administrative contact with the university,” said Jamie Mantooth, IFC advisor who co-chairs the program with Tamara Miller Bowden. “If we can give each president someone to help him with developmental leadership and get him on the right track, it's our hope that the whole chapter will follow.”

“It's not a high maintenance program,” said Mantooth. “It is just a chance for these students to see that administrators are real people, and for the administrators to see that the students are more than just fraternity men.”

Mike Reynolds, director of the Office of Financial Aid, is a mentor for Sigma Nu's president. “It is a great way for administrators and faculty to learn from students as well as direct them. There are many similarities between us -- he has to balance school and leading a fraternity, and I have to balance work and family.”

The outcome of the program seems to be very positive so far, despite the initial nervousness of the mentors and the fraternity presidents. Ideally, mentors will continue to guide the same fraternity's presidents for several years. At the end of this term, all participants will be given evaluations to measure the success, and to see if it can be expanded to sorority presidents next time.

Do you like being “In Touch”? We need your help to make the Student Affairs newsletter a publication that serves all members of the Student Affairs family.

Please consider contributing to In Touch. We need articles and information pieces throughout Student Affairs. Your views are important. Please contact Pete Pepinsky (pepinr@auburn.edu) or Van Muse (musewiv@auburn.edu).

In Touch: The Student Affairs Newsletter

The AU Medical Clinic’s outgrown, structurally deficient facility is being considered for replacement as soon as a funding source can be identified.

Built in 1938, when the university’s enrollment was just under 3,000, the building needs $10 million in structural improvements, including correcting drainage problems causing flooding, replacement of electrical and HVAC systems and a new roof. Parking also is inadequate. The restoration estimate is $2 million more than the estimated cost of a new facility, tentatively planned in the vicinity of the old ROTC hangar.

AUMC Director Fred Kam says students today have more health problems than previous generations. Hypertension and diabetes diagnoses are increasing significantly as are depression and anxiety. Student visits to the clinic have almost doubled in the past five years of outsourced operation, from 18,000 a year in 1996 to 33,000 in the fiscal year just completed. Projected visits are 45,000 a year by 2006. Ninety-six percent of student health needs are delivered by AUMC, leaving just 4 percent as referrals to specialists and other providers.

For an efficient operation, a physician needs to have four examining rooms, which facilitates patients having different stages of service simultaneously. The national average is 3.5 patient visits an hour for a provider. AUMC has 18 examining rooms for nine providers.

The new clinic would have 20,000 actual square feet, which would include 30 examining rooms including triage, separate women’s health, mental health and optical clinics, physical therapy, radiology, a laboratory and a pharmacy.

**Forging Positive Relationships**

**Fraternity Mentoring Program Kicks Off**

**Growing Beyond Its Boundaries**

**Medical Clinic Looks for New Home**

A Special Thanks to All of Our Mentors!

Dennis Weatherby  
Katie Mantooth  
Mark Armstrong  
Jim Hardin  
Anne Stewart  
Melissa Irvin-Howell  
David Hodge  
Wes Williams  
Jamie Mantooth  
Nancy McDaniel  
Jan Waters  
Kathryn Jarvis  
Nicole Britton

John Fletcher  
Debbie Shaw  
Tamara Bowden  
Susan DiJulio  
Vern Russell  
Olin Adams  
Pete Pepinsky  
Bill Jackson  
Mike Reynolds  
Jack Walls  
Julia James  
Charles Markle  
Doug Hankes

“This is a pilot program, so we expect criticism,” said Mantooth. “We are learning as we go.” Perhaps that statement sums up the program itself - a chance for fraternity presidents and administrators to "learn from each other as they go."