John Fletcher and Nancy McDaniel
Up Close and Personal with our new AVPs

What do you enjoy most about your profession?
John: “Any opportunity I have to work with students. I also enjoy working with technology.”
Nancy: “Working with students.”

How long have you worked in Student Affairs?
John: “I’ve worked in EMS five years, but I have been at Auburn for 14 years.”
Nancy: “I’ve worked in Student Services since 1991.”

What are some of your goals for the upcoming year?
John: “My first goal is to work with university groups to establish reasonable enrollment goals, goals that are closely matched with our available resources. My second goal is to provide a better level of service to students, faculty, alumni and offices on campus.”
Nancy: “My biggest goal for the coming year is to involve our students in every part of campus life and to provide them a mechanism to voice their opinions and ideas, and to engage them in service, diversity initiatives, co-curricular experiences and to promote the services, activities and supports available to them across campus.”

What is the biggest challenge of being AVP?
John: “Finding time! It is hard to prioritize projects that I would like to be involved in that I feel are equally important.”
Nancy: “Balancing the demands of a large institution such as Auburn and giving enough attention to my home, family and friends.”

Continued on Page 3

RECREATION SERVICES

• More than 14,000 Auburn students participate in Intramural sports

• Auburn’s Intramural Sports Program was ranked 2nd in the nation by The Princeton Review’s Best 331 Colleges, 2002 Edition

• Students participated on 1100 Intramural teams during the 2001-02 year

• Students, Faculty and Staff have the option to play on 5 Intramural sports teams and 23 club sports

A resolution to nominate Katharine C. Cater Hall to the National Register of Historic Places will be placed before the Planning and Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees on August 9.

The Division of Student Affairs has researched and organized information directed toward an application to list Katharine C. Cater Hall on the National Register of Historic Places. This proposal has been approved by the Campus Planning Committee and Christine W. Curtis, associate provost for the Facilities Division.

Cater Hall was built in 1915 for $17,000 as the President’s Mansion and served as the home of Presidents Thach, Dowell, Knapp and Duncan.

Continued on Page 3
A New Approach to an Old Problem...

The Plains Truth Project Redefines the “Norm”

A new kind of campaign is sweeping Auburn’s campus, based on the theory of “social norming.” Student Counseling Services began the Plains Truth Project in October 2001, grounded in the philosophy that bringing attention to the number of students making responsible choices will encourage others to make responsible choices too. The initial goal of the Plains Truth Project was to reduce motor vehicle accidents in the greater Auburn/Opelika area. Funded by a sub-grant from ADECA (Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs), Traffic Safety division, the project uses peer education and social norms marketing techniques to reduce underage drinking, promote responsible decision-making and positively influence behavior of 16 to 24 year olds in the area.

Traditional health education has taken the approach of preaching the negative consequences that will ensue when you make a poor choice. David Hodge, a counselor for Student Counseling Services, said these approaches typically use scare tactics – for example, showing a wrecked vehicle due to drunk driving. “While exposure to these images is memorable, studies have shown that these types of ads and campaigns don’t alter future behavior.” Health promotion or “social norms marketing” researches the true norm behavior so participants can see the majority of people are making good choices. Research has shown that students are often more influenced by what they perceive as normal as opposed to what they perceive as healthy.

In a survey of the 2001 freshman class, the participants said they thought 99.7% of Auburn students drink and 39.8% drink excessively. In reality, however, 36% don’t drink at all and of the 64% who do drink, 79% don’t drink excessively. The Plains Truth Project uses posters and other promotional materials to get the word out that “most Auburn students make responsible choices.”

Vern Russell, senior coordinator for Student Counseling Services, said they will test the effectiveness of the campaign in the fall of 2002. The office has already been asked to use the same model to influence a statewide campaign entitled “Reform the Norm.”

Building a Better Auburn...

New Diversity Center Opening Soon

If you’ve walked into Foy Union lately, you may have noticed some changes. The former boardroom, snack bar and TV areas are being renovated to create the Center for Diversity and Race Relations, scheduled for completion in October 2002. With input from many campus organizations including the Multicultural Diversity Commission, the center will provide an office for scholars to study race and ethnicity. The main purpose of the center, however, is to create a place that hosts seminars, lectures and other special events that are open to all Auburn University students and the community. “We really want to encourage, even implore, the faculty and staff to participate in our programs,” said Johnny Green, co-chair of the commission. Green said the commission was concerned about the center imposing on the students’ lobby space, but recommended Foy Union as the best location. “We felt the center held such significance that it should be in a place where there is high student usage,” said Green. Ultimately, the commission envisions that the center will work with other offices and studies to make information available on race, disability and gender.
What are some of your hobbies?
John: “Anything related to the outdoors, hiking, fishing, water sports, golf.”
Nancy: “Sailing and riding horses. My major hobby is transporting my 8-year-old son to his activities.”

What is one of your most memorable experiences at Auburn?
John: “When I worked in the Registrar’s office, I was going on vacation and decided to really clean up my office. I told the staff when I left not to go tracking through it. When I returned from my vacation, I opened my office to find dozens of cut out hands and feet taped all over the place!”
Nancy: “The sense of community at the Sept. 11th candlelight vigil outside of Samford Hall. Every faith and denomination coming together. It was a very special moment for Auburn.”

What is something that staff don’t know about you that they would find interesting?
John: “Well, I’m a military kid, so I’ve moved all over the world. I was born in Puerto Rico. Also, my wife and I enjoy ballroom dancing.”
Nancy: “Everyone knows I’m competitive by nature. I’m an equestrian and my husband and I sail as a family in competitions.”

What is your favorite candy bar?
John: “Milky Way.”
Nancy: “Snickers.”

What did you want to be when you were growing up?
John: “Because my dad was in the military, I wanted to be a pilot for a long time. Then I wanted to be a high school history teacher/football coach.”
Nancy: “A teacher. I’ve always set my sights on being an educator. I began teaching swimming at 15.”

Cater Hall nomination continued
The neo-classic mansion was designed by Joseph Hudnutt, a professor of architecture and drawing, and is one of few early Twentieth Century buildings on campus.

After the current President’s Home was built in 1938, Cater Hall served as a social center with dating parlors, a post office and the home of the dean of women.

The building was dedicated by the Board of Trustees to the late Katharine Cooper Cater, dean of women from 1946 to 1976, then dean of student life until her death in 1980.

The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service within the U.S. Department of Interior. Alabama listings have to first be approved by the Alabama Historic Commission. Currently, only nine Auburn University buildings are listed on the National Register.

According to the National Register website, “Under federal law, owners of private property listed in the National Register are free to maintain, manage, or dispose of their property as they choose provided that there is no federal involvement.”

Additionally, National Register listing is a qualifier for federal grants for historic preservation, when funds are available, as well as certain tax credits.

The most significant result of a National Register listing, however, is the honor of being among 75,000 historic cultural resources in the nation.

The nomination and potential naming of Cater Hall to the National Register would be a credit to Auburn University for many years to come.

Honoring their time at Auburn, Student Memorial Service
On April 19, the Office of Student Affairs held a memorial service to honor three students who died during the 2001-2002 school year.

About 50 to 60 family and friends of the students attended the service, held in Cater Hall.

“I think that the parents’ reactions of the service were positive,” said Jim Hardin, senior program advisor for Student Life.

“They seemed to be thankful and pleased that Auburn University would do something to recognize their child.”

Parents were given the opportunity to speak during the service and were presented with an AU flag that had flown over Samford Hall in recognition.

the rest of the story…
Learn more about other National Register buildings on Auburn’s campus.

Samford Hall - built in 1888, named for William J. Samford, the 31st governor of Alabama

Hargis Hall - built in 1888, named for Estes Hargis, who was the first assistant to Dr. Will Mayo of the Mayo Clinic

Biggin Hall - built in 1951, named for Frederic Biggin who helped establish the School of Architecture in 1927

University Chapel - built in 1850, its uses included a Presbyterian church, YMCA center and theatre

Mary Martin Hall - built in 1910, named for Auburn’s librarian who fought for more library facilities across the state

Landgon Hall - built in 1846, named for Charles Langdon, a Trustee who was also a cotton broker, newspaper editor, scientific horticulturist and politician.
It’s summer time again, which could only mean two things. The weather is hot here on the plains, and it’s time for Camp War Eagle.

Camp War Eagle is Auburn University’s three-day orientation program for Auburn’s incoming freshmen and their parents. Eight sessions were held this summer, between May 29 through July 18, with more than 4,000 incoming students and 5,400 parents attending.

“We had a larger growth in the number of students that came through than we had anticipated,” said Mark Armstrong, coordinator for Freshmen Year Experience and Students in Transition.

During each of the eight sessions, 40 Auburn students served as camp counselors and parent host to assist Auburn’s newest students in learning about Auburn University, and all it has to offer.

“I am very pleased with the work all of the camp counselors and parent hosts have done. I am especially proud of the head counselors,” said Armstrong.

This year, campers spent their two nights on Auburn’s campus in the Quad residence halls. In recent years, residence halls on the Hill were used.

“The Quad is more centrally located and more convenient. They gave the students more of a glimpse of what is it like to be an Auburn student,” said Armstrong.

McDaniel said that most students will face the issues that are dealt with in the skit during their years in college.

Hopefully, the Real World skit will prepare the new freshmen to handle them responsibly.

Continued on Page 7

CWE Social Issues Skit

The “Real World” has come to Auburn University.

All the usual issues are included, drinking, drugs, relationships, eating disorders and diversity.

But it isn’t the MTV television show, it is a skit performed by Camp War Eagle counselors during each session.

Camp War Eagle, is designed to prepare Auburn University’s newest students for the college world.

“Our focus is on informing students that you are in control of making your own decisions and to make them responsibly,” said Nancy McDaniel, assistant vice president of Student Affairs.

Since 1998, camp counselors have been performing the skit entitled “The Real World” on the second night of camp during each session.

Set in a party scene, the characters face social issues such as fake ID’s, sexual assault and violence.

By the end of the skit, the police have arrived and some of the characters are taken to jail.

After the drama, the characters come out onstage and talk freely with the campers about the roles they portrayed.

The counselors then lead small group discussions with their campers to talk openly about the issues seen in the skit. This give campers the opportunity to address any concerns they have about college life and to get advice from their counselors.

“There is such a transformation in the reaction of the students from the beginning to the end of the skit,” said McDaniel.
Summer Picnic

On June 14, 2002, the employees of Student Affairs were treated to the annual summertime picnic at the president's home.

After enjoying a barbecue lunch, the employees were given the opportunity to take a tour of the president's home and gardens.

The picnic was held to thank the employees of Student Affairs for all their hard work and dedication to Auburn University and to Student Affairs.

Ice Cream Social

At the end of May, Student Affairs staff enjoyed an ice cream social on the south steps of Cater Hall.

The ice cream social, hosted by the Student Affairs Staff Development committee, was held in appreciation of all the employees hard work.

The Staff Development committee is charged with designing events that will continue building the division’s many offices into one cohesive team.

Approximately 100 people came out to the social to relax, enjoy ice cream and fellowship.

Foy Union Update...
The Process Continues

Progress continues to be made on the Student Complex building project. Currently, the architectural selection process is under way, and the program and design phase will soon begin, according to Dr. Deborah Shaw, director of Foy Union.

Auburn continues to be on the cutting edge of its plan to offer student services and programs in a village-like atmosphere in the most heavily trafficked area of campus.

Food and retail outlets will be readily available to students, which will enhance the objective of providing a space on campus that students, faculty and staff will want to gather at and interact with one another.

A Job Well Done...

Employee Recognition Reception

For the past 12 months, the Division of Student Affairs has held a monthly Employee Recognition reception to celebrate each employee's anniversary of working at Auburn.

“A lot of places celebrate their employees’ birthdays,” said Paula Clark, executive assistant to the vice president of Student Affairs. “We celebrate years of service to Auburn University.”

Each month, employees celebrating an anniversary are honored for their work during a reception held in Cater Hall.

During the reception, Wes Williams, vice president of Student Affairs, presents each employee with a certificate along with an AU pin, unique to the division of Student Affairs.

New Student Affairs employees are also invited to attend the reception, to give them a chance to meet Williams and their co-workers.

“I think it is an excellent way for employees to meet with the vice president, assistant vice president and each other more personally and in an informal manner,” said Clark. “It is also an excellent way to thank employees for all their hard work.”

Vice President of Student Affairs Wes Williams congratulates Scotty Holland, a Foy Union employee, for his hard work at the May Employee Recognition Reception.
Peer Career Counselor Program

Career Development Services has trained seven juniors and seniors this summer to be Peer Career Counselors for the 2002-2003 academic year. The Peer Career Counselors will help Auburn University students use CDS resources, including DISCOVER and SIGI Plus (computerized counseling programs) and Career Connections.

The Colleges of Business, Education, Engineering, Human Sciences and Liberal Arts are partners in the Peer Career Counselor Program, and students from these colleges comprise the core of the counselors. This partnership is designed to provide programs and services that address the career and job search needs of each college’s students.

During the five weeks of training, each Peer Career Counselor is teamed up with a professional career counselor who will remain his or her partner throughout the year. Some of the topics discussed during training include customer service, test administration, PowerPoint presentation skills and computer systems.

Glomerata Distribution

The 105th edition of Auburn University Glomerata was distributed to students and faculty on April 22, 23 and 24, 2002. “We were very surprised at how many Gloms were given out this year. We have never given out this many,” said Tirrell Martin, editor of the Glomerata.

The Auburn University Glom, with the second largest distribution in the country, handed out over 10,000 yearbooks during the three days. Another 1,000 have been distributed since then.

The staff, consisting of 30 to 40 students, is already preparing for next year’s edition. “We are already in transition and have begun working on the cover,” said Martin. “We want to make next year’s publication the best we’ve even seen.”

Recreation Services

On April 9-11, 2002, Recreation Services held its fourth annual Lifetime Wellness & Fitness Expo. During the three-day event, more than 700 students, faculty and staff received information on leading a healthy lifestyle and participated in numerous health and fitness assessments provided by 29 exhibitors.

In May, more than 30 Auburn students who supervise the Student Activities Center and racquetball courts volunteered for Jelly Bean Day at Carver Primary School in Opelika.

Helping Students Adjust to College...

Learning Communities at Auburn University

Lindsay Glover figures she would have been lost. Her hometown, Gardendale, Al., has 11,626 residents. Auburn University has twice as many students.

“In high school, I had really small classes,” says the AU freshman majoring in radio-TV-film production. “There were only 60 seniors in my class.” Although eighty-one percent of Auburn’s classes have 39 students or less, the move to Auburn would still be an adjustment.

The answer for Glover was a learning community.

Learning communities are freshman support networks. Participating students are randomly selected to register for classes together. For the past three years, a learning community has been functioning in the College of Liberal Arts. Students are co-registered for two electives, history, and English. The College of Business began its program this year. Twenty-five students comprise each learning community, and the small size is designed to increase retention and to help them be academically successful.

“They know each other,” said Kathryn Jarvis, director of Academic Support who helps to oversee the program. “They are in classes with peers who they can approach. Peers are the most critical variables in college life.”

Glover couldn’t agree more. “Most of what you do at college is not in the textbook. People are what make the college experience, not the academics.”

Mark Armstrong, director of Freshman Year Experience, directs the learning communities. “Socialization is the key. When freshmen see the same faces in second semester classes, it is easier for them to work together.”

Glover knows her adjustment at Auburn would have been much different if she had not had the learning community. “I would have felt displaced, a little more lost,” Glover said. “It is nice to walk in and see people you know.”
Remembering our Heroes...

Auburn Prepares to Commemorate September 11

Michael Spann, an Auburn graduate, was the first American killed in action in Afghanistan following the events of September 11.

On September 11, 2002, Auburn will honor him and his family, during a special commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the tragic events that occurred in New York and Washington D.C.

“The September 11th memorial ceremony will bring the Auburn community together in remembrance of what was lost on that day, along with the celebration of our freedom and our American brothers and sisters that fight to keep us free every day,” said Michael Krause, SGA director of special projects.

The day long events will begin at 7:45 a.m. with a special raising of the American flag at Samford Hall by all three units of the ROTC, and will end with a memorial program that will be held at 7:30 p.m. in Samford Park

“The ceremony at 7:30 p.m. will be the culmination of a day full of remembrance and unity activities that all Auburn men and women can participate in,” said Krause.

During the evening program, which will include performances by the Auburn orchestra and concert choir, an Air Force F-16 flyover and a 21-gun salute, officers from Auburn’s police, fire department and University public safety will be honored in a special tribute for all their work in the Auburn community.

The memorial service will end with children of international students and faculty, joining together and passing handmade flags from all over the world.

“The memorial ceremony will not only be a symbol of how diverse Auburn is, but how united we have become,” said Krause.

Incoming Auburn freshman Natasha Momberger, right, of Montgomery reviews her fall schedule with her parents Juergen and Hermehis Momberger.

Camp War Eagle continued

“This was a tremendous opportunity for the University and Student Affairs to promote diversity as a core value of the institution to every incoming students,” said Nancy McDaniel, assistance vice president of Student Life.

Also during each session, students were treated to a teaching pep rally, sponsored by the Student Government Association. Campers, as well as parents, participated in the pep rally that was complete with cheerleaders, shakers and even Aubie himself.

Camp War Eagle, which emphasizes academic and personal success, held sessions for campers ranging from academic advising and registration to the importance of time management and getting along with others.

“Our goal is for campers and their parents to leave camp prepared for the transition to college,” said McDaniel.

“We provide a lot of information, but most of all, campers return in the fall having already been on campus and having exchanged ideas with new friends.”

In Touch CHARACTERS

In Touch
Student Affairs staff newsletter
Vol I - issue 4 - Summer 2002
Created by:
Wes Williams
Pete Pepinsky
Wyndy Ladnier
Meredith Kincaid

Contact P. Pepinsky at pepinpr@auburn.edu if you have ideas for our fall issue.
Do you like being “In Touch”?  
We Need Your Help!

We invite all Student Affairs staff to make the In Touch newsletter a publication that serves all members of the Student Affairs family.

Please consider contributing to an issue of “In Touch.”

We need articles and information pieces throughout Student Affairs.

Your views are important!

Please contact Pete Pepinsky (pepinpr@auburn.edu) and give him your ideas.

In Touch: The Student Affairs Staff Newsletter

There is an old saying that goes, “Native ability without education is like a tree without fruit.” This has been the motto of the SGA this summer. It has been a summer of research and education.

When I ran for this office, I campaigned on the promise that I would bring forth initiatives that will leave Auburn University a better place. I want to give you a quick update of the progress of some of my campaign promises:

1. The online voting system is well on its way to being completed. The Elections Board and Student Affairs staff comprise the task force that is conducting research of our regional peer institutions to develop a system that is uniquely Auburn while maintaining efficiency.
2. The running trail through campus is presently being researched by the administration. The “Master Plan” for the campus proposed by Sasaki and Associates was approved at the Board of Trustees meeting held on June 3, 2002. This plan calls for the implementation of our running trail in the near future.
3. The online “Foy Information Table” has now been incorporated into the SGA web page. We are awaiting information to be added by other organizations across campus.

There have been several endeavors that the SGA has undertaken this summer. The SGA is researching the possibility of bringing the 2002 gubernatorial candidates to campus for debate. Also, the SGA is planning a “Day of Remembrance and Reflection” for the one-year anniversary of September 11th.

A position of leadership brings with it an authority to serve people in a special way. In all that we do as an SGA, we strive to fulfill our mission of “Serving and promoting the individual student; unifying all that is Auburn.”

Heath Henderson
2002-2003
SGA President

Lewis Communications...

A New Look for Admissions Publications

After months of planning, shooting photos, and editing, Lewis Communications of Birmingham has designed a new viewbook and road/search booklet for the Admissions office.

The viewbook will be given to students who come to campus for tours and will also be mailed to prospective students. Road/search booklets will be taken to college fairs to hand out during the recruitment period and will be mailed as an initial contact piece.

Also for the fairs, Lewis is designing a custom display board, covered with photographs taken by Auburn students. The board tells a story of each student’s everyday life on the plains, from doing laundry to eating out with friends.

In addition to these publications, Lewis has created a multimedia presentation to be shown at the beginning of War Eagle Days. The presentation highlights four students who talk about their experiences at Auburn and also gives general information about the university.

Student Recruiter President Ryan Roberts gets his picture taken at Jordan Hare stadium for a section of the booklet.