Everyone wants to fit in. Auburn University’s Student Affairs Division took the initiative to make the first days of fall semester memorable and entertainment-packed, helping students find their niches in the Auburn community.

The welcome week, entitled Tiger Tracks, hosted events ranging from ice cream socials and comedians to student organization recruitment and a picnic on the President’s lawn.

Tamara Bowden, program coordinator in Foy Student Union, concentrated on the Walker Welcome, which despite the rain, proved a success.

“A lot of these activities were already taking place across campus.” Bowden said. “It was just a matter of gathering the information and publicizing all the events together.”

Most universities across the nation engage in welcome activities not only for incoming freshmen, but also to celebrate the return of other students. Noel-Levitz, a nationally recognized higher education research service, says the first three weeks of a freshman’s college experience are the most vital in relation to student retention. If students do not encounter positive experiences and feel welcome in their new environment, studies show they will spend the next three weeks trying to go home.

Austin Walsh, a freshman from Houston, TX, took advantage of the student organization recruitment. Walsh stopped on the concourse to sign up as a volunteer for the SGA.

“I was involved in student government when I was in high school,” Walsh said. “It is a good way to give back to the community, get involved with the school and meet people.”

Andy Newton, a freshman from Florence, attended the Walker Welcome and had the privilege of eating a funnel cake inside the president’s mansion, with President Walker himself.

“I know that may sound routine for a secretary that sees him every day.”

See Tiger Tracks, page 2
Tiger Tracks
continued from page 1

15 minutes, and to be completely honest, most students at Auburn wouldn’t think that much about it,” Newton said. “But for someone like me, who finds immense joy in the little things, this will probably be the highlight of my freshman year.”

In the future, Melissa Sparrow, program advisor, hopes the program will grow into an even more successful campaign students will look forward to each year.

“I am very pleased with the student turnout,” Sparrow said. “Next year, I would like to see an expanded committee with representatives from different departments including residential and academic,” Sparrow said.

“We need someone to head this effort, research colleges across the nation to find programs to emulate, find the necessary funds and include students in the planning and execution of the events,” Bowden said.

Wes Williams, vice president for Student Affairs and associate provost, looks forward to Tiger Tracks becoming an Auburn tradition.

“This is a great time on the campus of any college or university,” Williams said. “We want to celebrate and offer many opportunities for our new students to make new friends and new connections to the university, while offering our returning students opportunities to reconnect with old friends and opportunities to meet new ones as well.”

The Tiger Tracks committee will meet to review and evaluate this year’s event and make recommendations and plans for an even more exciting Tiger Tracks for next fall.

Flags Fly in Foy

International students now have visual reminders of their homeland on Auburn’s campus. More than 100 flags decorate the skylights of the James E. Foy Student Union, representing the nations of international students enrolled at Auburn.

More than 200 guests attended a dedication of the flags on Aug. 22. Among the distinguished guests were Dr. Wes Williams, associate provost and vice president for Student Affairs, who gave the welcoming speech and Auburn President William F. Walker, who dedicated the flags.

“The purpose of the flag display is to make the international students feel at home and to represent the vast diversity of students, faculty and scholars on Auburn’s campus,” Nejla Orjen, associate director for international student life and admissions, said.

“We hope we didn’t miss any new students,” Orjen said. “When the new student union is built, we will designate a space for the flags and put up every country’s flag.”

Kaustubh Godbole, president of the International Students Organization, said the display has been a work in progress for over a year, but the students really appreciate it.

“I spoke to a lot of students and they were all happy about their country’s flag being displayed,” Godbole said.

Dr. Johnny Green, special assistant to the provost, said Auburn is a forward-looking university and the flags are appropriate symbols of its diversity.

“We live in global village. It is hard to be global if we are only thinking locally,” Green said. “We have 96 countries represented among our student population, it says to people, ‘you are welcome, and there is a place for you at Auburn.’”

The flags were sponsored by the Division of Student Affairs, the Center for Diversity and Race Relations, the Graduate School, the Office of International Education and the International Students Organization.

The flags will remain a permanent fixture in the student union.
Students Recognize Influential Educators

When Michelle Keener became a college student at Auburn, one of her first assignments was to look back, not forward. Keener is proud that happened.

In Camp War Eagle, Auburn’s summer orientation program for entering freshman, Keener was asked to identify an influential high school teacher, coach, principal – someone who had made a difference in her life. Keener chose Lisa Essman, her high school English teacher from Pelham High School, because she said Essman genuinely cares about her students.

“Ms. Essman not only cares about students’ academic work, but she also cares about their lives and what they are doing,” Keener said. “She is just one of those people that you don’t forget.”

Each summer, at Camp War Eagle, freshmen have the opportunity to recognize any educator who has made a difference in their lives. Students are encouraged to fill out these nomination cards and return them by the end of camp.

Wes Williams, associate provost and vice president of Student Affairs, then sends every recommended individual a letter, along with a copy to that school’s principal, thanking them for their hard work and commitment to education and for making a difference in at least one student’s life.

“I have been there; I have been a teacher, a counselor and a principal,” Williams said. “I know how hard they work and I know the challenges and responsibilities they face, and this is a small way Auburn University can thank our colleagues and tell them, ‘you do make a difference.’”

Student Affairs receives thanks from various secondary educators who were nominated by Auburn freshmen as “influential” in their education careers.

Essman, Keener’s chosen educator, wrote, “Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to make us and our principals aware of this honor. Secondary educators do not often receive positive recognition for their work, and I feel blessed that my students recognize how much I care about them and their future endeavors. It is impressive that a university will go that extra step to recognize our work in this way.”

“It is rewarding to just read the comments the people send to us after having received a letter,” Wanda Sperow, executive secretary to the vice president of Student Affairs, said.

“I remember one woman called on a Friday; she had been having a terrible week and was asking herself ‘why am I doing this?’” Sperow said. “She went to her mailbox, opened this letter and burst into tears as she realized ‘this is why I do this!’”

In addition to thanking the influential individuals for their dedication to the lives of Auburn freshmen, this program actually makes the student sit down and think about who has helped them. Recognizing these certain people causes the student to appreciate them even more.

“Sometimes, the teachers will call or write the student who recommended them and thank them personally,” Sperow said. “We have had students come into the Student Affairs office, looking for assistance with a problem they are facing, and say that their teacher told them if they ever had any problems; they could come see Dr. Williams.”

Auburn University salutes these influential people by sending them these letters of thanks every fall semester.

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Cater Hall receives a minor facelift prior to its National Register celebration.
Students Now Run P.E.A.C.E.

After three years of existence, the P.E.A.C.E. Committee plans to emerge from a standing Student Affairs committee to a student run organization.

P.E.A.C.E. (Programs Emphasizing Awareness, Change and Education) works to promote diversity and tolerance on Auburn’s campus through various programs and activities. A Division of Student Affairs initiative, P.E.A.C.E. includes staff and students from various organizations and environments.

“P.E.A.C.E. has been received very well and has seen a lot of participation around campus,” Julia James, program advisor for Student Affairs, said.

This fall, the P.E.A.C.E. Peer Programmers will be created to give students more control of the committee, enabling them to plan and implement programs and to facilitate diversity training to other campus organizations.

The P.E.A.C.E. Peer Programmers will follow an application and interview process to select students with an interest in encouraging diversity awareness on campus and in the community. A student coordinator will be chosen to oversee activities, training and other Peer Programmers. David Bules, a junior finance major, will head this initiative.

“Model development strategies and the National Coalition Building Institute (NCBI) Training Model that the Division of Student Affairs is planning to adopt will be utilized to train these students,” James said. “The Train the Trainer model will also be used.”

“P.E.A.C.E. plans to travel to conferences to present this model and stay abreast of current trends,” James said. “This program could serve as a model for other college campuses.”

In addition to diversity training and various campus programs, P.E.A.C.E. will continue to host monthly lunch breaks. These gatherings present an open forum for invited students and staff to discuss issues on campus, whether diversity related or not. Students appreciate this outlet where their voices are heard and their concerns addressed.

“The biggest contribution of the P.E.A.C.E. Committee for diversity on campus is that it galvanized communication among students with different cultural and ethnic backgrounds,” Nicole Britton, diversity initiative coordinator, said.

For additional information or to participate in the P.E.A.C.E. Committee, contact Nicole Britton at britnc@auburn.edu or 844-6452, Julia James at jamesjb@auburn.edu or 844-4452 or David Bules at bulesdt@auburn.edu or 844-6452.

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2003 Freshmen Set New Admissions Records

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Safe Harbor hosted a nationally recognized sexual assault advocate, Kellie Greene, and a used cell phone drive as part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Safe Harbor Awareness Week and University Program Council Women’s Week.

Greene, who has made appearances on The Today Show, The View, Oprah, 20/20 and 60 minutes, spoke to students, faculty, staff and community members on Oct. 16 in the Goodwin Recital Hall.

In addition to the open session, Greene also visited classes on campus and spoke to community providers on understanding the victim’s feelings when dealing with a sexual assault situation. She also addressed post-traumatic stress disorder, its relation to sexual assault and how to recognize the symptoms and get help.

“Kellie’s whole focus is getting help and moving past the trauma, and one of the biggest hurdles we face is getting young women to report an attack and access the available resources that can help them survive,” Paula Carnahan, training and services coordinator of Safe Harbor, said.

Carnahan said the statistics at Auburn mirror those at a national level, which find that one in four women will be a victim of an attempted or completed sexual assault.

“We know rape goes on here; the goal in having Kellie here is to show victims they are not alone and there is life after an attack,” Carnahan said.

In addition to Greene’s visit, Safe Harbor, along with Verizon Wireless, sponsored HopeLine, a program that refurbishes used cell phones and either sells them, with the profit going to the Domestic Violence Intervention Center, or reprograms them with emergency numbers and distributes them to victims of domestic violence to use in an emergency situation.

Used cell phones were collected at Greene’s open session and in Foy Student Union throughout October.

Safe Harbor is entering its fifth year on Auburn’s campus. It provides the campus response to dating violence and sexual assault so that students can access compassionate and consistent care in order to remain goal oriented, to stay in school and to follow the dreams that brought them to Auburn in the first place, Carnahan said.

The program offers services to sexual assault victims including academic advocacy, short term counseling, community links and help working with the court system. Although its resources are limited to Auburn University students, faculty and staff, it is one of the few universities across the country that coordinates the sexual response team for the county.

Safe hosts several awareness events throughout the year, brings in speakers, participates in the college life series and Tiger Nights and partners with the community.

For more information about Safe Harbor call 844-5123.

**In the Spotlight...**

Doug Hankes, Ph.D., a licensed psychologist and associate director of Student Counseling Services, has been certified as a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee’s Sport Psychology Registry. His selection places him among an elite group of professionals serving as sport psychology resources for the national governing bodies of Olympic and Pan American sports.

In addition to this honor, Hankes served as keynote speaker at the American Swimming Coaches Association convention where more than 1000 coaches from the U.S. and around the world heard him speak on a performance enhancement model to assist athletes reach their athletic and personal goals.

Hankes also serves as the AU Swimming and Diving sport psychologist.
With the job market down, a great resume can make or break a student’s chance at landing a job. Career Development Services decided to build this strength by hosting Resumania, a five-hour event where professional employers reviewed and critiqued students’ resumes to prepare them for their upcoming job searches.

More than 130 Auburn students attended the event, which was held in Martin Hall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sept. 22, hoping to gain some valuable advice on how to improve their resumes and make them more marketable to employers.

Steven Gladden, a senior mechanical engineering major from Auburn, attended Resumania to have his resume reviewed.

“I am graduating in December and have been working on my resume for four weeks,” Gladden said. “I had it critiqued by Career Development Services and by several friends, now I want to see what the people who do the hiring are going to say about it.”

About 12 employers participated in Resumania. Nancy Bernard, Career Development Services coordinator, said they were happy to share their advice and enjoyed the opportunity to get their company’s name out to students on campus.

“We want students to have the opportunity to have their resumes examined by people who actually review resumes, to make sure they are doing the right things and to give their resumes an edge over others,” Bernard said.

Trisha Maxwell and Amy Gillis, corporate staffers from Blue Cross Blue Shield shared what they look for in a potential employee.

“We like to see well-rounded students, with school, work experience and extra curricular activities rather than someone who just went to class and has a 4.0 grade point average,” Maxwell said.

“Readability is very good,” Gillis said. “Students should include their education and work experience and make their resumes clear and precise.”

Bernard said she received all positive feedback from the students who attended the event as they found it extremely helpful.

“One student, an engineering major, told me that an employer advised her to take two resumes to the career fair, one that is plain and scannable and a typical resume,” Bernard said. “The student hadn’t thought of doing that.”

This is the second year for Resumania at Auburn. This event kicked off Career Awareness Week, which included various activities that focused on all aspects of attaining a job after college, including Dress for Success seminar, a career expo, expert panels, an etiquette dinner and a tailgate and barbecue finale.

Students Gain Professional Resume Advice

In addition to Resumania, students gathered in the AU Hotel and Dixon Conference Center for Career Expo - an event that attracted numerous employers. Career Expo gives students the opportunity to launch their job searches, make professional contacts and gain valuable skills.
Auburn University’s Admissions and Records Department is working to save trees and eliminate file cabinets. A new imaging system, adopted in September, will maintain all student records in electronic folders, rather than traditional paper files.

STARRSU, provided by Hershey Business Systems, is web-based software that allows student records to be stored online and in one folder, rather than one student having many records from different departments on campus. Admissions, financial aid, registration, transcripts and graduation documents will all be incorporated into the imaging system, providing live and organized access to student records.

“The average student has five to eight pieces of paper per file,” Susan Allen, enrollment records management coordinator, said. “Then you add the drop-add forms, name change forms and financial aid forms (which can be over 20 pages long); we fill 15 file cabinets a year with just paperwork.”

Aside from being a hassle, paper records make preservation difficult. “Some of our records have experienced water damage and are in poor condition,” Allen said.

This conversion to the electronic operation not only simplifies the admissions process and record protection, but it will also give the department even faster turnaround.

“We process more than 12,000 applications per year; with the imaging system, we can accept a student that applies in the morning by that same afternoon,” Allen said.

Accepting students quickly is not new for Auburn. AU Admissions has been working on a 24-hour paperwork turnaround for three years, giving prospective students quick notification of the status of their application.

Before the fast turnaround, it could take weeks for a prospective student to find out whether they were accepted. The department was carefully reviewed and a new operation materialized, providing more responsibility and a more efficient way of processing the applications. Staff members now adhere to more accountability, which has drastically decreased data entry and calculations errors.

“We are very proud of our new system,” Allen said. “The staff has gone from a 40% error rate to less than a 5% error rate in the past three years.”

John Fletcher, assistant vice president for enrollment management, thinks this transition is a positive attempt to improve the service provided to all the departments on campus.

“We are using technology to provide a better service both internally and externally,” Fletcher said.

“Our goal is focusing on the imaging system and transferring six to seven million documents into the system and that doesn’t include archives” Allen said. “This task will be on our front burner for a long time to come.”

Game Day Changes for Students

Chaos and overcrowding in the student section for the Auburn/Tennessee game determined that changes needed to be made to the game day operation.

Implemented at the Auburn/Mississippi State game, the new operation includes barricades that separate the student section from all other sections in the concourse. This alleviates the congested concourse, making it more difficult for students to slip off their wristbands and sneak non-students into the student seating area. The barricades are removed later in the game, when it has been determined the student section has reached its capacity.

In addition to the barricades, Auburn has also implemented a zero tolerance policy regarding alcohol in the stadium. Students will enter a security screening area, scan their cards, receive their wristbands and then walk through a group of police officers, who watch for people trying to smuggle alcohol into the game. Students caught with alcohol will lose their wristbands and be escorted out of the stadium.

The new procedures have proved successful as there is less congestion, less alcohol issues and more efficiency for the students.
Learning Communities Aid Student Retention

A program designed to help freshmen adapt quickly to the academic pressures in three colleges at Auburn has passed a test of its own.

All of the approximately 150 freshmen in AU’s Learning Communities program for 2003 have successfully reached the final weeks of their first semester, surviving the period when they are most vulnerable to dropping out, says Kathryn Jarvis, coordinator of the Student Success Center in the Division of Student Affairs.

“Data show that students are more likely to stay in school if they feel connected,” Jarvis said, citing studies by the Noel-Levitz higher education research service. “This program helps form that connection.”

The program involves incoming freshmen who have declared majors in liberal arts, business or agriculture. Each college accepts 50 students, divided into two groups of 25, and enrolls them in core classes together for their freshman year. By familiarizing them with each other, an effort is made to make the college transition more comfortable. The College of Business extends this program into the sophomore year.

Jarvis thinks the Learning Community is an excellent program and a great model for other colleges on campus who may want to emulate it.

“I think it is a good idea for bigger colleges, because it is so easy for freshmen to get lost,” Jarvis said.

Students admitted to the program are chosen through an application process. Letters go out to students who have committed to Auburn and who have declared a major in one of the three participating colleges. The interested student then submits an essay explaining why he or she would benefit from the program. The program strives to achieve sex balance and diversity.

A common misconception about the program is that the students may be at risk and need the extra support.

“The selection process has nothing to do with SAT scores or GPAs,” Jarvis said. “These students are no different than the average student; they have just shown an interest in the program.”

Zach Rowe, a sophomore psychology major from Chicago, participated in a Learning Community last year, and he now works in the Student Success Center and peer instructs a U1000 class.

“The Learning Community was able to make a big campus into a group of 40-50 people,” Rowe said. “I had a group of people that all had made an unspoken promise to help each other out, and I could always go to them.”

For more information on Learning Communities, contact the Student Success Center at 844-4475.

Did You Know?

- 5838 prospective students visited Auburn and went on a campus tour June 2002 - May 2003
- 3032 prospective students visited Auburn and went on a campus tour June 2003 - October 2003
- 1749 prospective students participated in one of 12 War Eagle Day programs in the 2002 - 2003 academic year
- 634 prospective students participated in one of six War Eagle Day programs in the 2003 - 2004 academic year (Sept. - Oct.)

Plainsman Takes Pacemaker Fifth Time

The Auburn Plainsman has been awarded the Pacemaker for the fifth consecutive year by the Associated Collegiate Press. The Pacemaker is the collegiate equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize and is given to college publications for excellence. Congratulations Plainsman!
Those afraid of needles can receive flu protection this year with a sniff. Auburn University Medical Clinic has stocked the new nasally administered flu vaccine for distribution this fall, in addition to the traditional injected serum.

According to Dr. Fred Kam, medical director of the AU Medical Clinic, each flu season, October to March, more than 700 flu vaccinations are administered on campus, drastically reducing the chances of contracting the debilitating virus. With the new nasal spray vaccine available, more students, faculty and staff may opt to guard themselves this year.

“The great advantage of it [nasal vaccine] is the lack of an injection,” Kam said.

The nasal vaccination contains restrictions the injected form does not. It cannot be administered to young children under five and older adults over 50 or anyone who has or lives with someone who has an immune deficiency, including cancer or AIDS. Those allergic to eggs or egg products, people with asthma and pregnant women cannot use the nasal vaccine.

“It is a live vaccine and that means the person will actually shed the virus for a week after they receive it, and they could possibly experience some flu-like symptoms, including nasal congestion, cough and muscle aches” Kam said.

The flu generally lasts three to five days with symptoms including fever, muscle aches, headaches, congestion, cough and sore throat. It is transmitted through the respiratory tract, by inhaling droplets with the virus. Most commonly people pick it up by putting their hands near their mouths and noses after shaking infected people’s hands or touching contaminated doorknobs or other inanimate objects.

Each year, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) tries to predict which viruses will potentially cause outbreaks of the flu for the coming year. From those predictions, the vaccines are manufactured and administered in an effort to safeguard the public.

Every year is different, requiring people to get vaccinated every flu season.

“When a person gets the flu vaccine, he or she builds antibodies against those flu viruses, and should the person be exposed, he or she will already have immunity to those viruses, and the chances of getting the flu will be significantly reduced,” Kam said.

Joe Walker, a graduate student from Harrisburg, PA, said he will get a flu shot this season.

“I will probably just get the injected vaccine, 20 dollars is much better than having the flu this winter,” Walker said.

Kam recommends everyone get vaccinated to prevent sickness during the winter months and to protect family members as well.

“A vaccine can have a positive effect on your Thanksgiving, Christmas or winter vacation trips,” Kam said. “You will be exposed to a lot of people and you can save yourself a lot of debilitation.”

Congratulations!

Tiger Transitions, the orientation handbook used at Camp War Eagle and SOS, received the “Outstanding Orientation Handbook” award at the National Orientation Director’s Association Conference this year.

In addition to the orientation schedule, Tiger Transitions also includes information from many areas of campus.

Pictured, Auburn’s work was recognized at the conference.
On Sept. 4, a 91-year-old tradition was revived on the streets of Auburn University. The Wreck Tech parade drew countless spectators to commemorate the rebirth of the second oldest football rivalry in the South, the Tigers versus Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets, who met in competition for the first time in 16 years.

The Wreck Tech Committee, with heavy involvement from Student Affairs, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Alumni Association, planned the return of the parade. It was publicized through various media outlets, resulting in the participation of about 50 campus organizations.

“The parade was great,” Sarah Gholston, SGA advisor, said. “It is an old tradition, and we had a lot of support from alumni who were very glad to see it brought back.”

James E. Foy, dean of Student Affairs from 1950 to 1978, demonstrated his support of the parade’s return firsthand by riding through the parade on a 1931 Model T Ford.

“We were very honored to have Dean Foy in the parade,” Gholston said.

The parade began on Magnolia Avenue and traveled to Toomers Corner on College Street to Thach Avenue through Duncan Avenue and ended at the stadium, where students and spectators engaged in a pep rally.

To participate, groups needed 15 or more people and had to carry a sign to identify their organization. The Baptist Campus Ministry and Kappa Delta / Farm House tied as the winners of the float competition.

Shealy Melton, a junior elementary education major from Opelika, is the director of spirit for the SGA. She, along with her assistant directors, worked behind the scenes to make this parade a success.

“The community was very receptive, and there was a ton of people out to support Auburn and this tradition,” Melton said.

The tradition began in 1892, the night of the first match-up between Auburn and Georgia Tech, when Auburn students snuck down to the train depot and applied grease to the tracks. The next day when the train carrying the Georgia Tech team tried to stop, it slid 10 miles down the track, forcing the Tech team to walk to the game. Tech lost, 45-0.

Even though college officials demanded students no longer grease the tracks or face expulsion, Auburn students continued to hold a parade in their pajamas commemorating the event.

When the two teams face off again, Auburn will continue the Wreck Tech parade tradition.

“Next time, we want to have streets filled with a sea of people, like in the 1980s,” Melton said. “To get that back would be absolutely amazing.”

AU Doctor Top 5% in U.S.

Dr. Fred Kam was selected by his peers to be included in Best Doctors in America 2003-2004. This is his fourth year he has received this honor.

The Best Doctors in America database contains the names and professional profiles of approximately 31,000 doctors in the United States, all chosen through an exhaustive peer-review survey in which thousands of doctors participated.

The database represents the top five percent of doctors in over 400 subspecialties of medicine.

Dr. Kam visits with Wes Williams and other guests at his surprise party.
At some point in our lives we are all taught the importance of working together toward a common goal and giving back through community service. In October, students enrolled in U1000: The Auburn Experience, a class designed for freshmen, were given the opportunity to turn that valuable lesson into a real life experience.

In Dr. Nancy McDaniel’s U1000: The Auburn Experience class, part of the basics of learning about the history and resources of the University and learning to work collaboratively with new and diverse individuals is by experiencing Auburn traditions and values through giving service. This year Dr. McDaniel’s class decided their service project would be to host a fall carnival for Storybook Farm.

Storybook Farm is “an equestrian-based program offering free therapeutic care to children who are coping with debilitating illnesses or who have suffered a loss.” Located in Auburn, Alabama and directed by Dena Daugherty, Storybook Farm is a volunteer-based program that has been in operation for just over a year.

After a few weeks of preparation requiring in- and out-of class meetings, students made their way to Storybook Farm the evening before Halloween to greet about thirty excited children dressed in costume, their parents, siblings, friends and other Storybook Farm volunteers. The carnival atmosphere and the treats, crafts, cake-walk, story-time and hayride provided everyone a night that will be long remembered. The children of Storybook Farm all had a wonderful time, and many parents expressed their sincere appreciation to the Auburn students for taking the time and making the effort to host such an event. At the conclusion of the evening, the students of U1000 walked away with much more than a completed class assignment.

In class papers written following the experience of organizing and hosting the event, U1000 students’ comments were more than positive about sharing time and resources with others. Stephanie McClure wrote, “I fell in love with the farm at first sight - it makes me so happy to see these kids and to work with the horses that bring such joy to their lives.”

India Slaughter also wrote, “It was a great opportunity to go to Storybook Farm because it seemed like I got a chance to get to know my classmates better.”

Another student wrote: “It made me realize that you could give so little of yourself, but to these children, it meant so much.”

The students gained not only a sense of accomplishment, but several other objectives were met through the process of planning and implementing this activity. One goal of the U1000 class is to promote an appreciation of others and to promote an understanding that at Auburn University, diversity is a core value. Our students, who previously did not know one another, learned first-hand what it takes to plan and work alongside someone not well known and different from themselves.

Several students have continued their contact with Storybook Farm on their own and are volunteering their time and energy to this special program, and more plan to do so in the future.

“The feeling is irreplaceable,” commented U1000 student Angela Johnson about her interaction with the children and volunteers at Storybook Farm.

This group of students didn’t expect to gain so much from hosting a Halloween party, but they were able to learn the value of service in a way no textbook could ever teach. By working together, they have been a part of a vital “Auburn Experience” that will potentially help shape their future decisions and activities and allow them to continue to share their time and talents through service within the greater Auburn community.

Students Learn More Than Expected On Halloween

Dena Daugherty poses with a couple children who dressed up in Halloween attire for the carnival.

Student Johnathan Rice enjoys passing out treats to the excited children.
The National Park Service has accepted Katharine C. Cater Hall, the 88-year-old home of Auburn University’s Student Affairs Division, to the National Register of Historic Places.

In celebration of the honor, a reception was held Nov. 7, and many distinguished guests attended to tour the building and learn of Cater Hall’s rich history. President William Walker, Wes Williams, associate provost and vice president of student affairs, Emily Leischuck, assistant to the president and board of trustees emerita, and Jack B. Venable, board of trustees, all spoke at the reception, sharing their own fond memories of Cater Hall.

“If this building could talk, wonderful tales would be told,” Leischuck said. “Dean Cater would be so pleased to know that Katharine Cooper Cater Hall is recognized in the National Register of Historic Places, and that those ideals and principles that she promoted during her lifetime are perpetuated by the activities currently housed in the building.”

Cater Hall becomes the tenth AU entry among 77,000 National register listings. Other campus buildings honored include Samford Hall, Hargis Hall, Mary Martin Hall, Langdon Hall, Biggin Hall, Comer Hall, O.D. Smith Hall and the AU Chapel.

“This is a very exciting page in the rich history of our university,” Williams said. “Cater is one of our campus’ focal points as evidenced by its traditional southern architecture and visits by many students of the years. Cater Hall exemplifies Auburn’s heritage and spirit. The past should be remembered but we also need to look to our new students for the needs and desires they bring to an ever-changing, vibrant institution like Auburn.”

In a letter to the Alabama Historical Commission supporting the nomination of Cater Hall to the National Register, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham wrote that Cater Hall “has served many important functions for the university and the greater Auburn community … Many people fondly remember meeting dates in the dating parlors, attending afternoon teas and receptions and Dean Cater’s annual Christmas parties.”

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

After the current President’s Home was built in 1938, Cater Hall became the university’s social center, 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 1946-1976 and dean of student life until her death in 1980.

The process leading to listing on the National Register of Historic Places included many approval steps, including the AU Campus Planning Committee, The President’s Cabinet, the Board of Trustees and the National Register Review Board of the Alabama Historical Commission.

“Throughout the 30 months of this project, beginning with very detailed architectural studies, carpenters, plumbers, electricians and painters in our Facilities Division have worked very hard to restore Cater Hall to its original beauty,” Williams said.

“We’re Dean Cater here today, she would express her deep appreciation to all who have had a hand in making this possible,” Leischuck said. “By this action, the University distinguishes itself, but equally as important, it perpetuates the deeds and the memory of a true Auburn lady.”
Student Affairs
New Hires

Amanda Burgess
Administrative
Support Assistant

Victoria Coleman
Administrative
Support Assistant

Nicole Spivey
Admissions
Advisor

Elizabeth Yost
Administrative
Support Assistant

WELCOME
ABOARD
&
WAR EAGLE!

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 Pete Pepinsky (pepinpr@auburn.edu) and give him your ideas to make In Touch even better!

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