Midway through his final semester at Auburn, a student found himself accused of plagiarism. A trip to the Academic Honesty Committee left him with an F in the course and three credit hours short of graduation.

The student left frustrated and confused. “I had no idea what I did was wrong. I know what plagiarism is. I didn’t think I did it.”

An oath of honor proposed by SGA leaders might be a step in the right direction to combat instances like this. The oath will be a two-sentence pledge which students will be asked to sign, promising honesty as their guiding academic principle.

Ignorance seems to be a recurring theme in academic dishonesty cases. Erica Jackson, chair of the Academic Honesty Committee, believes a lack of awareness of the seriousness of offenses and the severity of sanctions is a big problem.

Jackson also reports that the number of cases has nearly doubled over the last year, and that resources on the web have made plagiarism easier to catch.

Tyler O’Connor, a student representative on the Academic Honesty Committee, co-authored the oath to create awareness about academic dishonesty. “People walk into the board not knowing what they did was wrong,” he explains. “Students need to be aware of existing standards and be cognizant of Auburn’s academic expectations.”

The student accused of plagiarism’s explanation confirms this theory. “I wasn’t trying to cheat. I was careless, but I think it would help if the rules were clearer. It needs to be talked about more.”

It will be. The oath was approved by the AU Board of Trustees in April. SGA leaders would like to see it administered beginning at Camp War Eagle sessions this summer.

“In the future, I would like to see every Auburn student

See OATH, Page 2
OATH

Continued from page 1

Exposed to the oath by the time they attend their first class,” O’Connor says. “We’re going to ask the faculty to put the oath on their syllabi for students to sign. They would also have the freedom to put it on any assignment.”

John Mouton, chair of the Faculty Senate, agrees. “Camp War Eagle will be a great first step, but the faculty should use it for positive reinforcement.”

The oath is modeled after similar honor codes at other universities, such as Vanderbilt, Washington and Lee and Swannee. “Students at those schools live by their honor codes,” O’Connor says. “We should elevate ourselves to be known in that company.”

Student reactions to the proposed oath are generally upbeat so far.

Mary Jo Woods, a senior in public relations, says, “If it’s done right, the oath could invoke pride and a higher standard at this university.”

The Student Senate also showed its strong support by unanimous support of a resolution to approve the oath.

The oath reads, “In accordance with those virtues of Honesty and Truthfulness set forth in the Auburn creed, I, as a student and fellow member of the Auburn family, do hereby pledge that all work is my own, achieved through personal merit and without any unauthorized aid. In the promotion of integrity, and for the betterment of Auburn, I give honor to this, my oath and obligation.”
Tiger Cub moves to planner format, online resources

When a survey conducted in the summer of 2003 showed that only 32% of respondents had ever used their Tiger Cub handbook, editor Matt Kemph realized change was necessary.

“The surveys indicated it wasn’t doing what it is supposed to do. I wanted to redefine the Tiger Cub so it has a future,” says Kemph. He decided to take the major elements of the current Tiger Cub and combine them with other resources that students use, including the internet.

Kemph discovered a concept by Premier Agendas that was already in use at other universities.

The Tiger Cub will no longer be a handbook. It will be a planner with handbook and university calendar elements.

CLINIC
Continued from Page 2
storage, and there have been mold and mildew issues.”

The added space will also allow for future expansions in the clinic’s services, as well as upgrades in the already high-tech equipment.

There are plans to purchase a state-of-the-art, digital x-ray machine that will enable physicians to digitally enhance x-rays, a technology that can help with more accurate and detailed diagnoses. This equipment is not present in any physician’s office or clinic in the local area.

“We will bring on additional services over time, based on our patients’ needs,” Kam said.

Student Counseling Services will also be located in the new medical clinic.

“(Moving SCS to the new building) will remove the geographical barrier and provide an easier flow of communications, allowing us to be more patient/client centered.” Kam said.

The plans for the new medical clinic required approval from several campus committees and the Board of Trustees, all to ensure the appropriate procedures were followed.

“The process has actually moved pretty quickly, and I am very thankful to the multiple supporters who have helped on every level,” Kam said.

Matthew Kemph and Pete Pepinsky review handbook.

The Tiger Cub website will also feature an online reference for student activities projects and up-to-date university events.

“Everything in the planner will be online,” explains Kemph. The website will be especially useful for information that changes throughout the year. “Since rules can change almost weekly, we will have a link to them online, like the SGA and UPC codes of laws.”

Any student activities project will have the opportunity to have its events marked in the planner. Major university events, athletic schedules, and holidays will also be marked.

Organizations will be listed categorically online, as well as procedures to create a new organization. The list will have links to the central SGA database, so that information about each organization will be just a click away.

Overall, the Tiger Cub is expected to be much more user-friendly. The new format

See TIGER CUB, Page 5
Not all the courses Kayla Ledbetter takes at Auburn University are for good situations, like high-paying jobs in a satisfying career. At least one course was for bad situations. She recommends it to her friends.

Ledbetter, a freshman from Birmingham, squeezed a one-credit-hour course in Rape Aggression Defense (RAD) into the spring semester course load for her major, human development and family studies, at the suggestion of a friend.

Ledbetter recalled an encounter in the early morning hours at a Birmingham gas station. She was alone. Two men verbally harassed her. Ledbetter asked for help from the attendant, who walked her back to her car so she could leave safely.

“I realized that if I were to get in a bad situation like that again, I wouldn’t know the right things to do in order to protect myself,” Ledbetter said. “So, I signed up.”

According to Safe Harbor, one in four women will be sexually assaulted some time in her life. To combat this problem, Safe Harbor and the Department of Public Safety, with a grant from Student Affairs, continue to sponsor the RAD prevention program.

Federal funds are shrinking for this program, but with the help of Student Affairs, Safe Harbor has sufficient support to train 10 new instructors and purchase new equipment.

“They (Student Affairs) are really involved and support our program,” Andrea Bartels, program advisor, said.

RAD provides women with an increased awareness of their risks, confidence in their own abilities and it teaches them physical techniques to fight off an attacker. RAD does not teach the use of guns, sprays and other weapons. RAD instructors show women how to use their hands, feet, voice and brain.

“90% of self defense is risk awareness and risk reduction,” Bartels said. “Rapists look for an easy target. If you look confident and aware of your surroundings, they will be less likely to attack.”

RAD has been offered on Auburn’s campus since 1999 and as of fall 2002, offered for one credit through health and human performance. The class includes 25 percent lecture, 50 percent physical techniques and 25 percent simulation.

“The students get the opportunity to simulate an attack and practice the techniques they learned,” Bartels said. “Both the instructor and the student wear protective gear.”

“We have to yell ‘NO’ when we practice a move,” Ledbetter said. “There are a lot of tiny, shy girls in my class and the yelling really loosens them up.”

“It is really weird actually punching and kicking the instructors,” Ledbetter said, “but I have built my confidence and would know what to do if I were walking home at night from the library.”

RAD’s positive impact among students has allowed the program to branch out into the community. Evening RAD classes are offered for faculty, staff and the community one to two times a year. The course fee is $10. The participants receive a manual and a t-shirt. Scholarships are available.

“Cost will never be a barrier for anyone who wants to take this class,” Bartels said.

The 12-hour RAD course
SGA receives recognition from Red Cross

Auburn University, the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Foy Student Union were recognized for a 92 percent increase in blood donations from 2002 to 2003.

June L. Fletcher, CEO of the American Red Cross Blood Services Alabama and Central Gulf Coast Region, presented the national American Red Cross blood service awards, which included an etched crystal plaque shaped like a blood drop and a framed letter of commendation from the organization’s national president, Marty Evans.

Sarah Gholston, assistant director of student programs and leadership, and Lydia Knizley, SGA director of blood drives, accepted the awards on behalf of the SGA.

“Auburn University, its staff, faculty, the student government association and its students are most worthy of this coveted national Red Cross award. They lead by example.” Fletcher said. “The Red Cross recognizes and honors Auburn’s selflessness and tireless dedication to helping those most in need of a second chance at life through a blood transfusion.”

In addition, AU, the SGA and the Foy Student Union were recognized for hosting the largest and most successful Save A Life Tour (SALT) in Alabama. SALT, a national blood donor recruitment initiative, drew nearly 325 donors at Auburn and over 160 students and faculty toured the Red Cross mobile museum.

TIGER CUB

Continued from Page 3

will be “in your face every day,” describes Kemph. “The whole point is to get the information to the students and make them more aware.”

Kemph credits Pete Pepinsky, advisor to the Tiger Cub, for much of the exposure the new concept has received. “He has been the one talking to faculty and the AU bookstore to make sure there is a market for this.”

The planner will be sold at the bookstore but provided free to new students in Camp War Eagle for freshman and Successfully Orienting Students for transfers. The Tiger Cub has partnered with the bookstore. “Our biggest concern is that it’s successful,” says Kemph. “Eventually we’d like to implement advertising so the Tiger Cub could help defray production costs.”

RAD

Continued from Page 4

for students will be offered in two sections this summer and four sections this fall. Each class accommodates 40 women.

“We have received nothing but positive feedback,” Bartels said. “The class is a very empowering experience, and despite the seriousness of the subject, we make the class fun.”

“I have never had brothers, so I didn’t know how to fight,” Ledbetter said. “Punching someone sounds easy, but if you don’t do it the right way, it isn’t effective.”

“I would recommend this class to any woman who wants to make sure she could defend herself, if the situation were to arise,” Ledbetter said.
Boney talks goals and priorities

With campaign promises of improvement and change, Bradford Boney, a junior communications major from Daphne and the new SGA president, works side by side with administration and faculty to accomplish his goals for the university and be the voice of 23,000 students.

“Student Affairs has been very instrumental in helping make this year a success thus far,” Boney said. “Student Affairs is my support group and has been very helpful in making the lines of communication very open.”

Boney follows his brother’s footsteps. Lindsey Boney served as the SGA president in 2000 – 2001.

He has given me advice on time management for this position, how to take a bold stance and how to glorify God through what I do,” Boney said. “His input is extremely valuable to me.”

Boney has taken his brother’s time management advice seriously. Only a few weeks since his appointment, Boney has already jumpstarted his presidency by fulfilling verbal pledges he made in his run for election.

Promises to keep students informed with university happenings and other pertinent issues are taking form with an email newsletter that will be sent weekly to all students. Students received “Campus Connection” in their inboxes for the first time March 15.

“The automated system for car tags will be in place this fall,” Boney said. “No more long lines for students to wait for their parking passes.”

The Student Honor Council was another point of focus for Boney’s campaign.

“We are in the beginning stages; I have delegated two people to help write the mock-up and

See BONEY, Page 7

McConnell reflects

Almost a year ago, Jonathan McConnell was “blown away and completely surprised” to learn he had been elected 2003-04 SGA president. Now, as his term has ended, he reflects on 60-hour weeks and 5,000 minutes a month on his cell phone.

Despite some setbacks, his experience as the leader of Auburn’s student body is something he would definitely do again.

He credits Student Affairs for playing a crucial advisory role. “Student Affairs is important

Wanda Sperow, Jonathan McConnell, and Dr. Wes Williams

because its administrators represent the interests of students.”

Meetings with Wes Williams, vice president for student affairs and associate provost, have led to a helpful relationship. “He always has a very open ear, and listens to what my concerns are and what the students’ concerns are,” says McConnell. “We actually talk every couple of days.”

Getting things done has not been a problem for McConnell. “I was looking at my platform the other day, and I realized there were only two things I didn’t do.”

His advice for his successor is to write out a timeline of when to get things done. “Hold yourself accountable to it.” He also stresses the importance of replying to every email, no matter

See MCCONNELL, Page 7
BONEY
Continued from Page 6

setting goals,” Boney said.

Many students are interested in the new student union, a plan that has been developing for years. The Board of Trustees approved a union site May 7. The new union will be south of Haley Center and east of Jordan-Hare Stadium.

“The new student union will be the biggest challenge (in my administration) because I don’t make the final decisions; I just propose ideas to other people.” Boney said.

Boney realizes that for him to have a successful term, he must create working relationships with university senate,” Boney said. “I believe in the honesty line in the Auburn Creed, and I think if we are honest with each other, we can get a lot of things done.”

Boney takes his position as the voice for all Auburn students seriously.

“I have to be that voice and if administration and faculty don’t trust me, I am not effective. I have to build this trust,” Boney said. “A working relationship determines effectiveness.”

As for Boney’s future, beyond Auburn, he plans to take a missionary trip for a year after graduation and then possibly become a sports broadcaster.

“I don’t want to be a career politician, but I could see myself working for one,”

Boney speaks at a Senate meeting with Stephen Neslage, and Allison O’Neal in background

MCCONNELL
Continued from Page 6

how nasty they get. “You should because you’re supposed to be serving every student.”

“Even with challenges, he has been very successful and he has been one of the best SGA presidents,” says Williams. “He’s extremely honest and caring and wants to do the best for the students in all his endeavors.”

In addition to his reputation for being an excellent and honest communicator, McConnell has more reason to feel accomplished. Among many other things, he has worked to improve student seating at football games, tweaked the student registration process to ensure senior priority, and helped to implement a successful online voting system for student elections. He is also working to improve the student insurance program to be one of the top in the nation.

“Jonathan has been a bright light at this institution,” Williams said. “He will be missed.”

As for McConnell’s future, it is another source of bright light. He believes his SGA experience has prepared him well by teaching him to work with other people. “There are people that may not want to work with you, but you have to work with them.”

He plans to earn a law degree after traveling abroad this summer. He wants to hit all seven continents.

“The sky is the limit,” he says.

Williams agrees. “I am sure we will be hearing more about Jonathan McConnell in the future.”
Kent Smith was named dean of students in January following a national search. Smith came to AU from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Oh, where he served as director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs. He previously held administrative and faculty positions at Colorado State University, Cleveland State University and Southern University.

A Baton Rouge, La. native, Smith earned a Bachelor of Science in secondary education and a Master of Education in administration and supervision from Southern University. His PhD is in education and human resource studies with an emphasis in student affairs from Colorado State University.

Q: What were your first impressions of AU in the interview process?
Smith: In a word, amazing. I’ve been on a lot of campuses and have heard of the Auburn Spirit, but to see it first hand is wonderful. The Auburn Spirit is real, and it is amazing.

Q: What do you see as your initial priorities - how will you spend your next three months?
Smith: I will spend that time becoming acclimated before we begin putting together a plan for the dean of students office. That will take a little tweaking, then we will move forward together. I know we will have many meetings and much discussion.

Q: What one thing would you want an AU student to know about you and your work style?
Smith: My door is always open. I am someone students can always talk to and be comfortable with. I am dedicated to our students having a great Auburn experience.

Q: Ten years from now, what do you hope to be known for at AU?
Smith: Dean (Jim) Foy is a legend at Auburn, and he along with many other administrators in student affairs will always be known for the great rapport built with students. I want to follow that fine example of service and be remembered as dedicated to meeting student needs.

Lost and Found in NYC

The shiny bracelet on the United Nations floor caught her eye.

It should have.

Amy Long picked it up. There were so many stones; she figured they were cubic zirconia. They were not.

In a hurry, she chucked the bracelet in her purse. She figured her department head could handle lost and found duties when she returned to Auburn University from New York City.

That was the start of a nice tale, one that brings to mind a line from the Auburn Creed: “I believe in honesty and truthfulness, without which I cannot win the respect and confidence of my fellow men.”

The story stretches from New York City to Houston to Auburn. And, as all good stories go, it has a happy ending.

It all began at the International Quality of Life Awards, Dec. 8, in New York City, where Long, a graduate student in marriage and family therapy from Roswell, Ga, found the diamond bracelet on the floor during the dinner at the United Nations Delegates Dining Room.

“I put it in my purse and was on my way home, so I just decided to give it to my department head (Marilyn See BRACELET, Page 9

Amy Long

See BRACELET, Page 9
Rec Services stays busy after Spring Break

“I know that working out has a lot to do with how I feel when I am showing a lot of skin,” says Lyndsey Dodd, a junior in public relations. Dodd has been working out at the Student Activities Center (SAC) for three years.

Recently on spring break she was thankful for it. “We played football and I was perfectly fine playing in just my bathing suit. If I didn’t work out I wouldn’t look the way I do.”

Spring break was one obvious reason for the recent workout craze, and Brian Stuman, weight room manager, adds that things have not slowed down even now that spring break is over.

At 5:30 p.m. on a Tuesday, the fitness room at the SAC is humming with the sound of 25 workout machines. A line of 15 people has formed, all waiting their turn to work up a sweat.

The weight room is a similar sight, with the clanging of barbells and bench presses. Stuman reports that in one day, 600-800 people use the weight room, and 300-400 people use the fitness room.

A reason for the popularity of the SAC could be its low cost. The current rate is $7.50 per semester. “We have the lowest rate in the SEC,” says Stuman. “That’s great if you look at the quality of our machines.”

Matt McFarland, a frequent patron of the weight room, agrees. “I can do anything here I need to do,” he says. “It’s definitely worth the money I save from not joining another gym.”

McFarland also feels comfortable knowing the weight room workers. “They’re safety-trained, and they cut down on people messing around.”

In addition to being CPR certified, SAC workers can also give individual advice for exercising. Stuman says one of the most common things that students want to know is how to work out a particular muscle or area.

Recreational Services also began offering fitness

BRACELET
Continued from Page 8

Bradbard) when I got back to Auburn,” Long says. “She took care of it, and then I got an email saying the family received the bracelet.”

The bracelet’s owner was an ardent Auburn alumna, who asked not to be identified.

The owner’s husband says his wife discovered her bracelet missing when they returned to their home in Houston from New York City.

“We were getting ready for another black-tie affair when my wife couldn’t find her bracelet,” he says. “She searched for it and couldn’t find it, so I filed a claim with our insurance company.”

The family’s assistant called all the places they had been while in New York to see if the bracelet had been turned in. Her last call was to Auburn, where the search ended.

“I was in Auburn the next week for a meeting, and they hand delivered it to me at the Alumni Center,” the owner’s husband says.

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Desiree Sanders gets workout advice from Brian Stuman

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“Called Amy on Christmas Eve while she was in Roswell, Ga., to thank her” he says. “I plan to look her up next time I am in Auburn.”

After the return, the family’s insurance company contacted Auburn to deposit a monetary reward into Long’s university account.

“We would like to recognize Amy for her dedication and honesty,” says Nick Alexander of the Chubb Insurance Group. “Thanks to people like Amy, the world is a much better place to live.”
assessment tests in 1998. Erin Sharp, a student nutrition and fitness consultant, says they have become more popular.

“No one used to know about it, but now we have quite a few people come in,” she says. “Everyone wants to get in shape, and they’re realizing fad diets and quick fixes don’t work.”

What can one expect in a fitness assessment test? Bioelectrical impedance, treadmills, and weights.

Bioelectrical impedance sends a current through the body to measure percent body fat. The treadmill test allows the consultants to assess an individual’s cardiovascular shape, and the weights are for testing endurance. For a nutrition assessment, individuals are asked to record their food intake for three days prior to their appointment.

A computer is used to help analyze the food logs, breaking them down into calories, nutrients, sugars, and other nutritional information. The consultants then look at all factors combined, and can make recommendations to an individual.

“We’re honest,” says Sharp. “We recommend ways to eat right for a lifetime.”

Anthony Pearson, an Auburn graduate student, took advantage of the fitness assessment in October 2003. He remembers that he went in mostly for dietary reasons.

“I played soccer in undergrad,” he says. “I stopped playing when I came here, but my eating habits had not changed. I learned that no matter how much you work out, you have to watch what you eat.”

Pearson says that the staff was very encouraging. “Someone is there the whole time. When they weren’t saying supportive things, they were informing me.”

Pearson is also a residence hall director for Little Hall. He says he recommends the assessment to residents. “It only takes an hour, and you get so much information.”
The Unsung hero: Graduate Student Council President

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) is not publicized. It is not in the spotlight. Unlike the student government system of the undergraduate population, it is a behind-the-scenes organization.

“Most graduate students wouldn’t even know or care that it’s there, unless their insurance or tuition waivers disappeared,” says Sarah Thacker, a GSC senator.

But to GSC President, Melissa Brooks, that is what it is all about. Brooks has been working hard for better pay, better insurance, and stable funding for graduate assistantships. She admits it can be very time-consuming, so much that it pushed her planned graduation date farther into the future.

“It’s been worth it. We’re really making headway,” she says. “I’d drag it out another year if I could.”

Brooks entered the GSC as a senator in 1999. She recalls that it took too much of her time, so she decided to take a year off. She was inspired to assist the GSC again under the 2002-2003 presidency of Nancy Joseph.

“She was really motivated and worked hard to promote graduate student issues,” Brooks says. “We had worked so hard for so many things, I didn’t want to see it fall apart.”

The GSC sponsors three major events each year. An orientation picnic is held every August to introduce new students to administrators and each other. An awards picnic is held in the spring for the dean to present awards and fellowships. Research Forum is held every March, giving graduate students the opportunity to present their work to peers and faculty.

Even though Brooks is responsible for organizing these events, she credits others for the success of the events. “I have great officers,” she says. “That helps a lot.”

The GSC held elections for new officers in April. “It will be different for the next president because no one has been here as long as Melissa,” says Thacker.

Mike Leslie is the newly elected president. “At this point I really don’t know what to expect, but that’s what makes this job interesting,” he says. “There are a lot of issues that have been brought to the GSC this past year.”

“Delegation is a very integral component of the job,” Brooks says as advice for her successor. “As president everyone will have a cause or an issue, so choose the battles worth fighting and focus on those issues.”
May
Flowers

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!

Created by Allison Reeves, Nicci Loscalzo, Pete Pepinsky, Wes Williams