AU Chooses Hanley for Provost Position

President William F. Walker has named Thomas R. Hanley of the University of Louisville as Auburn’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs.

The provost is the chief academic officer at Auburn. The deans of all 12 AU colleges and schools, University Libraries and the Graduate School report to the provost, as do the offices of Multicultural Affairs, Information Technology and the vice presidents for research, outreach and student affairs.

Meeting in special session Sept. 26, the AU Board of Trustees authorized the president to make the appointment, ending a search that began last fall, following the appointment of Walker as president in June 2002.

Board of Trustees bylaws require board approval for appointment of the chief academic officer, chief financial officer and athletic director. Other cabinet appointments are made directly by the president.

Hanley is leaving his post as dean of engineering and professor of chemical engineering in the Speed Scientific School at Louisville to assume the Auburn position.

“The position of provost is central to Auburn’s academic mission,” said Walker. “Dr. Hanley has an outstanding record as an educator and academic leader, and we look to him to provide immediate leadership as we chart the university’s course for the future.”

The AU president noted that Hanley was among finalists recommended by the search committee and won favorable reviews from faculty during a campus visit in late April. In June, Walker visited the Louisville campus and conducted further study that, he said, reinforced the recommendations of the search committee and on-campus interviews.

Hanley holds three degrees in chemical engineering from Virginia Tech.

New Rankings Pick Auburn as Best in State

For the 11th consecutive year U.S. News & World Report magazine has rated Auburn University as the best public university in the state of Alabama.

In its annual rankings for 2003-2004, the magazine listed AU No. 44 among the top 50 public national universities—down one spot from a year ago—and tied with the University of Kansas, the University of New Hampshire and the University of Tennessee.

However, the only SEC-member universities that ranked ahead of Auburn in the overall national ratings were the University of Florida and the University of Georgia, both of which receive substantially higher per student state appropriations than Auburn.

AU President William F. Walker said he was pleased by Auburn’s ability to maintain its high national ranking, despite continuing economic uncertainties.

It is the 11th consecutive year that U.S. News & World Report has ranked AU in the magazine’s top 50. The No. 1 ranked universities, in a tie, were Harvard and Princeton.

“This is another example of how Auburn does more with less,” said Earlon McWhorter, president pro tem of the AU Board of Trustees. “I think it’s amazing what we do at Auburn with the funds we receive.

“Auburn’s continued high ranking in the U.S. News & World Report is noteworthy when coupled with a comparison of much higher state appropriations to universities in its peer group.”

(Rankings, continued on page 5)
Enrollment Drops, ACT Scores Rise as Planned

Auburn’s enrollment for fall semester reflects a slight decrease from last year’s record high, but administrators say that is part of a plan that also includes increases in quality indicators for new freshmen.

Overall enrollment is 23,152, down from last year’s all-time high of 23,326. But John Fletcher, AU’s assistant vice president for enrollment management in the Division of Student Affairs, says the drop resulted from the university’s concentration on increasing the quality of the incoming freshman class while matching new students to available resources.

“We feel very pleased with what has resulted from our enrollment management processes,” Fletcher said. “We think we have been successful in attracting better students and matching them to the resources available in the colleges and schools in which they have enrolled to allow them to get the maximum from their Auburn experience.”

Fall semester enrollment numbers include: 20,048 undergraduates, down from 20,346 last year; 3,104 graduate students, up from 2,930 last year; and 1,329 transfer students, roughly equivalent to last year’s number.

Meeting a goal of reducing the size of the freshman class, Auburn enrolled 3,706 new freshmen this fall compared to 4,100 last year. Those new freshmen reflected a significantly higher average ACT score (24.4, up from 23.5 last year), a higher average SAT score (1117, compared to 1101 last year) and a higher average high school grade point average (3.51, compared to 3.43 last year).

“We made the decision last year to focus on quality rather than quantity in our new freshman admissions,” Fletcher said.

Wes Williams, vice president for student affairs, said several factors led to the increase in academic achievement of entering freshmen. “Good students like these choose a school because of the quality of the faculty and programs,” Williams said.

“Another major factor this year is the leadership and teamwork of Enrollment Management Services and the Enrollment Management Oversight Group.”

The Enrollment Management Oversight Group, chaired by interim Provost John Pritchett, helped colleges and schools coordinate the admission of new students with available faculty, classrooms and other resources.

“We’ve increased our focus on bettering the educational experience from both points of view,” Fletcher explained. “By matching admissions with resources, we’re better able to control class sizes, teaching loads and other variables that help to maximize the students’ educational experiences.”

Message from the President

Dear Auburn Friends and Supporters:

As I’m sure you know by now, Alabama voters defeated Gov. Bob Riley’s tax reform package. As a result, I foresee large cuts in state funding affecting our goals for at least the next two years. Regardless of the funding situation, this university will do what is necessary to preserve academic quality.

In an important step toward achieving that goal, the Division of Student Affairs has worked hard and successfully on attracting high-quality students. I am pleased to report the result: the average ACT scores of incoming freshmen rose to 24.4 this fall as compared with 23.5 last fall, a significant increase.

Good students have always been attracted to good universities, so it doesn’t surprise me that U.S. News & World Report rated Auburn the best public university in the state of Alabama and among the top 50 public national universities—for the 11th consecutive year. That ranking reflects the dedication of this university’s faculty, staff and students.

I am pleased to announce that Thomas Hanley has joined Auburn in October as its new provost and vice president for academic affairs. Dr. Hanley’s position is central to our academic mission, and I have every confidence in his abilities to enhance our standing among institutions of higher education.

The next few years will bring severe challenges to all of public higher education across the country. We at Auburn are determined to meet these challenges, and I can assure you that your support will be a tremendous help and deeply appreciated.

As always, your comments are welcome at: commons@auburn.edu

Sincerely,

William F Walker
AU Wireless Program Gets $3.15 Million Grant

Auburn University is one of three universities to receive nearly $3.2 million in funding for its wireless engineering program through the Vodafone-US Foundation Fellows Initiative, says Larry Benefield, dean of AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

The five-year grant will be used for undergraduate scholarships, graduate fellowships and course and laboratory development. The University of California at Berkeley and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign also received grants.

“The competition for this award was tough,” said Benefield. “It included 14 of the nation’s top 25 engineering schools. To be one of the three programs selected is testament to the strength of our wireless efforts.”

Auburn’s activities focus on its Wireless Engineering Research and Education Center, which is building on a $25 million gift from Auburn alumnus Samuel Ginn to develop a program in wireless engineering. A key element has been the creation of an undergraduate wireless degree program—the first of its kind in the nation.

The wireless engineering degree is offered through two departments in Auburn’s College of Engineering—Computer Science and Software Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering—with hardware, software and network options.

“We began enrolling students in the wireless program in fall 2002,” said Dick Jaeger, Distinguished University Professor of electrical and computer engineering and the center’s interim director. “The response has been strong. We intend to use the grant to maintain and build on this momentum.”

Although the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering administers the center, WERECS plans to integrate faculty activities from other disciplines, including computer science and software engineering, industrial and systems engineering and mechanical engineering as well as physics, math and business.

This multidisciplinary effort also serves as an adjunct to the Information Technology component of AU’s Peaks of Excellence. The Peaks programs provide additional resources to areas of research that have potential to be economic drivers for the state and the region, says Wayne Johnson, a member of the electrical and computer engineering faculty and director of the Information Technology Peaks of Excellence program.

“The interplay between the wireless engineering program and the information technology Peak will provide a number of avenues to attract research funding,” Benefield said. “It also provides an unmatched educational experience at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.”

“The Vodafone-US Foundation grant, when combined with our current efforts, is going to ensure that we attract the top students from around the world to our wireless program,” says Richard Chapman of the computer science and software engineering faculty.

“Wireless is a global enterprise and, as such, we must look to be a leader not only in Alabama but also in the world.”

The Walnut Creek, Calif.-based Vodafone-US Foundation annually gives more than $1 million, generally to the San Francisco Bay Area. This is Vodafone-US Foundation’s first major initiative involving higher-education institutions.

Vodafone is one of the world’s largest mobile telecommunications network companies with operations in 28 countries, more than 60,000 employees and 100 million customers worldwide.

Student Picks Up Top Honors in Vet Program

An AU veterinary student and a Georgia medical student have captured first place honors nationally for their promotion of healthy hearts in dogs and their owners. Michelle Goree of Deatsville, Ala., a junior at AU’s College of Veterinary Medicine, and Sarah Matteson of the Medical College of Georgia, teamed up for top honors in the Secretary’s Award for Innovations in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. They won in the interdisciplinary division, which is open to students in all health fields. For more on this story, visit www.ocm.auburn.edu/news_releases/vetmed4.html.
AU Administrator Named to Economics Think Tank

The IC² Institute, an international think tank for economic development, has named Keenan Grenell, AU’s interim assistant provost for diversity and multicultural affairs, as a senior research fellow at the institute.

Grenell, who will remain full-time at his Auburn post, will join up to 250 academic, business and government leaders in the global network of IC² fellows. Members include Nobel laureates, National Medal of Technology winners and CEO’s of major corporations.

The IC² Institute, with headquarters at the University of Texas in Austin, is a think tank in which members support the research and outreach of each other while expanding the base of knowledge about job and wealth creation and new theories of capitalism. The IC² name evolved from a shortened description of the group’s main interests: innovation, creativity and capital.

The center’s work is important to current and prospective small business owners, and is especially relevant to minority small business leaders, said Grenell, who has conducted extensive research and outreach activities in minority entrepreneurship.

Members organize specialized and international conferences, workshops, seminars and discussion to promote research and outreach in development and entrepreneurship.

“IC² is about connecting ideas, people and resources,” said Grenell. “Through this seat, Auburn is assured a seat at the table with global thinkers when development issues affecting businesses, communities, regions and countries are discussed.”

The Auburn faculty member has worked with IC² members in the past as founder of the African-American Entrepreneurship Summit, which AU has hosted annually for nine years with sponsorship from the College of Business and the Alabama Cooperative Extension System.

“The Summit’s team has worked tirelessly over the past nine years to make entrepreneurship in the African-American community a national priority,” he said. “This appointment further legitimizes the Summit’s role in this quest.”

While assisting IC² colleagues with studies in their disciplines and geographical areas, Grenell said he expects to draw on the talents of those leaders for initiatives at Auburn, including the I-85 Corridor initiative and the work of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

History Faculty Win Prestigious Awards

Daniel Szechi received the Love Prize for the best article in British History in 2002 from the North American Conference on British Studies, for an article he wrote in the journal Past and Present with a former AU graduate student, Margaret Sankey, entitled: “Elite Culture and the Decline of Scottish Jacobitism, 1716-1745.”


Ken Noe received the Governor’s Prize from the Kentucky Historical Society for his book, Perryville: this Grand Havoc of Battle (University Press of Kentucky, 2001).

Bill Trimble received the Gradner-Lasser Aerospace History Award for the best book on Aeronautical or Astronautical history in the past five years from the American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronautics for his book, Jerome C. Hunsaker and the Rise of American Aeronautics (Smithsonian Press, 2002).
Register of Historic Places Adds Cater Hall to List

The National Park Service has added Katharine C. Cater Hall, the 88-year-old home of AU’s Student Affairs Division, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Cater Hall becomes the 10th AU entry to the National Register. 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.

“Cater Hall exemplifies Auburn’s heritage and spirit,” said Wes Williams, vice president for student affairs. “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.”

Joseph Hudnutt, an early 20th-century professor of architecture and drawing, designed the neoclassical-style mansion. Built in 1915, Cater Hall served as the home of Auburn presidents until 1938. The building is named for Katharine Cooper Cater, dean of women from 1946-76 and dean of student life until her death in 1980.

Education Gets $1.2 Million Grant for Special-Ed Project

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded $1.2 million to the AU College of Education to train special education teachers.

The program will significantly improve the type and quality of educational services for children with autism spectrum disorder, a neurological disorder commonly known as ASD, said Philip Browning, head of the Department of Rehabilitation and Special Education.

The five-year project will produce 50 teachers to meet specialized needs of children with ASD.

“Kiplinger’s Says AU Ranks High in Value

Kiplinger’s magazine has ranked AU among its best values in U.S. public colleges.

In its November edition, the financial monthly ranked its top 100 schools according to their value for in-state and out-of-state students. Auburn was rated the 26th best value in the country for in-state students and the 31st best value for out-of-state students.

Among SEC-member institutions, only the universities of Florida (fourth) and Georgia (fifth) ranked above Auburn in value for in-state students. Georgia (sixth), Florida (12th) and Mississippi State (29th) ranked above Auburn in value for out-of-state students.
Veterinarian Winner Gives Prize to Animal Charities

Auburn University veterinarian, whom the American Veterinary Medical Association named the companion animal veterinarian of the year, donated the entire $20,000 prize to charities that help animals.

Brenda Griffin, an assistant research professor in the AU College of Veterinary Medicine’s Scott-Ritchey Research Center, received the 2003 Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award.

The award recognized her work to control pet overpopulation and her efforts to promote the human-animal bond.

“This is one of the AVMA’s highest honors,” said Timothy Boosinger, veterinary dean. “We are very proud of Dr. Griffin. She is very dedicated to promoting the bond between people and their pets, and her work to humanely reduce pet overpopulation is among the nation’s best.”

Griffin donated all funds from the award to the college’s student educational program, “Strategies for Pet Population Control,” the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians and the humane societies in Lee County, Ala., and Muscogee County, Ga.

“These programs and the people involved are so dedicated that they should be recognized, too,” she said. “I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this award. Practicing veterinary medicine is very rewarding in itself. For me the most satisfying aspects are sharing and protecting the bond between clients and their pets, and trying to inspire future veterinarians to take leadership roles in reducing the epidemic of homeless pets without using euthanasia.”

In 1999, Griffin established Auburn’s Operation Cat Nap, a program in which feral cats are trapped, neutered and returned to their home areas. The innovative program has stabilized several colonies of cats so that they maintain their territory without uncontrolled breeding. She also created the college’s shelter medicine program where students provide health care for animals at the Lee County Humane Society.

Her research involves developing an immuno-contraceptive vaccine for cats and dogs, with the aim of reducing euthanasia of animals in humane shelters.

“Respect for life and compassionate care are not abstract concepts for Dr. Griffin, they are her benchmarks,” said Henry Baker, director of the Scott-Ritchey Research Center. “Her commitment translates into action at the college, in shelters, in board rooms, on the lecture circuit and in her personal relationships with dog and cat companions.”

Griffin is the pre-veterinary medical adviser at Auburn, a diplomat in the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and a board member of the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. In 2002, she co-organized the first international symposium on non-surgical methods for pet population control and will assume this role again in 2004. The Lee County Humane Society recognized Griffin in 2000 with the Friend of the Year Award.

The Bustad award is named for the late Leo Bustad, former dean of the Washington State University veterinary college and past president of the Delta Society, a group that provides service and therapy animals to sick or disabled people.

Hanley

(Continued from page 1)
culminating with a Ph.D. in 1972. He also earned an M.B.A. from Wright State University in Ohio in 1975.

At the University of Louisville, Hanley was responsible for an annual budget of more than $23 million for six departments and four centers consisting of 95 faculty, 60 staff and 2,100 students.

Before going to Louisville, Hanley held a joint appointment as a professor and chair of chemical engineering at Florida State University and Florida A&M University from 1985-91. He served as professor and head of chemical engineering at Louisiana Tech from 1983-85. Other career posts include Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Indiana, Tulane University and the U.S. Air Force Materials Laboratory.

Walker was AU’s provost when the board named him interim president in February 2001. John Pritchett, who was associate provost and dean of the Graduate School at the time, has served since then as interim provost.

“I want to thank Dr. Pritchett for guiding our academic program through this period of transition,” Walker said.

“Dr. Pritchett’s leadership over the past two and a half years made it possible for Auburn to continue its progress, implement new initiatives and respond rapidly to changing conditions. Auburn today is a stronger institution because of his efforts.”

VAUGHAN HONORED—Auburn University Trustee John Blackwell (left) presents a resolution to veterinary Dean Emeritus Tom Vaughan for whom Auburn’s new John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital is named. The new facility was dedicated on August 29.
James Edward Groccia, an authority on college teaching and faculty development, has been appointed director of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at Auburn University.

Groccia, former assistant dean of the graduate school and director of the Program for Excellence in Teaching at the University of Missouri, took over Auburn’s new program on Aug. 11, said Linda Glaze, AU assistant provost for academic affairs.

AU President William F. Walker announced the creation of the Biggio Center in May 2002 with a $10 million endowment from the estate of insurance executive Alvin A. Biggio. Since then, the university has been assembling resources and establishing an organizational structure for a center that will help faculty enhance their instructional skills.

The final stage, last spring, was a nationwide search for a director. Groccia’s national reputation for leading Missouri’s program bodes well for the Auburn program, Glaze said.

“Dr. Groccia has knowledge and experience with all aspects of development for faculty, staff and graduate teaching assistants,” she said. “At the University of Missouri-Columbia, he coordinated a very successful program, and he is one of the leaders in professional development, evidenced by his scholarship and participation in national conferences on teaching and learning.”

Director of the Missouri program since 1995, Groccia was also coordinator of that university’s New Faculty Teaching Scholars and Preparing Future Faculty programs and a member of the graduate faculty of UM’s Program for Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis.

At Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, he served from 1992-95 as director of the Center for Curricular Innovation and Educational Development and from 1984-92 as director of the Counseling and Student Development Center.

Groccia holds a doctorate in counseling psychology from the University of Tennessee, where he was associate director of the Office of Student Development Services and director of the University Counseling Center.

He is the author of The College Success Book: A Whole-Student Approach to Academic Excellence and co-editor, with Judith Miller, of Enhancing Productivity: Administrative, Instructional, and Technological Strategies.

Joe Eakes, professor of horticulture, received the American Nursery and Landscape Association’s 2003 L. C. Chadwick Educator’s Award. The award was established in 1976 and recognizes outstanding landscape horticultural instructors for their effectiveness in developing students’ horticultural skills and motivating them to pursue excellence in their careers, whether in industry or academia.
TWILIGHT ON THE PLAINS—Auburn University’s Photographic Services, a unit of the Office of Communications and Marketing, has published a 2004 calendar, Twilight on the Plains, featuring evening views of the oldest buildings on campus. Jeff Etheridge and Trice Megginson shot the photographs and Tracey Spates of Communications and Marketing designed the calendar. At left is one of the photographs inside the calendar, which sells for $9.95. For ordering information, contact AU Photographic Services online at auphoto@auburn.edu or call 334-844-4560.