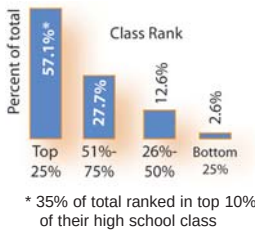


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How Auburn Stacks Up

High school rank of AU freshmen in 2004



Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

FOR THE FACULTY AND STAFF OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY

AU report



In bloom

While AU students and many faculty were on spring break last week, staff and faculty who remained on campus enjoyed a few days of warmer weather that brought the first of spring’s azaleas into bloom.

Magazine ranks pharmacy school at Auburn among nation’s top 25

Auburn’s James Harrison School of Pharmacy was ranked 25th in the nation in graduate program rankings released Friday by U.S. News & World Report.

The magazine also rated two graduate programs in AU’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering in the nation’s top 50 for their fields. Industrial and systems engineering at AU was ranked 27th, and civil engineering was No. 48.

AU Pharmacy Dean Lee Evans said the key to the school’s ranking was a commitment made by the faculty several years ago to establish a terminal degree, Pharm.D. program that would be among the best in the nation. “We’re excited to be recognized among the top third of all pharmacy professional degree programs nationally,” Evans said.

“We have an excellent faculty and we’ve made incredible progress in building our national reputation,” he added. “It’s nice to be recognized for all the hard work that many have put into strengthening our program.”

Auburn was one of four peer institutions in the

Southeastern Conference to make the top 25 in that category. The others were Kentucky, Florida and Georgia.

Besides its two programs in the U.S. News top 50, AU’s Ginn College of Engineering placed three graduate programs in the nation’s top 75 for their fields. Chemical engineering and electrical engineering each ranked 55th in their fields, and mechanical engineering ranked 69th.

Besides the School of Pharmacy, two AU colleges ranked in the top 100 in their fields nationwide. The Ginn College of Engineering was ranked 77th and the AU College of Education was ranked 82nd.

U.S. News compiled the rankings as part of its “America’s Best Graduate Schools 2006,” which is in print and online formats. The rankings focused on major research universities and nationally prominent graduate programs at other institutions.

The magazine is widely cited and frequently criticized for its rating system, which combines peer reviews and select quantitative data for comparisons.

Vodyanoy named AU's Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer for 2005

Vitaly Vodyanoy, an internationally prominent professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been named AU's Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer for 2005.



Vodyanoy

The Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship, awarded annually since 1976, honors one member of the faculty each year for significant contributions to graduate education.

Each spring the award recipient presents a public lecture on the implications of research in his or her field for the broader academic community and society in general.

Vodyanoy, inventor of a new microscope attachment with an exponentially expanded magnification range to aid scientific research, will present the 2005 Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecture on "Life Under the Microscope" at 4 p.m., April 13, in Veterinary Medicine's Overton Auditorium.

"Dr. Vodyanoy's contributions to graduate instruction at Auburn University are stellar," said Stephen McFarland, acting dean of the AU Graduate School. "His commitment to graduate instruction is widely lauded by colleagues and students alike."

McFarland added, "Dr. Vodyanoy displays a

rare capacity to inspire deeper understanding and enthusiasm for scientific inquiry among his graduate students.

"His commitment to graduate instruction is widely lauded by colleagues and students alike."

"Several of his colleagues have called him a creative genius and accomplished scholar who represents all of the best attributes of a professor. Those are the very qualities that we seek in honoring a faculty member with the Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lectureship," McFarland said.

Since joining Auburn's graduate faculty in the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1989, Vodyanoy has served as the major professor on numerous doctoral and master's committees while continuing his own research and publishing.

His research has gained international attention and has led to scientific advances in biomembranes, neurotransmitter receptors and optics. McFarland said colleagues have cited Vodyanoy's inventions as opening new vistas in scientific research.

A native of Russia, Vodyanoy holds a Ph.D. in biophysics from the Agrophysical Research Institute in Leningrad.

Governor names Henderson to panel on leadership

Gov. Bob Riley has announced the appointment of Jewell Winlock Henderson of AU's College of Education to the Governor's Congress on School Leadership as a delegate representing educational leadership professors.



Henderson

Henderson is an assistant professor in the Department of Educational Foundation, Leadership and Technology.

Riley established the initiative to identify ways to improve the quality of educational

leaders in Alabama's public schools. The special panel will examine school leadership issues and submit recommendations for improvements to the governor and the State Board of Education.

Henderson joins approximately 200 educators and business leaders in the effort to redesign the state's school leadership requirements. Among her responsibilities, she will advise and assist groups seeking improved methods of preparing, selecting, certifying and retaining principals and other school leaders. Information is on the web at www.ti.state.al.us/gc/.

Author of 'Awakenings' to speak at lecture series next week

A New York medical professor whose book "Awakenings" inspired an Oscar-nominated motion picture on the medical profession will speak at AU next week as part of Auburn's Littleton-Franklin Lecture Series.

Oliver Sacks, a clinical professor of neurology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine, will speak at 4 p.m., Tuesday, April 12, in the auditorium of

Auburn's new Sciences Laboratory Center on Roosevelt Drive.

Sacks is the author of nine books, including "Awakenings," which chronicled his success in pulling patients out of a deeply vegetative state with a then-experimental drug. That book inspired the 1990 motion picture by the same name starring Robert DeNiro and Robin Williams.

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, April 5

- Meeting: University Senate, 3 p.m., auditorium, Broun Hall.
- Public Lecture: "Use and Misuse of Reporters in Combat Areas," Peter Sleeth, former Iraq correspondent for The (Portland) Oregonian, 5 p.m., Dixon Conference Series. Neil and Henrietta Davis Lecture Series.

Wednesday, April 6

- Public Lecture: "Ergonomics in Universal Design," Victor Paquet of the University of Buffalo, 11 a.m., Dunstan 202.
- Public Lecture: "Kim Gutschow, author of "Being a Buddhist Nun: The Struggle for Enlightenment in the Himalayas," 4 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Thursday, April 7

- 98th Annual Conference: Veterinary Medicine, through Sunday, April 10, Dixon Conference Center.
- Human Resources Seminar: "Healthy Eating," Robert Keith of AU Department of Nutrition and Food Science, includes information on food choices and labeling, 2 p.m.-4 p.m., HR Training Center, 146 N. Gay St. See Human Resources A-Train web site or call 844-7939.

Sunday, April 10

- Festival: "Domingo de Arte y Familia," festival of Latin American culture, noon-4 p.m., grounds of Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

Monday, April 11

- Next AU Report.

Tuesday, April 12

- Grand Opening: Digital Resources Lab, all day, Draughon Library. This and other events are in connection with National Library Week; online, see www.lib.auburn.edu/NLW2005.htm.
- Littleton-Franklin Lecture: Physician Oliver Sacks, author of "Awakenings" and other books, 4 p.m., auditorium, Sciences Laboratory Center, Roosevelt Drive.



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Samford Hall hall

Renovation of the central lobby of Samford Hall is slated to begin this week. In addition to repairing damaged areas such as the column shown here, workers will renovate the lobby to approximate its 19th century appearance. Workers will also install an incline to the ground floor and a wheelchair lift from there to the first floor to provide access for the disabled. Also, badly worn front steps will be replaced with weathered granite steps.



Speakers, art at AU museum to provide glimpse at life of Buddhist nuns, monks

This week and next, AU's Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art will provide glimpses of the life of Buddhist nuns and monks in the Himalayas of south-central Asia.

At 3 p.m. Wednesday, as part of the Women's Studies Program, author Kim Gutschow, will discuss what she observed during research for her book "Being a Buddhist Nun: The Struggle for Enlightenment in the Himalayas." Gutschow spent three years studying and interviewing the residents of an isolated nunnery in Kashmir, a territory claimed by both India and Pakistan.

On April 13, Tibetan monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery will construct a mandala, a Buddhist graphic symbol of the universe, in the museum's main gallery.

"Part of our educational mission is to promote understanding of diverse cultures and peoples," said Scott Bishop Wagoner, the museum's education curator.

Constructing the mandala from finely crushed marble is a form of meditation for the monks, Wagoner said. The monks will create the mandala on the floor of the museum's Grand Gallery.

The monks' visit will also usher in an upcoming exhibit in the museum. "One of the reasons we are having the monks is because we have a small collection of Tibetan bronzes that were given to the museum by Nelson and Joan Cousins Hartman," said Wagoner. "Having the monks come and make their mandala in the museum is a way of enriching our cultural understanding of our collection."

While the monks are creating the mandala, the museum will not charge an admission fee.

The museum will also host three public lectures during the monks' visit. The opening lecture at

4 p.m. on April 13 is "Tibetan Buddhism and World Peace" by Geshe Jinpa Wangpo with the assistance of a translator. The lecture is sponsored by the AU anthropology program's symposium series, "War, Peace and Justice."

Wangpo will also speak at 5 p.m. April 14 on "Opening the Heart: Arousing the Mind of Universal Kindness." Also, Geshe Lobsang Tensin will lecture on "The Symbolism of the Mandala" at 1 p.m. April 16. After Tensin's lecture, the monks will destroy the mandala.

What is a mandala?

Mandalas are intricate, precise and colorful works of art symbolizing the universe. Although common in the Orient, each mandala is unique, and many are destroyed after a short time. Designs also vary widely. The above illustration by others does not represent the work of the Buddhist monks who will create a mandala in Auburn next week.



Application deadline approaches for community service grants

AU Partners in Community Service is accepting applications until April 15 for Instructional Development Grants for faculty who are incorporating service learning into their classes.

Partners in Community Service will award five grants of up to \$1,000 each to full-time faculty members. The grant period is from July 14, 2005, through May 11, 2006.

More information is available online at www.auburn.edu/service.

Income taxes

Temptation to cheat is strong if you think everyone is doing so

With the April 15 deadline approaching for income tax filing, does it seem that more people than ever before are cheating on their taxes?

If you answered yes to that question, chances are that you, too, have considered cheating on your taxes. That does not mean that you would actually do so, but the lure of “everybody does it” is felt even in tightly knit communities with strong religious bonds, according to a study by an international team of sociologists that included Tom Petee of Auburn University.

“Whether people are willing to participate in this kind of behavior is related to the perception that everybody’s doing it,” said Petee, who is interim chair of the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Social Work in AU’s College of Liberal Arts.

The perception may be false, and often is, but perception shapes action, Petee noted. “That kind of thinking can do a lot of damage to a community and to a larger society.”

The AU sociology professor was one of six researchers from the United States and Iceland who published the report “‘But Everybody Does It...’: The Effects of Perceptions, Moral Pressures and

Informal Sanctions On Tax Cheating” in a recent issue of the journal Sociological Spectrum. The other researchers were from Notre Dame, the University of Colorado at Denver, California State University at Northridge, St. Joseph’s College in Indiana and the University of Akureyi in Iceland.

The report presented the investigators’ findings on the influence of perceptions toward tax cheating in communities with social and religious ties among the residents.

Taking advantage of improvements in statistical software over the past two decades, the investigators analyzed results of a Notre Dame study in the 1980s of 36 non-Hispanic Roman Catholic parishes throughout the United States. Petee holds a Ph.D. from Notre Dame, and the lead researcher, Michael Welch, teaches there.

The researchers found that residents of all the communities were reluctant to consider cheating on their taxes and held harsh opinions against tax cheaters when they thought that the practice was

rare. But those who thought that tax-cheating was widespread were more lenient toward the practice.

Although people who cheat on their taxes will try to justify their actions by claiming that everyone does it, Petee said the danger to society comes when people who consider tax-cheating to be morally wrong start to

accept the “everybody does it” argument. For instance, the investigators’ found that even those with strong religious convictions would attach less stigma to tax cheating when they thought that other parish members were cheating on their taxes. And, the researchers

found a corrosive effect of a person’s past tax-cheating on other aspects of that person’s religious life.

However, among the majority who said they did not cheat on their taxes or think the practice was widespread, those with a strong religious commitment viewed tax cheating more harshly than their less-religious neighbors. In all those cases, participants cited both moral and community standards for adhering to the tax laws.

Petee said tax-cheating could open the door to a general decline of moral and community standards if everyone actually did adopt the “everybody does it” mentality. “Tax dodging creates a situation of moral ambiguity,” he said. “A breakdown of moral authority creates social strain and a downward spiral in the moral quality of a society.”

While individuals and communities have to be on their guard against the fallacy of “everyone does it,” government authorities must enforce the laws to prevent the perception from taking hold in society and becoming reality, Petee said.

“If people see low odds of getting caught and if they see others getting away with it, their respect for the law declines,” he explained.

Petee noted that the Internal Revenue Service does not have the resources to prevent all tax dodges, but he said the IRS appears to use its resources effectively through pursuit of high-profile cases, looking for suspect activity and using random audits for everyone else.

“My advice: Be honest,” Petee said. “Some people actually do get caught.”

Auburn to host Latin American festival this weekend

AU will hold a festival celebrating Latin American culture, “Domingo de Arte y Familia,” on the grounds of the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The festival will offer performances by percussionist Luis Benetti and the Chilean group “Hot Chile,” whose music includes Latin jazz, pop, rumba and salsa.

Chichi Lovett of the AU Department of Art will lead children’s art activities, and bilingual storytellers Kristen McAlear and Maria Luisa will present tales of Latin folklore and heroes.

Other activities include a bilingual scavenger hunt inside the museum for children. Area restaurants and a catering service will provide samples of ethnic cuisine.

The festival coincides with the museum’s exhibit “The Persistence of Myth and Tragedy in 20th Century Mexican Art,” featuring works collected by Robert Ekelund Jr. of the AU College of Business. Admission will be free during the festival.

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