



MUCH TO CELEBRATE AT AUBURN MONTGOMERY

— *John Veres, Chancellor*

MONTGOMERY CONTINUING TO MOVE ONWARD AND UPWARD

As we celebrate the opening of our new Wellness Center, just across our campus entrance from this state-of-the-art facility another piece of Auburn Montgomery's future is already under construction.

Warhawk Hall, a new residence hall that will house more than 290 beds, will open in fall of 2013, augmenting a vibrant residential community and an impressive gateway to the campus. Auburn Montgomery is growing, and our focus on offering relevant and first-quality academic programs, further enhancing the diversity of our student population for the benefit of both domestic and international students, and providing students with an environment that promotes wellness will attract even more students to our campus.

When those students get here, they'll find programs on the cutting-edge that will prepare them to work in a global economy. Auburn Montgomery's Geographic Information Systems program, housed in the School of Liberal Arts, equips students to use technology and data to unearth and explain relationships, patterns, entities and attributes related to geographic areas. An ever-increasing number of professions are relying on GIS techniques, and, in 2011, our program was one of only four universities nationwide chosen to assist the Japanese government in processing and analyzing satellite images of Japan's northeastern coastal cities before and after earthquake and tsunami disasters. It's this sort of experience that gives AUM students the edge when they venture into the "real world."

The Hospitality and Tourism marketing option in the School of Business prepares students for real-world success as well in an industry that provides about 10 percent of the world's jobs and continues to experience healthy growth. Students in this program learn what it takes to provide the best experience possible for customers and tourists in every realm of the field, from professional sports to beach resorts to museums and theaters.

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ONWARD AND UPWARD continued...

AUM is preparing tomorrow's leaders today through the School of Sciences' Organizational Leadership major. Whether they aspire to lead military, government or nonprofit agencies, students develop the skills they need to successfully lead any organization through processes such as developing policies and procedures, making decisions, planning for crises and building a team. Sciences continues to develop its Master's program in Cybersystems and Information Technology, one of the fastest growing areas in our economy and closely aligned to the U.S. Air Force's initiatives for a safer 21st century.

The School of Nursing will expand its Kid-Check program in Lowndes and Elmore counties. Through this program, AUM nursing students provide health screenings for children who otherwise might not receive this vital service. Our students get a fantastic opportunity to hone their craft and make a difference in the community, and the children they serve perhaps get a better chance to live healthy lives.

In the School of Education, Dr. Mike Esco, Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science, and Dr. Sara Bicard, Department of Counselor, Leadership and Special Education, have been awarded several grants for a program they created that will offer wellness and exercise programs designed exclusively for people with developmental disabilities. The program will be housed in the new Wellness Center.

As you can see, Auburn Montgomery is thriving academically and in the River Region community. As we continue to emphasize our role as a community partner, we also are working to expand our own university community on a global scale. This year, AUM was honored to be approved by the Office of Chinese Language Council In-

ternational, or Hanban, to establish a Confucius Institute on campus, joining a network of more than 300 organizations worldwide to promote Chinese language and culture. This achievement is a testament to the vision and hard work of all those associated with AUM's Far Eastern Initiatives and to the relationships we have built with the faculty, staff and students of our 33 sister universities in China. The AUM Confucius Institute will promote Chinese language and culture both on campus and in the surrounding community, including local K-12 schools. In November, the university will dedicate a Confucius Garden on campus, with guests from Hanban travelling from China to take part in the event and celebrate the establishment of the new institute.

Other notable happenings on campus include the renovation of the Taylor Center, which includes The Roost cafeteria, the AUM Bookstore, and the area known as the Grove between the Taylor Center and the Courtyards. The Taylor Center is now the central hub for student services and social life. We've also completed the new roundabout and brick wall at the Brown Springs Road campus entrance to mirror the one at Taylor Road. We continue to improve and enhance the physical appearance of our campus, and we continue to look at new programs and new ways to attract and retain the best students we can. To top it all off, the naming of the Warhawk as our mascot has created a campus spirit that continues to grow with excitement.

I invite you to visit Auburn Montgomery and see for yourself the vibrant campus and friendly people that help AUM students dream it, live it, own it. ♦

AUM celebrates opening of Wellness Center, new home of renowned Exercise Science experts

— *Frank Miles, Internal Communications Manager, Auburn Montgomery*

Live well. Learn well. Be well.

These six words embody Auburn Montgomery's commitment to the life-long health and wellness of students and others within and around the campus community — a commitment that was stamped at the entrance to campus when the Wellness Center officially opened its doors on Aug. 13.

AUM's students spoke, and the university listened. It was the students who, beginning about five years ago, pushed for the Wellness Center on campus, and it was the students who overwhelmingly voted to raise their student fees to build it. The groundbreaking took place on Feb. 4, 2011, and the 73,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility is now open.

"We're very excited about the opening and so proud to be able to offer this facility and its services to our students, faculty, staff and alumni," said Louis Thornton, director of the Wellness Center. "This facility allows us to greatly expand our fitness and recreation offerings and enhance both living and learning at Auburn Montgomery."

Speaking of learning, the Wellness Center isn't just about swimming or climbing a rock wall. The School of Education's Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science will be housed in the Wellness Center, as well as AUM's Human Performance Lab, where nationally renowned Auburn Montgomery professors and researchers work to find better ways to exercise and maintain good health.

"Our researchers and students in the Human Performance Lab use state-of-the-art metabolic, cardiovascular, and body composition equipment to test fitness and exercise methods and products, measure metabolic and cardiovascular

responses to various forms of activity, and engage in other areas of fitness-related research," said Dr. Hank Williford, head of the Department of Physical Education and Exercise Science. "We recognize that enabling students to be actively involved in current science provides an invaluable tool for developing a deeper understanding of the content learned within the classroom, and we offer graduate assistantships and volunteer opportunities."

A Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, Williford leads a team of educators on the cutting-edge of research who are frequently relied upon by several local, national and global

...the Wellness Center offers a beautiful and promising glimpse into the future of Auburn Montgomery.

publications for their expert knowledge and advice. Dr. Michele Olson, also an ACSM Fellow, has directed numerous research studies resulting in more than 85 publications in peer-reviewed professional journals. Olson is widely quoted as an expert in national newspapers and fitness magazines, including *Fitness*, *Self* and the *New York Times*. And, using the well-earned nickname of "THE Exercise Doctor," she's released a series of fitness videos based on her research.

Dr. Mike Esco, co-director of the Human Performance Lab, oversees a campus and community program known as WarhawkFit. The program is an affordable health and fitness appraisal that offers several tests and evaluations, including a cardiovascular fitness assessment, resting and exercise blood pressures and heart rates,

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OPEN LETTER TO AERA

Janice Charlesworth
Executive Director of
Alabama Education Retirees Association
828 Washington Avenue
Montgomery, AL 36104-3898

December 20, 2012

Dear Ms. Charlesworth:

In that the economy of the State of Alabama continues to improve and economic forecasts indicate that significant growth can be logically expected in the Special Education Trust Fund for FY 2013-14, there is every reason to expect salary increases for active education employees and, we trust, a commensurate COLA for retired educators.

We, the Board of Directors of the Auburn University Retiree Association, are heartened by the actions of and words from the AEA Delegate Assembly as expressed in the December 17, 2012 issue of the *Alabama School Journal* stating that salary adjustments and COLAs should be equal “so that everyone gets treated the same.”

We also believe that the overriding responsibility of education retiree organizations (County, Higher Education and AERA) is to advocate for education retirees in such a way that treatment is fair and equitable. We look forward to working with your office and with AEA in accomplishing the above stated objectives during the upcoming legislative session.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Auburn University Retiree Association





AURA BBQ Attendees — Photos by Larry C. Mullins

blood chemistry profile, body composition and bone mineral density evaluation, and flexibility assessment. Esco is well-published, and he serves on the adjunct clinical faculty of a residency program at Baptist Health.

Also on the expert faculty at the Wellness Center are Dr. Michael Gross, who brings years of public school physical education experience and also serves as the head coach for the Warhawk men's and women's cross country teams; Dr. Erin Reilly, a martial arts expert whose primary research is in the areas of physical education pedagogy and sport sociology, and who has served on numerous statewide boards and committees on fitness and health; and Dr. George Schaefer, whose experience includes teaching and coaching in public schools and working within the business operations of a minor league baseball team, and whose research interests include risk and legal issues within sports.

It's a diverse team that's offered AUM students the very best knowledge available on physical education and exercise science for years, and now the Wellness Center offers the very best research tools available. And it offers students and the campus community so much more.

The Wellness Center is a vital new dimension in living and learning at Auburn Montgomery, and fun, innovative recreation and exercise amenities are a key element of the Wellness Center

experience, including:

- a 23-foot rock climbing wall with four levels of difficulty;
- an aquatic center that features a vortex pool and a zip line;
- plenty of space and equipment for weight and cardio training;
- an indoor running track;
- a convenient juice bar, offering a variety of healthy and refreshing foods and beverages; and
- multi-purpose basketball courts.

The Wellness Center is also the home of AUM's Intramural Sports office, which oversees a variety of recreational and club sports. Some of the sports included among AUM's intramural activities are ultimate Frisbee, basketball, volleyball, flag football, fishing, table tennis and more. Just outside of the Wellness Center is a new Intramural Sports complex with new fields of play.

Situated strategically at the entrance into campus and stretching gracefully across the landscape, the Wellness Center offers a beautiful and promising glimpse into the future of Auburn Montgomery. The best part for you? As a retiree, you are invited to join! For more information on how to join the Wellness Center at Auburn Montgomery, visit www.aum.edu/campus-life/wellness-center/wellness-center-membership. ♦

Thank You, Monarch Estates!

Monarch Estates, known for “**Gracious Retirement Living**,” located at 1550 E. University Drive in Auburn, has generously allowed the AURA Board of Directors to use its Eagles Nest Meeting Room for their monthly meetings for several years.

We would like to acknowledge this donation from Monarch and encourage anyone considering moving from their home to visit Monarch for a tour.

NOTE *from the* EDITOR

— LARRY C. MULLINS —

As we move forward, please give thought to what you would like to contribute to our newsletter, or what topics you feel would be interesting to our members. I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me at LMULLINS@AUM.EDU or at 334-478-4466, or contact either of the members of the Publication Committee: Bert Hitchcock (HITCHWB@AUBURN.EDU) and Robert Couch (RCOUCCHAUBURN@CHARTER.NET).



REMINDER!

*Auburn University Retirees:
If you have not joined, JOIN TODAY!*

You may have already paid your 2012-2013 dues to join AURA. If so, you will find “(p)” after your name on the address label on this newsletter. If not, you will find “(n).”

AU-AUM Retiree AURA Enrollment Form

Name _____ AU _____ AUM _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

____ Single Retiree \$25.00 ____ Surviving Spouse \$10.00

____ Retiree and Spouse \$25.00 ____ Sponsor \$25.00

____ Retiree & Retiree Spouse.. \$25.00

\$ _____ Scholarship Contribution

*Please make check payable to Auburn University Retiree Association or AURA
and mail to the address below:*



AURA
P.O. Box 1436
Auburn, AL 36831-1436

ADVOCACY FOR RETIREES IN THE AERA NEWSLETTER

Larry C. Mullins, Vice President AURA*

Among the several goals of the Auburn University Retiree Association (AURA), we seek to continue to maintain comparable equity within health insurance and other benefits for the retirees of the Auburn University System. Through our continued affiliation with AEA and AERA, we seek to maintain efforts to lobby for the prevention of the diversion of resources from the Educational Trust Fund to non-educational uses.

Over time, we have seen the revenue for education dropping with a concurrent increase in insurance and medical costs. This has an obvious impact on our university retirees, who have fixed incomes with no COLA increases in a number of years. This year there may be an opportunity for such an increase, however. A serious effort by AEA is underway for teachers to receive a pay increase for the next budget cycle. It is our position that retirees should receive a commensurate increase. Such salary increases for active teachers should not be separated from a COLA increase for retirees. We need to maintain, and increase, our advocacy for the educational retirees.

AURA, also, held its 17th Annual Meeting this past May at the Saugahatchee Country Club; Stan Wilson was recognized as the Bailey Award recipient. In October the AURA Fall Banquet was held. Jay Jacobs, the Auburn University Athletic Director, gave a very informative speech about new innovations and approaches within Auburn University athletics.

November 13, 2012

** Thanks to Stan Wilson for a draft of this letter.*



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