MESSAGE FROM OUR CHANCELLOR

Over the past year, AUM has seen some of its most aggressive growth and transition since it was established. Much of that work — and our success — was achieved because we kept Auburn Montgomery’s core values front and center. We have sought to put students first; to be good citizens and community partners; to welcome diversity and include everyone; to encourage and enable lifelong learning; to be collaborative; and, always, to strive to improve and to achieve excellence.

AUM undertook a major academic realignment, creating the new College of Public Policy and Justice and consolidating academic departments to create the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Pairing that with our now two-year-old Warhawk Academic Success Center and our Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, launched in 2014, we believe that we have increased opportunities and critical support for students to engage with and pursue — and complete — degrees in the fields about which they are most passionate.

We have provided students from all backgrounds opportunities to be included in the unique hands-on learning environment that only AUM can offer to the River Region. More students participated in the development of dynamic and applied academic research programs and community partnerships that enrich the lives of people in the Southeast region and beyond and that provide resources to state, local, national, and international government, organizations, and businesses.

And we continue the internationalization of our campus and the growth of AUM’s global footprint by offering opportunities for international students to access and succeed in the U.S. university environment and by sending our students and faculty around the world to learn and to teach.

AUM is making strong advances toward the goals of its five-year strategic plan, and we expect to maintain our pace in the coming year. I am pleased to share with you here a sampling of our year’s progress.
MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR
JOHN G. VERES III

WHAT WE BELIEVE — IN ACTION
Faculty, Staff and Students Take AUM Core Values to Heart — Act on Them

ABOUT AUM

WE ARE WARHAWKS
• Distinguished Faculty and Staff
• Distinguished Alumni

NOTABLE EVENTS

IMAGINE. INVEST. INSPIRE.
AUM Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Partners Exceed Giving Expectations

AUM BY THE NUMBERS

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT
University Finances at a Glance

A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CHANGE
A Year Marked by Record Growth and Expansion

FAREWELL TO A LEADER AND CHAMPION
A Decade Under the Leadership of AUM’s Departing Chancellor
Since 1967, that’s what students have come to know and love about Auburn University at Montgomery. AUM is ranked among 2015’s best colleges in the region by U.S. News & World Report and The Princeton Review, and our College of Business is in the top 1% of business schools worldwide. So, no matter which of our 90 undergraduate and graduate degrees students choose, they’ll learn in a hands-on environment with unique opportunities to start their career-building network.

Our five colleges — Arts and Sciences, Business, Education, Nursing and Health Sciences, and Public Policy and Justice — are academically challenging, providing a level of rigor and quality that one might expect in a private college. And AUM is constantly developing paths to new and exciting careers and advancement through unique programs, such as Geographic Information Systems, Hospitality and Tourism, Homeland Security, and Cybersystems and Information Security.

While our Warhawks grow academically and build their professional networks, they also enjoy a collegiate setting with strong social and cultural networking opportunities. There are dozens of ways to make lifelong friends and connections at AUM, including Greek organizations, academic and special interest clubs, study abroad, championship-winning sports teams, and energizing school spirit.

And our students know that AUM administration and faculty — many of them distinguished academics and practitioners in their fields — take a genuine interest in their success. Students can expect faculty to recognize them and call them by name when they pass each other on the Quad.
Inaugural New Student Convocation introduces freshmen and transfers to college life and Warhawk Nation.

AUM and AUM College of Business ranked Best in the Southeast by The Princeton Review.

Alumnus Carlton R. Harrison (B.A. History, 1978) establishes bequest to fund a named endowed fellowship for graduate students enrolled in AUM’s M.B.A. program and earmarks portion of estate for AUM Athletics.

Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT) launched to provide faculty professional development across the university to enhance student learning through optimal and varied approaches to teaching.

AUM athletes, Yannick Fallack (Men’s Soccer) and Krista Hagen (Women’s Soccer), selected 2014 Capital One Academic All-American Team Members.

Chancellor Veres invited to become a member of the Air Education and Training Command (AETC) Commander’s Civic Leader Group, an association of many of the most prominent and influential civilian leaders from AETC installation towns.
Auburn Montgomery Outreach secures $96,529 for program to aid River Region mental and behavioral health providers.

AUM graphic design student Amber Hall wins national Gold American Advertising Award; Alex Trott, earns two Student ADDYs.

Auburn Montgomery Outreach secures $96,529 for program to aid River Region mental and behavioral health providers.

Women’s Tennis scores NAIA National Championship.

College of Arts and Sciences presents the first all-inclusive Undergraduate Research Symposium, featuring topics including biology, chemistry, math, English and dramatic arts.

Prof. Darren Harris-Fain, Chairman of the English and Philosophy Dept., hits three-day streak on Jeopardy!

AUM enters partnership with Quality Matters (QM) to certify the quality of online and hybrid courses.
535: Number of Lowndes County schoolchildren provided health screenings by College of Nursing and Health Sciences students through Healthy Kids

3: New deans

31: Percent increase in community service hours by AUM’s student-athletes

1: Designated Graduate Studies program
2.7: Millions saved for Alabama’s working families by College of Business students through SaveFirst.

3: New undergraduate degrees in AY 2014–15

3: New graduate degrees in AY 2014–15

5: New undergraduate degrees in AY 2014–15

1: New sport – volleyball
A YEAR OF GROWTH AND CHANGE

Auburn Montgomery Ups Student Career, Experience Game with Academic Reorganization

In January 2015, AUM rolled out a major academic reorganization, creating two new colleges, the College of Public Policy and Justice and the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, and realigning two schools to form the newly combined College of Arts and Sciences. The impetus for the plan was two-fold: solidifying academic pathways to increase graduates’ career opportunities and enhancing students’ academic experience.

**Tightening Career Bonds**

AUM has a strong reputation and a long history of producing career-ready graduates, so it made perfect sense to look at areas where the university has strong ties to the business community and success in career partnerships to increase opportunities for students to have even more hands-on learning in their chosen fields.

The College of Public Policy and Justice includes five departments: Economics; Justice and Public Safety; Army ROTC; Sociology, Anthropology and Geography; and Political Science and Public Administration. Many of the faculty, administrators and students in these departments have built ties as advisors and providers of research and best practices with Alabama government and businesses that have improved lives within the state and beyond. Now, as with our College of Business, College of Education, and AUM Outreach, those bonds can be more cohesive and have greater continuity. And students have access to more opportunities for internships, co-ops, and part-time or full-time employment that will help them gain the necessary experience needed to enter the professional world.

The same can be said for the transformation in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. Students can now take advantage of a greater array of study areas to increase their skills for a variety of healthcare fields. And, the new college provides a much broader offering of services to local healthcare facilities and the community. For example, this year’s Healthy Kids program offered children in rural public schools hearing tests and blood and sugar panels, in addition to the health checks provided in previous years, thanks to the consolidation that brought the AUM Speech and Hearing Clinic and Health Sciences within the same college as Nursing.

**Emphasis on the Core**

The consolidation that created the College of Arts and Sciences is an exciting development for AUM faculty and students. The reorganization enhances collaboration across disciplines and creates new synergies on campus. The new college will be the core of the campus — uniting most of the core curriculum and teaching 29% of AUM’s students by major and producing 60% of AUM’s credit hours.

It also locates the majority of AUM’s Distinguished Teaching Professors, Distinguished Research Professors, and Ida Belle Young Professors in one college, creating an atmosphere of intellectual excitement and discovery. This means the new college also can better serve undeclared students, who will have access to advisors in diverse disciplines who can help them uncover and follow their talents and passions within the College of Arts and Sciences or, if that’s where it leads them, to one of our other four colleges.
As AUM continues to grow, the university has identified the need for new degrees in fields that present greater opportunity for our students and greater value in the workplace. In academic year 2014–15, the Alabama Commission on Higher Education approved eight new degrees for AUM.

**Geographic Information Systems — Bachelor of Science and Master of Science**
Offered through our College of Public Policy and Justice, GIS helps government, healthcare and other fields understand how the interaction between people and their environments impacts culture, economics, ideology and much more, from the history of civilizations to the growth and planning of new ones.

**Medical Laboratory Science — Bachelor of Science**
MLS professionals play a crucial role in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of disease and helping people stay healthy, and AUM’s MLS students will have increased interaction with future employers through relationships established by the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences.

**Environmental Science — Bachelor of Science**
Graduates with this new degree won’t just be scientists; they’ll be workforce leaders with environmental science foundations. The degree is also preparatory for competitive admission to professional programs and graduate school, and students may be eligible after their freshman year for cooperative education programs, such as the marine biology course at the Sea Lab in Mobile, Ala.

**Instructional Technology — Education Specialist (post-graduate)**
The 21st-century classroom doesn’t show any signs of decelerating. The Instructional Technology Education Specialist (Ed.S.) degree prepares candidates with sought-after technology skills in professional settings that include P-12 schools, government, higher education, healthcare management, and business and industry environments. AUM’s College of Education offers this degree to graduates with a master’s degree from any area.

**Accountancy — Master’s Degree**
With the increasing demand for professional accounting graduates in both business and government, AUM has positioned itself to satisfy these needs for qualified accounting graduates, with professional accounting faculty preparing them to sit for CPA examinations. Also, now students will be able to obtain their MACC degree through Auburn Montgomery’s flexible full- and part-time schedules that offer evening classes year-round, making it the only evening post-graduate accounting degree in the River Region that is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

This past academic year saw the creation of two new deanships for two new colleges and the hiring of a new Dean of the Library.

**Dr. Keivan Deravi**, Dean of the College of Public Policy and Justice, is a professor of Economics, with research interests in the theory of monetary policy, foreign exchange markets and regional economic modeling techniques. Most recently, he has been involved with the economic impact and feasibility of Hyundai, Toyota, Honda and Mercedes-Benz in Alabama.

Dr. Michael Burger, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has taught courses in ancient, medieval, and early-modern European history, women’s history, and religious studies, as well as the modern history of the West. The author of Bishops, Clerks, and Diocesan Governance in Thirteenth-Century England: Reward and Punishment and The Shaping of the West, he also has written various articles on medieval history and edited a primary source collection, Sources for the History of Western Civilization.

Phill Johnson, J.D., Dean of the Library, previously served as Director of the Library at Cottey College in Nevada, Mo. He emphasizes the role of the library as a central resource to faculty, staff and students, as well as to the larger community (see page 27).
NCAA Division II Recognizes Warhawks’ Dedication to Student-Athletes

This summer, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) approved AUM to begin the three-year Division II membership process, which took effect in September. AUM views this acceptance as a recognition of the university’s dedication to balancing the growth of minds and bodies among its student-athletes.

“We are eager to make the transition to Division II of the NCAA,” Chancellor John Veres said. “We applaud Division II’s emphasis on maintaining a healthy balance between athletic and academic pursuits, a view in keeping with our AUM tradition of excellent performance in the classroom and on the courts, fields and pitches of intercollegiate athletics. AUM Athletics is ready to compete at the next level, and Division II affords us that opportunity.”

The Warhawks will begin a three-year process of transitioning to NCAA Division II from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). AUM will remain a member of the NAIA and Southern States Athletic Conference through the 2015–16 season, a transition period called Provisional Year One with the NCAA. AUM will be eligible for postseason within both
the SSAC and the NAIA during the upcoming season.

In Provisional Year Two, the Warhawks will begin competing in a conference at the NCAA Division II level. Prior to submitting its application for membership on Feb. 1 of this year, AUM received a letter of support of its application from the Peach Belt Conference and its Board of Directors.

Following completion of Provisional Year Three, the Warhawks will gain full NCAA membership and become eligible to compete for NCAA Division II championships, beginning as early as 2018–19. The Division II membership committee annually determines whether an institution should be moved forward into the next provisional year, and it can require an institution to repeat a year if progress is not sufficient.

Auburn Montgomery has a storied history of athletic success. AUM teams have captured 25 NAIA National Championships, earning 14 titles in women's tennis, nine in men's tennis and a pair in softball. Additionally, the institution has 21 national runner-up finishes in six different sports. The Warhawks' 10 programs have combined to win 10 conference and district championships. AUM also sports a winning percentage of .594 or better in all eight of its head-to-head sports.

Recently, AUM finished 40th among all NAIA institutions in the Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup standings with 345.50 points. The Warhawks ranked second in the SSAC, trailing only William Carey University, which finished 37th. The Learfield Sports Directors’ Cup was developed as a joint effort between the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics (NACDA) and USA Today. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in up to 12 sports (six women's and six men's). AUM has finished no worse than 53rd in the 20-year history of the Directors’ Cup and has placed as high as 10th (2000–01 academic year).

Perhaps even more impressive is the academic success of the Warhawks during the past year, as a record-setting number of student-athletes achieved a 3.0 grade point average or better. During the 2014 fall semester, 120 student-athletes, managers, and student and graduate assistants from the department earned a 3.0 GPA or better, a mark that accounted for 63 percent of all student-athletes. In addition, seven of the 10 teams posted a GPA of 3.0 or higher, while the department combined for a term grade point average of 3.02. During the 2014–15 season, 33 student-athletes were named to their respective SSAC All-Academic teams, while seven student-athletes earned NAIA Scholar Athlete honors.

At this summer’s Chat with the Chancellor, Dr. John Veres provided an eagerly awaited answer to the question “What will AUM’s next sport be?” Women’s volleyball was approved to begin recruitment in the 2015–16 academic year. River Region high schools have some top-notch girls’ volleyball programs, and AUM looks forward to attracting and serving high-performing student-athletes in the sport by leveraging the success of our other athletic programs: men’s and women’s basketball, cross-country, tennis, and soccer; baseball; softball; and co-ed mascot/cheerleading.

In July 2015, AUM named former Point University head coach Paige Wetzel as the inaugural volleyball program's head coach. The selection committee was impressed with her focus on academics, her commitment to the balanced student-athlete experience, and her ability to recruit.

In addition to her club experience, Wetzel is a contributor at various volleyball camps, including that of her former coach and long-time mentor and Auburn University head volleyball coach, Rick Nold, whom she served alongside at Jacksonville State University as a graduate assistant coach.
In June, the Auburn University Board of Trustees approved the estimated $15.5 million budget and the schematic for a new residence hall project on AUM’s campus. The new residence hall, a 63,000-sq.-ft. facility, will house approximately 204 students in 54 suites. The general configuration of the housing unit will be for two or four students, with two bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a kitchen unit. The building is designed as a brick and metal panel-clad split three- and four-story building in order to establish a welcoming building scale and exterior.

The new hall is designed to encourage a strong student community through inclusion of various types of common areas and study spaces distributed throughout the building on each floor. There will be additional gathering spots inside and outside the building, as well. The current student leadership, which was intimately involved in the design process, are in support of the proposed design.

This project further defines the residential green space and pedestrian way. Additionally, multiple outdoor gathering spaces will tie the new building into the existing residential fabric of this section of the campus. The building will also tie into existing student travel patterns and encourage a sense of interaction between the various residence halls.

The schematic design was prepared as a phased residential master plan. The new residence hall has been sited and designed to accommodate and inspire future growth in this residential district of the campus and to better connect to the academic campus core.
New Sculptures Join Exhibit on Quad

Each of the sculptures on AUM’s campus embodies different concepts and ideas in the field of modern sculpture. In 2014, the university acquired new works by two sculptors, Montgomery, Ala., artist John Phillips, an AUM alumnus, and Wisconsin artist Theresa Lind. These installations have been made possible by the generous support of Auburn Montgomery Outreach, the Alabama State Council on the Arts, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Other sponsors include the Auburn Montgomery Department of Fine Arts, School of Liberal Arts, and the AUM Lecture Series.

AUM Graphic Designer Brings Campus Maps to Life

The completion of new large, highly detailed campus maps is enhancing AUM’s visual appeal and way-finding for students and visitors, and they exist thanks to the efforts of an AUM alumnus and employee.

Aaron Fraze, Senior Graphic Designer in Strategic Communications and Marketing, helped select the three-dimensional design for the maps, and then worked for about two years to perfect them.

“Our campus had grown and changed to the point that our existing maps no longer represented the true beauty and organization of AUM’s campus,” said Fraze, who earned a bachelor’s in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Graphic Design from AUM. “We chose this particular design for its accuracy and authenticity because of its photorealistic representation,” he said.

Fraze’s experience with three-dimensional graphics was instrumental in designing the maps. While working at ESPN Outdoors, Fraze used an application called Maya to create underwater scenes of aquatic animals and to show how they react to certain types of environmental stimuli, such as fishing lures. According to Fraze, who recommended that ESPN use Maya in producing its graphics, the application is an industry leader in 3D modeling and animation. Maya has even been used by Hollywood effects powerhouses Industrial Light and Magic and by WETA in New Zealand to make superheroes fly and mythical creatures of Middle Earth come to life, said Fraze, who also worked previously for Bassmaster magazine.
WHAT WE BELIEVE… IN ACTION

STUDENTS FIRST
COLLABORATION
DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVENESS
CITIZENSHIP & COMMUNITY
CONSTANT IMPROVEMENT
LIFELONG LEARNING
EXCELLENCE
Inaugural New Student Convocation

Fall semester 2014 saw AUM’s first New Student Convocation ceremony. While the university has always made new student orientation a priority, faculty and staff saw a formal ceremony as a way to establish an immediate connection between students and faculty and staff and to create a cohort of all incoming students, including traditional freshmen, transfers and non-traditional students.

New Student Convocation provides a way to demonstrate to new students the dedication of AUM faculty and staff to their growth and well-being as students throughout their time at the university and through the successful completion of their degrees. In addition to faculty and staff introductions to AUM’s academic environment, new students also heard from their SGA president and fellow students about what they can expect at AUM.

New Warhawks also met Curtiss, the AUM mascot, and learned the university fight song. And on that energizing note, the formal ceremony concluded, and incoming students were provided time to get to know the deans and faculty in their colleges and to start bonding with their new student colleagues.

At convocation, each new student also received their AUM Passport, a pocket guide that directs them to Warhawk Academic Success Center (WASC) resources and activities designed to set them up for success, such as finding tutors at The Learning Center and The Instructional Support Lab, where they are tutored and assisted by consultants who are qualified in their fields and have been trained in techniques to enhance learning in a variety of disciplines, such as math, language (including ESL), and science.

New Student Convocation is an offshoot of WASC endeavors. The WASC, launched in the spring of 2014, is an intentional collaboration between Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Associate Provost for Enrollment Management leading the department’s activities, aimed at supporting students. A vital resource, the WASC is housed within AUM’s Ida Belle Young Library Tower, already a central resource for all students. Over the past year, AUM has seen notable increases in student retention, and the university expects student-centered initiatives such as WASC and its resources and activities, such as New Student Convocation, to help continue that momentum.
An Easier Transition for Community College Transfers

In June 2015, AUM and Trenholm State Community College signed an official agreement that illustrates an intentional commitment by both parties to collaborate and build relationships among faculty, staff, and students at both campuses. It is designed to support students through smooth transfer transitions. The partnership was aided by Trenholm’s 2014 SACS accreditation.

“The partnership allows our faculty to connect to Trenholm students’ advisors for the benefit of students. AUM faculty call someone directly and get help for students,” said Glen Ray, Head of the AUM Department of Psychology, adding that AUM plans to continue meeting with Trenholm staff to seek more ways to cement the relationship between the schools.

The agreement also offers Trenholm students increased aid opportunities, such as the Presidential Award (in the amount of full tuition for a year for transfer students who have earned at least a 3.0 GPA) and other scholarships based on academic merit.

AUM already has similar programs in place with two other community colleges in the region, but it is increasing the depths of such partnerships by creating a model for greater and earlier support for transfer students to create an orchestrated transition from community college to baccalaureate degree through its new Strategic Partnerships for Academic Navigation program.

“The partnership allows our faculty to connect to Trenholm students’ advisors for the benefit of students. AUM faculty call someone directly and get help for students.”

— Glen Ray
Head, AUM Department of Psychology

AUM Fine Arts Opens Gallery in Business/Entertainment District

The AUM Fine Arts Department opened a new art gallery in downtown Montgomery in the 2015 spring semester. Gallery 213 showcases works by AUM students, faculty and alumni, and by local artists.

The inaugural exhibition, “The Manipulation of Light,” featured the work of five local photographers and four Auburn Montgomery photography majors, guaranteeing a diverse group of works on display. Participating artists included professionals Josh Moates, Nick Drollette, Jonathon Kohn, Alan Barrington Evans, and Thomas Lucas, along with AUM students Trevette Brown, Kaylee Hobbs, Theresa Lee, and Benjamin D. Koch.
COLLABORATION

College of Arts and Sciences Opens
Research Opportunities Across Disciplines

Auburn Montgomery’s College of Arts and Sciences presented the first all-inclusive Undergraduate Research Symposium in March 2015, featuring work from students across all colleges and departments. The symposium exhibited posters, visual works and presentations on a variety of topics including biology, chemistry, math and English.

This was the sixth annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, but it was the first to feature projects from multiple disciplines across the campus. In addition to traditional scientific research, faculty, staff, students and visitors at this year’s symposium, conducted by Associate Professor and Biology Department Head Dr. Chelsea Ward and Assistant Professor of Justice and Public Safety Dr. Don Chon, also saw research on literary works and cultural phenomena.

Dr. Michael Burger, Dean of the Auburn Montgomery College of Arts and Sciences, said he applauds the dedication of all involved in this year’s symposium. He emphasized the importance of undergraduate research, saying that it allows students the opportunity to form hypotheses, design experiments, analyze data, and make their own contributions to a better understanding of the world. “Research is a difficult but rewarding enterprise,” said Burger, “and the projects presented here represent a significant commitment of time and energy on the part of both the students and their faculty mentors.” Burger added that he is very pleased with opening up the opportunities of undergraduate research to all disciplines across the campus.
AUM Exercise Science Assists Athletes with Disabilities

AUM’s Exercise Science Program is partnering with neighboring Huntingdon College on the Ability Sport Network, which serves River Region youth and young adults, ages 6–21, with physical disabilities who have a desire to participate in sport and adapted activity. Michele Olson, professor of Kinesiology at AUM, is on the board as the coordinator for ASN research.

Exercise Science senior intern Holly Clarke and Exercise Science graduate student Maren Heller have been collecting data on the Red Wings Wheelchair Basketball team using Actigraph Accelerometer Technology to measure the energy cost of wheelchair basketball in school-aged youth with disabilities and assisting with their practices this spring. The results of their research and the conditioning program they have designed were unveiled at the ASN kickoff event this summer.

Clarke and Heller received scholarships to study and complete the Disability Sport Specialist Certification – level 2 training (CDSS-2). Both Clarke and Heller passed the exam (a degree in Kinesiology or a related discipline is required to sit for the training and exam) and are now the first students from AUM’s Kinesiology department to earn the World Paralympic Organization-endorsed credential for “Sport Disability Specialists,” with the necessary skills and knowledge to train, condition, and coach individuals and school-age youth with disabilities who are engaged in physical exercise and/or sport.

The ASN teaches prerequisite sport skills that allow youth to continue lifelong participation in organized sport or physical activities. Through participation in wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis, boccia, and track and field, participants develop mental and physical balance, confidence, work ethic and leadership skills. The program is funded by a $250,000 grant provided by the Education Trust Fund.

AUM Outreach Secures Grant to Improve River Region Mental Health

Auburn Montgomery Outreach secured a $96,529 grant to support a program it is leading that will give decision makers in the River Region better information on behavioral health issues in their communities. The funding will enable testing for the Community Behavioral Health Early Warning System, which has the potential to be a model for communities nationwide. AUM Outreach is working with The River Region Healthy Minds Network, a collective impact initiative and soon-to-be 501(c)(3), whose purpose is to achieve a coordinated mental healthcare system in the River Region that provides effective, efficient and reliable services for consumers so they may achieve wellness through awareness, prevention and appropriate care.

The funds were awarded as a subgrant from Michigan State University, which is leading the Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation Phase II (CAPE 2) project under a grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Regional Rural Development Centers.

grant secured totaling
$96,529
AUM Students Improve the Quality of Life for Kids in Alabama’s Black Belt

Students in the AUM College of Nursing and Health Sciences, working on the collaborative Healthy Kids initiative, provided health screenings to 535 schoolchildren in Lowndes County during the spring 2015 semester. The future healthcare professionals wrote 226 referrals to doctors for parents and children to follow up with physicians for issues or conditions identified during exams.

The new academic reorganization that combined the university’s School of Nursing, the Medical Laboratory Science Program, and the Speech and Hearing Clinic into the new College of Nursing and Health Sciences is already paying off for AUM students and Alabama’s schoolchildren, said Ginny Langham, Assistant Professor of Nursing, who heads AUM’s participation in the initiative. The new structure provides a broader array of testing to kids in the program. Among the conditions identified by AUM students this spring were hypertension, increased blood glucose levels, inadequate vision and hearing, obesity levels, and dental decay.

The initiative is a boon to public schools and families in the Black Belt region because budget constraints have limited the resources to school systems for early identification of student health issues. Since 2011, AUM students have performed more than 3,500 health screenings on elementary and middle school children within Lowndes and Elmore County public schools. Now those exams include a broader array of testing services.

“The parents are happy and grateful to be made aware of these issues,” said Jason Burroughs, Assistant Superintendent for Lowndes County Public Schools. “Like us, the parents realize that these issues can increase absences and decrease engagement, and that can hurt the kids’ academic and social performance.”

Not only does this program offer hands-on learning to students in nursing and health sciences, but it also serves Alabama communities by improving the quality of life of their young people.

“We’ve been very fortunate to have this partnership with the AUM College of Nursing and Health sciences,” Burroughs added. “They’ve been a tremendous asset to the Lowndes County Public Schools and, certainly, the kids. And it’s really a win-win for everybody. AUM’s students get some good hands-on experience, and our students benefit from the additional medical attention.”

more than 3,500 health screenings since 2011
College of Business Students Secure Millions in Tax Refunds for Working Alabamians

During the 2015 tax season, 13 students from AUM’s College of Business helped working families in Alabama secure $2.7 million in tax refunds through the service-learning volunteer initiative SaveFirst. AUM students helped prepare more than 1,400 tax returns and, in addition to the refunds, saved Alabama families more than $420,000 in commercial tax preparation fees.

“We are very excited about the results this year and could not have achieved them without the commitment of AUM students and support of AUM faculty,” said Stephen Black, director of the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama.

Dr. Teresa Lang, a professor in AUM’s School of Accountancy, supports the program at AUM.

“A goal of the College of Business is to present students with real-life experiences,” said Rhea Ingram, Dean of the College of Business. “Not only did our students gain exposure to a real community issue, but they were empowered to utilize their skills and make a difference in the lives of these families.”

AUM students were part of a coalition of more than 660 students from 21 campuses across the state to assist low-income, working families. In total, SaveFirst students assisted more than 8,600 families who claimed $15 million in refunds and saved approximately $2.6 million in commercial preparation fees — a 15% increase in families served compared with the previous tax season.

Student-Athletes Strengthen Community Ties

AUM pushes its student-athletes to prepare for their futures on and off the court, the field and the pitch. Our men and women athletes have embedded themselves within the community, finding passion outside of their respective sports. During the 2014–15 academic year, they spent more than 2,000 hours helping our neighbors and stakeholders — an increase of 31% compared with the previous year’s community service hours. Each of our sports teams is committed to participating in a minimum of three engagement activities.
Asked what is the hardest part about being blind, with limited fine motor control and speech, Auburn University at Montgomery freshman Logan Prickett has one answer: “Being ignored because of my disabilities.” In May, 2015, AUM kicked off a project that will keep Prickett and students like him from being ignored by math teachers and future employers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

The Logan Project, named for Prickett, an academically gifted STEM student, aims to develop software that will enable students who are blind or low-vision to fully participate in all college-level math courses for which they have the intellectual capacity to succeed. The team began work on the project in January with a contribution from AUM of more than $19,000 to develop the project.

“I think there are students who are blind or have low vision that are not able to meet their core math requirements because we haven’t opened the doors to them,” said Ann Gulley, Coordinator of AUM’s Instructional Support Lab and head of the project. “They have the intellectual capacity, but we don’t have something in place that will allow them to drive the intellectual process.”

As the complexity of math increases, the accessibility to the subject decreases for students who are blind, low vision, or challenged by other disabilities. Some blind or low-vision students, who have access to specialty schools, are aided in math studies with Nemeth code, the math equivalent of Braille. But Nemeth code is not an option for Prickett, who, at the age of 13, suffered an anaphylactic reaction to the contrast dye in an MRI, which left him blind, reliant on a wheelchair, with fine motor control deficits, and unable to speak above a whisper. Prickett’s fine motor coordination deficit leaves him unable to use his hands to read or write in either Braille or Nemeth code. Without proper technology to make higher math truly accessible to students who are blind, and in Prickett’s case, both blind and mobility impaired, the ability to pursue careers in STEM fields is severely limited.

Ann Gulley and Dr. Luke Smith, professor of Foundations, Technology and Secondary Education, will head The Logan Project for AUM, with support from The Learning Center at AUM as the sponsoring department. Dr. Daniela Marghitu, a professor in Computer Science and Software Engineering and the Founder and Director of the Auburn University Educational and Assistive Technology Laboratory, will head Auburn’s participation in the project.

Prickett will be involved in every step of the program, said Gulley, “His input is critical in the development of this software, so he’s a key member of the design team.” In fact, Prickett and AUM senior Jordan Price, both research assistants for the project, were co-recipients of the Ida Belle Young Special Projects grant award — virtually unheard-of at the undergraduate level — and will earn college credit for their work in developing and testing the software and liaising with the Auburn team. Smith, also the faculty member of record for the project, will monitor their research activities and course credits.

A research station for the project is near completion in the AUM Learning Center. “The Learning Center is an excellent location,” according to Gulley. “It is the brightest area of the library, so it’s beneficial for students like Logan, who can perceive light. But it also will provide a very visible location, where we can put our research front and center so that other students can see the work that’s being done and may even be inspired to approach their professors about undergraduate research.”
Preparing a University Pathway for Minority Students

The June 2015 transfer agreement with Trenholm State Community College (see page 17) is part of AUM’s larger Strategic Partnerships for Academic Navigation (SPAN) initiative that includes agreements with other community colleges in the state. Begun as a diversity initiative, the SPAN model was designed to create a pathway for underserved minority communities to matriculate under highly organized protocols designed to put students transferring from two-year community colleges on the path to successful completion of their baccalaureate degrees. Those students’ success at AUM has been remarkable, and that was key in Trenholm’s decision to sign a formal agreement with AUM.

“I can sign this agreement knowing that our students will receive the same care and compassion at AUM that we have provided for them here,” said Trenholm President Samuel Munnerlyn at the official signing ceremony.

Munnerlyn’s confidence is based on real-life successes of transfer students from Trenholm at AUM, exemplified by adult student and mother Donna Sanford. At the ceremony, Sanford tearfully explained how AUM’s faculty, services and students helped her feel at home among her new campus family. “My advisors, my professors, and the resources and my new friends here at AUM have really helped me make the academic and lifestyle transition,” said Sanford. “I was afraid I would sink, but they have helped make sure that my head’s not just above the water but that I really am doing well!”

AUM hopes its SPAN model will continue to grow at AUM and in its surrounding region and beyond, and, if the successes of students like Donna Sanford are any indication, such growth is very likely.

“I guarantee you, three years from now, four years from now, this will be a legacy,” said Munnerlyn.

AUM’s Chancellor Helps Strengthen State’s Ties with Korea

In September 2014, AUM Chancellor John Veres was named to the Executive Board of Directors and the Steering Committee for the Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership (A-KEEP). In this role, Veres helps set short-term and long-term strategies for Alabama-Korean relations and helps build partnerships between Alabama and Korea.

“Dr. Veres is a pioneer in global initiatives and multicultural diversity education in Alabama beyond racial diversity,” said Meesoon Han, President and Executive Director of A-KEEP. “He brought the Confucius Institute to Montgomery and is committed to nurturing and growing Korean industries in Alabama and leading AUM students to understand the Korean/Asian culture to prepare them for the 21st century’s global society.”

A-KEEP was founded in 2011 as a partnership between the Alabama Department of Education and Korea’s Office of Education in the Gyeongsangbuk-do Province.

A World-Class Education in Global Diversity

AUM’s dedication to diversity on its campus is clear. Since its establishment, the university has served both traditional and non-traditional students, with teenage freshmen and adult students learning and growing together. In more recent years, the university’s ties with the Confucius Institute, its participation in Alabama-Korea relations, and its active international recruitment have increased diversity among students even more. In the 2014–15 academic year, just as an example, 24 countries outside the United States were represented among our student-athletes.

“We are providing our entire student body the opportunity to learn and to understand cultures and to respect themselves and others, regardless of race, creed, gender or circumstance,” said Chancellor John Veres.
Today, K-12 principals are responsible for the overall operation of their schools. This requires them to know something about the law, accounting, law enforcement, and business — all while being a teacher, business developer, and mentor. The Boardrooms to Classrooms initiative, developed and facilitated by AUM Outreach, provides Montgomery Public Schools principals with relationships that help them build a business mindset and that foster support from the business community by creating ambassadors in schools.

The action-oriented program matches principals with business leaders who help them develop projects, strategies and plans for implementation in their schools. Principals meet with their Boardrooms to Classrooms partners throughout the year to exchange ideas and develop the mentoring relationship. Business leaders work to gain a greater understanding of the school environment through exercises such as reviewing school organizational charts, meeting with faculty and staff, and visiting classrooms. Principals visit the businesses, and business leaders invite principals to join them at community networking events. Business leaders and principals each take advantage of the other’s knowledge and experience.

“One outcome has been a great sense of personal awareness among our community leaders of the positive things that are taking place in our public schools,” said Rebecca Bloodworth, Program Manager and Head of Auburn Montgomery Outreach’s K-12 Initiatives. “The business leaders are able to see firsthand what’s happening at the schools, and they are impressed. This, in turn, has created strong advocates for MPS.”

And the principals collaborate on ways businesses and business leaders can positively affect the students and the overall functioning of their schools. The program gives business leaders a great opportunity to see — and help — the next-generation workforce. “I am really enjoying working with the Brewbaker Technology Magnet High School Principal,” said Kelly Pate, a partner at the corporate law firm Balch & Bingham, LLP. “She and I have plans to continue our periodic meetings throughout this academic year. I continue to be impressed by the education the Brew Tech students are receiving.”
AUBURN MONTGOMERY, AUBURN UNIVERSITY EXPAND LIFELONG LEARNING

Fall 2014 started an exciting new year for AUM’s Lifelong Learning Institute. LLI began a partnership with Auburn’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to add more benefits to both programs. The merger allows AUM’s LLI and the AU OLLI programs the ability to serve more lifelong learners and offer more services.

In order to align the program with the OLLI program, AUM’s LLI has implemented an annual membership program that offers patrons aged 50 and above the opportunity to take classes (outside the LLI and OLLI course offerings) for a small yearly fee. Members can take classes at LLI or OLLI. Members are also eligible for reduced rates on courses at both institutions. They also have access to libraries at both universities and may use the AUM hiking trails and join AUM’s state-of-the-art Wellness Center.

“OUR COLLABORATIONS OFTEN RESULT IN UNIQUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR AUM’S STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF, AND THE COMMUNITY TO LEARN NEW SKILLS AND PERSPECTIVES AND TO HAVE EXPERIENCES THAT NO OTHER PARTNER CAN PROVIDE.”

– KATHERINE JACKSON
Vice Chancellor for Outreach
CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Improving the Quality of Online Education

AUM has been offering online courses since 1994 (and distance learning since its founding), with the philosophy that online classes should be both rigorous and engaging, which requires continuous interaction and support for online learners. The university is dedicated to providing distance education opportunities that deliver an exceptional learning experience, which is why, in February of 2015, it officially entered a partnership with Quality Matters. The QM rubric and process, developed by the University of Maryland through an FISPE grant, is a faculty-centered peer review process designed to certify the quality of online and hybrid courses. The curriculum introduces faculty and instructional staff to best practices in instructional design, provides a rubric for assessing online course design, and outlines a process for continuous improvement of online and hybrid courses.

AUM’s Information Technology Services department spent the summer providing faculty and staff information sessions on the QM rubric and process that AUM will undergo to have online and hybrid courses reviewed for quality assurance.

AUM currently offers 16 online, hybrid and certificate degree programs:
• Master of Science in Justice and Public Safety/Criminal Justice
• Master of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management
• Medical Laboratory Science
• Master of Liberal Arts
• American Culture and Society Certificate Program
• Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certificate Program
• Master of Education: Instructional Technology
• Master of Kinesiology
• Traditional Master of Physical Education (seven options)
• R.N. to B.S.N. (EARN Program)
• Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) Auburn University at Montgomery/Auburn University joint program
• Instructional Technology Education Specialist (Ed.S.)

“Taking online courses has allowed me more freedom. I can work the hours I need to and do assignments on my own time. And the instructors are incredible!”
– Nicole Guerin, student, AUM School of Accounting
New Library Dean Is a Rebel with a Cause

When Phill Johnson joined AUM as the new Dean of the Library, he immediately undertook the task of fielding a survey on how well the university’s library was meeting the needs of students, faculty and staff. He expected to find that there were resource gaps, but what he didn’t anticipate was how many of the resources and services students, faculty and staff requested were already available.

“People just didn’t know that we had so many of the things they said they needed,” said Johnson. “We’ve got 155 databases that haven’t been made visible. We’ve got collections that aren’t promoted.”

Johnson’s mission now is to rally a campus-wide information campaign, starting within the library.

“People just didn’t know that we had so many of the things they said they needed,” said Johnson. “We’ve got 155 databases that haven’t been made visible. We’ve got collections that aren’t promoted.”

Johnson plans, eventually, to take his library awareness and literacy campaigns out to the larger community, as well.

Critical Thinking Skills Shine Among AUM Students in Writing-Intensive Classes

In April 2015, the Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) program gave the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Critical Thinking Skills Test to 417 students enrolled in 34 writing-intensive (WI) content courses. Of these, 282 students (more than 67 percent) scored at or above the national mean score and received certificates of achievement from ACT, the test’s publisher. In 2013 (the last time the test was offered), the national mean score was 59.9 (out of 80), and AUM’s was 62.8. This spring, the national mean score dropped to 59.4, however, AUM’s mean score rose to 63.3.

Also, in three AUM WI classes, 100 percent of the tested students scored at or above the national mean score. The classes were Dr. Enoch Lee’s Senior Seminar in Math, Dr. Pamela Long’s Spanish Composition, and Dr. Tim Kroft’s Molecular Genetics.

The CAAP Critical Thinking Skills Test is given to students taking WI courses each spring semester of odd-numbered years to assess the WAC program goal that students will demonstrate the ability to use discourse, analysis and evaluation skills in writing. The WAC program, based on this positive data and other assessment records of the past five years, is successfully meeting student learning objectives.

100% of the tested students scored at or above the national mean score.
AUM Launches Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

In October 2014, AUM Provost Joe M. King announced the creation of the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). The center serves as the hub of activity for faculty professional development across the university, providing opportunities for faculty to learn from one another and from visiting speakers as they move toward best practices in pedagogy. The ultimate goal of this strategic initiative is to enhance student learning through optimal and varied approaches to teaching.

“Two of the eight objectives in the 2013–18 Auburn University at Montgomery Strategic Plan focus on the desire to strengthen academic programs and further develop strategies to enhance student success, retention and graduation rates,” said Dr. Joy Clark, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies. “An important aspect of achieving these goals is to create a support structure for faculty in the area of teaching and learning. The creation of the Center of Excellence in Learning and Teaching meets this need.”

Dr. Lee Farrow was selected as the Founding Director of the center. “As graduate students, most of us are trained only in our research areas and are never taught to teach,” Farrow said. “Once we become professors, with significant teaching and research expectations, we have little time to work on the art of teaching and virtually no time to pursue professional development on teaching or attend conferences on this subject. My goal for CELT,” Farrow continued, “is to bring professional development opportunities to AUM, to provide faculty, staff and graduate students — anyone teaching students — with some of the most innovative and best ideas about teaching that are currently being discussed and practiced.”

“My goal for CELT is to bring professional development opportunities to AUM, to provide faculty, staff and graduate students — anyone teaching students — with some of the most innovative and best ideas about teaching that are currently being discussed and practiced.”

— Dr. Lee Farrow
Founding Director, CELT

Early Learning Center Receives Excellence Grant

The AUM College of Education’s Early Learning Center was recently awarded an Excellence grant for $45,000 through the Alabama First Class Pre-K program. This money will be used to purchase supplies to enrich the curriculum and environment within the AUM Early Learning Center and to provide professional development opportunities to the faculty and staff of the ELC. The AUM ELC, in conjunction with the Alabama Department of Children’s Affairs, will become a model pre-K site within the state of Alabama. The grant funding begins in the fall of 2015 and runs through the spring semester of 2016.
Softball, Tennis Teams at Top of Their Games

The 2014–15 academic year marked the 12th consecutive season in which an AUM team has won a national championship and saw the Warhawks earn their 25th national title in the history of AUM athletics.

Twice as Nice: Softball Repeats as NAIA National Champions

The Auburn Montgomery softball team successfully defended its NAIA Softball World Series championship and repeated as the nation's best team in late May 2015.

The Warhawks (46–9) became the third team in the history of the Softball World Series to repeat as champions — and the first since Oklahoma City won three straight championships from 2000–02. The national title marks the 25th in AUM athletics history.

Following the tournament, pitcher Casey Jones was selected the World Series Most Valuable Player for the second consecutive season.

Love to Win

Following a one-year absence from the national championship match, the Auburn Montgomery women's tennis team captured its fourth title in the last five years and 10th crown in a 12-year span. The victory in the finals of the 35th annual NAIA Women's Tennis National Championship Tournament marked the 14th NAIA national championship for women's tennis at AUM.

Following the match and prior to the team being presented with its national championship trophy and banner, Head Coach Rolando Vargas was announced as the NAIA Women's Tennis Coach of the Year. The honor marked the fourth time in his five-year tenure he has received the honor.


Auburn Montgomery is one of the best colleges in the Southeast, according to The Princeton Review. The university was one of 139 institutions in 12 southeastern states named to the “Best in Southeast” list for 2015. AUM students stated the university is “perfect” for individuals “who appreciate an interactive learning environment” and seek “opportunities to work closely with faculty.” Students also included “small classes” and “personalized education” among the university’s assets.

AUM faculty received high marks, with students saying they find their teachers to be “engaging” and “friendly,” though “demanding,” and the majority of professors “seem to really enjoy teaching” and are “always willing to help a student who wants to learn.”

The university was also named among U.S. News & World Report's 2015 “Best Colleges in the South region.” Additionally, AUM’s College of Business was recognized by both ranking institutions as being among the best business schools. It is the only college in the Montgomery area to receive accreditation from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) for both its undergraduate and graduate business program as well as its discipline-specific accreditation in accounting, putting it in the top one percent of business schools internationally.
Faculty and Staff Recognized for Scholarship, Leadership, Dedication

At the 2014 Chancellor’s Convocation, several members of the AUM faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding service to Auburn Montgomery and our students and the surrounding community.

Dr. Lee Farrow, Department of History and World Languages and Cultures, College of Arts and Sciences, and Director of CELT
2014 Alumni Association Faculty Service Award
Dr. Lee Farrow was recognized for teaching excellence and a strong record of publication and research. She is the founding director of AUM’s Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching and recently had her book Alexis in America: A Russian Grand Duke’s Tour, 1871-72 published by Louisiana State University Press. She is currently working on a third book focusing on the Alaska Purchase of 1867.

Dr. Gilbert Duenas, Curriculum Instruction and Technology, College of Education
Auburn Montgomery Outreach Grant
With this grant, Dr. Gilbert Duenas will expand his current project that serves the Latino community by providing ESL and math tutoring to children. The program involves AUM students in the service-learning projects, and, through this program, the children’s literary works are published and an informative website for Latino families is being created. He has made several conference presentations about the project and produced peer-reviewed publications on the project.

Dr. Bridgette Harper, Psychology, College of Arts and Sciences
Auburn Montgomery Outreach Grant
Dr. Bridgette Harper was recognized for mentoring and tutoring at-risk high school youths, focusing on intervention and prevention for ninth-graders. Specifically, she established a tutoring program for ninth-grade students at Wetumpka High School and put together a team of AUM students to tutor and mentor them.

Dr. Ramona Lazenby, Associate Dean, College of Nursing and Health Sciences
2014 Faculty Excellence in Outreach Award
Dr. Ramona Lazenby has contributed significant research to her field and is a member of numerous professional organizations. Actively involved in service opportunities within the AUM community, she is also a leader in broader community and professional initiatives, such as Healthy Kids (formerly KidCheck) in Lowndes and Elmore counties, Envision 2020 Recruitment and Retention of Health Care Professionals Committee, Baptist Health Nurse Residency Program Advisory Committee, and the LEAP Project.
At the 2014 Chancellor’s Convocation, several members of the AUM faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding service to Auburn Montgomery and our students and the surrounding community.

**Dr. Michelle Tharpe, Curriculum Instruction and Technology, College of Education**

Champion of Student Success Award
Dr. Michelle Tharpe consistently receives the highest rankings from students regarding her passion for teaching, commitment to their success, and dedication to the profession of education. Students express that, prior to taking her courses, they “never worked so hard, learned so much, or felt better prepared to succeed as future educators.” Perhaps her care and concern for students is best illustrated by the activity level on the Facebook page that she maintains for AUM alumni who currently teach within the K–12 system.

**Professor Michael Winkelman, Communication and Theatre, College of Arts and Sciences**

2014–16 Ida Belle Young Professorship
In just the past five years, Prof. Michael Winkelman played a significant role in 84 separate theatre productions. More than half of these were in one national tour to theatres in Chicago, West Virginia, North Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, and Alabama. His work has been nominated for and has received several awards. Among these is the Joseph Jefferson Award, which is Chicago’s equivalent of the Tony Award. His work has been peer-evaluated through the United States Institute for Theatre Technology and through use of the Association for Theatre in Higher Education Guidelines.

**Associate Professor Nancy Anderson, Department of English and Philosophy, College of Arts and Sciences**

**Kyle Lesinger, Program Associate, Medical and Clinical Lab Science, College of Nursing and Health Sciences**

**B.J. Nabors, Environmental Safety Assistant, Campus Facilities**

**Clara Taylor, Senior Administrative Associate, Community Engagement, Auburn Montgomery Outreach**

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At the 2014 Chancellor’s Convocation, several members of the AUM faculty and staff were recognized for their outstanding service to Auburn Montgomery and our students and the surrounding community.
As a student in the early 1970s, Ben McNeill had an unforgettable encounter with AUM’s first Chancellor, Dr. H. Hanly Funderburk, who asked him what he saw in a field of cotton adjoining AUM’s fledgling campus.

He remembers Funderburk saying, “I tell you what I see. I see a gymnasium,” and then, “You understand one thing about life. To be successful, you’ve got to have vision.”

Fast-forward about 40 years, and it’s obvious Funderburk’s lessons made a difference for McNeill, whose voice can be heard at local United Food and Fuel gasoline pumps as he welcomes customers to any of his 16 Central Alabama convenience stores.

The businessman who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business with a focus in marketing is quick to inform others that AUM helped chart his path to success.

“I love this place,” said McNeill. “Its [creation] is the best thing that ever happened to me because I could work and go to school at the same time. I worked my way through college hauling gasoline.”

McNeill and his wife, Jo, created the Jo and Ben McNeill Endowed Scholarship for students studying Speech Language Pathology and Audiology at AUM.

It’s one way to give back for the support that his son, who experienced hearing and speech difficulties as a toddler, received at the Speech and Hearing Clinic.

McNeill’s daughter, Jessica, was also led to AUM. Noting her gift for writing, an Auburn University professor told her, “You need to transfer to AUM. You’ll receive more personalized, in-depth instruction there. They’ll help you take your writing to the next level,” recalled McNeill. “And the instruction she received from her outstanding professors like Bob Evans, Eric Sterling, and Nancy Anderson led to her becoming a published author.”

McNeill is a big fan of AUM’s English and Philosophy Department, fondly remembering faculty and administrators, particularly Dr. Guin Nance, former Dean of the then-School of Liberal Arts and former Chancellor of AUM. One can tell from listening to McNeill that his personal experiences at AUM have had a deep impact on his life.

“The people in the classrooms and the professors were top-notch,” he said. “You have smaller classes here, and I think that helped me a lot. See I remember all those people, and it’s been (what was that, 40 years ago), and I can remember all of them like it was yesterday.”

McNeill still remembers all of his professors by name and will never forget the real-life experiences they passed on. “I had two in marketing that actually had a marketing research firm. I learned so much rubber-meets-the-road stuff from them because they were in it. We got a lot of OJT (on-the-job training) with those guys,” he said.

McNeill, whose investment in his AUM education has paid him back many times over, did have choices of other schools to attend in the early 1970s, when Huntingdon College and Alabama Christian College already existed, but he easily chose AUM.

“I love this place,” said McNeill. “If I’m going to do anything with my money, it’s going to go here.”
Alumna Comes Back to Give Back

Montgomery Circuit Clerk Tiffany McCord began her journey to the bench with a B.A. in History from AUM in 1997. In fall 2014, she was named a Distinguished Alumna of AUM’s School of Liberal Arts for her career achievements — and for her willingness to give back to AUM.

McCord was the first African American named executive director of an Alabama bar association, previously serving in the role for the Montgomery County Bar Association. She also holds the distinction of being one of the youngest attorneys ever selected to serve as a Criminal Justice Act panel attorney for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama.

Before being elected to public office in 2012, McCord served as an attorney in private practice, working in the areas of criminal, civil and family law. She has been admitted to practice law in the U.S. 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Alabama and the Alabama Supreme Court.

This spring, McCord came back to AUM to deliver a lecture, “Sex and Salary,” to AUM students. Not only does McCord want AUM students to begin their careers on equal footing, she believes — and told them so — that AUM students have the power to change workplace practices with regard to sex discrimination.

Judge Tiffany McCord connected with AUM students at her “Sex and Salary” lecture.
It may seem ironic, but one AUM alumna who climbs imposing mountains was attracted to AUM by its smaller classes and more personal atmosphere. “When I first started my college years at Iowa State, the classrooms were so large; I was just one of hundreds,” said Kath Carter.

Today, Carter serves in an executive global leadership role at EY — one of the Big Four accounting firms with more than 220,000 employees worldwide — yet she attributes much of her success to her AUM education. “Without my education, I would not have had the opportunity to work in the business world I long dreamed of,” Carter said. “And without the instructors at AUM, there is no way I could have been afforded so many opportunities in life.”

Carter, who double-majored in accounting and marketing and graduated summa cum laude in 1990 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, recently completed a journey to the top of 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

“I have a couple of philosophies that I carry throughout life: ‘We are better together’ and ‘Lift as we climb,’” said Carter. “With eight siblings, working together and helping each other was a must. In finding my way to AUM, I found those same core values and knew I had found my home away from home. The students and faculty all made me feel part of one big family that encouraged the success of each other. At the same time, AUM continually focuses on improving itself for the betterment of others, so it truly lifts as it climbs.”

Carter’s philosophies resonated especially while climbing Kilimanjaro, where the teamwork of the 22 African guides and porters was crucial to their ultimate success. Carter also says her affinity for teamwork and togetherness was emulated at AUM, especially in relationships with caring and dedicated professors. There is one in particular who always stood out.

She will never forget Dr. Mary Golden in the Accounting department. “Mary was known as an extremely prim, proper, by-the-book, tough teacher, but very fair, too,” Carter said. “She inspired and motivated me to do my best each and every day, which I have tried to pass on to others by eliminating the idea of limitations. Don’t let others define you. One can do and be anything they desire.”

Carter has made a significant pledge of $25,000 to the Auburn Montgomery Wellness Center and honored her family by naming the women’s locker room “The Charles Hallman Family Women’s Locker Room.” Ms. Carter was honored by the Auburn Montgomery College of Business in 2010 with the Distinguished Alumna Award.

For future students seeking a strong foundation from which to begin their own personal and professional summits, she strongly recommends AUM. “I would tell prospective students wholeheartedly to attend AUM, especially if they want an excellent education that provides a foundation for life after college, as well as the care and encouragement of a close-knit family whose mission is to give you wings to fly.”
Alumni Couple Finds Careers, Future Together Through AUM

It was love at first class.
That is, their first AUM class together.

AUM alumni Troy and Mary Burrus took Dr. Joe Albree’s Differential Equations together in the late winter of 1986, and the rest is history.

They married and went on to productive careers, yet they never forgot their roots at AUM, evidenced by their recent establishment of the Troy and Mary Stonaker Burrus Endowed Scholarship at AUM.

“It’s our way to give back to an organization that was there for us and that allowed us to get our higher education in a way that worked for us,” Mary Burrus said recently.

Like other AUM graduates, the husband and wife largely credit their success to their AUM degrees.

Mary earned a Bachelor of Science in Math and a Master’s of Science in Math Education, while Troy received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a major in Accounting.

Following their AUM experience, Mary served almost 32 years in the U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard and, before retiring, received an appointment as a Secretary of Defense Corporate Fellow, a program that sends 13–15 military officers per year to corporate America to bring back best business practices. For her fellowship, Mary served at Johnson & Johnson.

Troy has served 16 years as a special agent with the Internal Revenue Service’s Criminal Investigation division and is about to become Assistant Special Agent in charge of the IRS’s Seattle field office. He earned the IRS’s Special Agent of the Year Award in 2006 for his work on the Jack Abramoff corruption case.

He deeply feels that his AUM degree led to his first jobs in public accounting and his work as a certified public accountant.

“I always thought the professors at AUM were really top-notch professors, especially in the Accounting department where I got my degree. They cared about the student, they wanted us to learn, they wanted us to be successful, and the classes were very flexible,” said Troy.

Amazingly, while Troy and Mary’s relationship flourished over the years, their relationship with AUM continued to develop as well. The reason? AUM’s personal touch, Mary and Troy said.

“It’s that one-on-one feel that somebody really wants to connect with you and that they care about you. They’re interested — and you’re not just one of 300 [students in a class],” said Mary, referring to the small class sizes that today still set AUM apart from larger universities.

In such a class in the Library Tower, the pair met.

“The first day of class, I sat behind Troy, and I just thought he was gorgeous. I thought he was absolutely gorgeous,” Mary said. “I actually kept my differential equations book because Troy wrote his phone number in it.”

Back then, Mary appreciated the professionalism of faculty and staff at AUM, where she, like Troy, could work and go to school. Of course, their small class size also helped them to meet.

“Our first date was on Feb. 16, and we have been together since. That was in 1986, and we just went over 25 years of marriage. I think he’s wonderful, and we feel very fortunate to have each other,” she said.
AUM Exceeds Goal and Celebrates the Future of the Campaign

Three short years ago, AUM publicly announced the “Imagine. Invest. Inspire.” campaign for Auburn University at Montgomery. The university’s alumni and friends responded by providing overwhelming support beyond what anyone could have imagined. Because of that support, AUM is able to announce that it has achieved the $15.3 million goal of the campaign.

Though AUM has reached its goal, the campaign will extend through 2017. Regional efforts will continue in Birmingham; Washington, D.C.; Atlanta; and other areas, which will help raise the university’s profile across the United States and increase engagement with alumni and friends. AUM will also continue its efforts to raise funds for scholarships for deserving students, professorships for our outstanding faculty, and programmatic support for programs like the University Honors Program and Study Abroad.

“This is a historic moment for Auburn Montgomery,” said Carl Whatley, Campaign Chair, “one which would not be possible without the generous gifts of individuals, corporations, and foundations that have chosen to be a part of Auburn Montgomery’s bright and exciting future.”

While Auburn Montgomery celebrates reaching the campaign goal, the university looks forward to the future of the “Imagine. Invest. Inspire.” campaign. We would like to recognize the following AUM alumni and friends for their gifts made during the 2014 calendar year.

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Dr. Linda Gibson-Young

†Member of the 1967 Society - Named for the year in which Auburn University at Montgomery was established, the 1967 Society is one of the most prestigious donor societies at Auburn Montgomery, recognizing donors whose lifetime gifts and pledges to AUM reach $25,000 and above.

‡Member of the 1856 Society - Named for the year in which the East Alabama Male College (now Auburn University) was established, the 1856 Society is the most prestigious donor society for Auburn University and Auburn Montgomery, recognizing donors whose lifetime irrevocable gifts on behalf of Auburn Montgomery reach $100,000 and above.
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Dr. Ashley Miles Godwin
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Mr. and Mrs. David Goodlett
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Mr. and Mrs. Frank O. Grier†
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Hoover ENT Doctors and Staff
Dr. Ramona K. Hurston and Mr. Benjamin W. Hurston
Ms. Ladonna Idell
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Mr. William Roscoe Irving
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Mr. O. V. Lowe
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Dr. and Mrs. J. Robert Beshear
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Dr. Cynthia B. Brooks
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A Campaign for Auburn University at Montgomery

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†1967 Donor    ‡1856 Donor
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Dr. Jennifer A. Brown†
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Dr. Yu-Tueng Tsai and Dr. Chau L. Tsai†‡

We have made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Unfortunately, mistakes and omissions can and do occur. Please accept our apology and alert us by emailing advancement@aum.edu or calling 334-244-3369 if you find an error.
## Financial Snapshot

### Operating Revenues
- **Tuition and fees**, net of scholarship allowances of $10,500,313 and $9,877,720, respectively: $33,065,804 and $31,555,854
- Federal grants and contracts, net: 2,149,692 and 3,162,680
- State and local grants and contracts, net: 6,460,315 and 8,921,273
- Nongovernmental grants and contracts, net: 672,311 and 580,422
- Sales and services of educational departments: 2,603,837 and 2,735,000
- Auxiliary revenue, net of scholarship allowances of $1,223,045 and $895,666, respectively: 7,883,759 and 6,603,836

### Nonoperating Revenues
- State appropriations: 22,557,727 and 21,947,664
- Gifts: 838,122 and 1,009,618
- Grants: 8,005,304 and 7,235,288
- Net investment income: 1,626,894 and 1,625,695
- Interest expense on due to other funds: 2,360,070 and 536,489
- Nonoperating revenues, net: 30,667,377 and 31,280,776

### Operating Loss Before Other Changes in Net Position
- (1,284,188) and (2,731,578)

### Other Changes in Net Position
- Capital appropriations: - and 22,266
- Capital gifts and grants: 7,858 and 5,118
- Additions to permanent endowments: 26,109 and 37,420
- Net decrease in net position: (1,250,221) and (2,662,774)

### Net Position
- Beginning of year: 49,787,595 and 52,454,369
- End of year: $48,537,374 and $49,787,595

###Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current assets</td>
<td>$4,286,082</td>
<td>$1,517,561</td>
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<tr>
<td>Operating investments</td>
<td>817,395</td>
<td>1,279,652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>1,684,642</td>
<td>2,819,973</td>
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<td>Student accounts receivable, net</td>
<td>4,200,755</td>
<td>4,151,974</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loans receivable, net</td>
<td>344,551</td>
<td>326,517</td>
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<td>Accrued interest receivable</td>
<td>183,844</td>
<td>154,762</td>
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<td>Inventories</td>
<td>502,055</td>
<td>507,158</td>
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<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>1,441,133</td>
<td>1,383,587</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>$11,659,457</td>
<td>$12,141,164</td>
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### Noncurrent Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2013</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>15,277,306</td>
<td>18,133,838</td>
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<td>Loans receivable, net</td>
<td>2,524,207</td>
<td>2,465,340</td>
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<td>Investment in plant, net</td>
<td>971,274,433</td>
<td>98,896,175</td>
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<td>Due from other funds</td>
<td>29,686,099</td>
<td>29,340,767</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total noncurrent assets</strong></td>
<td>$144,615,045</td>
<td>$148,836,120</td>
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### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable</td>
<td>$1,799,074</td>
<td>$2,658,256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued salaries and wages</td>
<td>251,070</td>
<td>248,634</td>
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<td>Accrued compensated absences</td>
<td>1,543,202</td>
<td>1,596,889</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accrued interest payable</td>
<td>60,255</td>
<td>72,755</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student deposits</td>
<td>13,088</td>
<td>1,640</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deposits held in custody</td>
<td>2,820,066</td>
<td>2,779,652</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unearned revenues</td>
<td>12,480,486</td>
<td>12,187,373</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noncurrent liabilities-current portion</td>
<td>327,651</td>
<td>320,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due to other funds</td>
<td>2,235,269</td>
<td>1,154,958</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$21,476,461</td>
<td>$20,949,041</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Assets

- 2014: $156,274,502
- 2013: $160,977,284

### Total Liabilities

- 2014: $107,737,128
- 2013: $111,189,689

### Net Position

- 2014: $48,537,374
- 2013: $49,787,595

### Operating Revenues

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### Net Position

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STATE APPROPRIATIONS

Percentage of Total Operating Revenue


REVENUE SUMMARY

State Funds
$22,557,727
26.63%

Student Tuition and Fees
$33,065,804
39.03%

Other
$29,086,273
34.34%

EXPENSES SUMMARY

Institutional Support
$11,527,555
13.41%

Public Services
$12,065,215
14.03%

Instruction
$28,012,328
32.57%

Operations and Maintenance
$5,552,628
7.62%

Scholarships & Fellowships
$3,542,852
4.12%

Student Services
$5,119,703
6.12%

Academic Support
$4,252,877
4.95%

Other
$13,920,834
16.19%
A Grateful Farewell — Chancellor Veres to Retire in 2016

After almost 40 years in the service of Auburn University at Montgomery — nearly 10 of those as Chancellor — Dr. John G. Veres III plans to retire in 2016. Under Veres’ leadership, the university has undertaken the development and implementation of several major strategic initiatives to grow AUM and its recognition as a provider of quality higher education and continuing education as well as services for local and state businesses and government.

Among the university’s successes under Veres’ leadership is its recent academic transformation and expansion. The 2015 academic reorganization that created the College of Public Policy and Justice and College of Nursing and Health Sciences and realigned two core schools to form the College of Arts and Sciences has already begun to increase opportunities for AUM students to make a greater impact on the state and local communities while they learn and grow academically.

Veres has also engineered the internationalization of AUM’s campus. Last fall, Auburn Montgomery enrolled 229 international students from 37 countries, and ongoing programs with universities in Wuhan and Changsha, China, are scheduled to bring approximately 100 students to Montgomery in Fall 2016, allowing them to complete their senior years and degrees on the AUM campus. Veres also oversaw the launch of the AUM Confucius Institute and the creation of the Confucius Garden, a meditative space dedicated to the relationship AUM has forged with China under his watch and a symbol of his broader aim to bridge a variety of cultural divides.

These programs enhance opportunities for international students and enable new cultural experiences that benefit all students interacting in AUM’s more diverse environment.

His deep commitment to connecting with students and improving their experience at AUM has led to other changes, as well. Veres helmed the addition of the AUM Wellness Center, Warhawk Hall residential hall and a new student residence project now under construction, a new softball complex, the Grove (an outdoor gathering area), and fitness trails, truly transforming the look of the Auburn Montgomery campus. He also displayed a contagious passion for the creation of many new exciting student traditions, such as AUM’s mascot Curtiss the Warhawk and a fight song — traditions that will be in place long after Veres’ tenure ends.

Perhaps more than anything, Veres’ time at AUM has been marked by the strong connection he forged among the university, its students, and the community. Prior to his selection as Chancellor, Veres played multiple roles as a faculty member and leader of AUM applied research programs. He developed University Outreach’s consulting and applied research units, and he has positioned Auburn Montgomery as a valuable player in economic development initiatives, strategic organizational partnerships, and business advisory roles for businesses and government agencies in the state and beyond. As Chancellor, he brought to the university that same collaborative and entrepreneurial spirit and keen appreciation of the place Auburn Montgomery holds in the community to find new ways to deepen that relationship and to increase the university’s contributions as a resource and partner.

“I am proud to be the first alumnus of Auburn Montgomery to lead our university. It has been an honor to serve as chancellor — to be the CEO of my alma mater — and a great privilege to work with the excellent faculty and staff members at AUM,” said Veres. “I shall miss the daily interaction with students, faculty and staff, but I am looking forward to watching AUM continue to grow and serve the citizens of Alabama and beyond.”
www.aum.edu