From the Associate Provost’s Desk...

Thank you! 2006-2007 has been a great year in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

As we prepare to embark on the 2007-2008 academic year I hope this newsletter will serve as a reflection of diversity related activities we have hosted during the spring and summer semesters. We are looking forward to even greater things in the 2007-2008 academic year as we continue to implement the AU Strategic Diversity Plan. We are making great strides thanks to the work and spirit of the Auburn University family.

If our office can ever be of service to you in anyway please feel free to contact us at (334) 844-4184 or send us an email at diversity@auburn.edu.

Thank you again for all that you are doing for diversity,

WAR EAGLE! Overtoun

Welcome, Dr. Paulette Dilworth
Assistant Vice President for Access and Community Initiatives

Paulette Patterson Dilworth has been named Auburn University’s assistant vice president for access and community initiatives. Dilworth, an associate professor in the School of Education at Indiana University—Bloomington, began the position July 2, 2007. Besides a strong affinity for art and music, Dilworth brings to Auburn more than 30 years of experience in higher education diversity consulting and training, recruitment, retention, and teaching.

Dilworth has devoted her professional career and much of her personal life to exploring issues of access, civic engagement, equity, and building community. Dilworth said that she is “honored to have the opportunity to work collaboratively with administrators, faculty, staff, and students to help Auburn create innovative civic spaces and envision new paths for community. I look forward to cultivating partnerships with those who recognize and understand the need to engage in courageous inquiry and dialogue, and the importance of taking an active role in transforming the future of the state, nation, and world.”

A native of Selma, Alabama, Dilworth earned an undergraduate degree in Political Science from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Fl. She holds a master’s of art in educational research and a PhD in educational studies from Emory University in Atlanta. Before moving to Indiana University in 2000, she worked at Emory University in the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs as Director of Minority Affairs and Assistant Director of Equal Opportunity Programs.

Active in professional, civic, and higher-education organizations, Dilworth serves on the Executive Board of the College and University Faculty Assembly of the National Council for the Social Studies and has chaired the Research Focused on Social Studies SIG of the American Education Research Association.

Over the course of her career, she has been recognized with several awards for her contributions to research and service to education including the National Council for Social Studies Exemplary Research Award, The Kipchoge Kirkland Teaching for Social Justice Award, and the Emory University Outstanding Contributions and Service to the University Award. She is author or coauthor of numerous research publications and has been involved as an editor, consultant, reviewer, or contributor in many other print and electronic publishing projects.

Welcome Dr. Dilworth!
The 26-year-old Knight-Sims vs. Alabama case was settled on December 12, 2006. The Settlement Agreement requires each institution to develop and implement a Strategic Diversity Plan tailored to its own institutional circumstances. Auburn University hosted a one-day conference on Monday, April 30, 2007, in order for institutions to review and critique the development, terms and implementation of their strategic diversity plans and to exchange information about best practices. The conference was held at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center in Auburn, Alabama.

Participants at the conference included representatives from each of the institutions that are part of the Knight-Sims vs. Alabama case. The conference was divided into two sessions using a panel and focus groups format. The first session concentrated on the “Development of Strategic Diversity Plans”, while the second session focused on “Implementation of Strategic Diversity Plans”. Each session has a panel with three presenters that discussed the general theme, and three working groups that focused on specific sub themes of the session. Eighteen Auburn University faculty, staff, and/or administrators attended the event.

Dr. John Heilman, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Auburn University, welcomed participants and opened the conference. Dr. Louis Dale, Vice President for Equity and Diversity at University of Alabama-Birmingham presided over introductions and presented the purpose of the conference. Dr. Overtoun Jenda hosted the event.

GK-12 Fellows Attend 7th National Annual Meeting

The month of March was an exciting time for our GK-12 Fellows in Sciences and Mathematics East Alabama Schools Project. Five fellows were invited to attend the GK-12 Annual Meeting in Washington, DC. The five fellows along with project personnel, Dr. Overtoun Jenda, Dr. John Feminella, and Dr. Florence Holland attended various sessions to assist in the implementation and evaluation of the GK-12 project. These sessions included how to communicate GK-12 to the media, curriculum/module development, and how to institutionalize GK-12. The highlight of the conference was the graduate student research poster presentations in the lobby of the National Science Foundation headquarters. Two of our project fellows were selected to present their research. Kimberly Kendricks and Danielle Kittrell represented themselves and their respective institutions well. Carma Cook, Ifayet Johnson-Mayo, and Crystal Mardis were the other fellows that attended the annual meeting.

2 Bridge to the Doctorate Students Obtain their Ph.D.

Congratulations are extended to two National Science Foundation (NSF) Bridge to the Doctorate students who received their PhD’s. Dr. Carl Pettis and Dr. Kimberly Kendricks were awarded the Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematics degree in 2006 and 2007, respectively.

The NSF Bridge to the Doctorate program was created in 2003 as a supplementary activity to the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program. The activity is designed to broaden participation through the attraction of underrepresented minority students in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines. Auburn University was among the first 13 institutions in the country to be awarded the Bridge to the Doctorate program. These two Auburn graduates are among the first Bridge to the Doctorate students to obtain their PhD in the nation.

2nd Annual Diversity Best Practices Conference

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Auburn University hosted its third National Science Foundation (NSF) Alabama Alliance for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (AASTEM) Executive Committee Meeting & Scholars and Fellows Conference at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center on April 1-2, 2007.

105 AASTEM scholars and fellows along with 28 faculty and staff from twelve Alabama colleges and universities participated at the conference. The highlight of the conference was the poster session where scholars and fellows presented their research.

The AASTEM program consists of three NSF funded programs: Alabama Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (ALSAMP), Bridge to the Doctorate (BD), and the Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP). Member institutions of AASTEM are the five majority institutions: Auburn University, University of Alabama, University of Alabama-Birmingham, University of Alabama—Huntsville, and University of South Alabama; and seven Alabama Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Alabama A & M University, Alabama State University, Miles College, Oakwood College, Stillman College, Talladega College, and Tuskegee University. The goal of AASTEM program is to significantly increase the quantity and quality of underrepresented minorities receiving bachelor and doctorate degrees in science, engineering, and mathematics in Alabama.

Diversity is more than a “buzzword” at Auburn University

By Juanyce Taylor, Multicultural Center Director

The Multicultural Center at Auburn University continues to expand its commitment to supporting and sustaining an educational community that is inclusive and diverse. Through our academic and social programming efforts, the Center links the mission of the university through multicultural events which are fundamental in understanding and applauding differences while fostering mutual respect and tolerance.

As the Center reflects on the 2006-2007 academic year, we want to recognize the outstanding works of the culturally-centered student organizations which have done a stupendous job in ensuring that members of this community learn to value one another and know that discrimination and harassment will not be tolerated. Some of these events included:

Guest Speakers such as Actor Tatanka Means during Native American Heritage Month; Dr. Daniel Helimniak on “What the Bible Really Says About Homosexuality”; Victor Lewis on “The Color of Fear”; and Valarie Kaur on “Divided We Fall”

Dialogues included Interfaith Dialogue between MSA, DTO, JSO and Navigators; “February One” Film; and “Is America too Racist for Barack? Too Sexist for Hillary?” from a Washington Post Article.

Outstanding Performances by Dr. Carmen Tafolla, “My Heart Speaks a Different Language”; Actress Tonea Stewart, “Remembering Papa Dallas”; Canadian Dawad Wharnsby and pianist Idris Phillips; and Padmashri Dr. Flute Ramani-Confluence ’07.

Other events this year included a week long Open House, the NAACP Unity Ball, Indian Republic Day, Turkish Cooking Classes, Comedian Dat Phan from NBC’s Last Comic Standing and an educational excursion to the National Voting Rights/Bridge Crossing Jubilee in Selma, AL. just to name a few.

Student groups working closely with the Center are the Auburn Asian Association; African Caribbean Student Alliance; Auburn Gay Straight Alliance; Auburn Latino Association of Students; Auburn National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; AU Rhythm; Black Student Union; Black Graduate and Professional Student Association; Diversity and Tolerance Organization; Indian Student Association; Jewish Student Organization; Ministries in Action; Muslim Student’s Association and the Spectrum Alliance.
Identifying the Leader in You

By Tiffany Lonis, Women’s Resource Center Graduate Assistant

Women’s Initiatives and the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs hosted the inaugural Auburn University Women’s Leadership Conference on April 12, 2007. The conference proved to be a great success, and received much positive feedback from those who were able to attend. “Identifying the Leader in You” was the theme of the day as over sixty undergraduate and graduate students arrived for the conference. A panel discussion on pathways to leadership was lead by five accomplished women. Keynote speaker, Dr. Fran Kochan, Dean of the College of Education, started off the morning informing participants of the importance of having a mentor and how to find one. Before the morning was over, women broke off into smaller groups to hear two different speakers of their choice. During the afternoon, the participants had a chance to learn about balancing their finances from Susan Moore while they enjoyed lunch. The afternoon was wrapped up with a panel of student leaders sharing the knowledge they had gained from being involved on campus. Participants left the conference with a greater knowledge and understanding of the skills they have and how to lead others.

The Clothesline Project & Take Back the Night

The Women’s Resource Center held the Clothesline Project April 10-12, 2007. The Clothesline Project addresses the issue of violence against women, and provides a vehicle for women and others affected by violence to express their emotions by decorating a shirt. The shirt is hung on a clothesline to be viewed by others as testimony to the problem of violence against women.

Daily and local headlines speak to the unacceptably large numbers of violent acts that occur each day; acts of murder, rape, abduction, torture, harassment, and beatings. The Clothesline Project is a worldwide movement which provides an outlet of empowerment for people who have first hand knowledge of the devastating effects of violence or people who want to make a public stand against violence as well as raising awareness and education of this issue in the general public. This is the second year that Auburn joined with the Clothesline Project. Anyone who wished to make a T-shirt had the means to do so. Kits were provided that contain everything an interested person or group needed to design a T-shirt.

To conclude this three-day event focused on taking a stand against violence in our community, Auburn University also held its first annual Take Back the Night rally from 7-9pm on the evening of Thursday, April 12th, 2007. Take Back the Night is an internationally recognized rally and march that gives women, men, and children an opportunity to speak out against violence. The rally sought to involve both the university and the community in reclaiming the night for all individuals who have experienced violence or have been made to feel fear for their personal safety. Take Back the Night included a march through the campus and surrounding city streets, followed by a candlelight vigil, a rally and a speak-out that gave both survivors and others touched by violence the opportunity to share their stories or messages of empowerment and strength.

Through our collected vigilance, voices and actions, we can reclaim the night so that everyone may feel safe and free from violence. Together we can make a difference!
Together we can stop the violence!

Auburn University, Charter Member of NADOHE

Auburn University became a charter member of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE) in the spring of 2007. NADOHE is the principal organization of the chief and senior diversity officers in higher education institutions. The Association was established in response to the growing need for higher education to leverage and maximize investments in diversity initiatives, provide opportunities for cross institutional exchange and fertilization of ideas, and enhance professional standards among diversity workers.

The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs attended the first Annual National Conference of NADOHE on February 12-13, 2007 in Washington, DC. The conference was held in conjunction with the American Council on Education (ACE) Annual Meeting. The theme of the 2007 meeting was “Leading Higher Education Toward Inclusive Excellence”.
**ODMA Provides Financial Assistance to Students**

The Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (ODMA) offered a number of undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships through the Provost Leadership Undergraduate Scholarship (PLUS) Program and the President’s Graduate Opportunities Program (PGOP).

The President’s Graduate Opportunities Program’s major purpose is to recruit, retain, and support African-American students engaged in graduate study leading to a doctoral degree from Auburn University. This program has been underway for over 20 years.

The PLUS program attempts to increase diversity among the undergraduate student population at Auburn University, with the help of generous financial support from corporate partners.

The PLUS program also has a PLUS Retention Program component, which provides academic and social support to participants. The program offers a learning community that provides peer mentoring, leadership opportunities and training, time management and study skills, tutoring and counseling services, and an opportunity to enroll together in a series of classes throughout the freshman and sophomore years.

The PLUS Retention Program works closely with campus administrative offices, academic units, student organizations, and other retention programs to ensure that participants succeed at Auburn University.

**Mentoring & Networking At Its Best**

Mentoring and networking opportunities were plentiful last academic year here at Auburn. Minorities and women along with anyone else that wanted to participate were invited to Women Mentoring Networking Coffee & Tea sessions and Minority Networking Receptions. All of the networking events were well attended most times with as many as 40 faculty and staff members present. Evaluations were conducted of these events and overwhelmingly faculty members expressed pleasure with the activities. They felt that the event allowed them to meet other faculty members they would normally not encounter as well as it allowed for new faculty members to make a connection with other faculty members. We look forward to our 2007-2008 networking sessions!

**1st Saturday Academy Held**

Auburn University hosted its first Saturday Academy for students and their parents from area middle and high schools on Saturday, April 21, 2007. Auburn University’s Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the Office of the Vice President for University Outreach sponsored the Saturday Academy.

Saturday Academies are designed for students and their parents to learn more about the sciences, mathematics, and college preparation. The students participated in a GK-12 Science/Math EXPO and a variety of hands-on science and mathematics mini-courses including topics in polymer chemistry, geometry, and biological sciences. Participating parents had the opportunity to discuss what it takes for students to be well prepared for postsecondary education and what they can do to encourage their children to do well in the sciences and mathematics fields. Participants for the Saturday Academy were from the six local schools serviced by the National Science Foundation (NSF) GK-12 Fellows in Sciences and Mathematics for East Alabama Schools project.

The GK-12 project is a partnership between National Science Foundation, Auburn University, Tuskegee University, Lee County School System, and Macon County School District. The project sends graduate students (GK-12 Fellows) into classrooms to assist science and mathematics teachers (GK-12 Teachers) at Beauregard, Beulah and Loachapoka High Schools in Lee County, and Tuskeege Institute Middle School, Booker T. Washington and Notasulga High Schools in Macon County.
Diversity Council provides a forum for developing and implementing diversity programs in colleges, schools, and other administrative units. The Council promotes cooperation and collaboration among units on matters concerning diversity. The Council is guided by the Strategic Diversity Plan and university diversity policies and initiatives. The Diversity Council is different from the Multicultural Diversity Commission in that the Commission provides a forum for deliberating and developing policies and initiatives on matters of diversity, tolerance, and inclusiveness. The Commission does not establish nor implement diversity programs, like the Diversity Council.

The Diversity Council is made up of diversity officers from every college & school, other administrative units, and representatives from the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs. The council held its first meeting Thursday, August 2, 2007. The council will meet twice a semester.

**Your ODMA Staff**

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<tr>
<th>Overtoun Jenda</th>
<th>Robin Taylor</th>
<th>Amanda Carr</th>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Provost for Diversity &amp; Multicultural Affairs</td>
<td>Diversity Planning and Assessment Analyst</td>
<td>Administrative Support Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donna Sollie</td>
<td>Alberta Harris</td>
<td>Chars Campbell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Provost for Women’s Initiatives</td>
<td>Business/Administrative Services Coordinator</td>
<td>Admissions Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paulette Dilworth Patterson</td>
<td>Mary Stroup-Gardiner</td>
<td>Wes Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Vice President for Access and Community Initiatives</td>
<td>ADVANCE Auburn Center</td>
<td>Development Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis Jolly</td>
<td>Juanyce Taylor</td>
<td>Anika Lodree</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity Faculty Mentor</td>
<td>Multicultural Center Director</td>
<td>Diversity Retention Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florence Holland</td>
<td>Jocelyn Vickers</td>
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<td>Special Assistant to the Associate Provost for Diversity &amp; Multicultural Affairs</td>
<td>Student Programs Advisor</td>
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“Adiversity: the art of thinking independently together.” - Malcolm Forbes