



M A G A Z I N E

Auburn

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The Beat Goes On
Backstage with the
AU Marching Band



On the fast track

Auburn students will soon be able to accrue hours toward a master's degree simultaneously with their undergraduate coursework: The university's faculty senate recently endorsed an accelerated bachelor's program designed to attract students to graduate studies by shortening the time it takes to earn dual degrees.

ACT right

Nearly a million-and-a-half American high school students prepare to take the ACT college entrance exam each year—but only one in 3,300 test-takers will earn a perfect score. Auburn sophomore David Joseph Guthrie, a graduate of Alcovy High School in Covington, Ga., is one of them.

Guthrie is among about a half-dozen students currently enrolled at Auburn who scored a composite 36 on the ACT, practically ensuring their acceptance into any number of top-notch universities. Guthrie is now an AU business major.

"I am very good at memorizing things, so I used that to my advantage while preparing for this test," says Guthrie, whose friend had taken the exam before he did and scored a 35. "He scored higher than me on the SAT, so we're even."

A record 1.42 million college-bound students took the ACT last year, with only 428 students nationwide achieving the elusive 36. Faced with deciding

where to continue his education, Guthrie considered the University of Georgia, located just 40 miles from his hometown, as well as Emory University in Atlanta.

Then there was Auburn. Now in his second year at AU, Guthrie maintains a perfect 4.0 grade-point average and is considering accounting or economics as a field of study. The College of Business' commitment to preparing students to compete in a global economy was among the factors in his decision to choose the Plains, he says.—*Shameka King/The Shareholder*



BOOK SMARTS

Oprah Winfrey brought book clubs into the 21st century; now Auburn University president Jay Gogue '69 and others are bringing them into the college classroom.

This fall, eight present and former administrators, including Gogue, are leading Honors College courses set up like book clubs. Instructors choose books and facilitate conversations about the readings; about 80 students are enrolled in the classes, which count for one credit hour.

"These book clubs can give students the opportunity to learn how to discuss issues of contemporary relevance thoughtfully—not just with their peers but also with individuals very senior to them who have a wide range of personal and professional experiences," says Honors College director and history professor James Hansen. "These folks are highly talented researchers and teachers who normally don't get to spend time in the classroom. It is good for the students to see that even administrators, deans and their university president care passionately about their education and want to be a vital part of it."

Gogue's class is reading *Travel as a Political Act* (Nation Books, 2009) by Rick Steves, who posits that experiencing different cultures allows citizens to better understand the human condition. The course also covers topics such as job outsourcing and globalization.

Other course instructors include Daniel Clay, associate dean of the College of Education; George Crandell, associate dean of the Graduate School; Constance Reihan, senior associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Patricia Duffy, assistant provost for undergraduate studies; and David Housel, retired AU athletics director. Paul and Paula Bobrowski, dean of the College of Business and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, respectively, are teaching a course together.

Hansen hopes to expand the book-club course to include notable teachers outside the university as well as other students who aren't enrolled full time in the Honors College.