

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

August 21–24

First-Year Student Welcome Week

August 25

Fall Semester Classes Begin

September 1

Labor Day — No Classes

October 24–27

Fall Weekend — No Traditional Day Classes

November 26-30

Thanksgiving Holiday — No Classes

For a complete listing of all events available on campus, visit www.aurora.edu/geninfo/events.htm.

CELEBRATING ARTS AND IDEAS SERIES AND CAMPUS EVENTS

September 9–November 6

Art Exhibition: “not for the season”
Dunham Gallery

September 30, 7:30 p.m.

“Presidential Courage” with Michael Beschloss*
Crimi Auditorium, Institute for Collaboration

October 17, 2:00 p.m.

Founders Convocation
Crimi Auditorium, Institute for Collaboration

October 17–19

Homecoming Weekend

October 18, 7:30 p.m.

Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues Show*
Crimi Auditorium, Institute for Collaboration

* Seating is limited and reservations are required. Call 630-844-4924 or e-mail artsandideas@aurora.edu.



AU Parents

A quarterly publication for families of AU students. Summer 2008



Starting the Semester on a Safe Note

The size of Aurora University's campus and its location in a quiet residential neighborhood are two popular reasons students give for choosing AU. Despite the "home feel" of the campus, AU faculty and staff members realize that safety and security are top priorities. While there is no perfect plan to prevent a senseless act of violence, Aurora University is taking steps to ensure a safe learning environment.

Faculty and staff members have adopted a team approach to emergency preparedness. Three campus committees have been organized that focus on communication, threat assessment and risk assessment. University departments are also making efforts to be better prepared in all types of situations. For example, the University Communications staff is participating in a three-hour Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) training program. The course clarifies the role of each staff member in the event of an emergency. Additionally, several staff members will serve on a new behavioral intervention team. This team will support situations in which a student's behavior has been identified as being disruptive or distressed.

Another important resource relating to emergency response is Aurora University's Office of Campus Safety. Eight out of 12 Campus Safety officers are certified law enforcement officers and all Campus Safety officers are National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) compliant. This training includes rehearsing roles in a realistic emergency situation, while at the same time identifying additional planning needs. Campus Safety officers also have extensive medical training as first responders and emergency medical technicians, and are equipped to provide pre-hospital care for medical emergencies. In collaboration with several local, state and federal agencies, the Office of Campus Safety is also cross-trained in emergency response tactics.




Safety measures and initiatives in place at AU include:

- Emergency Code Blue phones are located in several places around campus. These phones automatically connect to a centralized dispatch unit.
- A bike patrol unit will premier this fall. Bike patrol is a cost efficient and effective means of law enforcement and emergency medical response.
- Emergency preparedness guides have been published and distributed to every faculty and staff member.
- Residence halls are locked 24 hours a day and are equipped with a card access system.
- Locks are on every classroom and laboratory door on campus.
- Every classroom and laboratory has an evacuation map posted at the entrance.
- Emergency notification information is made available on the AU Web site, e-mail and through text messaging. **Students can sign up to receive text messages on their cell phones by logging in to WebAdvisor through the AU Web site.** Within the WebAdvisor functions for "Students," click on the "Address Change" option. Complete the two entries for "Alert Notifications" at the bottom of the Web page. Be certain to click "Submit" to update your record.

"It's important that we remain vigilant in our efforts to protect our campus community," said Roy Garcia, Director of Campus Safety. "However, I always tell students that they are only as safe as they want to be. Each student has a responsibility to become knowledgeable about safety. It takes the entire campus community to ensure our well-being."

Garcia said that students need to familiarize themselves with their surroundings and participate in discussions about safety that take place during orientation and other events throughout the year.

Campus Safety officers and invited guests often give presentations during residence hall meetings and to campus clubs and organizations. The presentations range from lessons in self-defense to crime prevention tips.

For more information on how AU is ensuring the safety and security of its community, visit www.aurora.edu/safety/index.htm. This Web page features links such as the virtual tipline and safety and security procedures. 

This Accounting Professor Makes Student's Success Her Business

Mary Tarling teaches Accounting; Introduction to Business; Culture, Diversity and Expression; Finance; and several Master of Business Administration degree courses. She is the chief financial officer for a local telecommunications consulting firm and has also been employed in the real estate development and health care industries. Tarling is a member of the American Accounting Association and the Business Educator's Association (national and Chicago area chapters). She has been teaching at Aurora University since 2004.



What schools did you attend?

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in accountancy from Northern Illinois University and my Master of Business Administration degree in financial management from Benedictine University. I was an education major for almost three years before changing to accounting, so I also had an interest in teaching.

Why did you decide to become a professor?

It is an absolute joy to watch students succeed, especially when they underestimate their potential. As a professor, I have the opportunity to empower students and to promote and witness accomplishments in the classroom every

day. I truly believe that students can do whatever they want if they are committed to learning. I love having a role in this educational process.

What is your previous teaching experience?

I taught at Waubensee Valley Community College for a year and at Robert Morris College for five years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at AU?

The fact that I learn from students. They teach me about myself every day. I also think the Dunham School of Business

is a great place to learn because its size allows for close relationships between faculty and students. Faculty members have the opportunity to facilitate book learning in the classroom and some additional learning outside of the classroom. I cannot imagine teaching anywhere else.

What is your teaching philosophy?

Wherever there is a committed student and a creative teacher, anyone can learn anything.

What other programs/activities are you involved with on campus?

I am the faculty advisor for the Student Accounting Society. This organization serves as a resource for learning and networking in the business world. The society provides a forum for students to gather and discuss information with an emphasis on the accounting profession.

What advice would you give to students to help them be successful?

Truly successful people are not that way by accident. They find what they are good at and they develop a passion for it. [AU](#)

See our new athletic field and stadium!

Summer has been a season for construction on the AU campus, but for good reason. Soccer and football players are practicing at an impressive new stadium. Parents are invited to celebrate this facility during the first games on the field:

Men's Soccer
AU vs. Wabash College
Saturday, September 6, Noon

Women's Soccer
AU vs. University of Chicago
Saturday, September 6, 2:00 p.m.

Football
AU vs. Illinois Wesleyan University
Saturday, September 20, 1:00 p.m.

"Students are excited about the new stadium," said AU women's soccer player Jessica Novickas. "Our turf field is now on-par with other colleges in our conference and region. The new field will make our home games more welcoming to family and friends, which means more supportive fans!"

A field dedication ceremony will also take place prior to the football game during Homecoming weekend at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 18.



Beyond Google: Students Should Take Advantage of Library Resources


Most students begin their college career already familiar with Internet searching using Google. But to be successful in their college coursework, AU students need to learn more about locating quality information.

The Charles B. Phillips Library subscribes to 72 specialized research databases containing scholarly and peer-reviewed articles and other research information. These databases can be accessed by students both on and off campus.

AU students can also receive individual research guidance from reference librarians who meet with students one-on-one to discuss their specific research needs. AU librarians know the hundreds of authoritative reference materials available at the library and can point students in the proper direction to locate statistics, biographical information, and background data. Librarians also assist students by phone or e-mail, guiding the student through database searches, making Interlibrary Loan requests, or helping them renew books online. The library also provides laptops for students to check out for use in the library.

The Phillips Library is a member of the 106-library Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois. This organization provides Interlibrary Loan and other services among its members. Students can obtain books and articles from libraries across Illinois and the country. With these library resources, Aurora University students have the research power of more than 100 academic libraries at their fingertips!

Attending college is also about expanding horizons and learning more about the world. With this in mind, a special bookcase holds our "Faculty Favorites." These titles feature unique reading suggestions from AU professors. Many students also participate in our Books of Summer reading program. These recommended fiction and non-fiction titles are always popular.

Whether using the library for quiet study, writing papers, or researching a topic, students make the Phillips Library a busy place on campus, and library staff members are ready to help AU students succeed! 

—Lauren Jackson-Beck
Information Services Librarian



Acting Upon the Opportunities



I'm halfway there. This fall I will enter my junior year at AU. Although I have many semester hours ahead of me, it feels like I have already made four years of college memories. And yet, there's a lot more for me to accomplish as a college student. Fortunately, AU provides me with the resources I need to help reach my goals.

As a member of the University Chorale, I have the opportunity to work with music professionals at our George Williams College campus in Williams Bay, Wisconsin. I receive voice training and perform in two major AU concerts every year. Our music varies from opera to modern musical theatre. I also participate in recitals which introduce me to different music genres.

My passion has been the theatre since I can remember. I've been asked why AU for theatre. My answer is why not? AU is a small campus with a growing theatre and music program. I feel there are more opportunities for me here. In two years, I've had the chance to develop my skills as an actor and stage manager. I was elected president of the Drama Club and mentor incoming students who have an interest in theatre.

I started at Aurora University as a mathematics major. Now I'm majoring in theatre. Quite a change! The academic advisors in the Crouse Center for Student Success have guided me through this transition.

AU has given me a great overview of the arts and I'm inspired to continue down this path. Upon graduation, I anticipate pursuing a master's degree in fine arts. You could say that AU is literally setting the stage for my future. 