

AU Parents

A quarterly publication for families of AU students.



Anticipating a Promising Start to the Academic Year



Welcome to another edition of Aurora University's parent newsletter. I am writing to provide a quick update on several subjects that are of interest to members of the AU community.

As I write, crews on the Aurora campus are hard at work on the renovation and expansion of the dining hall. When the project is finished later this summer, our students will enjoy a broader array of food service and seating options. The renovation is the result of a year-long collaboration between university leaders and key representatives of the student body, so we are confident the new facility will be a hit!

This fall, we will welcome a record number of new students and new faculty to the AU community. For the first time in our history, the freshman class will number well over 400 students. In addition, we look forward to greeting over 320 new transfer undergraduates. So, it promises to be an exciting time to be a Spartan!



With our residence halls operating at capacity, a number of upperclass students are choosing to live off-campus in apartments or rental homes. Beginning this fall, the university will take a more active role in educating students about their obligations as neighborhood citizens. We also plan to work in close collaboration with students choosing to live off campus to ensure that their living environments are safe and secure.

As you know already, the budget crunch in Springfield continues to create uncertainty for students counting on Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants to fund their higher education plans. All of us at Aurora University continue to lobby for full funding of MAP. In addition, we are taking steps of our own to help ease the financial pressure our students and families are experiencing.

Students who were unable to complete their 2009-2010 financial aid applications prior to the unprecedented mid-May deadline may receive some additional grant funding from AU. We are calling the new award the *AU Assurance Grant*. The grant will be awarded based on MAP eligibility criteria and is designated for those students who completed their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) between mid-May and 31 July. This award is one more indication of our commitment to work with students and families to make a high quality Aurora University education affordable.

The status of MAP funding for the spring semester remains unclear. We promise to keep you and your son or daughter informed on the status of the deliberations in Springfield. And, as in the past, please know that you can count on us to help in every way possible. For more information on any of these subjects, please contact me directly at www.aurora.edu/president/presidents-mailbox.html. **AU**

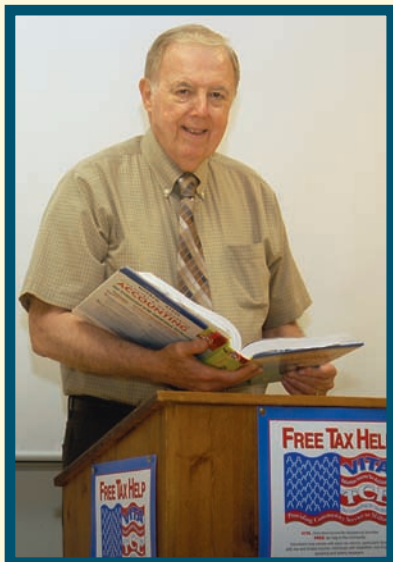
— Rebecca L. Sherrick, Ph.D., President

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A Professor Students and Taxpayers Count On



Len Scholl received Aurora University's 2009 Tony Olejnik Leadership Service Award, an honor celebrating the core values of the university, and the Marcus and Mark H. Trumbo Award for Excellence in Teaching, the institution's most prestigious faculty award, during commencement ceremonies in May. The awards were given to Scholl in honor of his contributions to the field of accounting and his dedication to ensuring students obtain practical experience before they enter the workforce.

Under Scholl's leadership for the past seven years, the university's Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has helped more than 2,500 low-income, elderly and disabled individuals receive income tax preparation services from AU students. Scholl launched the program two years after he came to AU.

A member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Scholl teaches several accounting and tax classes at AU, including Principles of Managerial Accounting, Auditing and Federal Taxation of Individuals.

What schools did you attend?

I earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Cincinnati and an M.B.A. from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Why did you decide to become a professor?

After having considerable auditing experience with a national CPA firm, followed by many years as a vice president in the finance industry, I felt that I could make a major contribution in the academic field.

What is your previous teaching experience?

I taught for eight years at the University of Cincinnati and have been with Aurora University for more than eight years.

What do you enjoy most about teaching at AU?

I really appreciate the close association I have with students and the faculty.

How do you prepare for your courses?

Unlike my regular accounting classes, the content of my two tax courses changes every year. Consequently, I spend a considerable amount of time every year studying all of the tax changes. It is imperative that I keep current so my students provide efficient tax service to the people utilizing the Voluntary Income Tax Assistance programs.

What is your teaching philosophy?

I believe that students and faculty are all on the same team — the AU team. I strive to engage students in the subject matter and make them feel comfortable in class. Much of what I teach has strong quantitative themes, so I attempt to reinforce students' problem-solving skills by incorporating real-world scenarios in class. This strategy promotes critical and creative thinking in and outside of the classroom.

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

I'm a big fan of AU athletics. I try to attend as many Spartan events and games as possible. I also serve on the Athletic Committee and I'm a member of the Spartan Club. One of my favorites activities is attending AU4U and other open-house events as a faculty representative. I like discussing the advantages of and opportunities at AU with prospective students and their parents.

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

I always tell the students that there is "no free lunch." They will get out of the class what they put into it.

What advice would you give parents to help support and guide their sons and daughters while they are attending the university?

Parents need to be alert and attentive to the progress their sons and daughters are making in class, as well as outside campus activities. **AU**

Coursework Empowers Student Outside of Classroom



Adam Campos, AU '10

While anticipating the arrival of the incoming freshman class, I've been thinking about how much I have changed since my first year at AU. I've realized that courses I have taken in social work and psychology have had an impact on my development as a student and on my involvement in campus activities.

During the past three years, I have learned from professors who exemplify excitement about their fields and a willingness to work with and challenge me as an individual. Dr. Donald Phelps, Associate Professor of Social Work, explained to my class that he may have a reputation for being tough, but it's for a good reason. He wants us to understand the curriculum because one day we may be counseling his friends and family. I was inspired by that philosophy. As a result, I've become much more proactive in my classes and student life.

My professors and peers have taught me about different perspectives and ideas. Through applying coursework in social work and psychology, I've been able to better understand and interpret different social situations, too. These skills have helped me interact better as a resident assistant, intramural sports participant and athlete.

I've also benefited from being a student worker by becoming more familiar with faculty and staff. I've seen how this group helps "hold AU together." My on-campus job has given me insight into what it is like to work in a professional setting. I've also developed relationships with faculty and staff who I can turn to with questions about the working world, as well as academics.

I'm grateful to be part of AU's home-like setting. Through coursework and student activities, I've learned about integrity, responsibility and the value of hard work. Aurora University has really changed my life — and I'm sure that the incoming freshmen will be offering very similar perspectives. **AU**

AU Protects Student Privacy

As the need for protecting personal information increases, Aurora University is taking extra steps to ensure the privacy of its students. The university is implementing procedures that comply with recent developments under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. These procedures include:

- Releasing student information only if the student has provided the university with expressed consent through a FERPA form. Completed each academic year, the form pertains to information from university offices, including Student Accounts, Financial Aid, Student Insurance, Registrar's Office, Crouse Center for Student Success and the Center for Teaching & Learning.
- Providing the university with a designated FERPA Access Code when a student or authorized individual requests specific account information by phone.
- Requiring photo identification for issuing student ID cards and replacements; releasing account information (e.g., financial aid, student accounts and academic information); picking up student payroll or refund checks; cashing checks; requesting transcripts; and signing loan documents.
- Verifying information to be released to third parties and address and directory changes.
- Receiving a notarized signature when information or address and directory charges are requested by mail or fax.
- Using official Aurora University student e-mail address when correspondence with university faculty and staff involves protected information. **AU**

Addressing AU's Technology Needs

In an effort to enhance the overall AU student experience, the university is investing in campus-wide improvements funded by the technology fee. The \$50 per-semester fee will support growing costs associated with maintaining and upgrading computer-related and audio-visual resources on campus.

In addition to increasing the university's Internet bandwidth capacity on a continuing basis, the technology fee will help expand wireless service to residence halls and other public spaces, including academic classrooms. The number of computers on campus will also increase, with more stations in the library computer lab. New furniture and computers in the Dunham Hall computer labs will also be installed. Additional and replacement laptops that are available for loan in the library will be purchased. The Spartan Spot will also have four new computer stations.

The technology fee will support other projects, in addition, such as new podiums and SmartBoard systems in some academic classrooms and listening equipment in music classrooms.

Meeting and exceeding technology needs is a high priority for the university. Ongoing enhancements, made possible with the support of the technology fee, will make learning an even more rewarding experience for AU students. **AU**





AU Calendar

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

ACADEMIC SCHEDULE

August 27–30

First-Year Student Welcome Week

August 31

Fall Semester Classes Begin

September 7

Labor Day — No Classes

October 23–26

Fall Weekend

November 25–29

Thanksgiving Holiday

CELEBRATING ARTS AND IDEAS AND CAMPUS EVENTS

September 8–November 9

"of a Feather..." Art Exhibit

Schingoethe Gallery • Dunham Hall

September 17 • 7:00 p.m.*

AU Film Series presents *La Misma Luna*

Perry Theatre • Aurora Foundation Center

September 22–January 3

Peoples of the Plateau Art Exhibit

Schingoethe Center for Native American Cultures • Dunham Hall

September 24 • 7:30 p.m.*

Critical Issues for the 21st Century with David Brooks,

Author and *New York Times* columnist

Crimi Auditorium • Institute for Collaboration

October 9–11

The AU Alumni and Family Weekend

There's No Place Like AU! • Homecoming 2009

Saturday, October 10 • 7:30 p.m.*

Stormy Weather, performing doo-wop musical selections

Crimi Auditorium • Institute for Collaboration

Wednesday, October 21, 2009 • 7:00 p.m.*

AU Film Series presents *The Truman Show*

Perry Theatre • Aurora Foundation Center

*Seating is limited and reservations are required. Please call 630-844-4924, e-mail artsandideas@aurora.edu or visit www.aurora.edu/artsandideas.

www.aurora.edu

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AURORA UNIVERSITY

