AU Neighbors
A publication for the Aurora University neighborhood

AU students committed to serving the community

It’s shaping up to be a milestone year at Aurora University as we celebrate the centennial of our move from Mendota to Aurora. After 100 years in the Fox Valley, serving the needs of area students and the community remains a top priority.

The incoming freshman class has a local flavor, with 85 percent of the students living within a 60-mile radius of campus. The top high schools represented include West Aurora, East Aurora, Waubonsie Valley, Batavia, Geneva, Kaneland, Oswego, Yorkville and Plano.

Many of those students are coming to Aurora University because they want to pursue careers in human service fields such as education, nursing and social work. These have emerged as hallmark programs at AU, and we continue to attract bright and eager students who want to devote their lives serving others.

As a university that declares citizenship as one of its core values, we want community service to play an important role in all of our students’ lives, regardless of major. That’s why we’ve built service projects into the classroom experience and made service opportunities an increasingly visible part of student life.

Here’s a look at some of the ways AU students are making a difference in the community:

• Through the Wackerlin Center for Faith and Action, students are serving those in need through campus-wide days of service and mission trips.
• The Aurora University Students’ Association coordinates monthly service projects and volunteer opportunities. Other student groups hold fundraisers and drives for local organizations throughout the year.
• Hundreds of AU students serve as tutors in Aurora-area schools through the MyTime after-school program, reading programs and the AU Spanish Club.
• AU student organizations hold health and wellness events such as vaccination clinics, blood drives and smoking cessation programs.
• Spartan athletic teams regularly perform community service and mentor children in local schools.
• The AU Future Educators of America student organization sponsors student high school chapters throughout the Fox Valley, and members also participate in literacy and tutoring programs.
• Student volunteers in the AU Voluntary Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program have generated more than $3.5 million in refunds for local residents since 2002.

Throughout Aurora and the Fox Valley, AU students and graduates can be found making an impact on the lives of our neighbors. As the university evolves, so will our commitment to the community.

Teaching students to be good neighbors

With the fall semester fast approaching, we encourage our neighbors to contact us with any concerns related to parking, off-campus housing or student behavior. We educate students to be good neighbors, and we will quickly respond when that isn’t the case.

Parking
For AU students who choose to park on side streets in the neighborhood, we reinforce the importance of being respectful and not blocking driveways. If you have a parking concern, please call Campus Public Safety at 630-844-6140.

Off-campus housing and behavior
AU students who choose to live off campus are required to be respectful of their neighbors, and follow all applicable laws and ordinances. The Aurora University off-campus behavior policy also clearly outlines expectations and sanctions.

For general comments or concerns regarding parking or student behavior, please contact the Office of the Vice President for Student Life at 630-844-5510.
Since its inception in 2006-2007, the Celebrating Arts and Ideas series has brought Aurora University and the community together in appreciation of fine arts and learning through free music, lectures, exhibits and live theater. Last year, almost 7,000 people attended the events, including many neighbors.

The 2011-2012 season will build on that success with another stellar lineup of Main Stage events that includes best-selling authors, leading experts and top musicians. Dozens of Second Stage events throughout the academic year means there’s almost always a reason for you to visit AU.

Here’s a look at this year’s Main Stage events:

**Douglas Brinkley**, Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m.: A historian and editor of The New York Times bestseller “The Reagan Diaries,” Brinkley will share his insight into the former president’s life and legacy.

**Preservation Hall Jazz Band**, Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.: Preservation Hall Jazz Band has traveled the world nurturing and perpetuating the art of New Orleans jazz.

**Sherry Turkle**, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.: Turkle is an expert on mobile technology, social networking and sociable robotics. She is the founder and director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Initiative on Technology and Self and author of “Alone Together: Why We Expect More from Technology and Less from Each Other.”

**Doris Kearns Goodwin**: Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.: World-renowned historian and author of “Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln,” Kearns Goodwin will address what it would look like if Lincoln ran for president today.

**Kent Keith**, March 19, 7:30 p.m.: Keith is the CEO of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership and author of four books about finding personal meaning and deep happiness even when times are tough. His national best-seller, “Anyway: The Paradoxical Commandments,” tells the story of the commandments that he wrote as a college sophomore that have been used by millions of people around the world.

**Thomas Pandolfi**, March 31, 7:30 p.m.: Known for his passionate artistry and amazing technique, Pandolfi is steadily building a reputation as one of America’s finest pianists. He will return to campus this year to perform the works of Liszt and Chopin.

To reserve your free seat at an Arts and Ideas event, call 630-844-4924, email artsandideas@aurora.edu or visit auartsandideas.com.

The new residence hall being constructed on the southwest side of campus will increase the total number of students living on campus to approximately 750. Slated to open in January, the building next to the Institute for Collaboration will include 58 rooms.

Blending with the architecture of the campus, the red brick building with cast stone accents will create a second quad bounded by Watkins, Memorial and Davis halls and the Institute for Collaboration. The building will be the university’s sixth residence hall.

The shell of the building is complete, and masonry crews have started to lay brick on the exterior. The work this fall will focus largely on the interior space. Watch a live video stream of the construction site at aurora.edu/about/construction-video.

A temporary housing plan this fall will put select AU juniors and seniors in six university-owned neighborhood homes on Gladstone Avenue, Calumet Avenue and Prairie Street. The students in the houses will be the first to move into the new residence hall for the spring 2012 semester. Resident assistants will be living in and overseeing the houses.

Keep up with the latest AU news and events at facebook.com/aurorauniversity.