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For Immediate Release

AUBURN UNIVERSITY HOSTS

FOURTH WAR EAGLE AMERICAN INDIAN FESTIVAL

On November 9, 11, 12 and 13, 2005, Auburn University will host the 4th War Eagle American Indian Festival. This free event is open to everyone who is interested in learning about the American Indian culture. The festival is sponsored by Auburn University's Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and the Center for Diversity and Race Relations. Corporate sponsors include Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola.

The festival kicks off Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 4:00 p.m. at the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art (JCSM) with a concert by the First Nations Women a capella trio, Ulali, featured on the sound track of the movie *Smoke Signals*.

On Friday, Nov. 11 at 9:00 a.m. the festival continues on the JCSM grounds, with craft demonstrations, living history camp sites and drumming demonstration dancing. Several Alabama tribes will have information booths, and festival demonstrators will showcase flint knapping, beading, pine needle basketry, wood carving and pottery. Craft vendors will offer a variety of items including bead work, leather goods, pottery, jewelry, flutes, dolls, clothing, pipes, quill work, dolls, music, wall hangings, herbs, walking sticks, gourd rattles, dream catchers and T-shirts. Area food vendors will also be on site.

On Friday, which is also Children's Day, Auburn University archeologist, Dr. John Cottier, and paleontologist, Dr. Ron Lewis, will be available between 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. to

identify Indian artifacts and fossils. Public, private and home school educators are encouraged to make the most of this opportunity to celebrate and learn about American Indian culture and history.

Saturday, Nov. 12 will also feature demonstrations and living history camp sites. Because raptors have special significance for Southeastern Indians, the Auburn University Raptor Rehabilitation Center will be featuring birds of prey. A release is planned at noon on both Friday and Saturday. Free festival souvenir program booklets will be offered to guests on both days as well. Gail Thrower of the Poarch Creek band will tell traditional stories between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. The JCSM will also be screening "The Battle of Horseshoe Bend" during the festival.

The festival drum, the celebrated Cherokee White Horse Singers, will be joined this year by the Choctaw drum, Red Eagle. Last year more than 5,000 guests enjoyed listening to the drum and watching the dancers in their beautiful regalia.

On Sunday, Nov. 13th, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the RBD Library auditorium, there will be three talks on Southeastern history and culture. Speakers will discuss what it means to be Indian, American Indian health and healing and the protection of human remains in prehistoric and contemporary Andean communities.

Additional information about festival activities and images from last year's festival can be found by following the festival links at www.auburn.edu/cdrr.

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