Final rolling on A-Day

Block party to bid farewell to iconic campus oaks

Auburn University and the City of Auburn will host a “Celebrate the Tradition” block party at Toomer’s Corner on Saturday, April 20. The event will be after the A-Day football game and will provide fans a final opportunity to roll and photograph the beloved oak trees before the trees are removed.

A date for the trees’ removal has not been set.

“The Oaks at Toomer’s Corner have been a part of Auburn tradition for generations,” said Debbie Shaw, Auburn University vice president for alumni affairs and executive director of the Auburn Alumni Association. “Their removal will in no way diminish the Auburn Spirit, which has grown even stronger during these past two years.”

Despite extraordinary efforts to save the oak trees, members of the university’s Tree Preservation Committee say they do not see the possibility of the trees’ survival.

The university’s future landscaping plans will be unveiled on A-Day. Over the past two months, more than 10,000 fans and friends of the university provided their opinions and ideas through an online survey conducted by Auburn University Campus Planning and Space Management and two landscape architecture firms – Nelson Byrd Woltz and jB+a.

“The architects are combining their expertise and experience with the terrific input from the Auburn Family to come up with a future plan that we will all be proud of,” said Dan King, Auburn University assistant vice president for facilities management.

To keep the tradition alive, the university and city will create structures at the College Street-Magnolia Avenue intersection that are suitable for rolling after the oaks are gone. Fans will be invited to gather there as they always have following big victories or other momentous occasions.

The block party, which is co-sponsored by the Auburn Alumni Association, will feature live music and a festive atmosphere.

“We want people to be upbeat about the future of this area,” Shaw said. “Rolling the corner is a uniquely Auburn tradition, and whether we roll trees or other structures, the camaraderie and sense of togetherness is part of what makes Auburn a special place.”

— Mike Clardy

End of an era

The dying oaks at Toomer’s Corner will be removed soon for safety reasons. The university and the city have planned a final rolling and block party for April 20, when landscaping plans for the corner will be unveiled.

Students in residence halls take on sustainability challenge

Through the month of February, residents and Residence Life staff in 30 Auburn University residence halls are participating in the annual Sustain-A-Bowl competition, which challenges each hall to reduce energy and water usage by 10 percent.

The competition engages more than 4,000 campus residents in activities and programs challenging them to live more sustainably by reducing their electricity and water use and increasing their recycling for the four-week period. Organizers said the competition is not just about using less, but also about learning more.

“The ultimate goal and purpose of Sustain-A-Bowl is to deepen students’ understanding and appreciation of sustainability as a way of thinking and acting that we can express every day, that has positive impacts for ourselves, for others and for the world around us,” said Mike Kensler, director of the Office of Sustainability at Auburn.

Throughout the month, residents and Residence Life staff earn points for their halls by participating in events that educate residents about sustainable living. Each week provides a different theme: week one focused on energy; week two will focus on personal wellness; week three will focus on recycling; and week four will focus on water.

Events include a stress reduction workshop, a recycling town hall meeting and opportunities for involvement in the restoration of Parkerson Mill Creek, as well as residence hall activities throughout the month.

In March, results will be tallied and the winning residence halls will be recognized. Over the last four years, students have saved more than $36,000 through energy and water reductions.

Sustain-A-Bowl is hosted annually by Housing and Residence Life in the Division of Student Affairs and the Office of Sustainability, with the support of Facilities Management and the Waste Reduction and Recycling programs.

— Carol Nelson
War Eagle VI recovering from successful cataract surgery by College of Veterinary Medicine faculty

War Eagle VI has regained her eagle eye. Surgeons at Auburn University’s College of Veterinary Medicine removed a cataract from the golden eagle in mid-December.

In the weeks since the surgery, recovery has gone well for the eagle also known as Tiger, who at 33 has surpassed the average age for her species.

“Tiger has had cataracts developing in both eyes for a number of years,” said Dr. Jamie Bellah, head of the College of Veterinary Medicine’s Department of Clinical Sciences and director of the Southeastern Raptor Center. “The cataract in the right eye became complete, obstructing her functional vision from that side. We made the decision to remove that right cataract before the left cataract obstructs her vision. So far the left cataract is unchanged and Tiger still retains functional vision from this eye.”

Compared to the one that was removed, the left cataract has been developing very slowly.

Removing the cataract required a team of veterinary ophthalmologists and anesthesiologists. Dr. Katie Diehl and Dr. Meredith Voyles led the surgical effort, and Dr. Jacob Johnson was the anesthesiologist.

“The ophthalmic surgery and the anesthesia are technically difficult, and our veterinary specialists and staff did an exceptional job caring for her,” Bellah said.

Tiger was on her feet the evening of the surgery and has since been flying in her aviary as recovery continues.

In the weeks to come, Raptor Center educators hope to have Tiger back in front of audiences interested in learning about birds of prey and wildlife conservation.

“We do hundreds of shows each year and display many, many birds,” said Raptor Education Specialist Marianne Hudson, “but the one most people ask about and are familiar with is Tiger. She has been a big part of this university for a long time.”

Tiger, who is also known as War Eagle VI, came to Auburn in 1986 and was the first of Auburn’s eagles to fly freely in Jordan-Hare Stadium. At the Georgia game in November 2006, she made her last stadium flight and is now “retired.” Golden Eagle Nova was then inaugurated as War Eagle VII.

— Mike Clardy

Campus News Briefs

Nominations for two Auburn trustee posts forwarded to Alabama Senate

The Auburn University Trustee Selection Committee has appointed defense and aerospace company executive Mike DeMaioribus of Huntsville and health systems executive Wayne Smith of Nashville for vacant positions on the AU Board of Trustees.

DeMaioribus was selected to fill the District 8 position, while Smith was chosen for the At-Large position. Gov. Robert Bentley is forwarding the appointments to the Alabama Senate for confirmation.

CopyCat closing document production facility, walk-up copiers to remain

Auxiliary Services has announced the closing of the production facility within the CopyCat document service at the Student Center.

The walk-up copiers at CopyCat will remain available for use by individuals.

CopyCat will continue taking in jobs for departmental needs through next week and complete those jobs before closing the facility by the end of February. Auxiliary Services officials say that although all jobs are expected to be complete by the end of the month, any work remaining at that time will be completed after the formal closing.

The Office of Procurement and Payment Services is developing a mechanism to handle employee departmental production formerly handled by CopyCat.

Provost seeking nominations for top awards for excellence in teaching

The Office of the Provost is seeking nominations for the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching for 2013. The awards are the top honors for teaching awarded each year by Auburn University.

Two awards, plus $10,000 each, will be presented to Auburn University faculty who have demonstrated a commitment to student success through effective and innovative teaching and through advising and mentoring inside and outside the classroom.

The nomination deadline is March 1. Information and nomination packets can be found online at https://sites.auburn.edu/academic/provost/awards/LeischuckAwards/.

Public Safety and Security releases new active-shooter response video

A new active-shooter response video published by the Auburn University Department of Public Safety and Security is now online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYn5HMMs26Y.

The video provides a brief overview of options available to those confronted with an active shooter situation. A more in-depth two-hour training course (EM303: Active Shooter Response Training) is available to Auburn University employees and is offered at least monthly. Class schedules can be found on the Emergency Management training resources www.auburn.edu/administration/public_safety/emergency/training_resources.html.

Employees may register for classes through www.auburn.edu/administration/public_safety/emergency/training_resources.html. Classes for groups of employees or students can be scheduled upon request via email to emergencymanagement@auburn.edu. For more information, contact the Department of Public Safety and Security at 844-8888.

Administration announces March 1 as common deadline for spring awards

The offices of the Provost, Research, University Outreach, Diversity and Multicultural Affairs and Student Affairs have developed a common deadline for many of the awards submissions that occur each spring.

An award submission deadline of March 1 is in place for the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, Alumni Professorship, Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach, Creative Research and Scholarship Awards, Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer, External Consulting Award, Foy Spirit Award, Leischuck Award for Excellence in Teaching, President’s Collaborative Units Award, Ralph “Shug” Jordan Professorship of Writing, Undergraduate Research Mentor Award and Who’s Who Among American Universities and Colleges.
Gates Cambridge Scholar

Bergen wins second of two major awards for graduate study

Paul Bergen, a 2012 graduate of Auburn University, has been awarded a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, a full-cost award for full-time graduate study and research at the University of Cambridge.

Bergen will pursue a Ph.D. in pathology at the English university with a focus on how salmonella infects the host intestinal cell and overcomes the host immune response to cause disease.

“It is a tremendous honor to be selected as a Gates Cambridge Scholar,” said Bergen. “I hope my research will eventually improve the lives of those afflicted by this common bacterial pathogen.”

“I am grateful for the outstanding preparation I received at Auburn. Without the work from all the members of my practice interview committee and the tireless efforts of my faculty letter writers, Anthony Moss, Mark Liles and Paul Harris, I would not have been given this great opportunity.”

Bergen graduated from Auburn with a 3.97 GPA and earned degrees in both microbiology and German. He is currently a Fulbright Scholar at the Technical University in Munich, Germany, where he is continuing research that he began in Auburn’s Department of Biological Sciences.

“Paul was a stellar student in both the College of Sciences and Mathematics and the College of Liberal Arts,” said Charles Savrda, interim dean of the College of Sciences and Mathematics. “It is no surprise that he has garnered this additional honor. All of us at Auburn are extremely proud of Paul and anticipate that he will do great things at Cambridge and beyond.”

“Receiving the Gates Cambridge Scholarship is an enormous honor that Paul Bergen has certainly earned,” said Anne-Katrin Gramberg, dean of the College of Liberal Arts. “Paul is an exceptional student and we are extremely proud of his success. We know he will continue to do great things.”

Auburn had two 2013 finalists among the nearly 1,000 applicants for the scholarship and was one of only four public universities with that distinction. Bergen is one of 40 scholars to receive the award.

“Despite his many scholarly and academic accomplishments, what makes Paul such a special person is his willingness to take intellectual risks and truly embrace an interdisciplinary approach to learning,” said Paul Harris, associate director for national prestigious scholarships at Auburn. “Paul has a range of interests and activities which go well beyond the study of life sciences and microbiology to a passionate interest in German language, culture and history. He will thrive at Cambridge.”

The scholarship program is funded by Bill and Melinda Gates through the Gates Cambridge Trust. Gates Cambridge Scholarships are awarded to college students and recent graduates based on four criteria: intellectual ability; leadership capacity; a desire to use their knowledge to contribute to society throughout the world by providing service to their communities and applying their talents and knowledge to improve the lives of others; and demonstrating a good fit between the applicants’ abilities and aspirations to the graduate program.

— Mike Clardy

Sunset at work site

The construction site of the new student residence hall at South Donahue and West Samford stands in sharp contrast against dark surroundings as the sun sets on a recent chilly winter’s day. Work crews are applying brickwork to the other sides of the 293-bed residence hall. The 152,000-square-foot facility is more than four times the size of the old Sewell Hall, which formerly occupied part of the site. The building is approximately 60 percent complete and is scheduled to open in August, in time to house students for fall semester.

Museum hosting Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers

Auburn University’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art is hosting the makers of three films this semester in connection with the public viewing of films from the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers.

The schedule includes “Girl Model,” with producers and directors Ashley Sabin and David Redmon on Feb. 19; “Free China: The Courage to Believe,” with Michael Perlman, director, writer and producer on March 19; and “Strong!” with director Julie Wyman on April 23.

Each film starts at 6 p.m., and a reception will follow the screening.

Scott Bishop, education curator for the museum, said the opportunity to interact with the filmmakers is often a valuable experience for students, as well as faculty and the public.

“These filmmakers are doing professionally what students are training and aspiring to do in their careers,” Bishop said. “It’s interesting to hear how entrepreneurial the filmmakers have to be in order to make and distribute their films.”

The first film this semester, “Girl Model,” follows a 13-year-old Siberian girl and the American scout who discovered her through the unregulated and often murky world of the modeling industry.

David Redmon, director and producer of “Girl Model,” said the subject matter made the production challenging.

“We experienced a lot of uncertainty and ran into some very unusual power dynamics. While it’s great for the story, and is likely what helped create the powerful unspoken tensions in the film, it made for a very difficult experience for us as directors,” said Redmon. “Because some of the people we filmed didn’t ultimately trust us, it often felt like we were producing the film in a constant gray area.”

The movie screenings are free, but seating is limited. Museum staff recommend advanced registration for tickets through the museum’s website www.jcsm.auburn.edu on the programs page. Film trailers are also posted on the museum’s program page for a preview.

The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a program of South Arts. Southern Circuit screenings are funded in part by a grant from South Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

— Charlotte Hendrix
Campus Calendar

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8**
**CONCERT** Douglas James and Pasquale Rucco, specialists on guitar literature of the early 19th century, perform on period instruments, 6:30-8 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11**
**PANEL PRESENTATION** “Health and Happiness,” new research by Women’s Studies faculty affiliates, 4:15-6 p.m., Langdon Hall

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12**
**MULTICULTURAL CENTER FILM** “The Line,” stories of people across the country living at or below the poverty line, 2 p.m., Student Center 2225
**SPANISH LANGUAGE FILM** “From the Land to Your Table,” 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum; part of the Spanish Language Club Film Series
**CONCERT** Auburn University Jazz Band and Opelika High School Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m., Opelika Performing Arts Center

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13**
**STUDY ABROAD FAIR** Information about Auburn Abroad programs and other study opportunities around the globe, including information about financial aid and scholarships, passport assistance available, 9 a.m.-noon, lobby of Haley Center
**SERVICE LEARNING COLLOQUIA** Guest speaker Jon Mason of Serve Alabama and LaChasta White, 1:30-3:30 p.m., Student Center 2326
**FRANCOPHONe FILM FESTIVAL** “Coco Before Chanel,” 6 p.m., Haley 3195
**CONCERT** Matthew Wood, faculty trombone recital, with Andrienne Wilson, piano, 7:30 p.m., Goodwin Recital Hall

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14**
**GENEALOGy WORKSHOP** Nancy Dupree, senior archivist, Alabama Department of Archive and History, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., Student Center 2222; part of the Multicultural Center’s Lunch and Learn Series

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16**
**EXHIBITION OPENS** “Preserving Tradition: Selected Works from the Permanent Collection,” 10 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18**
**PANEL PRESENTATION** “Crank Feminist Collective,” 4-6 p.m., Langdon Hall Auditorium
**FRANCOPHONe FILM FESTIVAL** “Bellamy,” Gerard Depardieu as a Parisian celebrity detective, 6 p.m., Haley 2370

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**
**YORK-LITTLETON LECTURE** Discussion of world hunger issues by former Wall Street Journal Reporter Roger Thurow, 4-5:30 p.m., Langdon Hall
**FRANCOPHONe FILM FESTIVAL** “Girl Model,” Ashley Sabin and David Redmon, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum; part of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21**
**PUBLIC LECTURE** “Building Community Capacity,” College of Liberal Arts Engaged Scholar Kathleen Hale, 5:30 p.m., Gnu’s Room, 414 S. Gay St.
**FRANCOPHONe FILM FESTIVAL** “The Girl on the Train,” 6 p.m., Haley 3195
**FRANCOPHONe FILM FESTIVAL** “The Island Inside,” 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum; part of the Spanish Language Club Film Series
**THEATRE** “She Loves Me,” 7:30 p.m., Telfair Peet Theatre; also 7:30 p.m. Feb. 22-23 and March 1-2 and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 24

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22**
**NEXT Auburn Report**

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