‘Final Lecture’
In what is becoming a tradition at Auburn, graduating students each spring select a distinguished faculty member to deliver a commencement-style address to the entire community. Instead of covering material in a typical classroom discussion, the lecture series presents an opportunity for the speaker to offer thoughts on education and life to a broad range of students, faculty and community members.

Last year, History Professor Joseph Kicklighter delivered the inaugural Final Lecture. This year, the honor went to Lawrence Wit, a professor of biological Sciences in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, where he is also associate dean. Wit is shown presenting the Final Lecture at a public assembly on April 9.

More than football
A-Day to feature alumni, academic, athletic activities

The Auburn campus will be filled with activities on Saturday for football fans and other guests in town attending various events related to academics and alumni activities as well as athletics.

Highlighting the day for football fans will be the A-Day football game at 1 p.m. at Jordan-Hare Stadium as new Head Coach Gene Chizik gives the public its first look at the 2009 Tigers. After the game, fans will be allowed on the field for an autograph session with the team.

More information about the game, which is being presented by the U.S. Navy, can be found at www.auburntigers.com.

Before the game, the Auburn Alumni Association will host its Minority Alumni Involvement Now, or MAIN, A-Day tailgate party from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on the Nichols Center lawn near Jordan-Hare Stadium’s west entrance. More information is available at www.aualum.org.

The Student Alumni Association and the Auburn University Parents Association will have their Spring Family Day Fish Fry from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on the Wallace Center lawn. Details are at www.auburn.edu/parents/spring09.html.

The men’s and women’s track teams will host the War Eagle Invitational at 11 a.m. at Hutsell-Rosen Track. Later, the softball team will face Georgia in a double-header at 4 p.m. at Jane B. Moore Field. Men’s and women’s tennis teams will play Alabama at 5 p.m. at the Yarbrough Tennis Center.

The College of Veterinary Medicine will host its open house from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at its campus on Wire Road. Activities will include canine, bovine and equine parades of breeds, sheep herding, police dogs, dog agility demonstrations, Teddy Bear surgery and birds of prey from the Southeastern Raptor Center.

High school and college students can talk with counselors about selecting courses for a future in veterinary medicine. More information is available at www.vetmed.auburn.edu.

The Harrison School of Pharmacy is holding its open house from 9 a.m. to noon. Displays and activities will include tours, information technology, compounding demonstrations, health screenings, recruitment and admissions information and meetings with the dean. A mobile disaster pharmacy also will be displayed. More information is available at www.pharmacy.auburn.edu.

Auburn’s School of Nursing will have its alumni reunion on the Miller Hall lawn from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and it will have an open house during this time.

The Samuel Ginn College of Engineering is hosting the 2009 Baja SAE Alabama event at Auburn’s National Center for Asphalt Technology test site in Opelika. Formerly known as Mini Baja, Baja SAE is an annual student competition to design, build and race a prototype of an off-road, all-terrain vehicle. The competition, sanctioned by the Society of Automotive Engineers, or SAE, will feature 100 collegiate teams and approximately 1,000 students from the United States, Canada, Mexico, India and Venezuela. More information is available at www.bajasaealabama.com or www.eng.auburn.edu.
At Auburn, even the parking area is ‘green’

The four had been working independently on various projects using pervious concrete, rain gardens and other green landscape features throughout the arboretum. The Auburn faculty members joined together to apply for and receive a research grant from the Alabama Water Resources Research Institute to investigate the effectiveness of pervious concrete in capturing and purifying stormwater runoff.

The new parking lot is being designed and built by a team of interdisciplinary students. Biosystems engineering students, along with Dougherty, designed a water distribution and sampling system that will be embedded beneath the pervious concrete. A landscape architecture student under the direction of LeBleu designed green infrastructure, including a rain garden, to hold and distribute stormwater filtered by the paving. Architecture and building science students in Hein’s concrete structures course also played an active role.

After the pervious concrete is put into place during April, the research phase will begin. Water quality will be tested periodically through simulated and natural rain events on an older asphalt section as well as the new section of the parking lot. Data will be collected for one year in a side-by-side comparison study and then a report will be submitted for journal publication.

— Carol Nelson

Campus Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
CONCERT Auburn Symphonic Band, 7:30 p.m., Opelika Performing Arts Center

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
A-DAY ACTIVITIES Details on page 1

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
CONCERT Auburn University/Community Orchestra, Howard Goldstein, music director, 4 p.m., Kiesel Park; short works by Strauss, Dvorak, Gounod, Wagner, and Richard Rodgers

MONDAY, APRIL 20
DARWIN COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE “Molecular Evolution,” Tony Moss of Biological Sciences, 3 p.m., 112 Rouse Life Sciences Building

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
WORKSHOP “Faculty Promotion and Tenure,” 3 p.m., Broun 238; information and registration, e-mail manlemw@auburn.edu

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
PUBLIC LECTURE Kirk Iversen, USDA National Soil Dynamics Laboratory, noon, Student Center 2218; part of Office of Sustainability’s Green Lunch Series

FRIDAY, MAY 1
NEXT Auburn Report, final edition of spring semester
Pebble Hill
Liberal Arts center reconnects communities to state’s culture, history

Pebble Hill, a historic Auburn landmark, may be better known by community leaders across Alabama than it is on much of the Auburn campus. Leaders of the College of Liberal Arts program housed in the antebellum structure say they are not surprised.

The Auburn University Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, which is housed at Pebble Hill, has a large following for high-profile arts and cultural activities in communities across the state, but, as with other outreach programs, the center often escapes notice on campus.

Tucked away four city blocks from campus at the intersection of East Magnolia Avenue and Debardeleben Street, the Greek Revival cottage is one of the oldest surviving houses in Lee County and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built by the half-brother of the founder of the city of Auburn in 1846 and was later home to the college physician. Auburn National Bank, now Auburn Bank, presented the building to the university as a gift in 1985, and Pebble Hill, also known as the Scott-Yarbrough House, quickly became known for its support of cultural activities in every corner of the state.

The center is named for Caroline Marshall Draughon, who was a champion of the arts, especially as first lady of Auburn while her husband, Ralph Brown Draughon, was the university’s president from 1947-65. While many people in the community still remember the Draughons, local residents frequently refer to the center by the name of the house.

In its outreach to communities across Alabama, the center hosts programs on art, reading, history and other subjects. Founded in 1985 with Leah Rawls Atkins as its first director, the center seeks to strengthen the bonds between the general public and Auburn’s academic community.

Pebble Hill’s outreach takes cultural and reading events to parts of Alabama that don’t normally have access to such activities, said Mary Baird, development officer for the Auburn University College of Liberal Arts. Through the center, Auburn faculty and staff also work with communities to look at their own histories and their own resources, she added.

In the early years, numerous programs were presented at the Scott-Yarbrough House, where artists would showcase their work or writers would present readings. As demand grew, the center responded. Among several program additions with wide appeal are the Alabama Book Festival, a statewide celebration of books and reading; the “Get Caught Reading” poster series, which features prominent figures throughout Alabama reading their favorite books; and an annual series of public lectures by select Auburn University professors.

Jay Lamar, the center’s director, said plans are under way to restore the building to its original 1847 look. “We are working with Richard Hudgens based in Selma, who will also build an office building, exhibit hall and auditorium behind the main house,” he said. “They will all be designed to look as though they were original structures.”

Cultural outreach
Pebble Hill is home to the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities, the outreach arm of the College of Liberal Arts.

After the restoration, set to be finished by the end of 2010, the Scott-Yarbrough house will again be open for lectures, seminars, conferences, film viewings and public programs that are related to the university.

The Draughon family provided the funds necessary to carry out the plans for the restoration and the addition of the new buildings. Baird said the primary challenge facing the staff at Pebble Hill is how to fund the programs. To help extend the reach of its programs, the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities is about to launch the “Leah Rawls Atkins Endowed Fund for Excellence.”

— Rebecca Bedsole

Carlises donate rare work on natural history of early Alabama to library

Helen and Dwight Carlisle of Tallassee recently donated a limited edition facsimile set of 67 illustrations by American-born naturalist and explorer William Bartram to the Auburn University Libraries.

Dwight Carlisle serves on the university’s Board of Trustees and Helen owns the Carlisle Gallery in Auburn.

Bartram produced the illustrations in the early 1770s to depict plants and animals of the southeastern states and territories. The original illustrations are in the Natural History Museum, London. The set donated to the Auburn Libraries by the Carlises is one of only 50 numbered sets produced for this edition.

“This generous gift from Helen and Dwight Carlisle distinguishes Auburn’s libraries as the custodians of rare materials and a center for research on William Bartram,” said Dean of Libraries Bonnie MacEwan. “It is requested frequently and will be well used by Auburn students, faculty and scholars.”

Dwayne Cox, head of special collections and archives in Draughon Library, said the Carlisle gift complements the library’s first-edition copy of “Bartram’s Travels,” as well as the library’s other holdings on natural history.
Spirit of Excellence

Staff members honored
Each month, Auburn recognizes exceptional job performance through presentation of Spirit of Excellence Awards to four professional and university staff members. Pictured above are the top achievers for January, top left, and February, top right. The January recipients are, from left to right, Clifford Standridge of Student Housing, Peyton Ashley Bean of Sciences and Mathematics, Michael Moore of Landscape Services and Jennifer Young of University Scholarships. Recipients for February, from left to right, are Joseph Carleton of the Paint Shop, Brooke Moates of Development, Serlester Williams of Liberal Arts and, not shown, Crisanta Cruz-Espindola of Veterinary Medicine.

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