Corporate execs to speak at spring commencement

Two successful corporate executives will be guest speakers at Auburn University on Saturday and Sunday, May 4-5, during spring commencement in the Auburn Arena, where approximately 3,359 new graduates will receive diplomas.

Dawn Robertson, president of Nygard International, a privately owned Canadian women’s fashion apparel wholesale and retail company, will speak Saturday at a 10 a.m. ceremony for the colleges of Education, Human Sciences and Architecture, Design and Construction and a 2 p.m. ceremony for the colleges of Agriculture and Business.

Rob Maruster, chief operating officer of JetBlue Airways, will speak Sunday at a 1 p.m. ceremony for the College of Sciences and Mathematics and the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and at a 5 p.m. ceremony for the College of Liberal Arts, the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, the School of Nursing and programs of interdisciplinary studies.

The James Harrison School of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine, both professional schools, will award diplomas on Tuesday, May 7, at the Auburn Arena, with the Pharmacy ceremony at 10 a.m. and the Veterinary Medicine ceremony at 6 p.m.

Robertson graduated from Auburn in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in fashion merchandising. She began her retail career at Macy’s in Atlanta. Before joining Nygard International, she held executive management positions on a global scale at major companies, including president at Old Navy, and managing director of Myer Department Stores, the largest store in Australia.

Maruster graduated from Auburn with a degree in political science in 1993 and later received an M.B.A. from Emory University. He joined JetBlue in 2005 after a 12-year career with Delta Air Lines. JetBlue began operations from its base at Kennedy International Airport in New York in 2000 and serves 77 destinations across the United States, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

At its spring commencement ceremonies, Auburn University will award 100 doctoral degrees, 582 master’s degrees, 10 educational specialist degrees and 2,667 bachelor’s degrees.

New oaks to replace old

This landscape architect’s rendering shows how the Toomer’s Corner entrance to Auburn University will look in a few years. New oaks will be planted in the vicinity of the poisoned trees that were removed this week.

Oaks come down, plans revealed for new trees, redesign of corner

Marking the end of one era for Auburn University, tree surgeons removed the historic, dying Auburn Oaks from Toomer’s Corner on Tuesday. Marking the beginning of a new era, the university unveiled plans a few days earlier for a redesigned entrance to campus, with new oaks taking the place of the old ones.

University officials unveiled a new design for Toomer’s Corner and path to Samford Hall on Saturday, during a Celebrate the Tradition event marking the final rolling of the poisoned Auburn Oaks.

An arcing path design, set to be implemented in 2014 with the planting of two oak trees, was selected after a series of public workshops and an online survey in which more than 10,000 alumni, students, fans and friends provided opinions and ideas.

“We are unveiling the results of your ideas today,” said Bill Stone, Auburn Alumni Association president, who helped unveil an artist’s rendering. “I can tell one thing for certain: Live trees will be planted on the corner and the great tradition of rolling the corner will continue.”

Auburn’s Office of Campus Planning and Space Management and the architectural firm of Nelson Byrd Woltz /B+a Landscape Architects led the efforts in gathering ideas and choosing the design.

The new design will place trees farther back from the intersection; maintain the existing and historic character of the corner; retain the 1917 gates in their current positions; add more seating and shaded areas; and include the planting of additional trees along a curved walkway through Samford Park.

On Saturday, more than 83,000 fans filled Jordan-Hare Stadium to set an attendance record for A-Day, and later that afternoon and evening they partied into the night with one final roll of the Auburn Oaks at Toomer’s Corner. Generations gathered beneath the oaks one final time, sharing stories and creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Wood from the trees will be made into Auburn Oaks keepsakes, with proceeds from their sale going into a scholarship fund for Auburn students.

Former Tallapoosa County resident Harvey Updyke admitted to poisoning the iconic oaks in anger over the Auburn Tigers victory over his favored team in Tuscaloosa during the Tiger’s 2010 National Championship season. Updyke recently pled guilty to the crime and is serving six months of a three-year prison term. He will then be on supervised probation for five years. Meanwhile, replacement trees will be growing on either side of the university’s front gates.
### Auburn engineering senior named National Student Employee of Year

Thanh “TJ” Nguyen, a senior in mechanical engineering at Auburn University, has received the National Student Employee of the Year Award from the National Student Employment Association.

The award was presented to Nguyen April 9 at a reception for the nominees at The Hotel at Auburn University.

Nguyen is employed by the Outreach Office of the College of Sciences and Mathematics, where he has served as technical director for the War Eagle BEST robotics program and counselor for the Science Matters summer program for children. He is responsible for maintaining technology for the office and has created user manuals for new equipment. He was nominated by Mary Lou Ewald, director of the Outreach Office.

“Nguyen’s impact on our office will last for years after he has graduated,” Ewald said. “He has raised the bar for what Auburn students can accomplish when they are committed to excellence and dedicated to making a difference in the lives of those around them.”

The nominees were judged on reliability, quality of work, initiative, professionalism and the uniqueness of the student’s contribution to the employer. In order to be eligible for consideration, student employees must have worked a minimum of six months part-time or three months full-time.

“My work in COSAM Outreach has defined my Auburn experience,” Nguyen said. “Being a kid who benefited from an outreach program myself, I have always had an appreciation of the affect that reaching out to kids at a young age can have. I would not be where I am if someone hadn’t shown me what doors engineering, math and science could open for me at a young age.”

— Katherine Harding

### Family Fun Day set for May

Auburn University will hold its 17th annual Family Fun Day for university employees and their families from 1:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, May 15, at the Ham Wilson Livestock Arena on Donahue Drive.

Free food, beverages and other treats will be available throughout the afternoon at the Alabama Farmer’s Pavilion next to the arena. Unlike in the past, employees will not receive reminder cards this year.

This will be the third year in the event’s history that it will be at the Ag Heritage Park location, which features two indoor locations and ample parking.

Adults and children can win prizes, play games and listen to music. Activities for children include: Bead Works, Dragon Slide ‘N Hide, Face Painting, Spin Art and the Tiger Belly Bouncer. Older children and adults can enjoy a Rock Mountain Climbing Wall, Water Slide and the Wet and Wild Maze Craze. (Event planners advise that participants should wear appropriate clothing as they can get soaked.) Other activities include Double Shot Basketball, Golf Chipping, Team Ski Relay and Obstacle Course.
Two students, Human Sciences administrator receive top awards for humanitarian service at Auburn University

Two students and one faculty member were recognized with Auburn University’s highest honor for humanitarian service April 16 at the annual President’s Luncheon in the Student Center ballroom.

The Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award was presented to seniors Evan Lutomski and Emily Scammell, and Harriet Giles, director of external relations in the College of Human Sciences and managing director of the Auburn University Hunger Solutions Institute.

The national honor has been presented at Auburn since 1951 as a reminder of the noblest human qualities exemplified by Algernon Sydney Sullivan, a prominent humanitarian and first president of the New York Southern Society, now the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation. Each year, Auburn bestows the honor on one male and one female student from the graduating class and one non-student.

Giles is cofounder, along with College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton, of Universities Fighting World Hunger, an international coalition of higher education institutions committed to a grassroots platform and an academic agenda to eradicate hunger. Prior to assuming her current administrative positions within the college and the institute, Giles was a faculty member in the Auburn University Department of Human Development for 18 years.

Lutomski also received the President’s Award for interdisciplinary studies. He will graduate with honors in May, earning a degree in interdisciplinary studies with emphasis in hunger studies, community and civic engagement and history. Lutomski serves on the Committee of 19 and is the Auburn University liaison to Universities Fighting World Hunger, an organization that aspires to mobilize universities across the nation and around the globe to make fighting hunger a core value of higher education institutions worldwide.

Scammell is an Honors College student majoring in political science and minorin in hunger studies. She is the outgoing president and cofounder of The Campus Kitchen at Auburn University, an organization that provides meals to people in the Auburn-Opelika community and engages Auburn students in actively working to solve the problem of hunger locally.

Other honors presented during the luncheon were for the President’s Awards and the W. James Samford Jr. Foundation Awards and the W. James Samford Jr. Memorial Scholarship.

The President’s Award and W. James Samford Jr. Foundation Award recognize one graduate in each school or college who has completed at least three semesters at Auburn with a minimum grade-point average of 3.40, and possesses outstanding qualities of leadership, citizenship, character and promise of professional ability.

This year’s 13 honorees are: Ashton James Richardson, College of Agriculture; William Lawrence Gregory, College of Architecture, Design and Construction; Blake Dean Jackson, College of Business; Amy Marie Howard, College of Education; Lauren Patricia McManus, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering; Mignon Denton, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Subin Hada, Graduate School; Kristin Jill Wallace, College of Human Sciences; Paul Bradley Slay, College of Liberal Arts; Alexa Kaye Cannon, School of Nursing; Denise Anne Sutter, Harrison School of Pharmacy; Kyle Spencer Owens, College of Sciences and Mathematics; and Laura Catharine Brittain, College of Veterinary Medicine.

Steven Sawyer was named the 2013 recipient of the W. James Samford Jr. Memorial Scholarship. The award is named in memory of James Samford, a 1972 Auburn alumnus and member of the Auburn Board of Trustees from 1987 until his death in 2003.

— Carol Nelson

![Algernon Sydney Sullivan Awards](image)

The National Science Foundation has named an Auburn University student and three alumni as NSF Graduate Research Fellows.

The recently named fellows are Honors College student Lauren McManus, a senior in aerospace engineering; Matthew McBride, a 2012 Honors College graduate in chemical engineering; Jennie Appel, a 2011 graduate in electrical engineering; and Joshua Jarrell, a 2005 graduate in applied mathematics.

Each fellowship provides three years of support at $30,000 annually and an additional $10,500 cost-of-education allowance. The purpose of the fellowship program is to help ensure the vitality and diversity of the scientific and engineering workforce in the United States.

McManus, a senior Honors College student, is completing her honors thesis under the direction of Professor Brian Thurov in the Department of Aerospace Engineering. McManus’ research project is part of the Thurov Advanced Laser Diagnostics Lab. She will pursue a doctorate at the University of Colorado Boulder in the fall.

McBride is a spring 2012 Honors College graduate in chemical engineering. He is in his first year of graduate study at the University of Colorado Boulder where he is pursuing a doctorate in chemical engineering. At Auburn he worked under the guidance of Professor Mark Byrne in the Department of Chemical Engineering. McBride’s research applies “click” chemistry to develop shape memory polymers with novel deployment mechanisms, unique properties and surface functionalization.

Appel, a spring 2011 graduate in electrical engineering, is pursuing graduate studies at Arizona State University where she is working to develop a quick, disposable, portable detection system for the detection of hazardous substances in drinking water. At Auburn, her undergraduate research focused on improving high-aspect ratio copper electroplating for 3-D integrated circuits.

Jarrell, a 2005 graduate in applied mathematics and a sergeant first class in the U.S. Army, is pursuing a doctorate in applied physiology at Georgia Tech with a focus on prosthetics.
Provost announces tenure, promotion list for 2013

Provost Timothy Boosinger has announced the names of faculty who have been awarded promotion, tenure or both at Auburn University for 2013. The faculty members, by college or school, and each person’s department or school within a college are:

**Associate Professor with Tenure**

**College of Agriculture:** Sushil Adhikari, Biosystems Engineering; Christy Bratcher and Soren Rodning, Animal Sciences; Julie Howe, Agronomy and Soils; Denis Nadolnyak and Michelle Worosz, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology; Carolyn Robinson, Horticulture; James Stoekel and Alan Wilson, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures.

**College of Architecture, Design and Construction:** Justin Miller, Architecture; Planning and Landscape Architecture; Jerrod Windham, Industrial and Graphic Design.

**College of Business:** Jung Chul Park, Finance.

**College of Education:** Carey Andrzejewski and Lisa Kessler, Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology; Heidi Klues, Kinesiology; Deborah Morowski, Curriculum & Teaching.

**Samuel Ginn College of Engineering:** Ahjeong Son, Civil Engineering; Weikuan Yu, Computer Science and Software Engineering; Xinyu Zhang, Polymer and Fiber Engineering.

**School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences:** Wayde Fiber Engineering; Ahjeong Son, Civil Engineering; Weikuan Yu, Computer Science and Software Engineering; Xinyu Zhang, Polymer and Fiber Engineering.

**College of Veterinary Medicine:** Aime Johnson and Anne Wooldridge, Clinical Sciences; Kellye Joiner, Pathobiology.

**Librarian III, Associate Professor, Tenure**

Auburn University Libraries: Gregory Schmidt, Draughon Library.

**Professor**

**College of Agriculture:** Covadonga Arias, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures; Deacue Fields and Valentina Hartarska, Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology; Kathy Lawrence, Entomology and Plant Pathology; Puneet Srivastava, Biosystems Engineering; Amy Wright, Horticulture.

**College of Architecture, Design and Construction:** Paul Holley, Building Science.

**College of Education:** Edna Brabham, Curriculum and Teaching; James Groccia, Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology.

**Samuel Ginn College of Engineering:** Xing Fang, Civil Engineering; Dongwoo Kim, Mechanical Engineering.

**School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences:** Yaoqi Zhang.

**College of Liberal Arts:** Cynthia Bowling and Steven Brown, Political Science; Elizabeth Brestan-Knight, Psychology; Brigitta Brunner-Johnson, Communication and Journalism; Cathleen Giustino, History; Howard Goldstein, Music; Eric Arthur Marcus, Philosophy; James Ryan and Robin Sabino, English.

**College of Sciences and Mathematics:** Allen Landers and Minseo Park, Physics.

**Professor and Tenure**

**College of Agriculture:** William Dozier, Poultry Science.

**School of Nursing:** Bonnie Sanderson.

**Tenure**

**School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences:** Lori Giget Eckhardt.

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