Auburn to award more than 3,300 diplomas in May

Auburn University will award 3,312 academic degrees May 6-8 in Auburn Arena during spring commencement ceremonies featuring talks by Auburn alumni and industry leaders.

The first ceremony on May 6 begins at 1 p.m. for the colleges of Agriculture; Architecture, Design and Construction; Education; and Human Sciences. Auburn alumnus Ron Baynes, NFL coordinator of recruiting and officiating development, will be the speaker.

The second ceremony starts at 5 p.m. for the College of Business with Arthur Blank, owner of the Atlanta Falcons and co-founder of The Home Depot, serving as the speaker.

The morning ceremony on May 7 begins at 10 a.m. for the colleges and schools of Engineering; Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Nursing; and Sciences and Mathematics. Auburn alumnus Kirby Bland, chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, will be the speaker.

A 2 p.m. ceremony will be held for the College of Liberal Arts, with Auburn alumnus Javier Goizueta, vice president of The Coca-Cola Company, serving as the speaker.

Each ceremony can be viewed live through the university’s website at www.auburn.edu/graduationlive.

Of the degrees Auburn will award, 2,430 are bachelor’s degrees, 542 are master’s degrees, 116 are doctorates and seven are educational specialist degrees.

The College of Liberal Arts will award the most bachelor degrees with 565, followed by the College of Business with 449 and Samuel Ginn College of Engineering with 370. The College of Sciences and Mathematics will award 283 degrees; College of Education, 269; College of Architecture, Design and Construction, 166; College of Human Sciences, 120; College of Agriculture, 110; Nursing, 48; School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 36; and Office of the Provost, 14 degrees in interdisciplinary university studies.

Auburn’s professional schools will hold separate ceremonies for their graduates May 8 in Auburn Arena. The Harrison School of Pharmacy will award 128 degrees at 10 a.m. with Lyle Bootman, senior vice president for health sciences at the University of Arizona.

Tuition to increase 8 percent this fall to help offset projected funding cut

The Auburn University Board of Trustees on April 13 approved an 8 percent increase in tuition at the main campus for the 2012-13 academic year.

At Auburn Montgomery, undergraduate tuition will also increase 8 percent and graduate tuition will increase 9 percent.

The board approved the increases in anticipation of a pending 5 percent cut in state appropriations due to diminished state revenues in the aftermath of the worldwide economic recession that began in late 2007. Executive Vice President Don Large noted that state appropriations and tuition are the two major components of the university’s annual budget. The projected decrease in state funding will total approximately $8 million, while the tuition increase is expected to generate approximately $6 million. Cost-cutting and revenue sources to offset the remainder will be addressed in coming months during development of the university’s budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

Other universities across the nation have had to increase tuition due to cuts in appropriations in their states, as well. Even with the 8 percent increase, Large noted that Auburn is expected to remain at the midpoint in tuition rates for its peer institutions in the Southeast.

In other business, the board:

◆ Approved planning elements for the 2012 update to the campus master plan. A key element of the update will be development of a plan to replace older, deteriorating buildings in the core of campus, including Haley Center and Parker, Allison, Funchess, Upchurch and Spidle halls, and renovate historic buildings such as Comer, Mary Martin, Textile, Petrie and Ramsay halls.

◆ Approved the selection of William Blackstock Associates of Birmingham and tvsdesign of Atlanta as architects and Robins and Morton of Birmingham as engineers for updates to the campus master plan.

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New A&P officers
The Administrative and Professional Assembly will have a leadership transition on July 1. On that date, Charles Hunt, right, will succeed Seth Humphrey, left, as chair of the Administrative and Professional Assembly. Bryan Elmore, center, will serve as chair-elect for a year, assisting Hunt, and serve as chair of the assembly in 2013-14. Humphrey and Hunt are in the Office of Information Technology, and Elmore is in Budget Services.

Restored eagle sculptures returned to roost atop Toomer’s Corner gates

A pair of iconic eagles that have stood for more than 50 years at the main gate to Auburn University have been returned to the Toomer’s Corner site after having been restored to their original state with the assistance of the Facilities Management staff and a company that manages restoration projects.

With a missing beak on one and a damaged wing on the other, the weathered statues were removed from their brick pedestals in November. They have been repaired by The Lathan Company Inc., a Mobile-based firm specializing in the historic preservation of landmark structures and buildings.

“I am extremely happy with the way the eagles turned out,” said Lloyd Albert, Facilities Management maintenance director. “We were very fortunate to work with a local company with this kind of experience and with such a talented staff. They did such a nice job with the reconstruction that I couldn’t even tell at first which repairs were made to each of them.”

The eagles, estimated to weigh from 350 to 400 pounds each, were transferred to Lathan’s Washington, D.C., office, where stone-carving experts spent more than 200 hours on restoration and cleaning, including the removal of an unexpected layer of red aerosol spray paint. The paint had been applied to each bird’s breast and later covered by masonry latex paint.

Made of white marble, the stone for the eagles appears to have come from a Sylacauga quarry, said Latham project manager Anthony Miller, who is also the project manager for the exterior restoration of all stone and brick work for the Smithsonian Arts and Industry Building.

“We believe it may be Sylacauga because it is a white marble and it (the quarry specializing in white marble) is located only 45 miles away,” said Miller. Sylacauga marble is highly sought for its appearance and quality by sculptors worldwide, and many famous sculptures, including the bust of Abraham Lincoln in the U.S. Capitol rotunda, are made of the stone.

Miller estimates the eagles to have been sculpted in the early 1960s.

The restoration project was funded from a deferred maintenance account by Auburn University Facilities Management.

— Gail Riese

Campus Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 6
COMMENCEMENT Ceremonies in Auburn Arena; 1 p.m., Colleges of Agriculture, Education, Human Sciences and Architecture, Design and Construction; 5 p.m., College of Business

MONDAY, MAY 7
COMMENCEMENT Ceremonies in Auburn Arena; 10 a.m., Colleges and Schools of Engineering, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Nursing, Sciences and Mathematics; 2 p.m., College of Liberal Arts

TUESDAY, MAY 8
COMMENCEMENT Ceremonies in Auburn Arena; 10 a.m., Harrison School of Pharmacy; 6 p.m., College of Veterinary Medicine

THURSDAY, MAY 17
FIRST DAY of classes for summer semester

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Board of Trustees

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for construction management for a new central classroom facility or facilities. One or two buildings in the core of campus would be built to house classes now offered in older buildings, such as Haley, that are marked for eventual demolition.

♦ Approved the renovation of the Plainsman Park team locker room and clubhouse.

♦ Authorized the administration to begin the architect selection process for a new student and faculty lounge in the vicinity of Lowder Hall and Shelby Center.

♦ Approved the renaming of the Department of Consumer Affairs in the College of Human Sciences as the Department of Consumer and Design Sciences.

This was the first board meeting since their recent confirmation by the Alabama Senate for new trustees Bob Dumas, Elizabeth Huntley, Jim Pratt, Clark Sahlie and Jimmy Sanford. Another new member, B.T. Roberts, takes office in May and will be eligible to participate in the next board meeting.

— Roy Summerford

Spring commencement

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and dean of its College of Pharmacy, presenting the address. The ceremony will be streamed live through the college’s website at http://pharmacy.auburn.edu.

The College of Veterinary Medicine will award 89 degrees at 6 p.m. with Donna Angarano, the college’s associate dean of academic affairs, addressing the graduates. The ceremony will be streamed live through the college’s website at www.vetmed.auburn.edu.

— Charles Martin
Interim Provost Timothy Boosinger has announced the names of faculty who have been awarded promotion, tenure or both at Auburn University for 2012. 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: Glenn B. Fain, Horticulture; David W. Held, Entomology and Plant Pathology; Elizabeth Wagner, Animal Science.
- College of Architecture, Design and Construction: Charles Farrow and Junshan Liu, Building Science; Carla Keyvanian and Rebecca Retzlaff; Architecture, Planning and Landscape Architecture; Shu-Wen Tzeng, Industrial and Graphic Design.
- College of Business: Brian Connelly and Alan G. Walker, Management; Clifford Defee, Aviation and Supply Chain Management.
- College of Education: Jung Won Hur and Ellen H. Reames, Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology; Angela Love, Curriculum and Teaching; Leah E. Robinson, JoEllen M. Sefton and Danielle D. Wadsworth, Kinesiology.
- Samuel Ginn College of Engineering: Wei-Shinn Ku, Computer Science and Software Engineering.
- School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences: Rebecca Jo Barlow and Mark Dean Smith.
- College of Liberal Arts: Adrienne Angelo and Traci O’Brien, Foreign Languages and Literatures; Anna Riehl Bertolot, English; Jinyan Fan and Richard Mattson, Psychology; Keren Gorodesky and Arata Hamawaki, Philosophy; Charles J. Hemard, Art; Ralph Kingston and Michael Kozuh, History; Heather May and Fereshteh Rostampour, Theatre; David Odom, Jeremy Samolesky, Adam Corey Spurlin and Matthew Wood, Music; Laura Plexico, Communication Disorders.
- James Harrison School of Pharmacy: Brent I. Fox, Pharmacy Care Systems.
- College of Sciences and Mathematics: Orlando Acevedo and Wei Zhan, Chemistry and Biochemistry; Dimitry Glotov, Xiaoying Han and Erkan Nane, Mathematics and Statistics; Haibo Zou, Geology and Geography.
- College of Veterinary Medicine: Fred Caldwell, Misty Edmondson and Jennifer Taintor, Clinical Sciences.

**Professor**
- College of Agriculture: Henry Y. Fadamiro, Entomology and Plant Pathology; Oladiran Fasina, Biosystems Engineering; Tung-Shi Huang, Poultry Science.

Revised policy will forbid smoking within 25 feet of buildings

Auburn University will implement a new campus smoking policy with the start of fall semester on Aug. 16, requiring tobacco users to move at least 25 feet away from buildings to smoke. The new policy will continue the current prohibition against smoking inside campus buildings while creating a smoke-free area around the perimeter of buildings.

President Jay Gogue authorized the policy change after the Office of Student Affairs reviewed proposals from the Student Government Association, the University Senate, Staff Council and Administrative and Professional Assembly for a more restrictive policy.

Eric Smith, director of the Office of Health Promotion and Wellness Services in Student Affairs, said the new policy is a middle ground between the old policy and one, like those at a growing number of universities, that ban smoking on campus.

The new policy, he said, addresses the health concerns of non-smokers, who were adversely affected by smoke around doors and windows or smoke drawn into buildings by air conditioning systems, without forcing smokers to leave campus. While some faculty and students would have time to go off campus between classes, others, as well as many staff members, would not.

Smith said committee members are working with Facilities Management and others to develop unobtrusive ways to remind students and employees of the 25-foot area around buildings. The policy’s primary goal is improved health for everyone, Smith said. He noted that, in addition to protecting non-smokers from second-hand smoke, the policy offers guidance to smokers who are trying to quit.

During the summer, the university will issue additional printed and online information each month to advise people about services available to help them break the smoking habit.

— Roy Summerford

Auburn Alumni Association seeks campus input on candidates for three major awards

The Auburn Alumni Association is seeking input on candidates for several annual awards recognizing alumni achievements, faculty teaching excellence and commitment to Auburn University.

The Lifetime Achievement Award honors members of the Auburn family — including alumni and former faculty, coaches or administrators — who have obtained professional prominence or have served their communities or Auburn in an exemplary way.

The Minority Achievement Award recognizes Auburn faculty who go the extra mile to recruit minority students or improve race relations on campus. The award carries a $1,000 honorarium.

The Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award honors faculty who create exceptional classroom experiences for Auburn students. The award carries a $1,000 honorarium. Nominations must be seconded by the appropriate college or school dean.

Deadline for all nominations is May 31. Information on the awards can be found online under the awards heading at http://www.ualum.org/index.php#. For additional information, contact Tanja Matthews at 844-1113 or tanjamathew@auber.edu.
Roberts promoted from department chair to dean of Samuel Ginn College of Engineering at Auburn

Chris Roberts, chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering in Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has been named dean of the college, effective July 1.

Roberts, who is also the college’s George E. and Dorothy Stafford Uthlaut Professor of Chemical Engineering, will succeed Larry Benefield, who is retiring after 33 years at Auburn. Benefield has served as dean of the college since 1998.

“Dr. Roberts has an outstanding record of achievement in teaching and research and has demonstrated exceptional leadership as chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering,” said Auburn Interim Provost Timothy Boosinger.

“I am confident that he has the ability to significantly advance the college’s mission and I look forward to working with him in the coming years,” Boosinger said.

Roberts came to Auburn in 1994 as an assistant professor in Chemical Engineering and has been chair of that department since 2003.

“I certainly look forward to assisting our students and faculty to reach our full collective potential, and we will continue our trajectory of becoming one of the truly premier colleges of engineering in the nation,” Roberts said.

“As a college, we are poised to make tremendous research and education contributions to the economic competitiveness and quality of life of our state and nation,” Roberts added. “I can think of no greater opportunity and I am very grateful and honored to have been selected for this position.”

Roberts is prominent nationally in the fields of nanotechnology and synthetic fuels, and he has published more than 110 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters in leading chemical engineering, chemistry, materials and related journals.

He holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from the University of Missouri and master’s and doctoral degrees in chemical engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

— Mike Clardy

English professor receives national prize for drama

A recent play, “Angels in the Froth,” by Jim McKelly, an associate professor of English in Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts, recently won the national prize in drama, one of the annual literary prizes awarded by the journal Arts & Letters, based at Georgia College & State University.

As a result, McKelly’s play was performed March 16-17 at the Georgia university’s campus in Milledgeville. The Auburn professor and his family were the guests of Arts & Letters and GCSU for these performances.

McKelly, who also received a $1,000 cash prize, was the featured speaker for a post-performance session on March 16, and was interviewed on the GCSU NPR affiliate about the play and the prize. The play was published in the spring issue of Arts & Letters.