Gogue installed as AU president

At a brief ceremony on Thursday, Paul Spina, president pro tem of the AU Board of Trustees, officially installed Jay Gogue as president of Auburn University.

During the ceremony, Gogue received two gifts signifying his role as Auburn’s chief executive. Spina presented the President’s Medallion, which has been a symbol of the office of the university’s presidency since the inauguration of Harry M. Philpott as president in 1966. And College of Human Sciences Dean June Henton, representing all AU deans, presented a specially designed robe for the president to wear when representing AU at academic ceremonies.

Although Gogue began his duties as president nine months ago, Spina said the installation ceremony presented an opportunity for people from throughout the university community to come together and express their support of the president and the institution.

Gogue, AU’s 18th president, said his first months in office have been a time of listening to people from every part of the university. “Auburn has values, attributes and culture that no one else has,” he said, adding that he wants to build on those strengths.

Higher education, he said, should always be responsive to the long-term needs of society while avoiding fads. Occasional failures should not deter the university from working together in pursuit of grand successes, he added.

How Auburn Stacks Up

Colleges at AU awarding most graduate degrees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>Education</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
<th>Liberal Arts</th>
<th>Agriculture</th>
<th>Sci &amp; Math</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1986-87</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>64</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>130</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Source: Institutional Research and Assessment

www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html
Knowles will present an honorary doctor of science degree on May 10 to C. Harry Knowles, an Auburn alumnus whose optical scanning technology is used at every stage of commerce, including nearly every retailing check-out counter across America.

Knowles, who is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of the late 1940s and a 1951 Auburn graduate in physics, will receive the honorary degree during the 10 a.m. graduation ceremony in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

During his college years, Knowles, a Birmingham native, was a varsity wrestler for legendary Coach “Swede” Umbach, editor of the student yearbook, vice president and acting president of student government and a founding member of the campus chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma national physics honor society.

After receiving his bachelor’s degree from Auburn, Knowles earned a master’s degree in physics at Vanderbilt and worked during the 1950s and ’60s at Bell Labs, Motorola and Westinghouse before starting his own company, Metrologic Instruments in 1968. The following year, his company’s product was featured on the cover of Popular Electronics magazine, where it was described as the world’s first laser kit.

In 1974, Knowles led Metrologic to develop helium-neon lasers, which became the basis for laser scanners that transformed the retail industry over the past 15 years. By 2007, the Auburn alumnus held more than 250 patents in his name, with 100 pending, and he received national “E Star” awards for export success from presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

On the national education front, Knowles and his wife established the Janet H. and C. Harry Knowles Foundation to enhance the quality of high school teachers of science and mathematics. Among its activities, the foundation supports fellowships to develop teachers and researchers in those fields.

At AU, Knowles played a major role in the development of the College of Sciences and Mathematics, serving on the advisory board of the newly formed college in the late 1980s. In 1998, Knowles and his wife endowed the college’s Howard and Carolyn Carr Chair in Physics in honor of the formerPhysics Department head and his wife. Knowles attributed much of his later success in life to the encouragement he received as a student from the couple.

AU will award an estimated 2,687 degrees during two spring commencement ceremonies in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum.

Myers, who earned a master of business administration degree from Auburn Montgomery in 1977, will address new graduates at both ceremonies.

The 10 a.m. ceremony will feature presentation of degrees to new graduates of the colleges and schools of Engineering; Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Liberal Arts; and Sciences and Mathematics.

The 2 p.m. ceremony will feature new graduates of the colleges and schools of Agriculture; Architecture, Design and Construction; Business; Education; Human Sciences; and Nursing. The Harrison School of Pharmacy and the College of Veterinary Medicine will hold separate ceremonies for their graduates.

With Myers’ presentation, AU is launching a practice of regularly inviting nationally prominent speakers to address its new graduates. Although some graduations have featured visiting dignitaries, such as Vice President Dick Cheney in 2005, Auburn has not featured formal commencement addresses on a regular basis in more than 40 years.

Shortly after his arrival at Auburn last summer, AU President Jay Gogue raised the possibility of regularly bringing nationally recognized, distinguished speakers for commencement, and the Student Government Association passed a resolution in November requesting such a practice.

Myers retired as the 15th chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 2005, after serving more than 40 years in the U.S. Air Force. During his term as Joint Chiefs chairman, he served as principal military adviser to the president, the secretary of defense, and the National Security Council.

Myers began his term as Joint Chiefs chairman a few weeks after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, and he was instrumental in establishing the subsequent U.S. strategy against terrorism.

During his tenure on the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the United States led international efforts to topple the Taliban and deny Al Qaeda’s safe haven in Afghanistan and to defeat the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq. He also oversaw the U.S. military’s role in relief efforts for victims of the tsunami that struck the Pacific in December 2004 and for victims of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

May 10 graduation

Myers to speak at commencement

Gen. Richard B. Myers, retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will deliver the commencement address to Auburn graduates at spring ceremonies May 10.

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Knowles to receive honorary degree
Martin looks back on semester as Auburn presidential faculty fellow

With the end of spring semester, Education Professor Gary Martin completes his term as the first presidential faculty fellow at Auburn under a program started in late 2007 by President Jay Gogue. Since starting the fellowship in January, Martin has been balancing his time between the President’s Office in Samford Hall and the College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Teaching, where he teaches current and future math teachers and directs the TEAM Math partnership of AU, Tuskegee University and 14 school districts.

In his role as a presidential fellow this semester, Martin has been developing a proposal to establish a Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics initiative at Auburn as part of a nationwide coalition widely known by its acronym, STEM. He has also been working with Gogue and Executive Vice President Don Large and others in the President’s Office and joining those executives in meetings with a cross section of AU constituents.

Martin, who applied for the fellowship last fall to get a broader perspective on university administration, says he gained that and more while working in the Office of the President. “As faculty members, we focus on our own students and programs, and most of the time we work in a clearly defined area,” he said. “Administrators, on the other hand, have to take a global view. They have a responsibility to see how all the pieces fit together.”

With many issues competing for their attention around the clock and numerous individuals providing information about those issues, administrators need to be able to juggle many competing priorities, Martin said.

He noted that a decision in one area will usually impact other areas, as well, leading administrators to look far beyond the immediate impact of their actions. “I have a new appreciation for the responsibility that people in administration carry forward on an ongoing basis with style and grace,” he said. “The amount of thought and planning that goes into budget matters, for instance, is astonishing.”

Martin said he would strongly recommend the experience to others. “This has been a tremendous opportunity to see how the university works and how everything fits together,” he said. “It is a healthful experience to get out of one’s own environment from time to time in order to gain a broader perspective.”

The central administration fellowship is the latest in a range of experiences in education for Martin, who taught at Northern Illinois University from 1984-88 and the University of Hawaii from 1988-97. He was director of research and then chief education officer for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics from 1997 until he joined the Auburn faculty in 2000.

As he returns full-time to his academic duties, Martin will spend the first half of the summer working with the TEAM Math summer institute for more than 700 teachers. The second half of the summer, Martin will be back in the classroom, teaching graduate students, many of whom are also teachers in Alabama schools.
Summer program helps children clear hurdles of learning to read

The Summer Reading Program in AU’s College of Education is enrolling area children for its 11th season of programs to help children from kindergarten through second grade improve their reading skills.

In addition to instruction for children in the early grades, the program has some slots for children in grades three through six, who will work with experienced teachers pursuing graduate degrees in reading education.

The program is open to children of faculty and staff as well as those in Lee and neighboring counties.

Education majors studying reading intervention will tutor beginning readers in the program. With a record enrollment in reading education courses this summer, Coordinator Bruce Murray says the program will be able to serve more children this year than in summers past.

The Summer Reading Program is designed to help children who are having difficulty with reading development under regular class instruction.

“Tutoring is ideal for matching reading instruction to individual needs. Students typically gain one or more reading levels during the summer,” said Murray, who is an associate professor in the College of Education.

The Summer Reading Program includes instruction in phoneme awareness, phonics and spelling. Children practice by reading books and writing messages. The program aims at developing decoding skill, reading fluency, vocabulary, comprehension and enjoyment of reading.

Teaching in the Summer Reading Program is diagnostic. Tutors begin the program with a comprehensive informal assessment, continually check progress during the sessions and test in the final session to measure gains. Parents receive a literacy report at the end of the program detailing assessment results with recommendations for maintaining progress.

Students meet with their tutors 12 times from June 11-July 21 for 45-minute sessions twice a week. Most sessions are at 8 a.m. in Haley Center.

Tuition for the Summer Reading Program is $70. Applications may be accessed online at www.auburn.edu/rdgenie/srp.html. Contact Murray at 844-6934.

Board of Trustees postpones setting tuition for ’08-’09

The AU Board of Trustees indicated Friday that Auburn and AUM students can expect tuition increases this fall, but the board delayed a decision on the amount of increase until June.

Normally, the AU Board sets tuition for the coming year at its April meeting on campus. However, Bobby Lowder of Montgomery, chair of the board’s Finance Committee, said the university cannot get an accurate picture of AU’s budget allocation from the state until the Legislature completes its 2008 session on May 19.

Earlier this year, with Alabama’s economy experiencing the same downturn as the rest of the nation, the Alabama Legislature was considering an education budget that would have cut appropriations to the state’s public four-year colleges and universities by 14.5 percent. That projection has since been reduced to 10 percent, but Lowder noted that no one will know what the final budget will look like until the end of the session, if then.

The board gave the Finance Committee authority to set tuition figures when AU’s allocation from the state is known. The amount would be subject to modification by the board at its June meeting.

Volunteers for Auburn’s 2008 Faculty Staff Campaign are rounding up last-minute gifts and pledges this week for support of programs of special importance to individual faculty and staff members.

The annual campaign, which began on March 5, concludes Friday, and results will be announced at Family Fun Day festivities on May 14.

In 2007, the participation rate of 55 percent for faculty and staff placed AU among the top schools in the country for support by faculty and staff.

Campaign co-chairs Lane Sauser, Dwight Wolfe and Virgil Starks have cited two major benefits of contributions by faculty and staff members.

First, they say, individuals can contribute to the programs that they deem most important and want to see succeed. Also, they add, in making decisions to contribute, alumni look to the willingness of faculty and staff to support the university.

Additional information is available online through the Faculty Staff Campaign link at www.auburn.edu/campaign.