Coming back around
The Hula Hoop event is always a popular activity at Family Fun Day, which has been moved from May to June this year.

Family Fun Day set for June 16
Auburn University will hold its 14th annual Family Fun Day for university employees and their families on Wednesday, June 16, on the grounds of the President’s Home on Mell Street from 3 p.m.-5:30 p.m.
This will be the seventh consecutive year the event has been held at the President’s Home.
Adults and children can win prizes, play games, listen to music and participate in more than 20 activities. Free food, beverages and other treats will be available throughout the afternoon.
More than 75 university offices and community businesses donated multiple prizes that were given away at last year’s event.
Cards with information about the event will be mailed to all campus employees. Bring your card to Family Fun Day and enter it for a drawing for door prizes.

Succeeding Guthrie
Batchelor named to lead AAES, College of Agriculture at Auburn

William Batchelor, head of the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering at Mississippi State University, has been named dean of Auburn’s College of Agriculture.

He also will assume the directorship of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, pending approval by the Auburn University Board of Trustees at its June 18 meeting.
“The role and practice of agriculture is much different today than just a few years ago, and it continues to rapidly evolve,” Auburn President Jay Gogue said. “Dr. Batchelor is a highly accomplished researcher and administrator whose leadership will ensure that Auburn stays ahead of those changes and strengthens our service to the state.”

Batchelor led the development of the Sustainable Energy Research Center at Mississippi State in 2005 and is its director. He led faculty in creating a proposal that was awarded $26 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Energy for operational costs.

The center at MSU conducts research on sources of renewable fuels, including bio-crude, bio-oil and syngas, that do not compete with existing crops, such as corn and soybeans, needed for the global food supply. Batchelor also is director of the Energy Institute at Mississippi State, which has approximately 200 researchers in several centers and departments.

In 2009 he was named a Fellow of the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and he is president of the Institute of Biological Engineers.

“Dr. Batchelor’s outstanding academic and administrative records will provide the College of Agriculture and the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station with a nationally and internationally recognized scholar and leader,” Auburn Provost Mary Ellen Mazey said. Batchelor will begin his appointment on July 15. As dean of the College of Agriculture he will report to Provost Mazey, while, as director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station, he will report to President Gogue. Batchelor succeeds Richard Guthrie, who is retiring after more than 25 years of service to Auburn.

Batchelor earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in agricultural engineering at the University of Georgia in 1986 and 1987, respectively, and his doctorate in agricultural engineering at the University of Florida in 1993.

He was at Iowa State from 1994-2005, when he joined the Mississippi State faculty. From 2005-2007 he served also as a Distinguished International Professor for the University of Hohenheim in Stuttgart, Germany.

— Charles Martin and Katie Jackson

Former faculty leader Howze dies in North Carolina
Glenn Howze, a professor emeritus in the College of Agriculture and former leader of the University Faculty, died this week in North Carolina, where he had moved following his retirement from Auburn. Burial will be in Plano, Texas.

Howze, who retired in 2003, taught in the Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology for 18 years and served as chair of the University Faculty and University Senate in 1998-99. He also was a Fulbright Scholar.

In January 2004, the Alabama Senate passed a resolution commending Howze for his contributions to rural development in Alabama and Africa and for his faculty leadership at Auburn. He also received the Academic Freedom Award from the Auburn chapter of the American Association of University Professors and the Auburn Black Caucus Faculty Leadership Award.

“Glenn was the kind of leader who invested himself and not his ego in everything he did,” said Connor Bailey, a longtime friend and 2005-06 University Senate chair. “He served this university through some of its more troubled times and did so with grace and good humor.”
When Bettye B. Burkhalter retired a decade ago as vice president for student affairs after 22 years at Auburn University as a professor and administrator, she began the journey of a lifetime — several lifetimes.

Even before leaving Auburn with emerita status, Burkhalter had become intrigued by her aging father’s tales of the Burrell family history going all the way back before the American Revolution. Cecil Burrell, then 83 and in declining health, wanted to make sure future generations of the family knew about the lives of their ancestors in the 18th and 19th centuries and earlier, as well as his own experiences through much of the 20th century.

Sharing her father’s goal, Burkhalter soon began work on a brief book about the family history, but the work gradually blossomed into a much larger undertaking. That simple beginning led to journeys across the Deep South, up the Eastern Seaboard, into Nova Scotia and across the Atlantic to the Provence region of France.

After nearly a decade of research and writing, Burkhalter recently published two books about her ancestors and their times and this summer will publish the third book, exploring the experiences of her father’s generation during and since the Great Depression. A fourth book due this fall is a cookbook of nearly 500 years of family recipes, including some that originated in the Burrell family’s ancestral home in Ollioules, France.

“This started as a single book for my father,” Burkhalter said. “His health was fast declining, but he got so excited about my work on the book that it was not just keeping him alive, it gave him something to live for. So I would follow up on the leads he gave me and then go back and we would discuss the book some more. And I would come away with more ideas for my research.”

While the stories were intensely personal for her father, Burkhalter recognized the broader scope of a family that spanned the history of America, providing a perspective that was broadly American and distinctly Southern. Drawing upon her research experience in education and business, she tracked down numerous historical documents and visited places where various ancestors had lived, gaining new leads at every stop.

Gradually, she accumulated so much material that one short book turned into two lengthy books and then a trilogy totaling approximately 1,000 pages, plus the trilogy’s cookbook companion. Determining that a simple historical account would not do justice to either the individuals or their times, Burkhalter adopted a writing style she calls “creative nonfiction,” viewing the times through the eyes of the individuals, themselves. Where no written record existed as to a person’s thoughts or words, she draws upon what is known about that person to flesh out the characters.

The trilogy begins with the life of Jean (John) Baptiste Elzear Burel, a naval surgeon who followed Lafayette to Colonial America during the Revolutionary War.

In “Daring Pioneers Tame the Frontier,” Burkhalter describes how Burel gave up his inheritance in France to remain in America with his Acadian French wife and newborn son after the war. That book traces the young family’s move from Philadelphia to a farm in the backcountry of South Carolina, examining in detail the challenges they faced and the country they encountered in what was then America’s frontier.

Book two, “Raised Country Style, South Carolina to Mississippi,” continues the saga with the tale of Jean Burel’s son James moving his family west in 1847 in search of new land in Mississippi. The story traces the family through the next half century and beyond, recounting tales of prosperity as independent farmers in the Antebellum Era, death and sacrifice during the Civil War and the struggles of the survivors of that war to also survive lean years that continued long after the Reconstruction Era.

In book three, “The Generation that Built America,” with the family name long since anglicized to Burrell, Burkhalter carries the family story into the 20th century, building upon the memories of her father, Cecil Burrell, a retired chief engineer with Southern Natural Gas Co. That book carries the saga through the loss of the family farm during her father’s childhood in the Great Depression, life on the homefront during World War II and the decades after the war.

Carrying the story into the 21st century, that book includes the tale of a family member whose plane had gone down on a combat mission over the Mediterranean during the war, and the return a few years ago of his remains for burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Cecil Burrell, who died at age 89, did live to see the draft completion of the books. Burkhalter said the work drew her closer to her father and gave him the will to keep going in his final years. “This gave him a new reason for living, and he made the most of it,” she explained. “I wanted to capture a way of life that we both loved and valued, and we saw fading into the pages of time, and he was determined to stay around long enough to help me do that.”

Published by AuthorHouse Inc. in Bloomington, Ind., the first two books are available at www.auburnauthor.com or www.authorhouse.com, as well as Books-a-Million, Barnes and Noble and amazon.com. The others are scheduled to be available later this year. Additional information about the series is available at Burkhalter’s www.auburnauthor.com website.

Burkhalter served from 1978-2000 on the faculty of the College of Education at Auburn, where she also served as director of the university’s Economic Development Institute, associate provost for quality assessment and improvement and, from 1995-2000, vice president for student affairs.
Provost announces promotion, tenure awards

Provost Mary Ellen Mazey has released the names of faculty who have been awarded promotion, tenure or both at Auburn University for 2010. The faculty members and each person’s department or school are:

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Mark Dougherty, Biosystems Engineering; Kenneth Macklin, Poultry Science; J. Scott McElroy, Agronomy and Soils; Michael J. Clay, Architecture; T. Shea Tillman, Industrial and Graphic Design; Tina Loraas and DeWayne Searcy, Accountancy; Rebecca S. Curtis and Chippewa Thomas, Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology; David DiRamo, Educational Foundations, Leadership and Technology.

Octavia Tripp, Curriculum and Teaching; W. Robert Ashurst and Virginia A. Davis, Chemical Engineering; Xiao Qin, Computer Science and Software Engineering; Andrew Sinclair, Aerospace Engineering; Wi-Suk Kwon, Consumer Affairs; Kevin Huggins, Suresh Mathews and Claire Zizza, Nutrition and Food Science.

Robert Agne, Communication and Journalism; Paul Harris, Political Science; Jo Mackiewicz and Kevin Roozen, English; Douglas Rosener, Music; Michael Stern, Economics; Pambanisha King (Librarian III/Tenure), Draughon Library; Murali Mackiewicz and Kevin Roozen, English; Douglas Rosener, Music; Michael Stern, Economics; Pambanisha King (Librarian III/Tenure), Draughon Library; Murali Dhanasekaran, Pharmacal Sciences; Salisa Westrick, Pharmacy Care Systems; Scott Santos, Biological Sciences; Huajun Huang and Peng Zeng, Mathematics and Statistics; and Linda G. Martin and Richard Waguesspack, Clinical Sciences.

PROFESSOR

Donald Davis, Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures; Yucheng Feng, Agronomy and Soils; Christopher Kerth, Animal Sciences; Scott Kramer, Building Science; Karen Rabren, Special Education, Rehabilitation, Counseling/School Psychology; Jonathan Bolton and Jeremy Downes, English; Jeffrey Katz, Psychology; Roderick Long, Philosophy; David Mark Carpenter, Mathematics and Statistics; Nancy R. Cox, Pathobiology; and Janet E. Steiss, Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology.

TENURE

Rodney Barnett, Architecture; James Davidson and Xing Fang, Civil Engineering; James Carr, Psychology; and Robert Kennis, Clinical Sciences.

ASSOCIATE RESEARCH PROFESSOR

Lori Eckhardt, Forestry and Wildlife Sciences.

Museum to exhibit examples of political art from Soviet Union

An exhibition spanning six decades of Soviet graphic art will open Saturday, June 5, at Auburn’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art.

“Views and Re-Views: Soviet Political Posters and Cartoons” is a collection of more than 100 posters, drawings, photomontages and postcards from the time of the Russian Civil War, 1918-1921, through the late Soviet period. The exhibition will be on display through Aug. 14.

Organized by the David Winton Bell Gallery at Brown University, “Views and Re-Views” was assembled nearly 20 years after the fall of the Soviet Union. The exhibition challenges viewers to “view and re-view the relationship between the art of the high Soviet Union and that of the West” and “invites a post-Cold War reassessment of Soviet graphic arts.”

The organizers of “Views and Re-Views” describe the images as demonstrating the artists’ surprising stylistic diversity, and evoking a perceived world of enemies and heroes set against the historical back-drop of brutality and human yearning. They say the exhibition also exposes uncomfortable truths in Soviet impressions of the United States that can be evaluated anew, thanks to calmer political relations and a longer historical perspective.

Drawn from an extensive private collection of Soviet propaganda, the exhibition includes well-known graphic works by such artists as Viktor Deni, Dmitri Moor and El Lissitsky as well as lesser-known images by Kukryniksy, Alexander Zhitomirsky and others.

On June 17 at 5 p.m., “Views and Re-Views” co-curator and Brown University professor, Abbott Gleason, will present a public lecture in the museum auditorium on “The Art of Political Persuasion Reconsidered.” His talk will offer new ways of seeing and understanding this art from the past in the context of the present.

Gleason is a member of the administration and faculty of Watson Institute for International Studies at Brown University. His academic specialties include Russian history and Cold War studies.

Campus News Briefs

Deery selected to advertise society’s certification program

Pat Deery, director of human resource development in Auburn University Human Resources, has been selected by the American Society of Training and Development to advertise the society’s Certified Professional in Learning and Performance certification program.

As the world’s largest professional association in the training and development field, the society began its certification program in 2005 and certified its first group in 2006. Deery was in that pilot group. The advertisement featuring the Auburn staff member appears in the current edition of ASTD magazine, T+D, and as the lead video in the society’s online video advertising the CPLP program, featured online at www.astd.org/content/ASTDcertification/.

Encyclopedia of Alabama posts 1,000th article online

The Encyclopedia of Alabama, which was developed through a partnership between Auburn University and the Alabama Humanities Foundation, posted its 1,000th article.

The free, online resource on all things Alabama reached the milestone with an entry on Cathedral Caverns State Park.

The Encyclopedia of Alabama’s editorial staff is based at Auburn in the Department of History, College of Liberal Arts. Since its official launch in September 2008, the site at www.EncyclopediaofAlabama.org has experienced more than 2.25 million page views by visitors from all 50 states and more than 200 countries and territories.
Study finds that poverty hurts children even while they sleep

A study by researchers in Auburn’s College of Human Sciences has found that poor children fared worse from sleep disruptions than their peers. The study, funded in part by the National Science Foundation, appears in the May/June 2010 issue of the journal Child Development.

In the study, led by Mona El-Sheikh, Alumni Professor of Human Development and Family Studies, the researchers looked at how disruptions in the amount, quality and schedule of sleep affect children’s adjustment. They examined more than 140 children in third to fifth grades, of whom three-quarters were white and almost a quarter were African American. Families varied widely in terms of annual income and parents’ education and jobs.

The study gathered information from parents’ and children’s reports, as well as motion sensors worn by the children at night to examine their sleep. The researchers looked at relations between sleep and emotional development when children were in third and fifth grades; they also compared how children’s sleep when they were in third grade was related to their well-being when they were in fifth grade.

Findings indicate that children from poorer families, when they slept poorly, had higher levels of externalizing symptoms such as aggression and delinquency as well as internalizing symptoms such as depression, anxiety and low self-esteem. On the other hand, when these children slept better, their levels of symptoms were similar to those of children from families with higher incomes.

Rather than suggesting that lack of sleep causes behavioral problems, the authors said lack of sleep may combine with other stressors in the lives of low-income and minority children to contribute to higher levels of behavioral problems. However, for minority children, getting enough sleep helps protect against a wide range of adjustment problems, the authors suggest.

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