Boosinger named provost following nationwide search

Following a national search, Auburn University President Jay Gogue has selected Timothy Boosinger as provost and vice president for academic affairs. Boosinger’s appointment was approved by the Auburn Board of Trustees on June 22.

Boosinger, who has served as interim provost at Auburn since June 2011, will continue to oversee the academic programming for Auburn’s colleges and schools and is responsible for fostering the advancement of the university’s strategic plan. He has an extensive background in teaching, research and administration, serving as dean of Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine from 1995-2011.

“Dr. Boosinger has done an excellent job as interim provost for the past year and we look forward to his continued leadership as provost and vice president for academic affairs,” Gogue said. “Our administration and faculty have enjoyed working with him to strengthen Auburn’s academic programs. His experience as an Auburn dean for 16 years gives him special insight into the needs of our 12 colleges and schools. Most of all, I believe our students will benefit as he helps shape the future of Auburn University.”

Boosinger, an Auburn faculty member since 1983, earned a doctor of veterinary medicine degree and a Ph.D. in pathology from Purdue University. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Purdue’s School of Veterinary Medicine in 2004.

Before being appointed dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Boosinger served as the associate dean for academic affairs from 1993-95. He has served as a university senator and has chaired search committees for university leadership positions.

“I am honored to have been asked to serve as Provost and look forward to working with students and faculty as we address current and future challenges,” Boosinger said. “As a land-grant university, we have a continuing commitment to the improvement of the quality of life in our state and nation, and I am pleased to be a part of that mission as Auburn’s provost.”

National leadership positions include six years on the American Veterinary Medical Association’s Council on Education, which accredits all colleges of veterinary medicine in the United States and Canada, plus four schools in the United Kingdom, three in Australia, and one in New Zealand. From 2006-09, Boosinger served as an officer for the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, and was president in 2007-08.

— Mike Clardy

Rare MRI scanner

Auburn University MRI physicist Ron Beyers, standing, and Tom Denney, director of Auburn’s MRI Research Center, demonstrate the university’s new 7T MRI scanner. The MRI Research Center houses two of the most powerful research and clinical magnetic resonance imaging scanners in the world. The Siemens MRI scanners include the research-oriented 7 Tesla scanner, which is one of fewer than 35 in the world, and a 3 Tesla scanner, the most powerful MRI scanner certified by the FDA for clinical use.

New MRI center brings top research, clinical scanners in world to Auburn

Auburn University and its Samuel Ginn College of Engineering on June 21 dedicated a new MRI Research Center, a three-story, $21 million, 45,000-square-foot facility housing two of the most powerful research and clinical MRI scanners in the world. The Siemens MRI scanners include a 7 Tesla scanner, or 7T, scanner and a 3T scanner. The 7 Tesla scanner is one of fewer than 35 in the world and is used by researchers to conduct structural MRI scans, as well as functional MRI, providing dynamic images of how the brain works. Scanners at the 3T level are the most powerful MRI devices certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for clinical use.

“The MRI Research Center brings together Auburn University’s expertise in engineering, science, pharmaceutics, agriculture, veterinary medicine and business with Siemens’ expertise in magnetic resonance imaging as one of the world’s largest suppliers to the healthcare industry,” said Tom Denney, the center’s director and the Ed and Peggy Reynolds Family Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering. “We’re conducting research that focuses on cardiovascular and brain imaging as well as advancing MRI technology.”

Auburn researchers and their collaborators will begin using the 7T scanner in July for research in areas such as brain function, metabolic imaging, pharmaceuticals, diabetes and heart disease. The scanner is one of two in the Southeast and one of 15 in the United States, so Auburn plans to offer its use to other universities, medical centers and industry, Denney said.
Meissner wins NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship to Cambridge this fall

Recent Auburn graduate Erica Meissner, who won academic and athletic awards as a student, has been awarded a highly competitive NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship.

Meissner, a member of the Auburn Women’s Swim Team, graduated from Auburn in December 2011 with a degree in anthropology and a minor in sustainability. She was selected as the graduation marshal for the 2011 College of Liberal Arts fall commencement, and she was the recipient of the 2011-12 Leah Rawls Atkins Award as the top Auburn female student-athlete.

“Winning the NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship is a nice way to cap off my collegiate athletic career and this will help tremendously as I pursue new goals outside of the pool,” Meissner said. “Receiving this scholarship, as well as other honors in the past year, is in large part due to the collaborative support I have had from the Auburn Athletic Department, Coach Brett Hawke, the Honors College and numerous university professors. I have so much and so many to be thankful for as a graduate of Auburn.”

She will attend Cambridge University in the fall where she will pursue a graduate degree in anthropology with a focus on global food sustainability.

A four-year letter-winner, Meissner was an All-American, the 2010-11 SEC H. Boyd McWhorter Scholar-Athlete of the Year, an All-SEC selection, a two-time SEC Academic Honor Roll student, a two-time CoSIDA Academic All-American and a Rhodes Scholarship finalist.

“Erica is a wonderful example of a young scholar-athlete who has challenged herself both in the pool and in the classroom,” said Paul Harris, associate director of the Honors College. “Not content to take classes alone, Erica undertook a rigorous program in undergraduate research and field work, while at the same time pursuing a minor in sustainability.”

— Sally Credille

MRI Research Center

Continued from Page 1

The clinical 3T scanner is already in operation and is shared by the university and Opelika’s East Alabama Medical Center, which uses the scanner during the week to help diagnose patients. Auburn faculty use the scanner for research during the evenings and on the weekends.

“There are only two Siemens 7 Tesla scanners in the Southeast and fewer than 35 of these scanners in the world. The fact that Auburn University’s Ginn College of Engineering has one underscores our engineering ability and our job creation capacity,” said Rep. Tom Whatley of Auburn. “This Siemens 7 Tesla scanner will bring research dollars and jobs to East Alabama. We are proud to have it and it is a priority of mine that I intend to continue supporting.”

Both scanners are housed on the first floor of the facility, which was completed in September 2010. The second floor includes office space for Auburn faculty and staff, as well as clinical offices for local orthopedic surgeons and a distance-enabled classroom and conference room.

The third floor houses East Alabama Medical Center’s RehabWorks, an outpatient physical therapy facility, and clinics for the U.S. Army Warrior Research Center and the College of Education’s Department of Kinesiology. Surgeon Lee Warren operates a clinic on the third floor that specializes in minimally invasive back and neck pain management, brain tumors and neurological disorders.

“Auburn students and researchers, as well as local surgeons and clinicians, are helping to generate the innovative biomedical research and development required by today’s high-tech economy,” said Larry Benefield, dean of Auburn’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. “The center is already advancing science and technology in our state, as well as improving quality of life in the global community and promoting economic development in the region.”

— Sally Credille

Campus Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4
HOLIDAY No classes, offices closed for Independence Day

THURSDAY, JULY 5
FARMERS MARKET Selection of locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and other farm products, The Market at Ag Heritage Park, 3-6 p.m.; also July 12 and each Thursday through August

FRIDAY, JULY 13
NEXT Auburn Report

FRIDAY, JULY 27
FINAL Auburn Report of summer term

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4
GRADUATION Ceremonies at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Auburn Arena
Merit-based

Auburn to budget for salary improvements in two steps

Auburn University is setting aside two pools of funds for merit-based faculty and staff salary improvement in its budget for the 2012-13 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1.

In a report to the Board of Trustees on June 22, Executive Vice President Don Large said total revenues are projected to increase $20.8 million for the university’s four divisions, with $13.7 million of that amount slated for the main campus, which accounts for approximately 80 percent of the university’s total operating budget. The Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station and Auburn Montgomery account for the remainder.

Large noted that the projected growth in revenues is very small in terms of a total budget of nearly $970 million for the current year. Tuition is expected to add $11 million in new revenue for the main campus and $3.4 million for the Montgomery campus; but that amount is offset by a reduction of nearly $10 million in state appropriations. He added that the cut in state appropriations is a continuation of the state government’s response to economic conditions that began in 2008 with the recession and has totaled approximately $100 million in lost revenues since then.

Budget planners anticipate an additional $16 million in funding through reallocations and the allocation of other one-time funds; slightly more than half of that total is projected for the main campus.

Noting that the Board of Trustees has expressed a desire to keep Auburn competitive with its peers in retaining and attracting top talent for its faculty and staff, Large said budget planners are setting aside two pools of funding totaling $6.7 million each for salary improvement in the coming fiscal year.

Each pool would amount to 2 percent of the current total for salaries and would be used for salary improvement for fulltime, continuing employees as of June 1. One would finance permanent raises effective Oct. 1, and the second would be for one-time improvement later in the year. The increases will vary based on supervisors’ evaluations of each individual’s performance.

In a new budgeting action, Large said schools, colleges and divisions will be able to draw upon savings within their salary pools through actions such as eliminating vacant positions to create additional funds for salary improvement within their ranks.

The budget plan was developed by the university’s 26-member Budget Advisory Committee, based on priorities outlined by the Board of Trustees and input from deans and the president’s cabinet. Deans, directors and department heads will develop their unit budgets this summer, and the administration will present the university budget to the board for final review and action in September.

— Roy Summerford

CLA grad named Lehrman History Scholar

Jeffrey Lollar, a recent history graduate of the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University, has been named one of 15 winners of the 2012 Gilder Lehrman History Scholar Award.

Selected from candidates across the country, the award recognizes outstanding graduating college seniors who have demonstrated academic and extracurricular excellence in American History or American Studies.

The awardees were in New York City this week for a series of special presentations in their honor, including meetings with eminent scholars, special tours of historic archives and an awards dinner. Museum and archive visits will include stops at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the New York Historical Society and the Museum of the City of New York, with talks and discussions led by Kenneth T. Jackson, David Blight, Carol Berkin and Thomas Lannon.

Since 1994, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History has promoted history education through an array of national programs. In 2012, the Institute developed this new award program to recognize the scholastic achievements of undergraduate American history students throughout the nation.

— Vicky Santos

June Scenes

Families and fun

Hundreds turned out at Ag Heritage Park on June 13 for Auburn’s 16th annual Family Fun Day. Each year at the end of the regular academic year, Auburn faculty and staff bring their families to campus for an afternoon of games, food, relaxing and socializing. Organized by Auburn University Human Resources and dozens of volunteers from throughout campus, the event celebrates the Auburn Family through Auburn families.

— Melissa Humble, Photographic Services

Detour for utilities work

Drivers on West Samford Avenue will continue to encounter detours through July. The road has been closed since May 29 to enable workers to install underground utilities that will serve a new student residence hall and other construction in the vicinity of West Samford and South Donahue. The work is coordinated by Facilities Management.

— Aleem Ahmed, Photographic Services
Campus News Briefs

Chemical Inventory Management System honored by association of business officers

Auburn’s Chemical Inventory Management System recently received a Best Practices Award from the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers. David Acker, associate director of safety and health, provided a presentation and accepted the award at SACUO’s annual meeting in Louisville, Ky.

The Chemical Inventory Management System was implemented university-wide by the Department of Risk Management and Safety in August 2011.

The system tracks hazardous chemical acquisitions, locations and ownership and provides details regarding hazardous chemical properties, safety precautions and regulatory requirements. The system was designed to improve hazardous chemical safety and compliance for the community, while at the same time providing faculty members and lab personnel with a tool for managing chemicals and hazardous waste.

National Band Association elects Auburn band director as group’s vice president

Rick Good, Auburn University director of bands and associate professor of conducting, has been elected the 2012-14 vice president of the National Band Association.

The National Band Association is the largest band association in the world. It is organized for the purpose of promoting the musical and educational significance of bands and is dedicated to the attainment of a high level of excellence for bands and band music.

Extension Plant Pathology Specialist Sikora receives International Award of Excellence

Edward Sikora, a plant pathologist with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, recently received the 2012 International Award of Excellence at the 7th International Integrated Pest Management Symposium in Memphis.

This award recognizes Sikora’s contribution to the “Soybean Rust – Pest Information Platform for Extension and Education Program, or PIPE.” The PIPE is a collaboration of international agencies, land-grant universities and the soybean industry.

English professor awarded fellowship from Alabama State Council on the Arts

Chantel Acevedo, an associate professor in the Department of English in Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts, has been awarded a fellowship for literature from the Alabama State Council on the Arts.

In awarding the fellowship, ASCA cited Acevedo’s leadership and service to the state’s literary community in addition to her responsibilities at Auburn University. Especially noted was her work organizing the annual Auburn Writers Conference and co-editing the Southern Humanities Review, both sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts.

Fellowships are the most prestigious grants awarded to individuals by ASCA. Included among Acevedo’s other awards is the 2006 Latino International Book Award for Best Historical Fiction.

College of Liberal Arts to share Teagle Foundation grant for civic professionalism

Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts is one of six Imagining America members that will benefit from a $150,000 grant from the Teagle Foundation. The funds will support specific strategies for putting civic professionalism into action at the selected institutions.

Deirdra Stockmann, Imagining America’s associate research director, will work with the group in the area of evaluation. Giovanna Summerfield, the College of Liberal Arts’ associate dean, and Brigitta Brunner-Johnson, associate professor in Communication and Journalism, collaborated with individuals from five other institutions to submit the grant.

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