Auburn University will award approximately 1,207 academic degrees at its summer graduation Monday, Aug. 9, in Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum. The ceremony will be the final official function in the coliseum, which has been replaced by a new arena.

At the 2 p.m. ceremony, the university will award 834 bachelor’s degrees, 291 master’s degrees, 69 doctorates, 13 specialist degrees and one professional degree.

The College of Liberal Arts will award the most degrees with 289, followed by the College of Business with 172 and the College of Human Sciences with 97. The Samuel Ginn College of Engineering will award 81 degrees; College of Architecture, Design and Construction, 60; College of Education, 49; College of Sciences and Mathematics, 44; College of Agriculture, 28; School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, 12; and the Office of the Provost, one degree in interdisciplinary university studies. The James I. Harrison School of Pharmacy will present one doctor of pharmacy degree.

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

Future graduations will be in the new Auburn Arena. The first official event in that building will be the convocation of new students on Aug. 17, and the fall graduation is slated for Dec. 13.

Graduations have been held in the coliseum since the facility was completed in 1969, replacing a converted military aircraft hangar that had served as the basketball arena since the late 1940s. When a new home is found in the near future for the College of Education’s Kinesiology Department, the building’s last remaining user, Beard-Eaves-Memorial Coliseum will be torn down to make way, at least in the short term, for parking displaced by the new arena.

Originally named in memory of Auburn graduates serving in the armed forces who were killed in the nation’s wars, the building was later renamed to also recognize two men who became legendary in the annals of Auburn athletics during the 1950s and ’60s: Basketball Coach Joel Eaves and Athletics Director Jeff Beard.

— Roy Summerford and Charles Martin
In NSF’s Earthscope project

Auburn, UA faculty, students conduct earthquake monitoring

Despite their sometimes destructive consequences, can earthquakes actually be helpful events? The answer is a resounding “yes,” according to a team of two students and two professors from Auburn University and the University of Alabama.

Students James Taylor from Auburn and Stanton Ingram from the University of Alabama and their professors, Lorraine Wolf, a professor in the Department of Geology and Geography at Auburn, and Andrew Goodliffe, an associate professor of geological sciences at Alabama, have teamed with other researchers across the United States in a National Science Foundation-sponsored project known as Earthscope.

Earthscope, a scientific initiative to study the Earth’s interior, uses a collection of seismographs that will record earthquake waves from all over the globe. Termed USAArray, the seismographs will help geoscientists study the characteristics of the deep Earth, much as a doctor can study the body’s interior through medical imaging.

Approximately 400 USAArray seismic stations are being established across the United States as part of a placement effort that began on the West Coast in 2003.

Taylor, from Cincinnati, and Ingram, from Birmingham, are geoscience majors at their respective schools. They were selected to join 10 students to help find locations for seismic stations in Alabama and several states in the Midwest this summer.

The two students are scouting for sites in rural Alabama to host the stations, which are scheduled to arrive in the state in 2011.

These stations will not only record local earthquakes that occur in the state, but will be sensitive enough to pick up earthquakes from afar. Seismic waves that travel through the Earth reveal information about the Earth’s composition and its inner workings. Scientists will use the collected data to understand how mountains and continents form and how they are modified through time.

More information about the Earthscope project is available online at www.usarray.org/.

Ombudsperson

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Ombuds Office a channel for people to address issues informally and an opportunity to get their needs met."

Wohl, who has been a member of the Auburn faculty since 1996, has been a member of the International Ombudsperson Association since 2006 and was interim ombudsperson for Louisiana State University in 2007. Most recently, he served as mediation training coach for the Consortium on Negotiation and Conflict Resolution.

In his current post, Wohl has conducted more than 25 presentations on campus and furnished the first report of the University Ombuds Office. Wohl occasionally consulted as a mediator for the Employment Mediation Panel of the Cornell University Institute of Conflict Resolution Roster of Neutrals as well.

He also presented on the ombudsperson’s role and informal conflict management strategies at the 2009 and 2010 Annual Meeting of the International Ombudsman Association and the 2009 National Extension and Research Administrative Officers’ Conference.

The Ombuds Office does not keep records for the university and only furnishes aggregate statistical data in its annual reports in a manner that protects identities of anyone contacting the office.

The office is in Quad Center, suite 005, phone 844-7170. Wohl says he often meets with visitors outside normal business hours to accommodate their schedules and privacy.

Wohl holds a bachelor’s degree in public affairs from State University of New York at Albany, a master’s degree in public administration from Auburn and a doctor of veterinary medicine degree from Purdue University.

— Sarah Phillips

Game Day details now on web

With the college football season just a month away, Auburn has launched a comprehensive website to provide fans the most up-to-date parking and traffic information for the Tigers’ home games.

The site, www.auburn.edu/gameday, launched Aug. 2. The Game Day 2010 site includes tailgating guidelines, important contacts and links to lodging, as well as maps to help fans find their way around campus.

The website features a special page on Auburn’s shuttle bus service, which has played a major role in getting fans to campus.

Earthscoping

Auburn student James Taylor, left, and University of Alabama student Stanton Ingram examine a potential site in rural Alabama for a seismic station.
Pharmacy students take to stage, learning to apply clinical skills in professional situations with patients

Not all organized acting at Auburn is in the Theatre Department. Role-playing in a stagelike exam-room setting also plays a critical part in the education of the university’s pharmacy students. Auburn students preparing to become pharmacists must learn about science as well as the day-to-day, personal relationships that develop with patients. One of the ways the Harrison School of Pharmacy teaches students both aspects is through its Objective Structured Clinical Examinations, or OSCEs (pronounced “ah-skeeze”), which is administered at the end of spring and fall semesters.

“Students interact with actors who play the roles of patients with varying ailments or medical conditions,” said Sharon McDonough, director of the school’s Office of Teaching, Learning and Assessment. “The students must apply their knowledge and skills as if they are treating actual cases.”

Working with faculty, McDonough’s office sets up exam rooms for actors who are assigned medical cases, such as cancer, COPD, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, gastrointestinal tract problems, HIV and other conditions.

“Many of the actors are retired persons from the community,” McDonough said. “They are given a printout ahead of time detailing the case information like medical history, family history and list of current medications. They also participate in training sessions with faculty who have written the cases, providing ample practice for them to play their roles.”

Each case incorporates two actors alternating between being the patient and being an observer who watches through a closed-circuit computer monitor in another room. The actors have a checklist to fill out based on whether the student asks the correct questions, educates the patient about medication and has a proper attitude and appearance. Faculty members participate in grading as well when their level of expertise is required to evaluate performance of a skill.

Mary Franklin, a local resident and part-time craft instructor, will begin her fourth year as an OSCE actor this fall.

“I really look forward to and enjoy every part – from the preparation and script reading to the evaluations at the end of each student encounter,” Franklin said. “The students seem to get more competent and confident every year as they go through the scenarios and interview us. All aspects of patient care are addressed to help them be more ready to dispense not only medicine, but information and instructions for care.

“The bonus for the actors is that we have formed some lasting friendships, not to mention we get to spend time on the Auburn campus again – how great is that?”

The exams can be stressful for students, as they have three minutes to read a brief case summary posted on the door and seven minutes to interact with the actor-patient in the room. The cases are not revealed ahead of time, so students must be ready to apply a range of knowledge and the ability to think and act quickly.

Garrett Aikens, a fourth-year pharmacy student, says his attitude toward the exams has changed after taking six OSCEs during the past three years.

“As a first-year student pharmacist, the term ‘OSCE’ sounded foreign and its concept seemed a little frightening, even for someone with years of community pharmacy experience,” Aikens said. “Something about being recorded and graded while interacting with an actor, who probably knows what you are supposed to say and therefore notices when you say the wrong thing, is awkward and stressful.”

But now he says the opposite is true. “I feel the OSCEs have made me much calmer during stressful, challenging community and clinical situations as well as much more effective at talking with patients, which is a critical part of what we do and can be just as challenging,” Aikens said. “The OSCEs also give us the opportunity to interact with patients in a variety of settings, from community pharmacy to clinical pharmacy.”

Clinical performance exams, such as the OSCEs, are more common among medical schools, so McDonough and other faculty and staff observed OSCE training sessions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine. “The cases take a lot of time to develop,” she said. “We also sent a team to a workshop at the University of Toronto to help develop our system.”

The OSCEs are just one way that pharmacy students apply their knowledge and skills. First-, second- and third-year students visit volunteer patients in the community to monitor medication therapy and to provide pharmacy care under the supervision of faculty mentors, while fourth-year students train at pharmacies, hospitals and clinics across the state where they work under the supervision of licensed pharmacists.

“The OSCEs are very helpful and can be stressful for students, but they can be enjoyable, too,” McDonough said. “We even give an ‘OSCEr Award’ to the student who performs the best in his or her class on the Milestone Assessment each year.”

— Charles Martin

Education professor wins award for ‘Beethoven & Me’

“Beethoven & Me,” a music education project designed to introduce music instruction to elementary students in Notasulga, has earned an award for its creator at Auburn.

Jane Kuehne, an assistant professor in the College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Teaching, has been named the winner of the national College Music Society’s 2010 Robby D. Gunstream Education in Music Award for her efforts to build the instrumental and compositional skills of elementary school students in Notasulga.

Through Kuehne’s project, “Beethoven & Me,” Auburn University music education students and Notasulga third- and fourth-graders work together to create music using a method designed by the late German composer, Carl Orff. The Notasulga students compose the melodies, while the Auburn students create the arrangements.

Kuehne, who initiated “Beethoven & Me” in spring 2009, will receive a $1,000 cash prize for meeting the College Music Society’s criteria of creating “an imagina-

tive and exemplary program that furthers education in music through engagement with local or area organizations.” The award, presented each year to a university faculty member or unit, will enable Kuehne to buy additional mallet and rhythm instruments for students.

Kuehne’s original project will expand this fall, with Auburn music education and Notasulga students collaborating on “Beethoven & Me: Wolf Tales Live!” During a six-week program, students will improvise on Orff instruments and build their writing skills. They will read stories featuring a wolf as a primary character and then construct their own stories and musical themes for characters covered in their readings.

The Auburn students will create Orff-style arrangements from the themes provided by the elementary school students and then teach the young musicians to play the music in preparation for a concert that will tell their stories.

— Troy Johnson
Campus News Briefs

Psychology professor presenting workshop, therapy training in Singapore

Elizabeth Brestan-Knight, a College of Liberal Arts Engaged Scholar in the Department of Psychology, has been invited by the Ministry of Health in Singapore to present a 40-hour workshop from Aug. 4-12.

Brestan-Knight and doctoral graduate student Carisa Wilise are providing Parent-Child Interaction Therapy training to eight therapists at the KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital. Brestan-Knight and her team of graduate students will also provide the trainees with a web-based conference and remote supervision for the 2010-11 academic year.

Human Resources seeking nominations of staff for Spirit of Excellence Awards

Who, among the administrative and support staff across campus, has gone out of his or her way to help you in the past year? Would you like to see those persons receive the recognition they deserve? The university’s Spirit of Excellence program exists for that purpose, and anyone may submit a nomination.

The Department of Human Resources is seeking nominations for the monthly Spirit of Excellence Awards for 2010-11 in the following categories:

- Service and Maintenance, Secretarial and Clerical, Technical and Paraprofessional, and Administrative and Professional

Nomination forms are available online at www.auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/forms/spirit.pdf. To nominate an employee, complete a form and send it to: Spirit of Excellence Award, Department of Human Resources, Foy Hall. For more information or for a paper form, contact Sonya Dixon at 844-7612 or dixonsa@auburn.edu.

Wilson authors book on theologian at center of controversies in Southern Baptist Church

Mark R. Wilson, coordinator of community and civic engagement programs for the College of Liberal Arts, recently authored the book, “William Owen Carver’s Controversies in the Baptist South.”

William Owen Carver was a denominational stalwart and longtime professor of Missions and Comparative Religion at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. For more than four decades he educated the denomination’s ministers and missionaries.

Wilson’s book illustrates Carver’s denominational controversies that are still recognized today. Wilson’s book is published by Mercer University Press.

CADC professor honored for environmentally friendly designs for program in Mobile

Leadership Mobile’s Environmental Team recently presented Charlene LeBleu, an associate professor in Auburn’s College of Architecture, Design and Construction, with an award for her work on Mobile Green Streets.

LeBleu and her students developed environmentally friendly design proposals with funding from the Mississippi Alabama Sea Grant Consortium for the city of Mobile. When implemented, these proposals will reduce flooding, lessen the impact of storm water runoff into Mobile Bay and beautify the city.

Publication honors Randall for contributions to supply chain management profession

Wesley Randall, an assistant professor in the College of Business, was recently chosen as one of 16 Rainmakers by DC Velocity magazine for his contributions to the supply chain management profession. DC Velocity selected the 2010 Rainmakers in concert with members of the magazine’s editorial advisory board from candidates nominated by readers and Rainmakers from previous years.