Auburn to honor faculty achievement in teaching, research and outreach

Auburn University will present its top faculty awards for 2013 at a Sept. 17 invitational dinner and ceremony at the Auburn Arena. Provost Timothy Boosinger will host the 8th annual Auburn University Faculty Awards Ceremony, which will recognize outstanding faculty achievement in teaching, research and outreach.

The 2013 Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Auburn University’s top awards for teaching, will go to Casey G. Cegielski of the Raymond J. Harbert College of Business and David Umphress of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

Cegielski and Umphress are being honored for excellence in the classroom and beyond, including advising and mentoring students to succeed in their academic programs and professional careers. Cegielski, an associate professor of management and information systems, brings to his teaching more than 15 years executive-level experience in various industries. Umphress, an associate professor of computer science and software engineering, has been named “Outstanding Instructor” five times in his department and received Engineering’s William Walker Teaching Award in 2008.

The Award for Faculty Outreach, the university’s top outreach award, will go to Francesca Adler-Baeder of the College of Human Sciences. Adler-Baeder, a professor of human development and family studies, is director of the National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Network and the National Step-family Resource Center.

The Creative Research and Scholarship Awards, two of Auburn’s top research awards, will go to Pradeep Lall of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and Conner Bailey of the College of Agriculture. Lall, the Thomas Walter Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, is director of the National Science Foundation Center for Advanced Vehicle and Extreme Environment Electronics at Auburn. Bailey, a professor of agricultural economics and rural sociology, has conducted extensive studies of the relationships among forest technology, land ownership changes and rural poverty.

Boosinger will present the Provost Award for Excellence in Fostering Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship to Saad Biaz, an associate professor of computer science and software engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering. Biaz, a Fulbright Fellow in 1995, received his department’s Outstanding Faculty Award in 2006 and 2008 and is conducting research projects funded by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Defense.

The ceremony will also recognize S.D. Worley as Auburn’s Distinguished Graduate Faculty Lecturer for 2013. Worley is professor emeritus of chemistry and biochemistry in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, where, over a 35-year period, he supervised 18 Ph.D. students, 12 master’s students and 13 post-doctoral fellows in studies of photoelectron spectroscopy, antimicrobial materials, polymers and related subjects.

The External Consulting Award for 2013 will go to William I. Sauser Jr., a professor of management in the Raymond J. Harbert College of Business and higher education leadership in the College of Education. Now in his 37th year at Auburn, Sauser, the immediate past chair of the University Faculty, is a fellow of the American Council on Education and the Society for the Advancement of Management and a former chair of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Psychology.

In addition, the Auburn Alumni Association will present the Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards to three faculty and recognize five faculty as new Alumni Professors for 2013.

The teaching awards will go to Christy Bratcher of the College of Agriculture, Sang-Eun Byun of the College of Human Sciences and Jill Crystal of the College of Liberal Arts. The new Alumni Professors are Art Chappelka of the School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, Daniel Kim of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, Yu Lin of the College of Sciences and Mathematics, Nannan Liu of the College of Agriculture and Haroldo Toro of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Smoke-free campus

Lest anyone have doubts about Auburn University’s new status as a smoke-free campus, no-smoking signs are prominently displayed at major campus entrances and several sites on campus.

Auburn Report changing to online-only publication in October

After 46 years in print and nearly two decades online, the Auburn Report, Auburn University’s faculty-staff newspaper, will go completely electronic in October. The final printed edition will be dated Sept. 20; the first online-only edition will be posted the afternoon of Oct. 2.

The transition to online-only publication coincides with the end on Sept. 30 of a five-year contract with the printer and is a step in a continuing movement toward reducing paper consumption at Auburn University. To continue a print publication, the university would have had to commit to a new printing contract at a time when it is emphasizing resource sustainability and greater use of electronic media.

Online, a button on the Auburn University home page (www.auburn.edu) will take readers to the latest edition at the Auburn Report website. The direct link is http://www.ocm.auburn.edu/au_report/aureport.html.

For the time being, the online Auburn Report will retain the look of the print edition and display in pdf format, as it does now. In coming months, staff from the Office of Communications and Marketing will meet with leaders of faculty and staff organizations for input on new formats to meet the changing communication needs of the faculty and staff.
Common Book Award

Provost Timothy Boosinger recently honored incoming freshman Beverly Ceasar of Dadeville as the first-place winner in Auburn University’s 2013 Common Book Writing Contest. The Common Book Writing Contest seeks to motivate students to take part in engaged reading and written communication, focusing on themes that apply to a multitude of academic disciplines. This year’s contest and upcoming events are built around the book “Nobodies: Modern American Slave Labor and the Dark Side of the New Global Economy” by John Bowe. Boosinger also honored the contest’s second-place winner Kaylee McCormack of Palm Beach, Fla., and third-place winner Erin Slay of Opelika.

Beasley coming from UGA-Tifton to lead newly renamed department in Agriculture

The Auburn University Department of Agronomy and Soils has a new name, and a 1979 alumnus of the program is returning to head what is now the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences, College of Agriculture. Dean Bill Batchelor has announced.

John Beasley Jr., currently a professor and Extension peanut agronomist in the Department of Crop and Soils Sciences at the University of Georgia–Tifton campus, will assume his new position at Auburn on Jan. 1. He succeeds Joe Touchton, who is retiring from 33 years on the Auburn faculty and 24 years as department head.

The university’s Board of Trustees approved renaming the agronomy and soils department the Department of Crop, Soil and Environmental Sciences at its April 2013 meeting. The College of Agriculture proposed the name change to more accurately reflect the academic programs the department offers; to increase its visibility among prospective students, research sponsors and the general public; and to bring the department’s name in line with similar programs offered at peer institutions.

After graduating from Auburn with a bachelor’s degree in agronomy and soils, Beasley completed his master’s degree at Oklahoma State University and in 1985 received his Ph.D. in crop science at Louisiana State University.

He began his career that same year as an assistant professor and Extension specialist at the University of Georgia. In 1991, he was promoted to associate professor, and professor in 1996.

Jensen named interim director of new School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences

Longtime Auburn University faculty member and administrator John Jensen has been named interim director of the newly renamed School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences, effective Sept. 1, College of Agriculture Dean Bill Batchelor has announced.

“The fisheries program at Auburn is the best in the world, and Dr. Jensen has been an integral part of that success over the years,” Batchelor said. “His track record of excellence as a professor, Extension specialist and administrative leader make him a natural fit for this role.”

Jensen, who came to Auburn in 1972, will succeed David Rouse, who recently retired from 32 years on the Auburn faculty and 12 years as head of the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures and, most recently, interim director of the School of Fisheries, Aquaculture and Aquatic Sciences. The Auburn Board of Trustees in June designated that department as a school to be led by a director.

Jensen’s past administrative positions at Auburn have included six years as head of the fisheries department and nearly three years as interim dean of the College of Agriculture and interim director of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station. Though Jensen retired from Auburn in 2007, he has continued to serve the college in several capacities.

Campus Calendar

Saturday, September 7

Exhibition closing “Drawn Upon a Stone,” lithographs by John James Audubon, Howard Cook, Pablo Picasso and others, final day on display, Jule Collins Smith Museum

Tuesday, September 10

Filmmaking Discussion “How to Make Movies at Home,” writer-director Morgan Nichols, 6 p.m., Jule Collins Smith Museum; seating limited, advanced registration encouraged; part of the Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers

Wednesday, September 11

Watch & Learn Film Series “42,” the Jackie Robinson story, 2 p.m., Student Center 2107; part of the Multicultural Center activities commemorating 50 years of integration at Auburn

CLA Reads Panel discussion of “Sex and Dating at Auburn: Do Maggie’s Rules Still Apply,” 2 p.m., Student Center 3203

Public Lecture “Dealing with Diversity by Celebrating Differences,” Religious Studies Professor Richard Penaskovic, 3:30 p.m., Special Collections Room, Draughon Library; part of the Janet and John Stone Lecture Series

Wednesday, September 18

Study Abroad Fair Featuring representatives from a variety of study abroad programs, passport assistance available, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Haley Center Lobby

Diversity Presentation Poet and diversity educator Ricardo Nazario y Colon, 11:45 a.m., Student Center 2222; part of the Multicultural Center Lunch & Learn Series commemorating 50 years of integration at Auburn

Thursday, September 19

Auburn Connects Common Book Program keynote with author John Bowe, 7 p.m., Foy Auditorium

Friday, September 20

Auburn University’s Waste Reduction and Recycling Department recently received an $84,505 grant from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management.

The ADEM grant will support the purchase of recycling bins and other equipment that will create a more convenient recycling environment for the university community. The grant will also support outreach efforts to encourage participation in local recycling programs.

Funding for the grant was made possible through the Solid Wastes and Recyclable Materials Management Act passed by the Alabama Legislature in 2008. The legislation set a $1 per ton fee on all solid wastes disposed of in Alabama landfills.

The Auburn University Research Initiative in Cancer, based in Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine, has announced funding of 11 grants to nine investigators through its Seed Grant program.

Each grant is for one year and up to $20,000. The list of awardees includes faculty from Auburn’s Harrison School of Pharmacy, College of Human Sciences, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and College of Veterinary Medicine. Auburn’s Research Initiative in Cancer was created in 2012 to improve both human and animal health, foster an environment of excellence in cancer research, promote research that enhances competitiveness to advance the understanding of the biology of cancer, and foster the translation of novel technologies from the laboratory to the clinic.

The Research Initiative in Cancer embodies the “One Medicine” concept which links human, animal and environmental health, and where discoveries in one species advance health in all species. “AURIC is human medicine, animal medicine, research and diagnostics where faculty, students, and staff are working together to solve the complex puzzle of cancer,” said Initiative Director Bruce Smith.

“This grant program is one of the mechanisms that AURIC is using to enhance cancer research at Auburn University and represents an investment of almost $220,000. In order to leverage this funding into additional extramural funding, each grant proposal was required to have an external funding plan as part of the proposal.”

The proposals underwent peer review and only those that were judged to have scientific merit and a potential for subsequent external funding were funded. The following grants were awarded:

• Non-Invasive Imaging of Nanomedicines for Detection and Treatment of Cancer, Robert Arnold, associate professor, Pharmacal Sciences, Harrison School of Pharmacy.
• Regulation of miRNAs Targeting Tumor Suppressor and Oncogenes and the Cancer Phenotype in Canine Breast Cancer Models, Curtis Bird, professor, Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine.
• Recombinant DNA-Modified Canine Breast Cancer Cell Lines as Immunomodulatory Agents in Autologous Dendritic Cell/Breast Cancer Hybrid-Cell Fusion Vaccines, Curtis Bird, professor, Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine.
• Integral X-ray Target/Collimator for Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy, William Brawner, Ware Distinguished Professor, Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine.
• Orthotopic Models of Human Colon Cancer, Michael Greene, assistant professor, Nutrition and Food Science, College of Human Sciences.
• Investigating the Role of Fibrinogen in the Cancer-related Angiogenic Process Through a Novel Tissue-engineered Breast Cancer Model, Elizabeth Lipke, assistant professor, Chemical Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.
• Suppressive effects of omega-3 Stearidonic fatty acid on human prostate cancer cell viability, Mahmoud Mansour, associate professor, Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine.
• Advanced Multispectral Imaging Upgrade for Auburn Laboratory for Imaging Animal Systems (Project ALIAS), Peter Panizzi, assistant professor, Pharmacal Sciences, Harrison School of Pharmacy.
• Development of a pan-tumor specific conditionally replicating canine adenoviral vector, Bruce Smith, professor, Scott-Ritchey Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine.
• Evaluation of the Utility of Purine Nucleoside Phosphorylase for Canine Cancer Therapy, Bruce Smith, professor, Scott-Ritchey Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine.
• Pharmacist as Provider of Human Papillomavirus Vaccination Service, Salisa Westrick, assistant professor, Pharmacy Care Systems, Harrison School of Pharmacy.
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Coonrod comes from Seattle to assume post as university’s new ombudsperson

Kevin Coonrod is the new ombudsperson for Auburn University.

Selected following a national search, Coonrod assumed the position Sept. 1.

Coonrod has extensive experience in the fields of alternative dispute resolution, organizational ombudsperson training and conflict mediation.

A graduate of the Idaho College of Law, he comes to Auburn after serving as a mentor mediator at the Dispute Resolution Center of King County in Seattle, Wash. He is an active member in various professional organizations, including the Washington Mediation Association Board of Directors, the International Ombudsman Association and Northwest Ombuds Group.

The Ombuds Office was established in 2008 to provide a confidential, neutral source for staff and faculty to express concerns, identify options to address workplace conflicts, facilitate productive communication and surface responsible concerns regarding university policies and practices. In 2011, the scope of these resources was expanded to include the student population.

College of Liberal Arts names new chairs for academic departments, school

The College of Liberal Arts recently named new chairs of two academic departments and one school.

Associate Professor Nancy Haak will chair the Department of Communication Disorders; Journalism Program Director Jennifer Wood-Adams, an associate professor, will chair the newly approved School of Communication and Journalism; and Professor Steven Brown will chair the Department of Political Science.

Olive earns regional association award for contributions to horticultural research

John Olive, superintendent of the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station’s Ornamental Horticulture Research Center in Mobile, has received the Southern Nursery Association’s 2013 Porter Henegar Memorial Award.

Olive received the award Aug. 7 during the organization’s annual meeting in Atlanta. He was honored for his contributions to ornamental horticultural research and to the association, and he was cited for his concern and work toward improving the nursery industry.

Auburn University departmental telephone listings now available online

A departmental listing of campus telephone numbers in PDF format is now available online at https://web.auburn.edu/ocm/departmental_directory.pdf. To download the list, log in with your normal university credentials.

Auburn University no longer prints the campus directory with the faculty/staff and student sections. To get information on individuals, please refer to the “People Finder” link on the university’s homepage.

The Office of Communications and Marketing will make updated versions of the listings available as needed. To update information in your area for future PDF releases, send changes to ladenke@auburn.edu.

Schools of Nursing at Auburn, Montgomery to host golf outing and Blue Jean Ball

The Auburn University and Auburn Montgomery Schools of Nursing will host their Dean’s Golf Outing and the Blue Jean Ball on Oct. 4. For ticket information, contact Shelley Grider at 844-6753 or gridsesw@auburn.edu. Net proceeds will benefit nursing students, faculty, programs and initiatives.