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AU celebrating 150th birthday

Auburn University will celebrate its sesquicentennial this week with a Founders Day ceremony on Wednesday and a 150th birthday festival on Saturday.

The events in Samford Park are high points of a year-long series of activities to celebrate the 1856 founding of the small Methodist men’s college that grew over the next century and a half into Alabama’s largest university.

On Wednesday, interim AU President Ed Richardson, Auburn Mayor Bill Ham and other officials will participate in an 11:15 a.m. public ceremony in front of Samford Hall. The Founders Day ceremony will commemorate the Feb. 1, 1856, signing by Gov. John A. Winston of the charter that established the East Alabama Male College, the university’s first name.

In connection with the ceremony, parking behind Samford Hall will be closed Wednesday morning.

On Saturday, the sesquicentennial celebration will resume with activities that start with walking tours of historic sites from 10 a.m.-noon and conclude at 5:30 p.m. with a fireworks show. In between will be a 2 p.m. ceremony with a reading of the Auburn Creed and singing of the Alma Mater and “War Eagle” fight song, followed by an AU Birthday Bash and City Block Party in Samford Park and downtown Auburn.

The Auburn Heritage Association joined with AU in organizing the walking tours, which will depart every 10 minutes from the university gates at College Street and Thach Avenue, with the first stop at Mary Martin Hall. At each building on the tour, a reenactor in period costume depicting a notable person in the city’s and university’s history will discuss the historical significance of the building and the individual.

In the 2 p.m. ceremony, eight persons will read lines from the Auburn Creed. The readers were nominated by their peers and selected by the Sesquicentennial Committee.

AU’s partners in organizing the festival are the City of Auburn, the Auburn Chamber of Commerce and the Auburn-Opelika Tourism Bureau.

Free copies of the official sesquicentennial poster will be available at the OCM booth Saturday.

To alleviate parking congestion in the festival area, Tiger Transit buses will provide shuttle service from the C Zone parking area next to the AU Federal Credit Union.

More information on the festival is online at www.auburn.edu/150.

Another key part of the sesquicentennial observance is a lecture series, “Auburn Through the Years,” with presentations on historic eras and significant events of the university’s first 150 years. The 4 p.m. lectures will be in the Special Collections Room in Draughon Library.

The first lecture, on Feb. 23, will be by prominent historian Ralph Draughon Jr., son of the former AU...
JANUARY 30, 2006     AU REPORT

The board, which normally meets at Auburn, meets on Thursday, starting at 1:30 p.m., at the same location as the Executive Committee meetings. The board’s Executive Committee meets each February at AUM.

The board will consider several issues among key AU constituencies before this semester and four in the fall. Others in the series include:

- Wayne Flynt, recently retired Distinguished University Professor of History at AU, March 2.
- A Land-Grant College Comes to Auburn.
- Leah Rawls Atkins, founding director of the AU Center for Arts and Humanities, March 14.
- "Women at Auburn University."
- Anthony Donaldson, a doctoral candidate in history at AU, April 19.
- "Auburn vs. Alabama: The Political Rivalry."
- David Alsobrook, AU doctoral graduate in history in 1989, April 22.

The report will be available online through the AU home page at www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees, for updates. AU Report is posted on the AU home page or Board of Trustees Web site, www.auburn.edu/aboard, for members of the public lecture.

The series includes four other speakers this semester and four in the fall. Others in the series this semester, their lecture dates and topics are:

- "I Would Have Freed a Judge to get his G.E.D. or face jail time. He went on to earn a college degree and began working with programs to help others succeed.
- "Ethical Issues in Embryonic Stem Cell Research," Thomas Shannon, Goodwin-Phipps Emminent Scholar in Religion, 4 p.m., auditorium, JCS Museum
- "A Race to Freedom" at noon in Foy 213. Southern Rainbow Education Project, will speak on "Commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act," at 7 p.m. Feb. 7 in Foy 215 and the Black History Month keynote lecture, "Overcoming Life’s Challenges," by Greg Mathis, television’s "Judge Mathis," at 7 p.m. Feb. 9 at the AU Hotel. Mathis’ visit is co-sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

Mathis, a former district judge in Michigan, is the star of "Judge Mathis" on the WB Network. A high school drop-out and street tough as a teen, Mathis turned his life around when ordered by a Detroit judge to get his G.E.D. or face jail time. He went on to earn a college degree and began working with programs to help others succeed. On Feb. 13, Goven Patton, chief director for the Southern Rainbow Education Project, will speak on "A Race to Freedom" at noon in Foy 213.

At 7 p.m. Feb. 20, veteran actor Charles Holt will present the one-man play "Black Boy" in the ballroom of Foy Student Union.

Three win awards for work with research programs

The Office of the Vice President for Research has presented OVPR Meritorious Service Awards to three staff professionals for outstanding service in 2005. The awards went to Gene Taylor and Elizabeth Sims of the Office of Sponsored Programs and Roger Bridgman of the Hydraulics Facility.

"This is the first time we have given a single person three awards, but this year’s set of nominations made it impossible to recognize the three," said Vice President for Research Michael Mortary. Nomination solicitations are made throughout the year from all units on campus as well as off-campus entities. Review is by a committee comprised of Mortary and previous Meritorious Service Award winners.

The Research Office established the Meritorious Service Award in 2002 to recognize outstanding service of employees within its units. The award carries a $1,000 cash prize and plaque.

Any full-time employee of the units reporting to the OVPR is eligible. Nominations can be made online at https://fp.auburn.edu/vpr_merit/.

Fisher report on agenda for AU Board committee on Thursday

AU Home page or Board of Trustees Web site, www.auburn.edu/administration/trustees, for updates.

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AU enters pact with Korean university for research, academic collaboration

Auburn has reached an agreement with a university in South Korea for academic exchange and research cooperation between AU’s Center for Governmental Services and Samcheok National University’s Center for Management Innovation.

Under the agreement, the two centers will encourage collaborative research and academic endeavors involving faculty from both institutions. Part of the collaboration involves training for elected officials and administrators in South Korea and assistance with economic development in East and Central Alabama.

Don-Terry Veal, director of the Center for Governmental Services, said South Korea’s economic presence in Alabama, particularly with automaker Hyundai, has led to increased interest in Alabama by South Koreans and in South Korea by Alabamians.

Veal said the academic partnership will help strengthen social, governmental and business ties between Alabama and South Korea. Veal and Changhoon Jung, a faculty member in the Department of Political Science in the AU College of Liberal Arts, recently met in South Korea with university and government officials from that country to discuss the cooperative arrangements.

In South Korea, Samcheok will merge with Kangwon National University on March 1, but details of the partnership will remain the same. For information, contact the Center for Governmental Services at 844-4781.

Vet Med to host Public Health Careers Day

The AU College of Veterinary Medicine will host a Public Health Careers Day on Feb. 8, featuring presentations by agencies dedicated to the promotion of human and animal health.

The presentations will be from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Overton Auditorium.

“We’ll have representatives from federal and state agencies who will provide information on diverse, yet intersecting, careers,” said Kenneth Nusbaum, one of the program’s organizers.

“It will be a great opportunity for Auburn students, as well as those from surrounding universities, to learn about educational opportunities, new careers and summer employment,” he added. “There are many possible career paths for students,” Nusbaum said. “We’ll cover the health careers and many other possibilities, such as sociologist, historian, civil engineer, statistician, wildlife biologist, to name a few.”

Guest speakers will be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Public Health, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, FBI, Alabama Department of Public Health, U.S. Air Force, and Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries.

The event is part of a collaborative degree program in veterinary public health being explored by the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine and the University of Alabama in Birmingham School of Public Health. For more information, contact Nusbaum at 844-2693 or e-mail nusbake@vetmed.auburn.edu.