Auburn to honor faculty for top achievements

AU will present its top awards for teaching, research and outreach and recognize other major academic achievements on Thursday.

The 5 p.m. ceremony at the AU Hotel marks the second time these annual awards have been presented in a combined, formal ceremony.

Among those receiving awards are Pamela Boyd, associate professor of curriculum and teaching in the College of Education, and Roland Dute, professor of biological sciences in the College of Sciences and Mathematics. Both will receive the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Zhanjiang (John) Liu, Alumni professor and director of the aquatic genomics unit in the College of Agriculture, and Mona El-Sheikh, Alumni professor of human development and family studies in the College of Human Sciences, will receive AU’s Creative Research and Scholarship Award.

Christa Slaton, professor of political science and associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts, will receive the Award for Excellence in Faculty Outreach.

In addition, recipients of this year’s Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Awards will be recognized. These awards honor faculty for outstanding teaching of undergraduates. A committee of retired faculty selected the recipients after receiving nominations from department heads, deans, alumni and students.

Awards will also go to the 2007 Alumni Professors, a group of faculty who receive five-year non-renewable professorships that are sponsored by the Auburn Alumni Association with funds endowed from Auburn Annual Giving. These awards are presented for research, publishing and teaching.

President Jay Gogue will host the event, and Norman Godwin of the College of Business will be master of ceremonies.

Auburn gets NSF grant to join universities in wireless group

The National Science Foundation has awarded a $250,000 grant to AU to join a consortium of universities forming the Wireless Internet Center for Advanced Technologies.

Prathima Agrawal, director of the Wireless Engineering Research and Education Center at AU, is the principal investigator on the five-year project, during which Auburn will participate in wireless research on cross-layer optimization of coexisting systems.

AU is the first university in the nation with an undergraduate degree program in wireless engineering.