AU honors professors at formal ceremony

STAFF REPORTS

Auburn University recognized some of its top teachers during a ceremony Thursday at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center.

This marks the second time the five recipients of the Faculty Awards for Excellence in Instruction, Research and Outreach have been honored with others during a combined, formal ceremony.

The Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award recipients were also recognized. The awards were presented on the basis of outstanding teaching of undergraduates from nominations made by department heads, deans, alumni and students. A committee of retired faculty selects the recipients.

Awards were also presented 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 on the basis of research, publishing and teaching.

The Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Awards for Excellence in Teaching

Pamela Boyd
Associate Professor, Department of Curriculum and Teaching, College of Education

Bachelor of science in elementary education, a master of education in elementary education with an emphasis in reading difficulties, and a certification in gifted education from Georgia State University. Doctorate in curriculum and teaching from Mississippi State University.

Faculty member for 14 years, teaches undergraduate and graduate students.

Making the work of the university relevant in the public school classroom and the work in the public school classroom relevant to the university is her priority.

Roland Dute
Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Bachelor of science and master of science in botany from Ohio State University. Graduate school interrupted by service in the U.S. Army, master’s degree and went to the University of Wisconsin for doctorate in botany.

Three years as a postdoctoral researcher at both Wisconsin and the University of Illinois.

Came to Auburn in 1982 as an assistant professor in the Department of Botany, Plant Pathology and Microbiology. Creative Research and Scholarship Award

Zhanjiang (John) Liu
Alumni Professor and Director of Aquatic Genomics Unit, Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures, College of Agriculture

Bachelor of science from North-West Sci-Tech University of Agriculture and Forestry and from the University of Minnesota with a master’s and doctorate.

Liu’s research objective uses genomic approaches to improve catfish performance traits. Research exhibited to the U.S. Congress in 1999.

The Chinese Ministry of Education recently named him one of the most famous overseas Chinese professors.

Mona El-Sheikh
Alumni Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Studies, College of Human Sciences

Undergraduate degree from the American University in Cairo, Egypt, master’s and doctorate degrees from West Virginia University.

Started at Auburn University in 1990 as an assistant professor and was tenured and promoted to associate professor in 1995, to professor in 2002 and to alumni professor in 2005.

Her research focuses on child development in the context of family risk.

Considered one of the nation’s foremost experts in the area of physiological measurement of children’s emotion regulation.

Christa Slaton
Professor, Department of Political Science, Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Master of arts and doctorate in political science from the University of Hawaii.

Academic life devoted to developing the means to engage and empower citizens and to utilize the resources of the university to serve community interests.

Co-founder of the first university-based mediation center in the country and co-designer of a deliberative polling method that has been utilized by governments from the county to the national level.

Other notable honorees:

Alumni Undergraduate Teaching Awards

Presented on the basis of outstanding teaching of undergraduates from nominations made by department heads, deans, alumni and students. A committee of retired faculty selects the recipients.

Elizabeth Brestan Knight
Associate Professor and the Lanier Professor of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts

Mark Byrne
Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering

Phillip Zoner
Professor of Mathematics and Statistics, College of Sciences and Mathematics

Alumni Professors

Twenty-five, five-year non-renewable Alumni Professorships are sponsored by the Auburn Alumni Association. The Alumni Writer-in-Residence, a creative writer from the English faculty, is the only ongoing appointment. The Academic Fairs/Provost calls for nominations from department heads through deans. The awards are presented on the basis of research, publishing and teaching.

Jonathan W. Armbruster
Associate Professor and Curator of Fishes, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Sciences and Mathematics

John Gaber
Professor of Community Planning Program, School of Architecture, College of Architecture, Design and Construction

Han Qin Tian
Professor of Ecology, School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences

Vitaly Vodyanoy
Professor of Physiology and Director of Biosensor Laboratory, Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, College of Veterinary Medicine

Bogdan M. Wilamowski
Professor and Director of Alabama Microelectronics Science and Technology Center, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.