

Auburn Report



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Jeff Etheridge, Photographic Services

Filling the stage

Faculty receiving a record 50 new professorships more than filled the Dixon Conference Center stage at The Hotel at Auburn University on Aug. 26. The professorships this fall are among 95 that are being funded through a one-year campaign to expand endowments for faculty.

Campaign swells ranks of endowed professorships

Fifty Auburn faculty members received endowed professorships Aug. 26 in a campus ceremony as part of the university's strategic initiative to expand recognition of faculty for exceptional merit.

During a targeted one-year campaign, the university's goal to fund 81 professorships was exceeded by more than 17 percent, with a total of 95 professorships being funded. Recipients will receive salary enhancements of approximately \$14,000 when fully funded.

"Faculty are vital to the future of this university," said President Jay Gogue. "Their knowledge, enthusiasm and commitment provide a foundation for all learning central to Auburn students' success. Endowed professorships recognize the important roles our professors play and help Auburn retain faculty of the highest caliber."

Walt Woltosz, chairman and CEO of Simulations Plus Inc., was one of more than 200 donors who participated in the initiative.

"Supporting these endowed professorships is an excellent way to have a lasting impact on the quality of education provided by Auburn," said Woltosz, who funded professorships in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering.

"You can't have an outstanding university without outstanding faculty and students. Competition for exceptional faculty is a fact," Woltosz said. "If we don't recognize and reward the best of the best, we will not be able to retain them. By providing these endowed professorships, we're pleased to help support Auburn Engineering in doing so."

Academic disciplines represented by the newly en-

dowed professorships include agriculture, architecture, education, engineering, forestry, human sciences, liberal arts, nursing, pharmacy, provost (university-wide), sciences and mathematics and veterinary medicine.

"An endowed and named professorship is one of the highest honors that the university bestows on members of the faculty," said Donna Bohanan, who is the Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor in the Department of History and a 2010 recipient of the Gerald and Emily Leischuck Endowed Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching. "By their very nature they bring recognition to those who have excelled in research and teaching. It is an acknowledgment that is both humbling and gratifying."

— Neali Vann

For a list of the new professorships, see page 2.

Students win honors in Common Book writing challenge

Auburn University Provost Mary Ellen Mazey and the Office of University Writing have announced the winners for Auburn's first Common Book writing contest, in which students read "Three Cups of Tea" and submitted essays or other writings expressing a personal connection to the best-selling book.

The top three winners submitted essays about the book's meaning to them. First place went to Rebecca Lin, a pre-engineering student from Birmingham, for "A Slice of Life." Second place was awarded to Emily Kim, a pre-med student in the College of Sciences and Mathematics, also from Birmingham, for "The Margins." Kevin Laferriere, a pre-engineering student from Lee County, Fla., placed third with "Futures."

The winners received gift cards from the Auburn University Bookstore and will dine with Greg Mortenson, coauthor with David Oliver Relin of "Three Cups of Tea," when he visits Auburn in October. In addition, all students who submitted entries will be invited to join a discussion of the book with Mortenson.

The book charts Mortenson's mission to build schools for children in remote, underserved areas of Pakistan which have been severely impacted by the current political upheaval in that part of the world.

Mazey said the Common Book Writing Contest provides an opportunity for students to benefit from writing outside the classroom. "A writing contest is one way to emphasize the importance of writing for all of our freshmen students and linking the contest

to the Common Book places an emphasis on reading, analyzing and writing about what they learned through Three Cups of Tea," she explained.

Nineteen students submitted entries to the contest which was judged by a panel that included Auburn students, faculty and alumni.

The students with the winning essays revealed personal connections to the writing process, demonstrating the special purposes writing has for each of them.

"We're so pleased that students were engaged enough with the book that they took the time to write about their experiences," said Margaret Marshall, director of the Office of University Writing. "We intentionally kept the contest open-ended

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Winning writers

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to solicit different forms of writing and we were delighted to see poems, creative essays, position papers and academic arguments."

A second Common Book contest for Auburn students is planned for the 2010-11 academic year. Students who win the second contest will be able to shadow University President Jay Gogue, Provost Mazey or Athletic Direct Jay Jacobs for the day and then join the other winners and their academic hosts for a dinner. Additional details are available online at <https://fp.auburn.edu/writing/contestsAwards>.

Common Book essayists

Provost Mary Ellen Mazey, left, congratulates the winners of Auburn's first Common Book student-writing contest. The winners, from left to right, are Emily Kim, Kevin Laferriere and first-place winner Rebecca Lin.



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Recipients of new endowed professorships for 2010

See related story, page 1

Below are the names of faculty members who recently received new professorships, followed in each case by the name of the professorship and, where identified, the name of the college, school, department or program:

Sharon Roberts, Ralph "Shug" Jordan Professor in the Office of the Provost; Constance Smith Hendricks, Charles W. Barkley Professor; Curtis Jolly, Charles W. Barkley Professor; Joseph W. Klopper, Becker Underwood Professor in Entomology and Plant Pathology; Charles H. Gilliam, William A. Jr. and Cecelia Dozier Professor; Harry Glenn Ponder, Ronald L. Shumack Professor in Horticulture; Nannan Liu, Faculty Professor in Entomology and Plant Pathology.

Joe Eakes, Jimmy and Chris Pursell Professor in Horticulture; William D. Goff, Dwight and Ruth Ann Nunn Bond Professor in Horticulture; William Alfred Dozier, Harry G. Ponder Professor in Horticulture; Gary Keever, Thomas H. Dodd, Jr. Professor in Horticulture; Jeff L. Sibley, Barbara and Charles Bohmann Professor in the Department of Horticulture; Michael Hein, William A. Hunt Professor in Building Science; Tin-Man Lau, Ulm Professor in Industrial Design; P. Michael Robinson, R. Hugh Daniel Professor in Architecture, Design and Construction.

Bret Hunter Smith, Bauhaus Professor in Industrial Design; W. Gary Martin, Emily R. and Gerald S. Leischuck Professor in Education; Brian S. Thurow, W. Allen and Martha Reed Professor in Engineering; Ram B. Gupta, Walt and Virginia Woltosz Professor in Chemical Engineering; Roy J. Hartfield, Walt and Virginia Woltosz Professor in Aerospace Engineering; Bryan A. Chin, McWane Professor in Mechanical

Engineering; Hareesh V. Tippur, McWane Professor in the Mechanical Engineering; Mario R. Eden, Joe T. and Billie Carole McMillan Professor in Engineering; Kevin R. Gue, Tim Cook Professor in Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Y. Y. Lee, Uthlaut Family Professor in Chemical Engineering; Chan S. Park, Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden Professor in Engineering; **Mark E. Byrne, Daniel F. and Josephine Breeden Professor in Engineering**; Thomas S. Denney, Ed and Peggy Reynolds Family Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering; Bruce J. Tatarchuk, Charles E. Gavin III Professor in Engineering; David M. Bevly, Albert Smith Jr. Professor in Mechanical Engineering; Hanqin Tian, Solon and Martha Dixon Professor in Forestry and Wildlife Sciences; Mona El-Sheikh, Leonard Peterson & Co. Inc. Professor in Human Development and Family Studies; Lenda Jo Connell, Under Armour Inc. Professor in Apparel Merchandising, Design and Production Management.

Theodore Lewis Becker, Alma Holladay Professor in Liberal Arts; Isabelle Thompson, Jean Wickstrom Liles Professor in English; Donna Jean Bohanan, Joseph A. Kicklighter Professor in History; Gerard S. Gryski, Curtis O. Liles, III Professor in Political Science; Cathleen M. Giustino., Mary Bernice Mills Carter Professor in History; Barbara Wilder, East Alabama Medical Center/ Dr. Bill Lazenby Endowed Professor in Nursing; Karen F. Marlowe, James T. (Jimmy) '52 and Anne Klein '50 Davis Endowed Professor in Pharmacy; David J. Riese, George Fulton Gilliland and Olga Hooser Gilliland Franklin Professor in Pharmacy; Richard Hansen, Sandra Kent Gilliland and David Louie Gilliland Professor in Pharmacy.

Minseo Park, Marguerite Scharnagel Professor in Sciences and Mathematics; Raymond P. Henry, William P. Molette Professor in Sciences and Mathematics; Ming-Kuo Lee, Robert B. Cook Professor in Sciences and Mathematics; Chris Rodger, C. Harry Knowles Professor for Research Leadership in Mathematics Instruction in Sciences and Mathematics; D. Michael Tillson, Arthur and Louise Oriole Professor in Veterinary Medicine; Douglass K. Macintire, P.B. Griffin Professor in Veterinary Medicine; Ellen N. Behrend, Joezy Griffin Professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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