

AURA FALL BANQUET {BBQ}

When: Thursday, October 11, 2012

Where: Auburn Alumni Center, 317 South College Street
Park in gravel lot in back and come in back door. To park in the paved lot, a car must have an AU parking sticker and the lot is monitored around the clock.

Speaker: Jay Jacobs, AU Athletics Director

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Cost: Free to AURA Members and Spouses
Guests are welcome at a cost of \$10.00.

Please RSVP by October 1st.
(THE FIRST 150 RESERVATIONS
WILL BE ACCEPTED.)

RESERVATION FORM

Member & Spouse _____

Guests _____

A DOOR PRIZE WILL BE GIVEN.

Be sure to get your ticket at the registration table.

Mail your reservation to:

AURA

P.O. Box 1436

Auburn, AL 36831-1436

Or call:

Don Scay 334-821-0065

Jack Rogers 334-887-3946

or Art Call 334-826-1742

Make checks for Guests payable to AURA.

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Auburn, Alabama 36830





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jay Gogue (President, Auburn University)

At Auburn, we focus our efforts and resources on where the needs, hopes, and desires of our students and state are going in the future. By doing so, Auburn University continues its efforts to maintain unwavering commitments to deliver high-quality education and drive economic opportunity. To that end, we see two distinct priorities toward fulfilling that pledge.

First, in dealing with a dynamic, constantly changing job market, faculty and administrators at Auburn are working to ensure that our curriculum equips students with the skills to succeed upon graduation.

Integrating the latest technologies in instruction, exposing students to forward-looking research, constantly evolving degree programs, providing digital courses, and offering executive programs are just a part our plan to prepare our graduates to stay on top of emerging workforce trends.

Second, Auburn must constantly match its intellectual capacity with the needs of Alabama business, industry, and communities. We look to grow the impact of extension and outreach in local economies.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Land-Grant Act of 1862, and the institutions which emerged as a result of that legislation serve the national and international communities with their research and outreach in many fields, including agriculture, engineering, and animal sciences.

Today, Auburn University is one of the few institutions to carry the torch as a land-, sea-, and space-grant university. As such, Auburn emphasizes strong academic and research programs in agriculture, natural resources, engineering, and the life and physical sciences, as well as architecture, business, education, forestry and wildlife sciences, human sciences, the liberal arts, nursing, pharmacy, science and mathematics, and veterinary medicine.

Keeping our eyes ever on the horizon, Auburn is guided by its commitment to quality education and the state's economic security.

War Eagle!

MESSAGE FROM THE AURA PRESIDENT

As a new year begins for AURA (2012-2013) I am honored to be serving as your President. My background with Auburn University spans a 45-year career with positions in Student Development Services as Psychometrist, Counselor and Director; in teaching Human Growth and Development (Foundations of Education); and last of all, as Director of University Housing and Residence Life. Since retiring in 2002, these ten years have been busy ones. In wanting to stay in touch with ongoing retirement issues I have been involved with: NEA (National Education Association), AEA (Alabama Education Association), AERA (Alabama Education Retirees Association), LCERA (Lee County Education Retirees Association), and AURA (Auburn University Retiree Association).

As we read about the financial difficulties we face in Alabama, we see the revenue for education dropping and the insurance and medical costs continue to increase. Reality hits us and it gets our immediate attention. Thus in AURA, our Board will continue its support for our goals and report to you issues that impact our status as retirees. AURA goals embrace reporting on legislative actions and working to maintain benefit options at affordable rates. We will support the lobbying efforts of AEA and AERA as they try to prevent the Education Trust Fund from being used for non-education purposes. We are fortunate to have advocates like AEA and AERA that stepped up to the plate during this past year and continue to give attention to the needs of the retirees in our State.

Your AURA Board has exceptional members from varied academic positions who are volunteers. They are working for all of us. Our strength as an organization depends on our membership working with us in promoting choices that will enhance our lives as retirees. We can take the journey together and as your association we will keep your best interests at heart.

— GAIL McCOLLERS

Thank You, Monarch Estates!

Monarch Estates, known for “**Gracious Retirement Living**,” located at 1550 E. University Drive in Auburn, has generously allowed the AURA Board of Directors to use its Eagles Nest Meeting Room for their monthly meetings for several years.

We would like to acknowledge this donation from Monarch and encourage anyone considering moving from their home to visit Monarch for a tour.

NOTE *from the* EDITOR

— LARRY C. MULLINS —



After several years as editor of *AURA NEWS*, Stan Wilson (and his wife Barbara) is stepping away from the editorship of the newsletter. Let me take this opportunity to thank him for his dedicated service to our organization. His shoes will be difficult to fill.

As we move forward, please give thought to what you would like to contribute to our newsletter, or what topics you feel would be interesting to our members. I look forward to hearing from you. Please contact me at LMULLINS@AUM.EDU or at 334-478-4466, or contact either of the members of the Publication Committee: Bert Hitchcock (HITCHWB@AUBURN.EDU) and Robert Couch (RCOUCCHAUBURN@CHARTER.NET).

REMINDER!

Auburn University Retirees: If you have not joined, join today!

You may have already paid your dues to join AURA. If so, you will find “(p)” after your name on the address label on this newsletter. If not, you will find “(n).”

We encourage you to send in the form below to join AURA today!

New AU-AUM Retiree AURA Enrollment Form

Name _____ AU _____ AUM _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

____ Single Retiree \$25.00 ____ Surviving Spouse \$10.00

____ Retiree and Spouse \$25.00 ____ Sponsor \$25.00

____ Retiree & Retiree Spouse.. \$25.00

\$ _____ Scholarship Contribution

*Please make check payable to Auburn University Retiree Association or AURA
and mail to the address below:*



AURA
P.O. Box 1436
Auburn, AL 36831-1436

NEW PROGRAMS at AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Tribology, Lubrication Science minor

In the mechanical world, surfaces are always in contact with each other. Friction and wear are results of these constant interactions. The field of tribology is the multidisciplinary study of contact, friction, wear and lubrication of surfaces, and its applications range widely—they include bearings, tires and engines in automobiles; human joint replacement; manufacturing; nanotechnology; oil product chemistry; power generation; hard-drive technology and electrical contacts.

Auburn University's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering has added a 15-hour tribology and lubrication science minor to its curriculum this fall – the first of its kind. The minor will prepare students from various engineering and science programs for careers that require a background in friction, wear and lubrication.

Industry demand is high for graduates who have a background in tribology. A great deal of money is spent annually on issues related to friction, wear and lubrication. Students who participate in

this minor will gain a multidisciplinary appreciation and broad understanding of the field of tribology — especially in the subjects of engineering,



"Industry demand is high for graduates who have a background in tribology."

chemistry and business — and will provide a pipeline for well-prepared engineers to meet the industry's need.

Faculty will teach five multidisciplinary courses, of which three are required and two are electives. The program offers students the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with industry standard devices and equipment through laboratory sections and research. Tours of local manufacturing facilities and guest lectures from field experts will provide students

with an inside look at the industry.

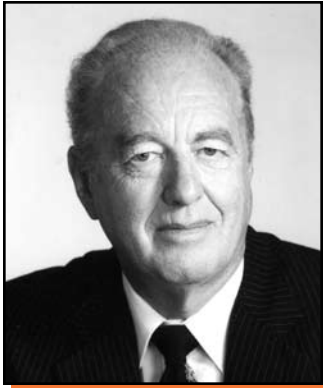
"As a mechanical engineer who became interested in tribology during my senior year of college, I recognized that there are few individuals who have been formally exposed to the full multidisciplinary spectrum of the field — from chemistry to mechanical to materials to business," says Robert Jackson, director of the minor and faculty member in

the Department of Mechanical Engineering. "With the creation of what we believe is the first undergraduate minor in tribology, we are

providing students with an academic structure to bridge between these diverse fields."

Students have the opportunity to gain hands-on experience with industry standard test devices and equipment through laboratory sections in the minor courses. Students will also be encouraged to participate in undergraduate level research.

For additional information on the minor, visit www.eng.auburn.edu/tribology or contact Morgan Stashick, stashml@auburn.edu, 334-844-3591.



Bailey Award Address

by Stan Wilson

When I was informed by the President of the Auburn University Retiree Association (AURA) that I would receive the Wilford S. Bailey Award,

I was very surprised, in fact, shocked, but honored and pleased. Dr. Bailey was and his memory is as respected as any Auburn Man ever, and he and the late Mrs. Bailey will be properly honored by the naming of the impressive new College of Veterinary Medicine's Small Animal Hospital in their honor.

Shortly after joining AURA seven years ago, I noticed that large outlays from the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) were being approved by the TRS Board for economic development projects in Alabama. There was also the legitimate question as to why TRS was involved. If these projects were good investments, why were traditional lenders not financing them? The truth is that they are not good investments for TRS. In fact, the last ten TRS annual reports show no investment income from businesses, real-estate, golf courses, etc. However, recent studies show clearly that the State of Alabama does benefit with significantly increased tax receipts. Dr. Keivan Deravi, Professor of Economics at Auburn University-Montgomery, in a report entitled "The Economics of RSA's Investments on the State Economy and the RSA 1990-2011," estimates that these projects have increased state and local tax receipts by \$1.5 billion over the past 22 years, and the majority of those monies has flowed into the Special Education Trust Fund (SETF) that provides support for K-12 and Higher Education.

In FY 2011 TRS had approximately \$9 billion invested in equities and approximately \$5 billion in bonds. When the market advances, TRS reports show uncaptured capital gain as investment income. However, since Dr. Bronner has stated that growth in stocks will not be captured and used to pay retirees, the only usable income to TRS from equities is dividends. Bonds yield interest income and the latest TRS report shows a total of \$625 million in dividends and interest. In addition, working employees paid in \$321 million and employers (K-12, Higher Educa-

tion) paid in \$780 million. Payout was approximately \$1.7 billion. There have been only small changes in usable income to TRS over the past ten years except for the contributions paid in by employers. That source of income to TRS has increased from \$266 million to \$780 million.

It can be logically argued that there have been windows of opportunity to change investment philosophy that might be more beneficial to education programs in Alabama than what has occurred. For example, if the approximately \$22 billion worth of TRS at the end of FY 2006-07 had been invested in long term, investment grade corporate bonds, interest income from those bonds plus pay-in from working educators would exceed the amount needed to pay retirees. There would be no need to extract large sums from employers. However, there seems to be no chance that the TRS Board will change the unusual way that TRS operates.

As we look to the financial future for public education in Alabama and for retirees, there are some positive trends. First, unemployment in Alabama is a bit lower than the national average and there is growth of income in the SETF. That growth is partially fueled by the increased tax receipts generated by TRS investments in Alabama. There is every reason to expect continued growth in the SETF and for legislators to seriously consider a pay increase for working educators as there has not been an increase since the FY 2007-08. At that time retirees received only a small one-time payment. It is clear that retirees have every right to expect a pay increase commensurate with any increase that may occur for working educators, and that increase should be paid from the SETF. It is a fair and just position. Also, it is equally clear that distribution of education monies in Montgomery is a political process. That this is true should be understood and accepted by all education retirees. Therefore, all retirees, and especially those with higher education backgrounds, should join their local retiree organizations, and even more importantly join the Alabama Education Retirees Association (AERA). Your future is dependent upon your actions. Be an active participant.

Seventeenth Annual Meeting

May 25, 2012 at Saugahatchee Country Club





Photos by Larry C. Mullins