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Contact:

Tanja Matthews
334-844-1113
tanjamatthews@auburn.edu

Auburn Alumni Association
Honors Lifetime Achievers

AUBURN—Four Auburn University graduates will receive Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Auburn Alumni Association during a March 3, 2012, ceremony at The Hotel at Auburn University and Dixon Conference Center. They are:

Lloyd James Austin III '86

U.S. Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III commands U.S. ground forces in Iraq and recently was nominated to serve as the Army's next vice chief of staff. Commissioned as an infantry second lieutenant in 1975 upon graduating from the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y., he also earned a pair of master's degrees, one in counselor education from Auburn and another in business management from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo. After serving in various military positions for more than two decades, Austin was assigned in 1999 as chief of the Joint Operations Division on the Joint Staff at the Pentagon and, in 2003, was responsible for maneuvering the 3rd Infantry Division as the spearhead of the operation to liberate Iraq from Saddam Hussein. He was awarded a Silver Star, promoted to major general and subsequently served as commander of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. As a lieutenant general, he became the first African-American to lead a corps in combat, assuming command of the 18th Airborne Corps in 2006 and deploying to Iraq in 2008 to lead 165,000 troops there. Upon U.S. Senate confirmation in June 2010, Austin became the Army's 200th four-star general and sixth African-American Army general. He and wife Charlene Banner Austin '85 live in Washington, D.C.

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Kirby Isaac Bland '64

Oncologist, surgeon and researcher Kirby Bland received an undergraduate degree from Auburn in 1964 and subsequently graduated from the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine in 1968. After a tour of duty in the U.S. Army, he served as a research associate and surgical oncology fellow at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and an associate professor of surgery at the University of Louisville. While there, he was awarded the American Cancer Society Junior Faculty Clinical Fellow Award. Dr. Bland joined the University of Florida faculty as professor, associate chair and program director of surgery in 1983 and went on to successfully complete various clinical trials in the therapy of breast and colorectal carcinoma. He served as principal investigator for a National Cancer Institute research training program for surgical oncology and subsequently accepted a professorship and chairmanship at Brown University in 1993. Dr. Bland returned to the University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1999 and was appointed as Fay Gletcher Kerner professor and chair of the department of surgery and then surgeon-in-chief at University Hospital and The Kirklin Clinic. From 2000-09 he served as division director of general surgery and deputy director of the UAB Comprehensive Cancer Center, followed by an appointment as senior advisor to the center's director. A nationally recognized researcher and teacher of surgical sciences, he recently was awarded the Society of Surgical Oncology's Heritage Award for lifetime achievement. He and wife Lynn live in Birmingham.

N. Jan Davis '77

Astronaut and aerospace engineer Jan Davis earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn, a bachelor's degree in applied biology in biomechanics from the Georgia Institute of Technology; and master's and doctoral degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. After supporting several major NASA programs as an aerospace engineer, she became a team leader and lead engineer for the redesign of the shuttle solid-rocket-booster external tank attach ring in 1986 and, a year later, was selected to join NASA's astronaut corps. Davis spent more than 670 hours in space over the course of three Space Shuttle flights and received the Presidential Rank of Meritorious Service as a NASA Senior Executive in 2002 from President Bush. She subsequently served as director of NASA's Safety and Mission Assurance Directorate, where she pioneered changes following the fatal flight of the space shuttle *Columbia* in 2003. She now serves as vice president and deputy general manager for Jacobs Engineering, Science and Technical Services Group, a prime contractor for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville. Davis is a former member of the Auburn Alumni Association board of directors and serves on Auburn's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering alumni advisory council. She and husband Dick Richardson live in Hampton Cove.

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James E. Livingston '62

Upon graduating from Auburn with a degree in civil engineering in 1962, retired U.S. Marine Corps Gen. James Everett Livingston was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marines and subsequently served as a commanding officer in the Vietnam War, where he earned the United States' highest military decoration, the Medal of Honor, for heroic actions. After a second tour in Vietnam, he served as an instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School and then returned to Vietnam in 1975 to serve as operations officer for the evacuation of Saigon. He continued his service in the Marines in London and Parris Island, S.C., earning a master's degree in management from Webster University in 1984. After a tour with the Joint U.S. Assistance Group in the Philippines, he advanced to brigadier general in 1988. Livingston commanded the Marine Air Ground Combat Center and developed the Desert Warfare Training Program during operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. In 1991 he assumed command of the 4th Marine Division after being advanced to major general and subsequently led the Marine Forces Reserve. Livingston has served as chairman of the board of directors of The National World War II Museum in New Orleans; is a lifetime member of the National Medal of Honor Society and assisted with the reorganization of its Foundation. He and wife Sara live in Mount Pleasant, S.C.

Each year, the Auburn Alumni Association recognizes extraordinary accomplishments by members of the Auburn family. Lifetime Achievement Award nominees need not be graduates of Auburn but must demonstrate a love and commitment to the university, have attained prominence in their professional careers, and be persons of integrity, stature and demonstrated ability. For more information, see www.aualum.org/awards/lifetime.