



Beginning in October 2013, Auburn University will launch a year-long, university-wide commemoration to highlight the school's 50th anniversary of integration.

A series of events will honor the first African-American graduate student Dr. Harold Franklin who broke the color barrier in 1964, as well as the impact of other pioneering black faculty, staff, undergraduate and graduate students who have since helped make the university more inclusive. Events and programs tied to the anniversary will feature the official commemorative graphic.

"Commemorating 50 Years of Integration at Auburn University: Honoring the Past, Charting the Future" will officially open in conjunction with the Women's Philanthropy Board fall Luncheon and begin with a colloquium on October 4th featuring Marybeth Gasman, Professor of Higher Education in the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Auburn alum Thom Gossom '75 and his wife joyce gillie gossom are the featured speakers during the WPB Luncheon.

Highlights of the twelve months of events and programming include Charlayne Hunter-Gault, who holds a place in civil rights history as one of the first two African American students admitted to the University of Georgia. Also known for her career as an award-winning journalist, Hunter-Gault is respected for her work on television and in print. She is the recipient of two National News and Documentary Emmy Awards and two Peabody Awards. A commemorative lecture series will feature Dwayne Cox, head of Special Collections and Archives, Auburn University Libraries and Wayne Flynt, Professor Emeritus in the Department of History at Auburn.

Over the course of twelve months, faculty, students and alumni will organize events aimed not only at celebrating 50 years of diversity and inclusiveness on campus, but also focused on the future. It will include presentations by current AU students and alumni as well as musical performances.

Auburn University students, faculty, administrators, alumni, community partners and friends are invited to participate and organize events to ensure Auburn continues to be a place where students of diverse backgrounds can engage in a community of mutual respect to tackle the great challenges of an increasingly diverse world.

For more information on the commemoration, stories, photographs and updates, contact Access and Community Initiatives, a division of the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, at 334-844-5042 or by email at [fiftyyearsdiversity@auburn.edu](mailto:fiftyyearsdiversity@auburn.edu).