



## COSAM Covalence E-News, September 2009

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### COSAM Hosts Alumnus and Nobel Peace Prize Winner



COSAM and Auburn University hosted Nobel Peace Prize winner John Oakberg, Mathematics '69, on Tuesday, Sept. 22, as he discussed "International Safeguarding of Nuclear Materials and Facilities: History, Development and Implementation by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)" to members of the Honors College and COSAM faculty.

"The Nobel Peace Prize is presented to a very select few individuals. Few universities can recognize one of their own graduates as having been a part of this prestigious award," says COSAM Dean Stewart Schneller. "John Oakberg was a member of the team that received this most coveted prize - the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize. Auburn University and COSAM were honored by his accomplishments and to welcome his return to the Plains."

The presentation began with a brief introduction of the IAEA and a short description of nuclear safeguards. The talk concentrated on the specific areas of work done in analysis, information collection and drawing safeguards conclusions for 25 years. Oakberg covered career highlights, including the awarding of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize to the IAEA director general and the staff, including Oakberg.

"Who could have imagined where a math degree would lead this boy?" Oakberg asked the audience, emphasizing a strong analytical foundation that provided future benefit as he traveled the world ensuring compliance with international nuclear safeguards.

When asked how it felt to win the Nobel Peace Prize, the Tennessee resident laughed, "It's better than winning a national championship, that's for sure."

Dean Schneller hosted Oakberg on [Episode 14](#) of the Dean's Podcast.

(Article by Christy K. Truitt)

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### Chemistry Department Celebrates Professor's Retirement

Chemistry Professor [Dr. S. D. Worley](#) retired on Sept. 1, 2009, from the active



Dr. Dave Worley and Dr. J. V. Ortiz, Chemistry and Biochemistry department chair

faculty after a 35-year career at Auburn University. Some 66 friends, colleagues and family gathered on Aug. 28 to celebrate the enduring mark left by the academic chemist.

“For many years, Dave Worley has provided an example to his colleagues of what an academic chemist should be: a creative researcher, an inspiring teacher, a supportive mentor to young scientists and a selfless colleague. His discoveries, their applications and the intellectual development he has stimulated among his students and colleagues have strengthened the department in many ways that are still unfolding,” said Chemistry and Biochemistry department chair, Dr. J.V. Ortiz.

Upon retirement and by unanimous vote of his colleagues, Dr. Worley will attain the rank of professor emeritus. Dr. Ortiz also announced the creation of the S. D. and Karen Worley Chair in Chemistry and Biochemistry, made possible by a generous donation by the Worleys.

“My fondest memories (at COSAM) include teaching the large sophomore Organic Chemistry classes to nearly 20,000 students over the years, directing my graduate students in their research projects and helping some of the younger faculty here be successful,” Dr. Worley reflected. He plans to remain active as professor emeritus and to deploy a modest research program and assist in teaching as needed.

“Outside the department, I hope to continue my activities in tennis, music and world travel,” Dr. Worley added.

Dean Schneller hosted Dr. Worley on [Episode 10](#) of the Dean’s Podcast.

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## COSAM Alumna Joins Research Team



Biological Sciences professor Dr. Ken Halanych is leading a team of veteran marine biologists, including Auburn faculty members Dr. Kevin Fielman and Dr. Scott Santos, on a research cruise in the Gulf of Mexico to study marine invertebrates. Dr. Halanych and his research team, in support of COSAM’s outreach mission, are interested in introducing the wonders of their work with deep sea life to future scientists. For the October 2009 research cruise, Dr. Halanych is including Drake Middle School science teacher, Erin Edmondson.

Edmondson, a 2008 Auburn honors graduate with a degree in Biomedical Sciences, is currently a seventh-grade life sciences teacher at Drake Middle School in Auburn. For the six-day research cruise, she will join a team that also includes former Auburn student Dan Thornhill, a researcher and a current post-doctoral scholar at Bowdoin College Maine.

Follow the research trip and Edmondson’s on-board reporting including pictures, daily articles and blog entries back to her classroom via the mission website: [www.auburn.edu/symbiosis](http://www.auburn.edu/symbiosis).

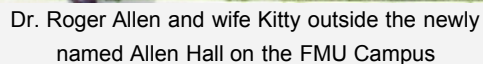
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## College Facility Named in Honor of COSAM Alumnus



In 2009, the Board of Trustees of Francis Marion University (FMU) in Florence, S.C., approved a resolution naming a building of the Forest Villas complex in honor of COSAM alumnus Roger W. (Bucky) Allen Jr., Mathematics ‘63.

Dr. Allen graduated with high honors from Auburn University and earned a master’s degree and a Ph.D. degree from the University of Virginia. He began his career at FMU as an associate professor of Mathematics in 1971, where he eventually served as chairman and professor of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science from 1986-1996. While at FMU, Dr. Allen was awarded the Mamie Cole Gray Chair of Mathematics and during the 1980-



Dr. Roger Allen and wife Kitty outside the newly named Allen Hall on the FMU Campus

81 academic year, was named Distinguished Professor due to his many achievements.

Now retired, Dr. Allen and his wife Kitty, Education '63, live in Waynesville, N.C.

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## COSAM Student Services Hosts Open House



The COSAM Student Services hosted an Open House on Aug. 26, 2009, for incoming students. The purpose was to welcome new students to COSAM and give them an opportunity to meet their advisor, other students and faculty.

"It's a great way for the students to get connected with the many [student organizations](#) we have," said Beth Yarbrough, academic advisor. Some 200 students enjoyed food and door prizes, including a signed football from head football coach Gene Chizik.

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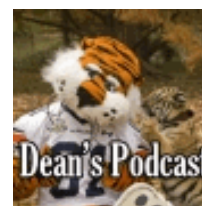
## COSAM Digital Updates



[Successful Study Habit from a COSAM Student's Perspective](#)



[Video Archive](#)



[Episode 12 - Dr. Geoff Hill and his bird studies](#)

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[Football Season Begins Again](#)

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[Episode 13 - COSAM 101](#)

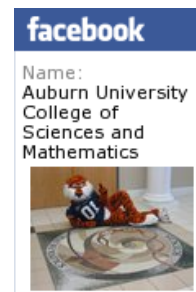
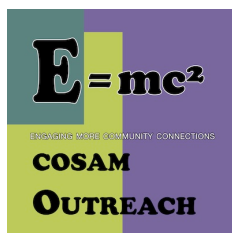
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[Open House](#)

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[Episode 14 - Nobel Peace Prize Winner and COSAM Alumnus, John Oakberg](#)

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