



COSAM Covalence E-News, Dean Marie Wooten Obituary

Funeral Arrangements and Memorial Information



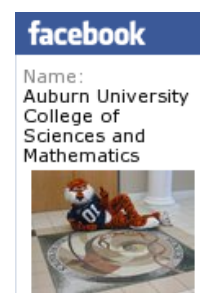
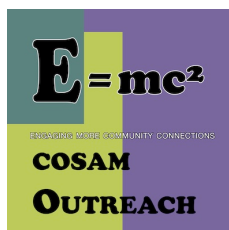
MARIE WRIGHT WOOTEN of Auburn, was born Aug. 13, 1957, in Paris Tenn., and passed away tragically Nov. 5, 2010. She was dean and professor of the College of Sciences and Mathematics (COSAM) at Auburn University. Marie is preceded in death by her parents, James Roy Wright and Lucrecia Reyes Wright. She is survived by her husband, Michael C. Wooten, and cousin Joe Reyes, who represents the family. Michael was Marie's devoted husband of 31 years and her soul mate for 34 years.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, Nov. 11, 2010, from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. at Jeffcoat-Trant Funeral Home; 1500 Frederick Road; Opelika, Ala. Funeral Services will be held on Friday, Nov. 12, 2010, at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Auburn United Methodist Church, 220 East Magnolia Ave., Auburn, with Rev. Nick Holler officiating. A private service will follow.

Marie grew up in the "Land Between the Lakes" in northwestern Tennessee where she developed a strong interest in nature and science. Her childhood heroines were Eleanor Roosevelt, Madame Curie and Amelia Earhart, which formed the basis for her later passion in advancing opportunities for women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Marie was educated in Memphis and Denton, Texas, where she received a B.S. in Microbiology at the University of Memphis in 1979 and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at Texas Woman's University in 1983. Marie honed her research skills as a post-doctoral associate at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York, prior to her becoming a COSAM faculty member in Biological Sciences at Auburn in 1987. She served as acting head of the Department of Zoology and Wildlife from 1995-1997, and later became associate dean of Research in COSAM in 2000, a position she held until becoming dean of COSAM in 2010. Despite her strong commitment to administration at Auburn, Marie was an outstanding leader, role model, and mentor in research, teaching and service. In particular, Marie lived for her research and for her students. She embodied the ideal that to be successful students "should be life-long learners and individuals who make a difference." Among her many hobbies, Marie was an avid runner, being particularly proud at completing the "Sprint Triathlon" where she finished first in her age group.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial contributions may be made to "Marie W. Wooten Memorial Scholarship Fund." Checks should be made payable to the "AU Foundation" and mailed to the College of Sciences and Mathematics; 315 Roosevelt Concourse; Auburn University; Auburn, Ala.; 36849-7350.

Letters of condolence may be mailed to Dr. Michael Wooten; 2116 White Oak Lane; Auburn, Ala.; 36830.



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