



AUBURN COMMONS

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Auburn Rated ‘Exemplary’ for Junior Faculty

For the second year in a row, a Harvard-based educational collaborative rates Auburn University among the best workplaces in America for tenure-track junior faculty.

In a survey of workplace conditions for faculty working toward tenure, the Collaborative on Academic Careers in Higher Education at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education rated AU as “exemplary” in three categories: tenure practices overall, tenure reasonableness and policy effectiveness overall.

This was the second set of survey results released by the educational collaborative. In results reported in December 2006, AU was

rated among the top institutions for junior faculty satisfaction with their institutions in terms of career progress, colleagues and institutional support.

“The COACHE surveys show that Auburn is a very attractive place for faculty as well as students,” said AU President Jay Gogue. “Talented, young Ph.D.s with outstanding potential will look to these surveys in choosing the universities where they will settle and develop that potential. We expect that they will pay extra attention to institutions, like Auburn, that have earned the ‘exemplary’ rating.”

COACHE measured factors affecting workplace quality at 78 member institutions with almost 7,000 tenure-track faculty members. The 56 universities and 22 liberal arts colleges were evaluated in separate categories.

Member universities include several Ivy League schools, private institutions such as Duke and Stanford and major state universities such as Ohio State and Minnesota, plus universities in the California and North Carolina systems.

Auburn was among 10 universities rated exemplary in terms of policy effectiveness overall. Others earning the rating were Duke, North Dakota State, Ohio State, Stanford, Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota and Notre Dame.

Auburn also was among eight universities rated as exemplary for tenure practices overall. Other large institutions earning that rating included North Carolina State, Ohio State and Kansas. Those three institutions, plus AU and the University of Virginia, were among 10 universities in the exemplary category for tenure reasonableness, a component of the other categories.

(COACHE, continued on page 5)



The AU Board of Trustees in November elevated the Department of Building Science, housed in the Miller Gorrie Center pictured above, to school status within the College of Architecture, Design and Construction. Also, in a surprise for Trustee Earlon McWhorter, the Board voted to name it the Earlon and Betty McWhorter School of Building Science in honor of the former board president pro tem and his wife. The McWhorters recently gave \$5 million to AU in support of the school.



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Message from the President

Dear Auburn Alumni and Supporters,

As we begin a new year, I am pleased to report that Auburn University continues to attract exceptional students and faculty from this state and around the world.

Auburn's fall 2007 enrollment exceeded a record-high 24,000, and the university's freshman class boasted the highest average ACT score of any class ever at AU. The university has been ranked in the top 50 public institutions for the past 15 years by *U.S. News & World Report* and is among the top 15 percent of colleges ranked by the *Princeton Review*. In the leading national survey of student engagement, our students say

AU provides a campus environment that's way ahead of the average research university in making students feel supported in their academic and personal lives, which to me really emphasizes what Auburn is all about.

For the second year in a row, a Harvard-based educational collaborative rates Auburn University among the best workplaces in America for tenure-track junior faculty. In addition, more than 92 percent of our students and more than 95 percent of our alumni say that if they could start college over again, they would choose Auburn.

This level of recognition is not easily attained and is due to dedicated faculty and staff who continuously work to meet the needs of our students.

There is no end to the ideas that we all have to make Auburn even better. The strategic planning process currently under way for AU's future involves many people. About 20 small focus-group sessions, comprised of people from our campuses and within our community and state, are specifically addressing issues that will improve AU and AUM. At the conclusion of those meetings, I plan to go into each of the state's congressional districts to seek broader input. The goal is to look at 20 to 30 areas on which we can focus our resources during the next five to seven years.

At the February meeting of the Board of Trustees, I will address our thinking on such strategic initiatives.

With all of us working together—trustees, faculty, students, alumni, administration, and donors—to meet the challenges and achieve the potential and the promise of this institution, Auburn has amazing opportunity before it.

War Eagle!



Jay Gogue

Gifts to AU Top \$131 Million, Setting New Record

Sparked by two \$5 million pledges and a \$10 million gift, private giving to Auburn University rose to an all-time high of \$131.3 million in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

This tops the previous year's total of \$105.3 million. It is the third year in a row the university has broken the prior year's fundraising record and raised more than \$100 million.

The total for 2006-07 is 25 percent higher than the previous fiscal year's earnings. AU received contributions from 37,875 donors, with the total representing pledges, deferred and outright gifts. Gifts of more than \$1 million came from 23 donors. These gifts totaled more than \$54 million, or 41 percent of the total giving for the year. An additional

30 percent of the fiscal year's gifts came from donations of \$100,000 to \$999,999.

The Annual Fund also had a record year, bringing in more than \$2.8 million from 31,956 donors. This is a 16 percent increase over the previous year's numbers. The fund focuses on unrestricted gifts, which can be allocated by schools and colleges for immediate needs.

Of the \$131 million contributed to the university last year, \$28 million went to student support, \$21 million to faculty support, \$11 million to facilities and \$71 million to programmatic support.

The "It Begins at Auburn" Campaign also had a groundbreaking year. The campaign reached its \$500 million goal nine months early and ended the year with a state record for

private giving during a campaign of more than \$540 million. The campaign will conclude on March 31.

(Gifts, continued on page 5)

Auburn COMMONS

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Faculty In The News

Cullinan Inducted Into Hall of Fame

Harry T. Cullinan, director of AU's Alabama Center for Paper and Bioresource Engineering, was inducted into the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in Appleton, Wisc.

He is being inducted into the industry's hall of fame under the categories of academic, research and development and leadership.

Cullinan, who is also a professor of chemical engineering in AU's Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, is one of six paper industry innovators in this year's induction class, bringing the membership roster to 82.

Rosener Composition Premieres

Doug Rosener, assistant director of bands at Auburn and director of the AU Music Department's Steel Drum Band, has composed a percussion ensemble piece, "Uriel," that was showcased during the Percussive Arts Society International Convention on Nov. 2 in Columbus, Ohio.

The Oak Mountain High School percussion ensemble premiered Rosener's composition at the international convention in November. The high school band from Birmingham was selected to perform through a taped competitive audition. "Uriel" has been edited for publication and was released at the convention.

Appel Awarded for Work by ESA

Arthur Appel, professor and chair of the AU College of Agriculture's Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, has been named the recipient of the 2007 Entomological Foundations Recognition Award in Urban Entomology by the Entomological Society of America.

The award is given annually for research and teaching that contributes substantially to the study of the biology and control of arthropods found in the home or surrounding landscape. This includes structural and wood-destroying pests and pests of ornamental plants, shade trees and turf.

UN Program Honors AU Professor

Distinguished University Professor Rod Rodriguez-Kabana of the AU College of Agriculture recently received the Champion

(Faculty, continued on page 6)

Message from the Provost



Happy 2008! The start of a new calendar year is an occasion to look forward to the future direction and initiatives of Auburn University. Under the leadership of President Jay Gogue, we have made significant progress on our strategic planning process and anticipate having a draft set of goals and initiatives by February, with a finalized plan by April.

The university developed an online survey for collecting feedback from alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff and citizens about strategic directions for the university. In November, approximately 1,350 individuals provided input online. Additionally, we posted background information, referred to as the "situational assessment," and the analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, so that anyone who is interested can read about the competitive factors and issues facing Auburn University. If you are interested in reviewing this material, it is available at http://www.auburn.edu/administration/strategic_planning/.

We have also held more than 30 focus group meetings—both on campus and across the state of Alabama—to gather feedback on Auburn's strategic direction. As the largest land-grant institution of Alabama, we have been interested in a broad set of ideas in this process.

We look forward to keeping you posted as we move closer to having a draft of our strategic initiatives for Auburn University in the next decade.

War Eagle!

John Heilman

Education has sharp rise in scholarship aid

The AU College of Education recently awarded 118 undergraduate and graduate scholarships and assistantships totaling more than \$210,000 for the 2007-08 academic year, an increase of more than \$60,000 from last year.

The funding includes four new scholarships and assistantships awarded this year: The Alabama FFA Officers Alumni Association Annual Scholarship; Sandra Bridges Newkirk Endowed Scholarship; Harold and Shirley Patterson Annual Scholarship; Continuous Improvement Graduate Assistantship and the G. Dennis Wilson Endowed Graduate Award.

Dean Fran Kochan said the presentation ceremony, held annually since 2002, is as much about recognizing the investment in

education made by donors as it is about the achievements of the students. "Identifying and assisting so many deserving students is paramount for our college," said Kochan, "and is made possible by the generosity of donors. We are delighted to honor those who have helped create an enduring legacy through the support of these student awards."

Student support is one of several major parts of the university's "It Begins at Auburn" \$500 million comprehensive campaign.

In addition to awarding record amounts in scholarships for the college this academic year, the College of Education has raised more than \$12 million since October 2001, more than doubling its campaign goal of \$5.75 million. ☺

Fisheries Professor Seeking to Improve Sport Fishing

For Alabama fishermen, catching that prized 12-pound bass may soon be more than just a tall tale, thanks to fisheries researchers at Auburn.

A program initiated by researchers in the Department of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures with AU's College of Agriculture is seeking to improve fishing in small ponds throughout the state. With support and cooperation from the private sector, AU researchers are studying ways to increase the size of bass caught by anglers. "We have a lot of farm ponds in Alabama—approximately half a million—so I think this research is going to renew a lot of interest in people trying to catch large trophy largemouth bass," said lead researcher Mike Maceina, a professor of fisheries in the college. "We're trying to do some innovative things to try and increase the production of trophy fish because that is what people like to catch."

Maceina, who is heading the research initiative, says the largest problem facing Alabama pond owners who want quality fishing is overabundant bass populations. The research is aimed at bass because that is the primary sport fish in Alabama. Bass tend to over reproduce in smaller bodies of water, and the removal of fish by angling is typically not an adequate method for reducing the number of fish. This causes fish growth to be reduced and results in overcrowded ponds and small stunted fish that cannot grow to their full potential.

"People don't harvest bass anymore," said Maceina. "They just like to catch and release so we're trying to do some things to circumvent that problem."

The goal of Maceina's research is to explore and demonstrate alternative methods to produce larger bass for pond owners, particularly when fishing for the dinner table is not a priority. These alternatives include stocking the ponds with all female bass, which grow larger than male fish, to prevent the bass from reproducing. Another alternative being explored is stocking ponds with a variety of different prey fish that bass feed on to improve growth.

Maceina noted that the state record for bass stands at 16 pounds. While he isn't trying

to break any records, Maceina said the AU research has the potential to greatly increase bass size. "Our goal is to produce significant numbers or increase the numbers of fish that are 8 to 12 pounds," he said.

Although Maceina started the program in

2003, he said it is still in the research phase. "We haven't had enough time yet to evaluate it. It takes about five or six years to grow a trophy fish so it's not the kind of thing that is going to happen overnight," he said. "It is one of those things that is going to take time." 🌱



The namesakes for Auburn's new engineering technology center, U.S. Sen. Richard Shelby and his wife, Annette N. Shelby, a professor emerita at Georgetown University, toured the center during a visit to campus in November. Larry Benefield, left, dean of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, also showed the Shelbys plans for phase two of the complex. Sen. Shelby played a key role in securing \$30 million in federal funds for the first phase of the complex. The technology center is tentatively scheduled to be dedicated in the spring.



David Rouse, left, of Fisheries and Allied Aquacultures in AU's College of Agriculture, shows U.S. Rep. Robert Aderholt of Alabama's Fourth District and Aderholt's daughter, Mary Elliott, an innovative way by which AU fisheries and other researchers are helping improve Alabama agriculture through reuse of water from fish ponds. Aderholt and his daughter visited the campus in November.

Carolyn Draughon Center to Renew Art Series in '08

The Caroline Marshall Draughon Center for the Arts and Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts has received grant funding from the Alabama Humanities Foundation for "New Perspectives: Alabama Art in the Open," the center's second annual lecture series focusing on the state's artistic heritage.

The series, which explores Alabama's contributions to the nation's visual arts, will send scholars to communities throughout the state in 2008 for public discussions on historic architecture, public art, photography, environmental art and related topics.

The topics are grouped around the theme of art created for, in or about nature. The series will explore artists' creative reactions to and interaction with the environment, in large and small scale, in public and private spaces, using

traditional methods and technological innovations. Subjects will include history, anthropology, art, art history and Native American and African American contributions to the region's art and culture.

Scholars will discuss such concepts as the purposes and value of public art, the intersections of personal and cultural values in domestic landscapes as well as moral and spiritual purposes and a memorial stone wall constructed as a physical manifestation of culture and history.

The speakers represent universities, museums and art and preservation organizations. These include Georgine Clarke of the Alabama State Council on the Arts, Julian Cox of Atlanta's High Museum of Art, Judith McWillie of the University of Georgia, John Sledge of the

Mobile Historic Development Commission and Kelly Wacker of the University of Montevallo.

At AU, lectures will be scheduled for the Julie Collins Smith Museum between Feb. 5 and March 11. After premiering at Auburn, the lectures will be offered in cities across the state.

For more information, call the Caroline Marshall Draughon Center at 844-4946. ☺

Gifts

(continued from page 2)

"The 2006-07 fiscal year will stand out in Auburn's record books for setting a new standard in fundraising for the university and the state of Alabama," said Bob McGinnis, vice president for development. "We still have individual goals across the campus that have not been achieved and many areas in need of increased support.

"This outstanding financial accomplishment is due to our dedicated team of volunteers, deans and development staff. The Auburn spirit is evident in all they do to support the university and for this I give them thanks," said McGinnis.

AU President Jay Gogue added, "Auburn supporters help bridge the gap between a good education and a great education. Their generosity this past year will be felt long into the future." ☺

COACHE

(continued from page 1)

The latest study focused on the satisfaction levels of junior faculty toward workplace issues that are critical to professional advancement.

Junior faculty are instructors or assistant professors who are working toward tenure, which institutions must award within seven years in most cases. Faculty who fail to attain tenure cannot continue teaching at that institution and have to start over at another institution or leave the profession.

The collaborative conducted the survey in 2005 and 2006, analyzed the data over the past year and published the results in the report "Top Academic Workplaces 2005-2007." The report is available online at <http://gseacademic.harvard.edu/~coache>. ☺



The Goodyear blimp was not simply passing by on Oct. 5, when it flew over campus. Piloted by AU alumnus Marty Chandler, the world-famous blimp participated in a video project by the Office of Communications and Marketing and is a part of Auburn's latest television commercial.

Visit Auburn's ALUM Network and Join the AAA

The Auburn ALUM Network (online directory) is a service to AU graduates that allows members of the Auburn Alumni Association to log in securely and access online services such as updating address information, finding fellow graduates, enabling a permanent forwarding e-mail address and more. Now graduates can also enjoy the ALUM Career Center where

they can post a resumé and search for jobs.

Check www.aualum.org/aoc/ for more information.

Members have been vital to the Auburn Alumni Association throughout its history. To learn about all the benefits of being a member or to join your Auburn Alumni Association, visit www.aualum.org/membership/. ☺

Ariccia Program Renamed in Honor of Bruno

The Ariccia, Italy, study abroad program in AU's College of Human Sciences has a new name: the Joseph S. Bruno Auburn in Italy program.

The college celebrated the renaming in a November ceremony in honor of the founder of the Bruno's grocery and pharmacy chain, who died in 1996 at age 83. In the largest gift ever for the college, the Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation recently gave \$2.5 million to the AU Foundation to support the Ariccia program. With a previous gift of \$500,000, the foundation has contributed \$3 million for the college's program in Italy.

"We are committed to the importance of this program in providing a global education for today's graduates," said Benny LaRussa Jr., grandson of Joseph S. Bruno. "This is an opportunity for motivated students to be prepared for the global realities of the 21st century. Participation in a study abroad program

encourages the exchange of knowledge and promotes enlightened, responsible citizens and future leaders for our state and nation."

Based in a small, historic town on the outskirts of Rome, the Ariccia program began in 2002 and is open to students in other AU colleges and schools as well as Human Sciences. Participants pursue an integrated course of study that examines quality of life issues affecting individuals, families and communities from a global perspective.

The program includes lectures, day trips and overnight study excursions led by Italian experts in fields such as art history, architecture, Italian history, European economics, Italian cinematography and literature, social policy, education and current events. The semester-long program culminates in the completion of the international minor for undergraduates or an individualized course of study for graduate students.

"The generous gift given to us by the Joseph S. Bruno Charitable Foundation provides an extraordinary opportunity to make the College of Human Sciences study abroad program in Italy a premier educational initiative that is second to none in the country," said June Henton, the college's dean. ☺



Paul Spina of the AU Board of Trustees reads the board's resolution naming the College of Human Sciences' Ariccia, Italy, study abroad program in honor of Joseph S. Bruno. During a ceremony celebrating the renaming, Spina presented a framed copy of the resolution to Bruno family representative Benny LaRussa Jr., right.

Faculty

(continued from page 3)

Award from the United Nations Environment Programme's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel.

A soil biologist in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, he was recognized at the Montreal Protocol as a leader in the search for replacements for the ozone-depleting fumigant methyl bromide.

In research honored by the UN program, the Auburn professor has developed a liquid form of the chemical sodium azide that has been demonstrated to be a highly effective replacement.

A College of Agriculture faculty member since 1965, Rodriguez-Kabana is one of the longest-serving members of the Auburn faculty.

Thurow Receives Air Force Grant

Brian Thurow of the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering recently received a \$300,000 grant through the U.S. Air Force's Young Investigator Research Program.

The grant will assist Thurow, assistant professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering, in developing and applying

a high-speed, three-dimensional density measurement technique for aerospace use.

Auburn Gets NSF Grant to Join Universities in Wireless Group

The National Science Foundation has awarded a \$250,000 grant to AU to join a consortium of universities forming the Wireless Internet Center for Advanced Technologies.

Prathima Agrawal, director of the Wireless Engineering Research and Education Center at AU, is the principal investigator on the five-year project, during which Auburn will participate in wireless research on cross-layer optimization of coexisting systems.

Sinha Gets Fulbright Scholar Grant

Subhash Sinha, a professor of mechanical engineering in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, has received a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach and conduct research in Mauritius, an Indian Ocean island off the east coast of Africa.

Sinha will spend the 2007-08 academic year at the University of Mauritius, conducting research in rotor dynamics and the analysis

and design of wind-sensitive structures.

An AU faculty member since 1987, Sinha is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad this year through the Fulbright program.

Hinson Earns National AIAS Award

David Hinson, head of the School of Architecture at AU, received the Educator Honor Award at the recent national convention of the American Institute of Architecture Students in Washington, D.C.

The award is the latest of several for Hinson and his students in 2007. Their work on the DESIGNhabitat 2 manufactured home collaboration with Habitat for Humanity also led to American Institute of Architects awards on the state and national level, including the Special Housing Award at the AIA's national convention.

Hinson joined the College of Architecture, Design and Construction in 1997 after working in private practice in Philadelphia and was named head of the School of Architecture this year. ☺

IQLA Honors Anderson for Environmental Practices

Ray Anderson, a Georgia industrial leader who is recognized as a global pacesetter for environmentally sustainable business practices, was honored in December as the 2007 laureate at the 14th annual International Quality of Life Awards at the United Nations in New York.

Since founding Atlanta-based Interface, Inc. in LaGrange, Ga., in 1973, Anderson has developed the company into the world's largest producer of commercial carpet tile. The company has sales operations in more than 100 countries and manufacturing facilities on four continents. In addition, in 2006 GlobeScan listed Interface as number one in the world for corporate sustainability.

The International Quality of Life Award is given annually by Auburn University's College of Human Sciences. Paul Hawken, an environmental writer whose work on behalf of ecology greatly influenced Anderson, presented the award to the Georgia businessman. Hawken is author of "The Ecology of Commerce," a book that addresses the "gap between how the earth lives and how we conduct our commercial lives." Anderson read Hawken's book in 1994 and experienced what he calls a "spear-in-the-chest-epiphany," which led to a complete rethinking of his company's approach to the environment.

Thirteen years ago Anderson issued a challenge for Interface to become the world's first restorative enterprise by 2020. Interface is now

45 percent of the way to its target of Mission Zero, the point at which the company will be a fully sustainable operation that takes nothing out of the earth that cannot be recycled or quickly regenerated and that does not harm the biosphere.

"Ray is the world's premier industrialist in the area of sustainable commerce," said Human Sciences Dean June Henton. "Because of his vision, passion and leadership, Interface has set the standard for corporate social responsibility." 🌱



Gov. Bob Riley joined AU representatives in New York last December to award the College of Human Sciences' International Quality of Life Award to ecologically pace-setting industrialist Ray Anderson. Shown with the award, from left, are AU President Jay Gogue, Human Sciences Dean June Henton, Anderson and Riley. Anderson's Atlanta-based company, Interface Inc., has global influence on environmental practices.

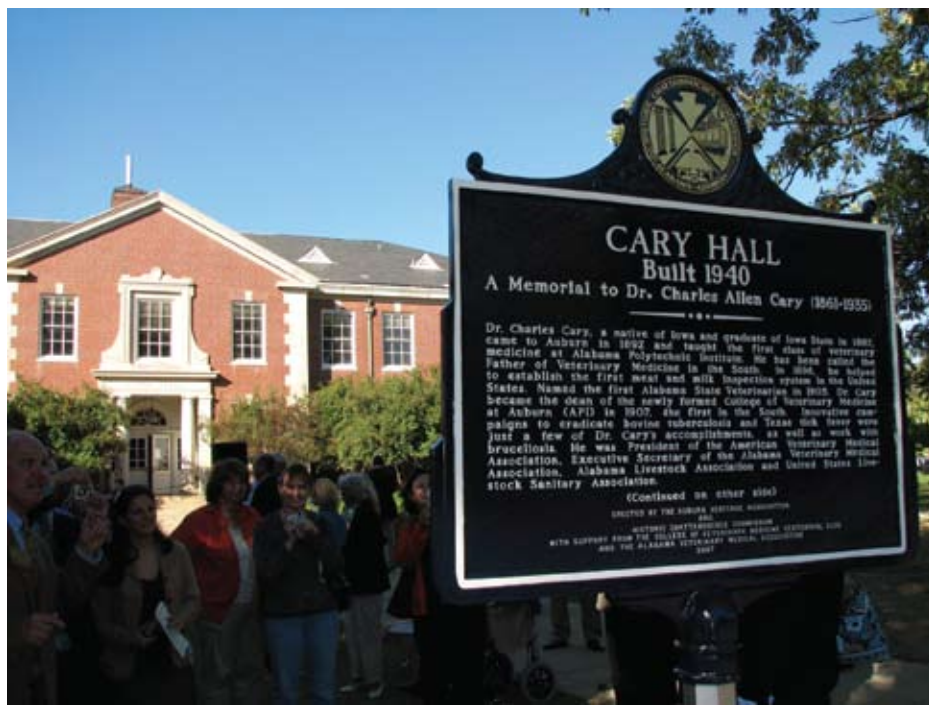
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In November, Alabama 4-H dedicated its new environmental education building. Located at the Alabama 4-H Center at Lay Lake near Columbiana, the 17,500-square-foot, \$5 million Alabama 4-H Environmental Science Education Center will serve Alabama school children, 4-H youth, business leaders and others with an interest in environmental education. Headquartered at AU with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Alabama 4-H serves youth in every county of the state and provides numerous educational programs at the Lay Lake site. The facility was built with funds raised by the Campaign for Alabama 4-H through the Alabama 4-H Club Foundation. More than 700 corporations, foundations, organizations and individuals have supported the campaign, giving \$5.7 million to date.

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Highlights



A historic marker was dedicated Oct. 26 in front of Cary Hall by representatives of the AU College of Veterinary Medicine, Auburn Heritage Association and Historic Chattahoochee Commission. The building housed Auburn's veterinary school from 1940 to 1970 and is named for AU's first veterinary dean, Charles Allen Cary, who came to Auburn in 1892. In 1907, he helped establish the College of Veterinary Medicine and served as dean until his death in 1935. Today, Cary Hall has classrooms for psychology classes and other science courses within the College of Sciences and Mathematics.



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