Goodbye, Dunstan

Dunstan Hall has been razed and the site is being cleared along the Ginn Concourse. Completed in 1959 and named for Arthur St. Charles Dunstan, a prominent electrical engineering professor and department head who served 51 years on the Auburn faculty, the 33,000-square-foot academic building was the first completely air conditioned building on campus. Unable to meet the needs of 21st century engineering education without extensive retrofitting, the building was vacated following construction of Shelby Center. Dunstan, the adjacent Engineering Shops, dating from 1939, and the L Building, dating from 1929, were identified in the campus master plan as candidates for demolition to create space for future parking and/or academic structures in the campus core. For the present, the tract along the Ginn Concourse will remain as green space with sod, shade trees and shrubs being planted by the Facilities Management Landscaping Department. A replacement facility has not been identified at this time.

Wooten named 2014 Presidential Administrative Fellow

Michael Wooten, a professor in the College of Sciences and Mathematics Department of Biological Sciences, has been named Auburn University’s Presidential Administrative Fellow for 2014.

The fellowship program is designed to help individual faculty members gain senior administrative experience while applying their academic expertise to issues and programs that impact a broad segment of the university community.

“Dr. Wooten has demonstrated excellent leadership skills through many administrative and service activities,” President Jay Gogue said. “As a faculty fellow, he will provide valuable insight as we continue to optimize Auburn’s strategic priorities.”

As the Presidential Administrative Fellow, Wooten plans to develop an online information exchange focused on international activities. The website would be accessible through links under the Office of International Programs and would serve as a collection point and repository for international knowledge held by the Auburn University community.

“The overall concept for the website would be a self-reporting interface,” Wooten said. “Faculty seeking expertise would be able to post information about the course or research they are planning and ask for assistance.”

As part of the repository concept, a multimedia area will be available on the website in which participants can submit photographs and audio and video files relating to their area of expertise.

The website also would be open for study abroad courses to document their locations, including an easily accessible map-based presentation system.

Wooten said he hopes to make significant progress on the international expertise repository and to increase his own knowledge regarding how a major university operates.

“I intend to use this exceptional opportunity to meet with as many people as possible, at all administrative levels, to learn as much as I can about what it takes to make the system function,” Wooten said. “Ultimately I hope to bring new insight back to my current departmental position to help both me and my colleagues operate within the system more effectively.”

A faculty member at Auburn since 1986, Wooten holds a Ph.D. from the University of North Texas and conducted post-doctoral research at the University of Georgia and Stony Brook University.

He is vice chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and was the department chair of the former Department of Zoology and Wildlife Science in COSAM. He also serves on the University Promotion and Tenure Committee.

Wooten has taught general genetics for 29 years and has served on numerous department, college and university committees including the University Senate and as a former faculty advisor to the Auburn University Sailing Club.

He co-directed a summer 2013 Study Abroad course in Swaziland with Troy Best and Christine Sundermann, which included a three-week biology field trip studying mammals and collecting data for the Mbuluzi Nature Preserve.

He has directed research on the conservation of endangered species on the Gulf Coast for 20 years and is directing completion of a project funded by the National Institutes of Health to examine protein-level causes of neurological diseases.

– Susie Bridges
International forum of education leaders, summit to discuss global hunger issues

An international gathering of education leaders at Auburn University this week will examine the role of universities in reducing world hunger, and a public summit this weekend will address related issues.

The Auburn-based Hunger Solutions Institute is one of three entities organizing the pre-summit forum, “Shaping the Collective Role of Universities as a Partner in Ending Hunger,” on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 27-28. The other organizers are the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

The invitation-only forum will precede the ninth Annual Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit this weekend. The summit, at The Auburn University Hotel, is open to the public, with paid admission, and seating may be limited for some events. For information, see www.universitiesfightingworldhunger.org.

Forum attendees will include leaders of universities from the United States, Canada and Central America, as well as senior representatives from the U.S. government, United Nations, private sector and foundations.

“The pre-summit will be a forum for dialogue, but more importantly, we hope that it can be the catalyst to address obstacles and take advantage of opportunities where universities can become a tipping point in helping our local communities, our nation and the world achieve food security for everyone,” said June Henton, dean of Auburn’s College of Human Sciences.

Henton, who is a founder of Universities Fighting World Hunger and executive director of the Hunger Solutions Institute, “Our collective voice is so much stronger than each of us alone.”

At the invitation of Auburn University President Jay Gogue, forum attendees will include Alastair Summerville, president, University of Guelph in Canada and chair of the Hunger Solutions Institute Board of Advisors; Brady Deaton, chancellor emeritus, University of Missouri and chair of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development; Robert Easter, president, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Matthew Jenkins, president, Tuskegee University; David Marin, president, Pedagogica Nacional Francisco Morazan of Honduras; Richard Florizone, president, D’Alton University in Canada; and Elsa Murano, president emeritus, Texas A&M University and Norman Borlaug Institute director.

The invited participants also include leaders from the U.S. Agency for International Development; U.S. Department of Agriculture; UN FAO, United Nations Development Program; U.N. World Food Programme; and the office of the U.N. Secretary-General.

The summit is expected to draw approximately 300 students and educators from Universities Fighting World Hunger member institutions across the country and will feature a varied list of speakers from around the world, including journalist and author Roger Thurow, former child soldier and U.N. official Alfred Orono and Congressman Spencer Bachus of Alabama.

This marks the fourth time Auburn has hosted since the first Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit in 2006. Auburn created Universities Fighting Hunger that year to bring colleges and universities together to share best practices for reducing hunger. The organization now has more than 300 colleges and universities from around the world.

“Anyone who has ever attended a Universities Fighting World Hunger Summit comes away with greater hope for the future,” said Henton. “They arrive at the summit as student leaders already committed to making the world a better place and leave more well-informed and prepared to inspire others on their campuses to become leaders in the fight to end this historic plague,” added Henton.

One student leader who will be recognized during the summit is Auburn’s Azeem Ahmed, a senior in finance and pre-med. Ahmed has been named winner of the 2014 President William Jefferson Clinton Hunger Leadership Award, an honor presented to only one university student worldwide each year.

American College of Sports Medicine names Bruce Gladden of Auburn as its journal editor

The American College of Sports Medicine has appointed Auburn University’s Bruce Gladden as editor-in-chief of its flagship journal, Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise.

Gladden is the Humana-Germany-Sherman Distinguished Professor of Education in the College of Education’s School of Kinesiology. A fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine since 1980, he has an international reputation in the field of exercise physiology and has been credited with more than 100 cited scientific publications and more than 3,500 citations to those publications.

The American College of Sports Medicine is the largest sports medicine and exercise science organization in the world. With more than 50,000 professional members worldwide, ACSM is dedicated to advancing, integrating and translating scientific research in exercise science and sports medicine to provide educational and practical applications to improve human health, performance and well-being.

Gladden’s editorial appointment became effective Jan. 1. The journal Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise provides research scientists, clinical physicians, psychiatrists, physical therapists, team physicians, athletic trainers and other professionals a vital exchange of information from basic and applied science, medicine, education and allied health fields.

“The position offers me a new professional challenge, and I think it is already recharging my batteries for continued scholarly activity,” said Gladden. “As editor-in-chief, I will be in a position to direct and shape the future of a scientific journal that is already successful and highly respected.”

Gladden obtained a Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee and then completed two years of post-doctoral work at the University of Florida. His first faculty position was in the Exercise Physiology Laboratory at the University of Louisville, where he remained for 11 years. He has been at Auburn University since 1989.

He received the first NIH R01 grant award in the Auburn University College of Education. He is a recipient of an Alumni Professorship, the Humana-Germany-Sherman Distinguished Professorship in the College of Education, the Auburn University Graduate Faculty Lectureship and was chair of the University Senate in 2000-01.

Gladden has been awarded both the Scholar and Service awards of the Southeast Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, and the Outstanding Exercise Science Alumni Award from the University of Tennessee. He is also a fellow of the National Academy of Kinesiology.
Research Week set for April with speakers, exhibits focusing on food systems, safety and other topics

Award-winning food author and biochemist Shirley Corriher will be among the speakers highlighting Auburn University’s 2014 Research Week April 14-17, an event that showcases top faculty and student research and creative scholarship.

The week’s focus will be on food systems, safety and security, but will also feature many other disciplines.

Corriher will present the keynote address, “The Secret Life of Food,” at 6 p.m. April 16 at The Hotel at Auburn University. She is a consultant on the television show, “Good Eats,” and her books, “BakeWise” and “CookWise,” each won the James Beard Award, one of the top awards for food and beverage professionals in North America. Her publications have received high acclaim from Real Simple and Cooking Light magazines as well.

Corriher, who has a degree in chemistry from Vanderbilt University, has taught cooking and chemistry to audiences for 40 years.

“We are excited to have talented professionals, such as Shirley Corriher, share their experiences with us,” said John Mason, Auburn University vice president for research and economic development. “Their presence will be an added bonus to the great presentations and posters from Auburn’s main campus and Auburn University at Montgomery.”

In Montgomery, AUM will host a talk by history Professor Steve Hahn of the University of Pennsylvania at 6 p.m. April 14 in 230 Taylor Center. He will speak on “How Long was the Civil Rights Movement?”

Auburn’s main campus will have its Research Week Kickoff from 10 a.m.-noon April 15 at The Hotel at Auburn University. The speakers are Pam Hullinger, associate clinical professor at the University of California Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and Erica Meissner, Auburn Honors College graduate and former All-American swimmer.

Hullinger is a national authority on foreign animal disease prevention, primarily foot-and-mouth disease, and serves as chief veterinary officer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. Her talk at Auburn is sponsored by the Phi Kappa Phi honor society. Meissner was an All-American swimmer at Auburn who earned an anthropology degree in 2011; she received her master’s degree in development studies in 2013 from the University of Cambridge.

A screening of the film “Pride and Joy,” directed by Joe York, will be at Auburn’s Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at 5:15 p.m. April 15. The film explores the depth and tradition of Southern food culture.

Faculty, graduate and undergraduate researchers will speak and present posters on food research; cyber security; energy and the environment; health sciences; transportation; Gulf research and restoration; gender-based research; infrastructure; sustainability; fine and applied art; social sciences; humanities; the STEM disciplines of science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and many more.

The week will include vendor displays, discussion forums, lectures, seminars, a proposal-writing workshop, an awards ceremony, events and open houses. A Graduate Scholars Forum is set for March 4-5 in the Student Center, with the top posters and presenters moving on to the Graduate Scholars Symposium April 15-16 as a part of Research Week.

“Our faculty and students have put many hours into their work,” said Jennifer Kerpelman, associate dean for research and graduate studies in the College of Human Sciences and chair of the Research Week committee. “We invite everyone to join us in honoring their great commitment to Auburn research and creative scholarship.”

Research Week sponsors include Auburn University, Auburn University at Montgomery, Auburn University Libraries and the Jule Collins Smith Museum of Fine Art at Auburn University.

– Lindsay Miles

Alabama Transition Conference to examine ways to help disabled young people gain self-sufficiency

The Auburn Transition Leadership Institute will host its 24th Alabama Transition Conference March 3-4 at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National.

The conference brings together parents, students, agencies, businesses, educators and policymakers who will gather to share ideas and work toward the goal of preparing young people with disabilities to live independently.

The Auburn Transition Leadership Institute, established in 2000, is affiliated with the College of Education and the Department of Special Education, Rehabilitation and Counseling.

Through sessions, workshops and speakers, participants will learn more about helping students bridge the gap, or transition, from high school to post-secondary employment opportunities and about supporting their development in all areas of life including education, employment, rehabilitation, social support, advocacy and self-efficacy.

The conference theme is “Transition – Forging Strength from Within” and highlights the city of Birmingham in recognition of its history of economic transition and growth, founded in the iron and steel industry.

Creek cleanup

Teams of volunteers picked up litter along the stretch of Parkerson Mill Creek on the west side of the Auburn campus on Feb. 19. Shown along one stretch of the creek are Tom McCauley and Michael Freeman of Risk Management and Safety, which sponsored the cleanup, and Kaye Jernigan Christian of Agronomy and Soils. The periodic cleanups are part of a larger effort by the university that is gradually turning the former eyesore on the south side of campus into a more attractive and environmentally sound part of the landscape.
Charles D. and Lisa Q. Miller of Birmingham have donated $1 million to the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering at Auburn University to create a new endowed faculty chair.

Engineering Dean Chris Roberts said the philanthropic gift will provide funding to maintain a top faculty member with experience and expertise in engineering and business practices, enabling the college to offer a relevant business foundation to its engineering students.

“It is imperative that the College of Engineering attract faculty members who have demonstrated high levels of academic achievement,” said Roberts. “The Millers’ gift is critical to our ability to support an exceptional faculty and continue our commitment to providing a relevant and practical education.”

Charlie Miller said he is pleased that the gift will enhance the education of Auburn’s engineering students, adding, “It will provide them with a solid understanding of business principles and enable them to stand out among their peers in the engineering and business world.”

A 1980 civil engineering graduate of Auburn, Charlie Miller also completed the Wharton Executive Program on Financial Management at the University of Pennsylvania. He is executive vice president and global head of distribution for Harbert Management Corporation, a position he has held since 2002.

Previously, he worked with Harbert Corporation, where he played a key role in the firm’s transformation from an operating conglomerate. Before joining Harbert, he held various project management positions with Brown & Root in Houston and Venezuela.

Lisa Miller graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1981 with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. She is an active community volunteer, serving on the board of the YWCA Central Alabama and as both a Vestry member and Stephen minister at St. Mary’s-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church.

Charlie Miller is a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association, and he and Lisa are members of the university’s 1856 Society. Charlie Miller is a member of the Auburn University Foundation Board of Director, and he serves on the board’s Investment Committee.

Gift from two sources enables Veterinary Medicine to fund residency position

The Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine is establishing a new residency in veterinary reproductive medicine for companion animals, with funding through a charitable gift from the American Kennel Club and the Theriogenology Foundation.

Auburn is one of three veterinary medical programs in the United States to receive the funding. The other recipients are the University of Pennsylvania and the University of California Davis.

Calvin Johnson, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn, said the funding will enable the college to take steps to further enhance the college’s reputation in theriogenology, or reproductive medicine, in both large and small animal medicine. The initial philanthropic investment of $100,000, made through the Auburn University Foundation, will support one resident for three years and provide specialty training in all aspects of veterinary reproductive medicine and surgery, as well as all features of clinical practice related to male and female reproduction, obstetrics and neonatology in companion animals.

“This new residency program for companion animals will expand our nationally recognized programs in theriogenology and reproductive system research and education,” said Johnson.

“The AKC and the Theriogenology Foundation are making a significant financial commitment to train veterinarians to address this important discipline and we look forward to expanding research, education and clinical practice in small animal reproduction,” Johnson said.

“Theriogenology is often seen as an ancillary service and few private-practice clinics offer the services of a reproductive specialist, which is why the AKC decided to invest in training more veterinarians in this field,” said Alan Kalter, American Kennel Club chairman of the board.

“The AKC and the Theriogenology Foundation recognize a joint commitment to breeding as an invaluable tool for the continued improvement of the genetic health of dogs,” Kalter said. “We are thrilled to establish this program, which we hope will bear a greater understanding of and respect for the purpose-bred dog.”

The mission of the Theriogenology Foundation is to secure and allocate resources dedicated to advancing the science and practice of animal reproductive medicine.

Theriogenology Foundation President Anita Migday said, “The Theriogenology Foundation is proud to announce the establishment of the American Kennel Club Theriogenology Foundation Companion Animal Residency in Theriogenology at Auburn University. This program represents the starting point for a strong collaborative effort between our organizations. This program will graduate veterinarians with special expertise in genetics, surgery and the clinical application of small animal reproductive medicine.”

“The three residency programs aimed at companion animals will bring emphasis to clinical training and the role of genetics and how theriogenologists play into that research,” said Charles F. Franz, Theriogenology Foundation executive director.

At Auburn, the resident will work closely with Robyn Wilborn, Aime Johnson and Julie Gard, as well as James Floyd, interim director of the Animal Health and Performance Program.

Series speakers to share Auburn experiences as students, faculty, alumni

A diverse group of speakers will discuss how their Auburn experiences have shaped their innovation, determination and success at the "This is Auburn" speaker series from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27, at The Hotel at Auburn University.

The public event will feature distinguished Auburn students, alumni, staff and friends of the university.

"As an Auburn Family, it is vital to create environments for individuals to share their stories and inspire those around them," said Marissa Stanley, graduate student, adding, "It will provide them with a solid understanding of business principles and enable them to stand out among their peers in the engineering and business world."

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-- Janet McCoy

-- Chelsea Payne