

# Auburn

MAGAZINE / FALL 2017



*Celebrating*

**125**

.....YEARS OF.....

**AUBURN  
WOMEN**





## HOME SWEET HOME?

All across America, lions, tigers and other big cats are being kept in cramped cages, suffering their entire lives. Many are roadside attractions, others are kept as "pets." Some have escaped or caused injuries, even deaths.

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## A WOMAN'S PLACE...

At Auburn, we believe a woman's place is anywhere she wants it to be. For the past 125 years, women have been supported and challenged at Auburn. Our alumnae have conquered astonishing and meaningful feats—exploring space, leading international corporations, feeding the hungry, winning Oscars—and they are changing the world. For women who think the possibilities for their future are endless, their place is at Auburn.



**THIS IS AUBURN.**



## All the World's a Stage

Formed in 1913, the Auburn Players included women students in its productions in 1919 and theater became a formal department in 1925. See below for the 2017-18 schedule; for tickets, visit [cla.auburn.edu/theatre/](http://cla.auburn.edu/theatre/) or call (334) 844-4154.

### *Antigone*

by Jean Anouilh, adapted by Lewis Galanti  
Directed by Daydrie Hague  
September 2017

### *God of Carnage*

by Yasmina Reza  
Directed by Scott Phillips  
October 2017

### *A Civil War Christmas*

by Paula Vogel  
Directed by Tessa Carr  
November 2017

### *Chicago*

Music by John Kander, lyrics by Fred Ebb, book by Ebb and Bob Fosse  
Directed by Chris Qualls  
February 2018

### *Dance Concert*

Conceived and directed by Adrienne Wilson and Jeri Dickey  
March 2018

### *Mr. Burns, A Post-Electric Play*

by Anne Washburn  
Directed by Chase Bringardner  
April 2018

(Photo by Jeff Etheridge)





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# Family



**THANKS TO THE AUBURN FAMILY** for the kind and gracious welcome you've extended to Janet and me. Being at Auburn is the opportunity of a lifetime, and we will work hard to be worthy of the confidence you've placed in us.

I'm a plant pathologist by training, so I've focused on keeping the plants in my care healthy and growing. I hope to apply that same focus to Auburn and, with the help of the Auburn Family, make this great institution even stronger.

Even in the short time I've been here, it's clear to me that the strength of this university is the direct result of the quality of the faculty, staff and alumni. I believe we can build on this quality to make an even greater and more enduring impact on our state and our nation.

Educating students is our core mission. We'll concentrate on providing our graduates with the leadership and critical thinking skills that give them the practical wisdom to be successful in work and in life. We'll work to increase research and scholarship and grow partnerships with business, industry and government. We'll also do our best to tell Auburn's story and make the nation aware of the great things this university can and will do. I'm already an enthusiastic ambassador of what we can and will accomplish.

I'm grateful for the chance to serve as your president. Thank you. War Eagle!

Sincerely,

Steven Leath

President, Auburn University

[president@auburn.edu](mailto:president@auburn.edu)





FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ALUMNI AFFAIRS

# WE'VE COME A LONG WAY



**OVER THE PAST 125 YEARS**, women have undeniably made a positive impact on Auburn University's history and in their respective communities across the globe.

Our unique voices and collective experiences are woven together into a beautiful tapestry that has not always been visibly displayed or easily referenced. However, I believe this aspect of our institution's history deserves attention and is worth celebrating.

In 1892, three brave women—Katherine Broun, Willie Little and Margaret Teague—enrolled in classes at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama. It is hard to imagine what their daily lives were like and the challenges they faced, but their actions forever changed the landscape of Auburn University's future. Whether intended or not, they helped transform the lives of the countless women and the families who followed in their footsteps. Since the beginning, the number of Auburn alumnae has climbed to 129,140 and continues to grow with each commencement. Women account for 49 percent of current enrollment, and today's students enjoy equal access to education, scholarships, research, travel, leadership positions and student activities.

Over the past year, an enthusiastic and dedicated committee led by retired Johnson and Johnson executive Melanie Barstad '75 has met regularly to research and prepare for this notable anniversary. Prior to our initial committee meeting, I

had the pleasure of visiting with historian and author Leah Rawls Atkins '58, who helped spearhead the 100th anniversary and also wrote *Blossoms Amid the Deep Verdure*. Her guidance, wisdom and support have been an invaluable resource to our group. She has been our best cheerleader!

Through these university-wide planning efforts, it has been our goal to capture the unique spirit that defines all Auburn women, past, present and future. I hope you will participate in the numerous 125 Years of Auburn Women activities scheduled to take place throughout the fall semester. Please enjoy this commemorative issue of *Auburn Magazine* and visit our website for a full calendar and to share your personal story: [www.alumni.auburn.edu/women/](http://www.alumni.auburn.edu/women/).

I am proud to be an Auburn Woman and am humbled to be in the company of such inspirational alumnae who continue to raise the profile of our great university. I look forward to what Auburn Women will do in the future and truly believe that we are just getting started!

War Eagle!

Gretchen VanValkenburg '86  
Vice President for Alumni Affairs &  
Executive Director, Auburn Alumni Association  
[gretchenvan@auburn.edu](mailto:gretchenvan@auburn.edu) 🙌

Photograph courtesy Auburn University Women's Center Healing Quilts Initiative | Artist: Diane Curtis

## FROM THE EDITOR

### It's Time.

**126 YEARS AGO**, this issue would have been unthinkable. Women were not even supposed to be on Auburn's campus; entrance to the classroom, the playing field or the administration would take work—hard work. We're not finished yet.

For those of you reading *Auburn Magazine* for the first time, welcome!

We are ecstatic to share with the entire Auburn Family this special 125th Anniversary of Auburn Women issue, one devoted to all women impacted by Auburn. Their education and experience attained here leave indelible marks on their careers, their communities and on the lives of countless others around the world.

From military service to early-childhood education and beyond, Auburn alumnae have overcome any obstacle to reach their goals, even those imposed by the university itself. Many remember the draconian curfew rules and dress codes in place until the mid-1970s and some even marched against them.

This is a call for recognition—it shouldn't take 125 years to acknowledge that Auburn alumnae have succeeded at the highest levels of every industry, or can compete with the best of men's athletics as equals.

To sell them short is to sell Auburn short.

It is important to recognize the value all people bring to Auburn, regardless of gender, race, ethnicity or sexual orientation.

This issue is just one of many outlets celebrating the 125th anniversary; for more information we encourage you to visit our website at [www.alumni.auburn.edu/women](http://www.alumni.auburn.edu/women), where you can add your own story to the celebration.

Derek Herscovici '14  
Managing Editor, *Auburn Magazine*  
[derekherscovici@auburn.edu](mailto:derekherscovici@auburn.edu) 🙌

# Auburn MAGAZINE



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# Auburn

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**ON THE COVER** The silhouette representing 125 Years of Auburn Women (and the anniversary logo) is overlaid on a cross-section of oak to denote the passage of years. Design by Auburn Magazine art director Heather Peevy.

# Concourse

## Elements of Success

Chemistry lab, 1926

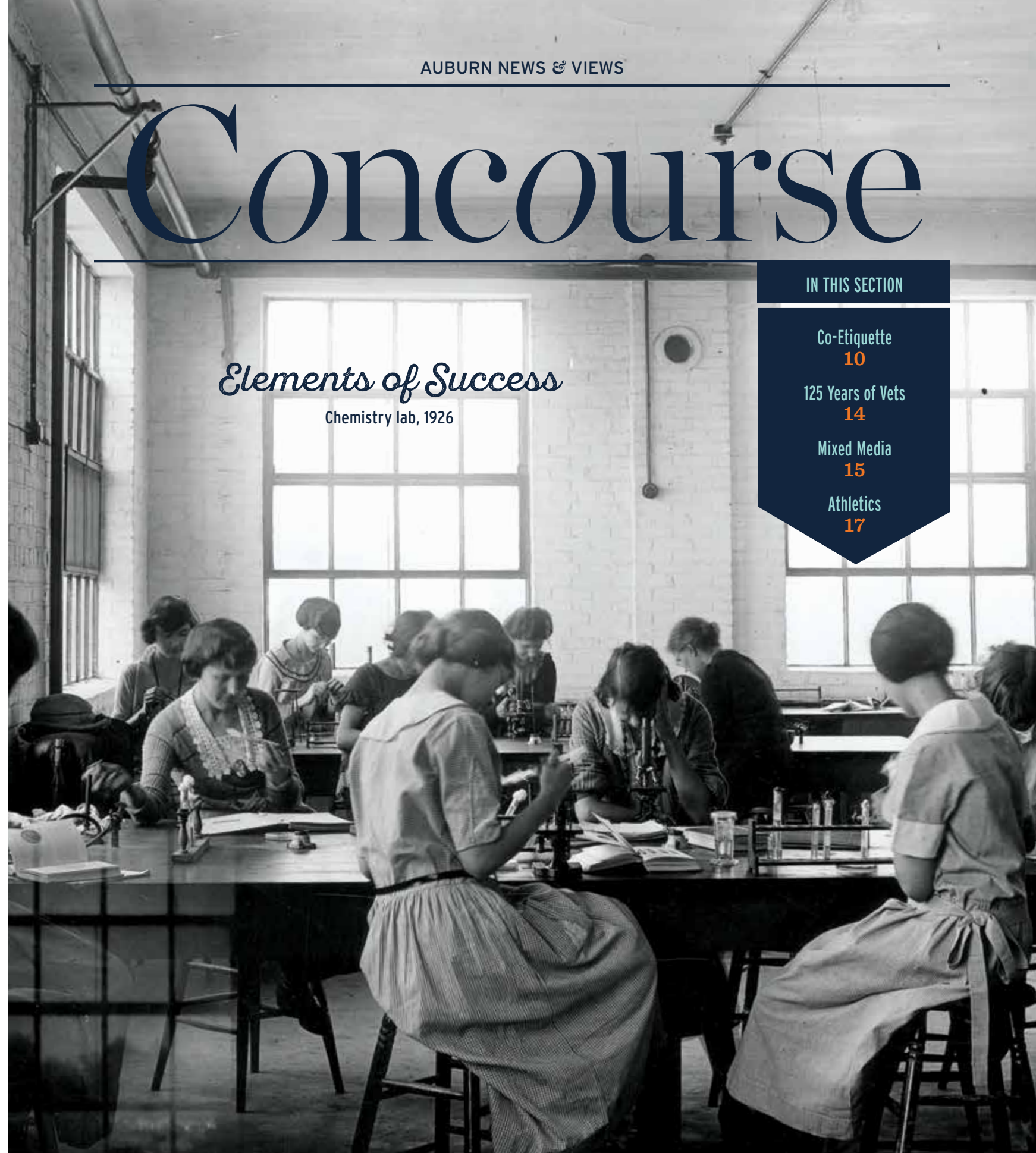
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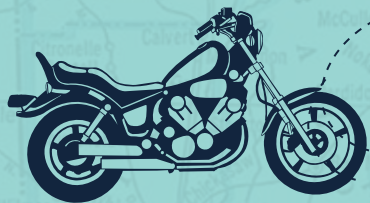
# NO MA'AM

Who were those shadowy figures sneaking across the 1950s Auburn campus in trench coats? Most likely, they were Auburn women who wanted a splash in the pool. Being seen in a swimsuit away from the water? Almost as scandalous as wearing a strapless sundress without a bolero!

## PERMISSION SLIP

In the early days, Auburn women had to have special permission to:

- ✓ Ride on an airplane or motorcycle
- ✓ Stay in hotels
- ✓ Attend house parties
- ✓ Visit the homes of young men
- ✓ Go to the beach
- ✓ Leave campus
- ✓ Leave the dorm past 7:30 p.m.



HOUSE PARTY

HOTEL

An Auburn woman is to conduct herself as a lady at all times.

AND OTHER RULES FROM THE CO-ETIQUETTE 1946-1975

Girls should be dressed properly at all times when in fraternity houses. They may not wear Bermuda shorts, Jamaica shorts, pedal pushers, slacks or jeans at any time except when approved.



Appropriate dress must be worn in classrooms. **Boleros** are to be worn with strapless dresses in classrooms.

Bathing suits may be worn with a **coat** over them DIRECTLY to and from the nearby lakes and pools.



No phone calls after 11:30 p.m.

No phone calls longer than five minutes.



No early-morning phone calls that disturb dormitory occupants.





Why do our students  
**SEE FURTHER AND  
 DREAM BIGGER?**



*Ashley Tucker '16 and senior Kendall Higdon were co-pilots for team War Eagle Women, Auburn's entry in the 2017 Air Race Classic. The all-female cross-country aeronautical contest pitted teams throughout North America for a three-day race across the country.*

Because we are equipping our future pilots and innovators, authors and designers, athletes and engineers, nurses and veterinarians for a lifetime of success.

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 THIS IS AUBURN.**

*A Campaign for Auburn University*



Your gift to Auburn provides essential resources that ensure a university like no other continues to provide the best educational experience available to students anywhere.

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## Critical Conversations

**IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING** that the remarkable women profiled in this publication demonstrate the determination, fortitude and tenacity that so often define Auburn students. Despite the changing public and political landscape over the past 125 years, our university's commitment to excellence and success—particularly for Auburn women—has only strengthened.

Auburn women continue to break through the proverbial glass ceiling, redefining their roles with unprecedented accomplishments and extraordinary moments of triumph. As we pay tribute to the many Auburn women whose rich contributions have so eloquently influenced our institution, we also celebrate our current and future women who continue the fearless work of changing the world and living as an example to others.

As the university prepares future generations of Auburn students to live and work in a diverse society, it is imperative that we continue to cultivate a campus environment that champions these values. Every day at Auburn University brings with it new opportunities for our students, faculty and staff to engage with individuals from diverse backgrounds and whose

ideas, life experiences and perspectives differ from their own. Participating in these important conversations advances our campus and empowers all Auburn women and men to personify the shared values of respect, education, honesty and the human touch espoused in the Auburn Creed.

To advance this conversation, the Office of Inclusion and Diversity and the Provost's Office launched a new speaker series this fall designed to promote dialogue and deepen perspectives around issues of civil discourse, free speech in higher education and intellectual diversity. The "Critical Conversations" series welcomes internationally recognized authors, scholars, journalists and thought-leaders to our campus to share their perspectives and advance understanding. By providing a framework for discussion, these speakers explore socially pressing and complex issues, including gender differences.

*By Taffye Clayton*

Associate Provost and Vice President for Inclusion and Diversity  
[auburn.edu/diversity](http://auburn.edu/diversity)



**IOWA VETERINARIAN DR. CHARLES ALLEN CARY** arrived on the Plains in 1892 to find a community besieged by unchecked animal diseases, with only a handful of faculty capable of bringing the latest health practices to the South. But President William LeRoy Broun of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama was determined to add modern veterinary science instruction.

A professor of veterinary science in South Dakota, Cary had planned a study excursion to Germany when Broun contacted him in fall 1891, promising a blank slate (though minimal funding) to establish a veterinary science program in Auburn.

Following a visiting lectureship—in essence, a tryout—in early 1892, Broun offered Cary a permanent position beginning Jan. 1, 1893. Auburn veterinary medicine was born.

That same commitment Broun showed Cary has not waived through six deans and 125 years of veterinary medicine at Auburn. As the South's original—and the nation's seventh-oldest—college of veterinary medicine, Auburn offers practical educational opportunities for undergrads, graduates and doctoral candidates.

Since the first degrees were awarded in 1909, Auburn has graduated more than 6,600 DVMs whose work has taken them around the globe.

Whether in clinical trials related to heart disease or cancer, or pursuing genetic therapy for two rare neurological diseases fatal to children, Auburn's role in the "One Medicine, One Health" concept enables the college to make a difference in solving important health care issues.

World-class facilities like the Wilford and Kate Bailey Small Animal Teaching Hospital, opened in 2014, offers clinical student education and specialty animal health care.

The John Thomas Vaughan Large Animal Teaching Hospital receives one of the largest referred cattle caseloads in the nation. The expanded Veterinary Education Center is one of the most advanced lecture and small group study facilities anywhere.

The Veterinary Teaching Hospital's caseload, which provides



*Ben Huston and Joe Stein attending Professor Howell's therapeutics class at the veterinary school with their dog, Jerry, in 1938.*

opportunities for hands-on, clinical education, has increased by 57 percent in the past three years.

Experience in such a robust and balanced caseload means Auburn veterinary students are highly sought after graduation. Last year, the more than 750 primary care veterinarians who refer cases to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital ranked Auburn among the Top 5 in the nation in client satisfaction from among 65 teaching hospitals and private/corporate referral centers.

As Auburn veterinary medicine looks to its next 125 years, the college has positioned itself as a leader in education, research and outreach. It is partnered throughout Alabama—in Huntsville (Hudson Alpha Institute for Biotechnology and Redstone Arsenal); Birmingham (UAB School of Public Health and the Greater Birmingham Humane Society); Winfield (Upper Coastal Plain Animal Health Research Station); and Gulf Shores (Satellite Veterinary Specialty Referral Center).

The faculty, being increased through targeted recruitment, is teaching and conducting research in areas such as genomics-informatics, pharmaceutical engineering, toxicology, orthopedic surgery, neurology/neurosurgery, radiation oncology, anesthesiology, equine medicine, and equine emergency/critical care. The challenges that exist for animal and human diseases, food safety and bioterrorism are just as daunting as what Cary faced 125 years ago with Texas fever, tuberculosis and hog cholera. Auburn has always met challenges, and that tradition will continue.

To learn more, go to [www.vetmed.auburn.edu](http://www.vetmed.auburn.edu).



# MIXED MEDIA

**1 Jean Woodham '46, *Monody*, 1979, bronze**

Jean Woodham is a sculptor known for her large-sized metallic sculptures and dynamic pieces made from a variety of mediums. Some of her sculptures have been featured on Auburn's campus, such as the 15-foot-tall *Monody*, standing outside the front entrance of Goodwin Hall, the headquarters of the music program. Woodham has said the piece is "a Greek Ode, sung by a single voice" and wanted to communicate "the feeling that music rises from the earth, soars to the heavens, and elevates the human spirit."



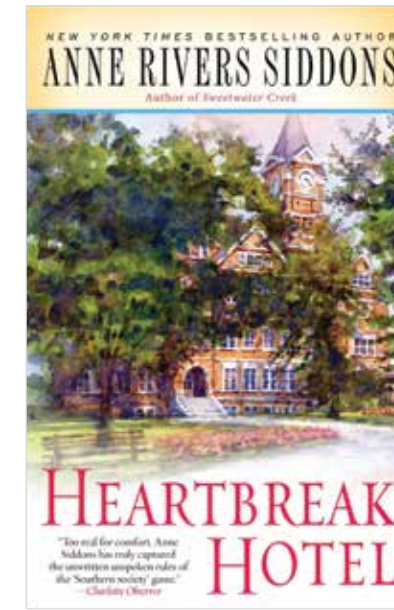
**2 Margaret Boozer '89, *Eight Red Bowls*, 2000, terra cotta and pine**

Margaret Boozer is a ceramist featured in the Smithsonian American Art Museum. She established her "Red Dirt Studio" in Mt. Rainier, Md., after attending Alfred University's College of Ceramics and teaching at Corcoran College of Art for 10 years. She creates her sculptures from the red clay retrieved from a pit behind her workshop and showcases the natural texture of the material as it dries and cracks. *Eight Red Bowls* was inspired by an exhibition of Chinese archaeological digs.



**3 Toni Tennille '62, singer/songwriter**

The singer and songwriter known as part of the duo "Captain and Tennille" studied at Auburn University's music program. During her time at Auburn she participated in Auburn's jazz band, The Auburn Knights. In the duo with "Captain" Daryl Dragon, their signature song "Love Will Keep Us Together" won a Grammy for "Record of the Year" in 1975. Tennille, in the span of her career, has released solo albums that celebrated "the romantic music of big band and American standards." In 2016 she released a memoir.

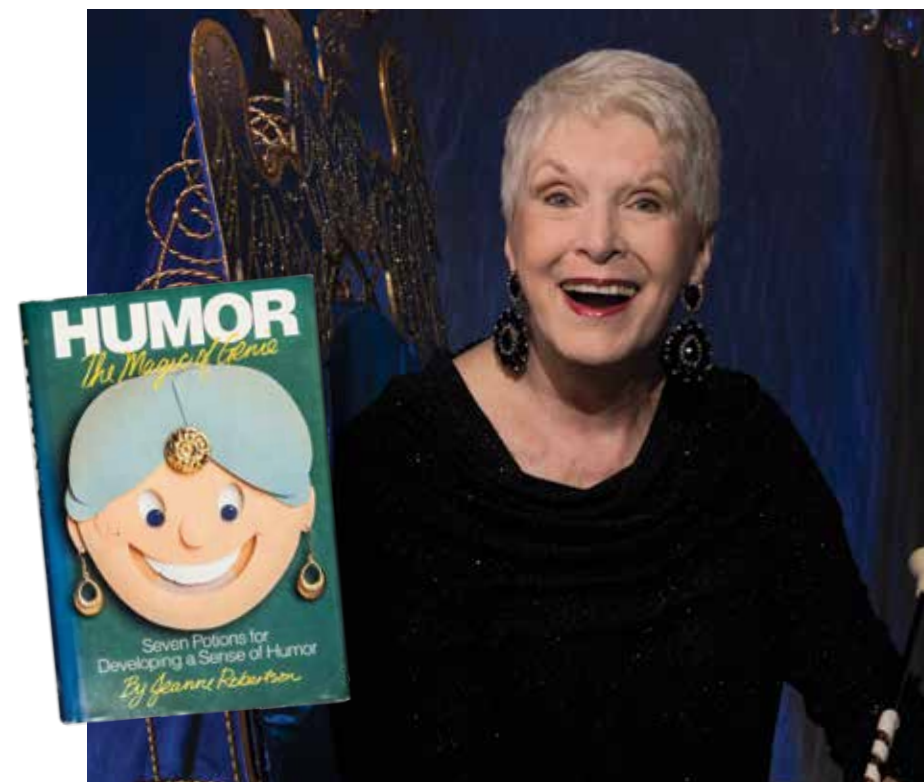


**4 Andrea Compton '96, production coordinator for ABC-TV's "General Hospital"**

Throughout her career, Compton has designed the props for sets and inserted Auburn-themed objects into scenes on more than one long-running daytime drama. The homage to her alma mater started when she was with NBC's *Days of Our Lives*, where she was a writer's assistant. For that series, it was an Auburn wastebasket. Then, with *General Hospital* and with permission from the associate producer, Compton continued her tradition of including a piece of Auburn in scene backgrounds. In 2010 Compton won a Daytime Emmy and a Director's Guild Award for her contributions to the show.

**5 Anne Rivers Siddons '58, author**

Her first of 18 novels, *Heartbreak Hotel* (1976), was adapted to the film *Heart of Dixie* in 1989. The book focuses on the story of a fictional town resembling Auburn and how a "privileged, young Southern woman" dealt with the civil rights era and movement. During her time at Auburn, Siddons worked as a writer for *The Auburn Plainsman* and wrote editorials favoring integration that allegedly caused her later dismissal from the paper. In 2007, Siddons was inducted into the Georgia Writers Hall of Fame. She lives in Charleston, S.C.



**6 Jeanne Robertson '67, author, humorist**

Her anecdotes are broadcast on Sirius Radio's *Laugh USA*, *Blue Collar Comedy* and *Laugh Break*. She went viral on YouTube in 2009 with a compilation of humorous clips from one of her talks. In her humorist career, Robertson has authored three books: *The Magic of Genie: Seven Potions for Developing a Sense of Humor* (1989), *Mayberry Humor Across the USA* (1995) and *Don't Let the Funny Stuff Get Away* (1968).



# UNDENIABLE.

By Jay Jacobs '85

**W**atching Kasey Cooper play softball in the red, white and blue uniform of Team USA reminded me yet again what I have known for so long: Auburn is a place where dreams come true.

Cooper's dreams include playing in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and becoming a doctor. After she graduates from Auburn University next spring with a 3.98 GPA in mechanical engineering, Cooper plans to enroll in medical school while continuing to play on the USA Women's National Team.

As impressive as Kasey Cooper's story is—and it is very impressive indeed—she is not alone.

In our celebration of 125 Years of Auburn Women, Auburn Athletics reconnected with student-athletes from each of our women's sports, sharing their stories on AuburnTigers.com.

In the same way Auburn women have given us so much to cheer about during their time as student-athletes, their accomplishments post-graduation in many ways are even more inspiring.

Consider the journey of Sarah Wentworth '04 (right), Auburn's first SEC Gymnast of the Year in 2000. After graduating from Auburn University's College of Veterinary Medicine, which is also celebrating 125 years in 2017, Wentworth practiced in Birmingham for eight years.

Then in 2015, sensing a call to full-time missionary

work, Wentworth packed up and moved to Uganda, where she uses her veterinary expertise as a platform to share her faith.

Looking back on her years as an Auburn gymnast, she said this: "Being a student-athlete at Auburn requires discipline, time management, hard work and focus. I think these are the building blocks for success in all of life. I was not particularly the smartest student or most gifted gymnast, but I was determined to work hard and do my best in whatever I engaged in."

Work, hard work. It is something Auburn women have embraced since 1892.

It is something Maggie Bowen '05 (left) knows well. The captain of our national championship women's swimming and diving teams in 2002-03 says attending Auburn was the "best choice" she's ever made.

"I feel like I am always an asset to my employer because I care about the bigger picture," says Bowen, who works in health care in Louisville, Ky. "That is a huge part about Auburn. You care more about Auburn than about yourself. The Auburn Creed, every word of it, you can apply to everything in your life."

Bowen's teammate, Margaret Hoelzer '05, helped Auburn win three NCAA championships and won three medals at the Beijing Olympics in 2008.

A survivor of childhood sexual abuse, Hoelzer lives in Seattle, serving as the spokesperson for the National Children's Advocacy Center.

Once, after Hoelzer shared her story at a conference, a counselor approached to say a teenage girl she counseled had been in the audience, determined to

see and hear the famous swimmer and survivor.

"I just want to be able to see her in person because she's been through it," the counselor told her, relaying the young girl's message. "Because she's the light at the end of the tunnel and she's on the other side."

Like a light shining brightly, Auburn women serve as role models, providing an example for all who would follow.

From all over the world, young women come to Auburn. They thrill us with their athletic achievements. They fill us with pride when they walk across the stage at commencement. Then they instill their Auburn values in their communities, corporations and families.

Kerron Stewart '08 (right) came to Auburn from Jamaica, helping Auburn win the 2006 NCAA team championship in track and field before winning three Olympic medals.

A decade later, Stewart still calls Auburn home. "When I came to school here I was a young lady," Stewart says. "But now, I am truly a woman, and I'm still in Auburn and I love it."

For 125 years, women have been making Auburn better. Auburn student-athletes, with their talent and tenacity, unite our campus, bringing the Auburn Family together to celebrate their victories. To cheer them on as they chase their dreams.

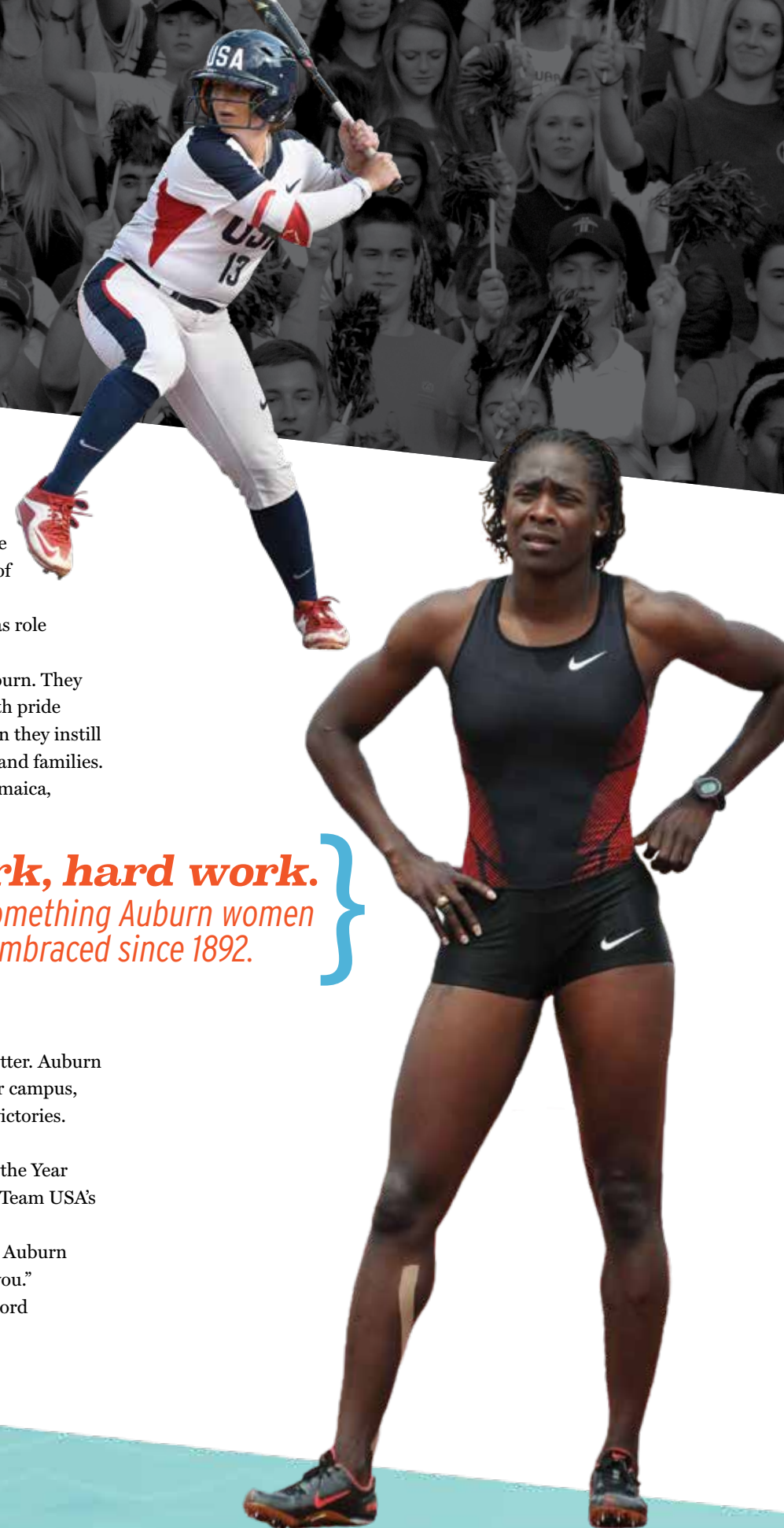
Kasey Cooper (top), the national and SEC Player of the Year who gave us one more thrill when she hit a home run in Team USA's recent exhibition games on campus, put it best.

When Cooper first shared her Olympic dream as an Auburn freshman, she was told, "Make it where they can't deny you."

When I think of 125 years of Auburn women, one word comes to mind.

Undeniable.

**Work, hard work.**  
*It is something Auburn women have embraced since 1892.*







Auburn students gather at Athey's Café, a popular hangout during the 1950s. By this time, women were an established part of the Auburn student body, a reality made possible by three trailblazing women who enrolled in 1892.



**AS WE CELEBRATE** the 125th anniversary of the enrollment of women at Auburn University, I think it is appropriate to use the word “legacy.” Whether we are acknowledging

the significance of the enrollment of these first three pioneering women who enrolled in what was then the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama in the 1890s, or are recognizing the impact of the women who attend Auburn today and who will go on to lead communities, industries and organizations throughout the nation, we proudly can say that women have created—and continue to develop—a lasting legacy at Auburn.

Although it is important to reflect on this anniversary, this is a story we tell every day because women are such an integral part of our history and our future. The role of women at Auburn is more than a historical snapshot—it is a journey of achievement. We celebrate all that they have achieved through the years as they have blazed remarkable trails, both at the university and as alumnae beyond the Plains.

An important element of their narrative is philanthropy. From the first recorded gift from a female, Cleo Feaster, in 1949, to the first female member of the Auburn University Foundation Board of Directors, Ann Cousins '54, who began her term in 1981, to Bessie Mae Holloway '83, the first female member of Auburn's Board of Trustees, who served from 1985 to 2000, women have demonstrated the leadership and generosity that defines the Auburn Spirit. Their legacy of giving continues and is seen in numerous

loyal, annual gifts, as well as in transformative gifts, such as those from Eleanor Ritchey, who left more than \$10.7 million to Auburn in her estate in 1976, and Dorothy Davidson, who gave \$5 million in 2015 to renovate Broun Hall. And there are many others.

Today, organizations like 100+ Women Strong in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering and the Women's Philanthropy Board in the College of Human Sciences expand the heritage of women's philanthropy at Auburn. Members of these organizations inspire women to achieve, lead and give generously, like those who have gone before them. We now have the opportunity to commemorate this legacy through a philanthropic initiative, called Theatre III, in honor of the three women who began a new era at Auburn. Theatre III, an amphitheater to be located adjacent to the new Mell Corridor, will serve as a unique outdoor learning space and event venue for the Auburn Family.

I encourage you to consider making a gift to Theatre III to advance the legacy of the first three women to attend Auburn and to honor the women who have followed in their footsteps.

Jane DiFolco Parker  
 Vice President for Development  
 President, Auburn University Foundation  
[because.auburn.edu](http://because.auburn.edu) 



Today, members of organizations like 100+ Women Strong in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering mentor current students in professional development, leadership skills and philanthropy.

HONORING *the* TRAILBLAZERS  
*Theatre*  
 III



**HONORING THE SIGNIFICANT “FIRSTS”** in Auburn University's history has led to this year's commemoration of 125 Years of Auburn Women. It all began in 1892 when “the first three” boldly launched their Auburn journey. Katherine Broun, Willie Little and Margaret Teague most likely were unaware of the significance of their first steps on campus, but they changed the course of history for all Auburn students from that moment.

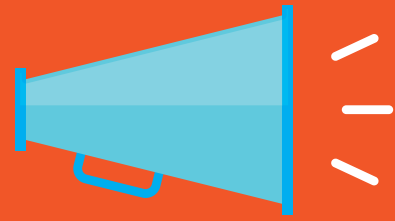
Honoring their legacy bridges the past and the future, telling the Auburn story and reinforcing its vibrant traditions. A new philanthropic project will allow the Auburn Family to commemorate the 125th anniversary of women at Auburn by creating Theatre III, an outdoor classroom space adjacent to the Mell Corridor and in proximity to the student dorms bearing the names of the three women who forged a new frontier in their day.

Theatre III will include an art installation celebrating the role of Auburn's first three female students. In addition, the space will include two levels of donor recognition, one for those who make a gift of at least \$125, and one that will recognize gifts of \$1,250 or more, allowing donors to honor someone of their choosing.

Construction will begin in December and the theater will be ready for classes and events in Fall 2018.

{ To contribute to the commemorative Theatre III, please visit <http://au.bie/125th>. }





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## The History of Auburn Women

### P R E F A C E

**FROM HARDY PIONEER MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS** who settled the wilderness, to fearless nurses who tended the Civil War's wounded inside "Old Main," to humble farmers and boarders who kept the community alive through Reconstruction and beyond, women have always been part of Auburn history—even when the doors to education were shut.

Auburn women weren't alone. Throughout Alabama women were denied educational opportunities beyond primary school. Julia Tutwiler sought to change that.

The future education and prison-reform advocate was reared as an intellectual equal in her family and studied in New York and abroad before returning to her Alabama home.

In 1872, as Tutwiler began her advocacy for more education opportunities in Alabama, Isaac Tichenor, president of the newly renamed Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, reported to the board of trustees for the first time that the faculty would like to formally admit female students into their classes.

Local girls had sat in on classes before, but Tichenor advocated for full enrollment. The proposal was met with approval, but not enacted. In 1877, Tichenor proposed female enrollment again, this time for financial reasons. The proposal went nowhere.

By 1891, Tutwiler created more educational options for women, but remained unable to integrate Alabama's two largest schools. That year, she gave a speech to the Alabama Education Association that was ignored by many, but not by William LeRoy Broun, president of what would in 1899 become the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

Like Tutwiler, Broun's own daughter, Katie, was an avid learner who aspired to higher levels of education. At the 1891 board of trustees meeting, Broun successfully persuaded the members to allow women to matriculate, for financial as much as moral purposes.

This was not full "co-education," Broun said, but that "in a limited way, the privilege be given to young women, who may be qualified, to enjoy the advantages of instruction at Auburn." Girls who were 18 years or older were granted the opportunity to matriculate as juniors. At the start of 1892, Katie Broun, along with Willie Little and Margaret Teague, became the first to do so.

In June 1892, Tutwiler wrote to A.P.I. saying "it seems too good to be true, that what I wished and hoped for 20 years has finally come to pass." In the same letter, of which a copy was mailed to the University of Alabama, Tutwiler bemoaned the "obvious injustice that the most stupid boy in Alabama can obtain, at our state university, an education without paying tuition, and the most brilliant girl is debarred from this privilege." The Alabama board of trustees quickly called on Tutwiler following the developments at Auburn and, in 1893, enacted a similar coed policy. By that time Broun was reporting that, despite earlier apprehension, the decision to matriculate women was a resounding success.

# 125 YEARS OF AUBURN WOMEN





## A NEW DAY

### The Fight for Equal Educational Opportunities

By Reagan Berg '20

Before Auburn's first female students walked the Plains, there was one woman who paved the way. In the mid 1870s, Julia Tutwiler, co-principal of the Alabama Normal College for Girls at Livingston, fought for equal educational opportunities for women. She petitioned to the Alabama Education Association and the university's board, originally wanting women's enrollment at the University of Alabama. It would be Auburn University, then the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, however, to make the first step toward gender equality in the state.

In 1882, William L. Broun became the president and would later oversee the induction of women into the college. His daughter, Katherine Broun, along with two other women, Margaret Teague and Willie Little, took university entrance exams in English, history, Latin and mathematics.

Signaling the start of a momentous wave, the three were admitted in 1892. With pressure from Tutwiler, the University of Alabama enrolled its first women students the next year.

Teague moved from Arkansas to Auburn after her mother's death to live with her aunt, Mary Teague Holliefield. Little's father was a businessman and mayor of Auburn. The common trend was their close proximity to the university, and this would stay true for Auburn's female students throughout the decade. Coeds were often daughters of townspeople and faculty taking the train from Opelika or walking to school.

While women were allowed to attend the university, there were gender-specific restrictions. Leah Rawls Atkins '58, historian and author of *Blossoms Amid the Deep Verdure: A*

*Century of Women at Auburn, 1892-1992*, wrote that they were required to "walk directly to class and to leave the campus immediately after class dismissed." Specifically, to prevent them from loitering or flirting with the cadets.

Although fraternization during school hours was forbidden, "girls had dates whenever they pleased," usually attending church with a beau or going on "study dates."

Bringing their two years full circle, graduation day finally came. "Commencement week at Auburn in 1894 was the largest graduation week ever held to that time, and it represented a 'new departure' as three women were awarded 'degrees and all honors,'" Atkins wrote. Broun, Little and Teague were awarded their diplomas "amid thunderous applause."

Broun would continue her education as Alabama's first female graduate student, also winning a competitive scholarship. She later opened the coeducational Conway Broun Preparatory School.



Willie Little

Katherine Broun

Margaret Teague



#### Straight-laced

A conservative air has hovered over the Plains since the founding of the University in 1856. Auburn has traditionally had more rules for women than some of the other comparable schools. However, change has made enormous strides since the school days of these women in 1898. At that time only 15 coeds were attending Alabama Polytechnic Institute, now Auburn University.

Like Broun, many women pursued degrees in education. "Since most college educated women planned to work for only a few years, it was not practical to pursue a career which required more training, and many feared pursuing such careers might involve the hostility of peers, family members or professors," wrote Katrina Blair Van Tassel, author of *"Co-eds," Basketball Players, and Beauty Queens: Women at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, 1892-1941*.

Women were also largely excluded during the beginning years of the *Glomerata* and the *Orange and Blue* newspaper. Certain professors believed that men held a distinct superiority and wouldn't call on coeds in class. This, perhaps, only encouraged them to make better grades and be competitive against their male fellows.

It would remain an ongoing battle against the times to be treated fairly, but progress was being made. "Even the most misogynist students had second thoughts about offending the daughter of a Confederate general who taught physics, or the sister of a fraternity president," Tassel wrote.

The Agriculture Club, Press Club and Founder's Club welcomed women without hesitation. Coeds also became progressively involved in athletics. In 1897 four women joined the Cycle Club and in 1899 a woman served as the president of the Tennis Club.

With small advancements and a societal shift, "men of the 1890s and 1900s applauded the 'beauty of full womanhood' and believed the presence of women would raise 'the general culture of the entire college,'" Tassel wrote.



Women's basketball team, 1925

1846

*The Auburn Female College* is built as a separate school for women. With its original home in Langdon Hall, which at that time was the largest auditorium in East Alabama, the school was renamed the Auburn Masonic Female College in 1853.



1856

The Alabama Methodist Conference founds East Alabama Male College.

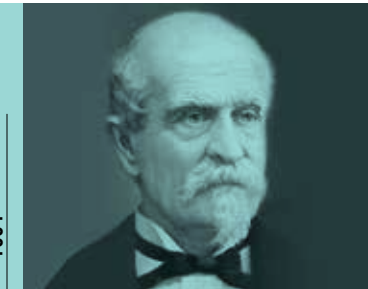
1866

The East Alabama Male College reopens after the end of the Civil War with James Dowdell as president.

1872

College president Isaac Tichenor reports to the board of trustees that the faculty wants to admit women as students. Only one board member opposed the measure; Tichenor notes it meets "with very hearty approval." No action is taken.

1884



William LeRoy Broun persuades the board of trustees to consider allowing women to matriculate. Not full co-education, but only that "in a limited way" the "privilege be given to qualified young women to enjoy the advantages of instruction at A.P.I."

1892

The first three women come to A.P.I.: Willie Little, Katherine Broun and Margaret Teague.

1893

Broun reports that A.P.I.'s success has been widely published in the state. The girls have proven "their ability successfully to cope with the best of their male competitors, and in some instances to obtain the mastery over them."



## A NEW WORLD

The Opening of the 20th Century

By Leah Rawls Atkins '58

A young woman who graduated from the Alabama Polytechnic Institute just after the opening of the 20th century entered a new world, still evolving. Many Auburn women played a role in accelerating those changes; however, their journey to equality, meaningful professional employment and a full civic life were still difficult and remained a long time away, almost a century. Some female college graduates of this period married and established families; others used their Auburn education as a foundation for a career.

Until the turn of the century Auburn enrolled increasing numbers of female students, and they represented a greater percent of students than at the University of Alabama. The number of women enrolled rose to a high of 19 in 1897 and 1898, then declined and held steady at about 10 until lows of five were recorded in 1908 and 1909.

Yet more women at Auburn did not guarantee equal treatment. In the historical section of the 1962 dean of women's report for the Auburn University Self Study, the slow growth in female enrollment at A.P.I. was blamed on "little, if any recognition in class" that women received "except to have their names called from the roll." The tradition was "that no woman student was ever called on to participate audibly in classroom work" and that "for many years the attitude of townspeople and college students was one of mere tolerance for coeducation."

A better explanation for the slow growth of coed enrollment might be found in the lack of a women's dormitory and the limited selection of majors in areas that could lead to jobs for

women. Both these issues were addressed by the college in the early 1920s.

The World War I years were followed by the 1920s. Called the "Jazz Age," it was a decade of rapid social and economic changes, especially in the lives of women, including Auburn coeds. Silent movies gave way to sound, and music took on a faster beat. Women showed their independence by cutting their hair, shortening their skirts, smoking cigarettes and dancing the Charleston. Some even drank whiskey, but not usually in public.

Auburn cadets, along with all the young men in Montgomery, were totally smitten with Zelda Sayre, who personified the liberated female. Five Auburn football players organized a special society called Zeta Sigma with an initiation that required "a successful pilgrimage to Montgomery and a date with Zelda." When Zelda married F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1920, she may have broken the hearts of a hundred A.P.I. cadets, but there were a hundred Auburn women who toasted the wedding.

The 1920s was the "Golden Decade of Sport" and reflected the Progressive Era's belief that exercise for women was "a means of achieving their 'natural beauty.'" A Women's Athletic Association was organized on campus, and a coed basketball team began playing an intercollegiate schedule. Auburn's male sportswriters for the *Orange and Blue* outdid themselves in describing the court play of Margaret "Cutie" Brown, who was "the main cog in the Auburn machine," along with Annie Creel.

In 1921, API President Spright Dowdell converted Smith Hall into the first women's dormitory, which housed the first dean of women, Agnes Ellen Harris. She also was a professor



Zelda Sayre

When Zelda married F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1920, she may have broken the hearts of a hundred A.P.I. cadets, but there were a hundred Auburn women who toasted the wedding.

1894

For the first time, women graduate from from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama with "degrees and all honors." Broun, Little and Teague receive their diplomas to "thunderous applause."



1895

Kate Broun becomes the first woman to receive a graduate degree from Auburn.

1896

Total female enrollment of 13 in a class of 361 (3.6 percent).

The Websterian Literary Society, formally an exclusively male club, admits women for the first time.

Willie Little '94 marries George S. Clark '92, the first marriage between Auburn graduates.

1898

Female enrollment reaches its first peak with 19. By 1908-1909, enrollment declined to its lowest since 1892, with five women.

# 19

1907



Leland Cooper '07 and Marion K. Oshby (pictured left in 1978) unexpectedly take the field during halftime of the A.P.I.-Clemson football game as unofficial cheerleaders, "inspiring" the team to a 12-0 victory.

1911

Lucy Richards '11 becomes the first woman to graduate with a degree in pharmacy.



1914

Congress passes the Smith-Lever Act, funding extension work for land-grant colleges in agriculture and home economics. The Alabama Cooperative Extension is created, and a white home demonstration agent is appointed to every county.



of home economics, social director and state home demonstration agent. In the fall of 1922, Auburn's first sorority, Kappa Delta, was organized with six original initiates, and Auburn's female enrollment reached 65 in a total enrollment of 1,295.



MARIA ROGAN WHITSON  
Talladega, Alabama  
Electrical Engineering  
"Maria"

Maria Rogan Whitson, a native of Talladega, was the first president of the Women's Student Government Association. Her 1923 degree in electrical engineering—the first woman in Alabama to earn that degree—attracted several job offers, including prestigious ones from General Electric and Westinghouse.

However, she accepted a job with Alabama Power Co. She returned to Auburn to graduate school and received her master's degree in 1931.

The Roaring Twenties ended with the crash of the New York stock market and the beginning of the Great Depression. A college education was even more difficult for parents to provide, but the enrollment of women on the Auburn campus continued to increase. Federal New Deal programs provided support for construction on campus, including Auburn's first quad of women's dorms.

The opening of the new women's dorms in 1940 was the occasion of great celebration for the coeds—having private bathrooms between two rooms was a great improvement over one shared bath in Smith Hall. The telephone situation, one pay phone per floor, was still as grim as it was in Smith, and both boys and girls complained about the difficulty of making dates.

Living on tight budgets, Auburn coeds had to find ways to entertain themselves without spending money. Smith Hall had "dating parlors," but they were not at all popular with either the coeds or cadets.

Small house dances or dinner dances crowded fraternity houses. Coeds and their dates swayed to the music of the Auburn Knights or the Collegians. There were three major sets

of dances during the year: the Sophomore Hop in late September (called the Opening Dances), which began with a tea dance on Friday afternoon, a Friday night dance, a Saturday morning dance, a Saturday afternoon dance, and the grand affair on Saturday night; the January mid-term Junior Prom dances, which began on Thursday evening and included seven dances during the weekend; and the May Senior Dances, or Final Dances, that began on Friday and included five separate events.

Many coeds commuted from Opelika and used the student center in the basement of Langdon Hall as a gathering place. Luella Botsford Henderson recalled Mrs. Hoyt Jolly, the hostess who presided over the center, as popular, kind and always willing to assist students. There were comfortable sofas, magazines to read and usually a serious bridge game in progress.

Students had their favorite professors, but not all A.P.I. professors were tolerant of coeds. Some frankly refused to teach them, and deans and department heads quietly adjusted girls' schedules accordingly. Elta Boyd recalled an organic chemistry professor in the early 1930s who "didn't think girls had any place at Auburn, or much sense either." Boyd, the only girl in her class, finished second. Ruth Smyth Marrs graduated in the "demanding curriculum of pre-med in 1937," completed her work in lab technology at the University of Tennessee and spent the next 52 years working in medical technology research.

When Maryline Cauthen Westenhover entered Auburn in 1925, she was one of the first coeds in architecture. She spent many grueling hours at a drawing board, her 5-foot-3-inch frame stretched over equipment designed for a 6-foot-tall man. Coeds found that full skirts around dangerous equipment could cause problems; when Mildred Sanders Williamson's skirt got caught in a dynamo and was completely cut off, her professor, Charles Isbell, calmly tied two aprons around her and sent her back to her room.

Auburn coeds had hardly moved into the first quad when World War II began and the women's dorms were requisitioned for men enrolled in U.S. Army and Navy Special Training Programs. War, volunteer enlistment and the draft reduced the number of male students on campus, and women were moved into fraternity houses. With so many men absent, women began



First sorority, Kappa Delta, 1922



Kappa Delta, 2016 Bid Day (Photo contributed by Village Photographers)

1915

**Coeds petition** Head of Athletics Mike Donahue for permission to use the Alumni Gym to play basketball. Nearly all the women on campus participated and had enough players to form two teams for nine games.

1916



**Sarah Evelyn Moore** (pictured left) is the only woman in the class of 1916, A.P.I.'s lowest female enrollment since 1891.

1918

**Esther Thompson** graduates with a degree in chemistry-metallurgy, possibly the first female chemistry graduate.



1920

**Q.P.I.'s total enrollment** is 1,075, with 18 women (1.7 percent).

**Q.P.I.'s women's basketball** defeats Georgia in the first intercollegiate matchup. Led by Margaret "Cutie" Brown, the team compiles a 4-2 season record, outscoring opponents 136-79.

1921

**President Spright Dowdell** combines the office of state home director with the head of the home economics department. The curriculum provided a rigorous education that functioned as an applied science for women and included courses in chemistry, biology, physics and architecture.

1922

**Improving conditions** The WSGA (Women's Student Government Association) is organized. Formed for 67 women in a class of 1,295, the WSGA was created to improve women's conditions on campus.

**Kappa Delta**, A.P.I.'s first sorority, is founded.

1923

**The Q.P.I. women's basketball** team remains undefeated for two straight years in intercollegiate play.

**Maria Rogan Whitson** of Talladega is the first woman to graduate in an engineering curriculum at A.P.I.



to assume leadership positions on campus.

Shirley Smith became the first female editor of the *Plainsman* when the male editor was conscripted, and in 1946 Mildred Jean Woodham was the first coed to edit the *Glomerata*. In 1944 “Tutter” Thrasher became the first woman president of a senior class.

The war and its aftermath changed America. The GI Bill sent thousands of veterans to college and the Loveliest Village exploded with students. Deans were challenged to find teachers to cover all the classes, but professors who returned from the armed services, graduate students and professors’ wives with

master’s degrees filled the gap. Auburn coeds found more women behind the lectern. The Auburn student body in the late 1940s and early 1950s included many ex-military families.

Strict rules for coeds and double standards for men and women remained. Dean of Women Katharine Cater arrived in 1946. With a heart of gold, a stern stare and a great sense of humor, which she hid from students, she kept the coeds safe and their boyfriends in line. Coeds disregarded the strict rules at their peril. Women could not wear shorts on campus, were required to don raincoats over their gym suits on their way to P.E. classes or tennis courts, and observed strict early curfews.

Coed wardrobes were the latest fashions, although many were hand-sewn by mothers. Ball gowns for dances were elegant, with skirts so full they were left at home until the eve of the dance because the dorm closets would not hold them. For football games, coeds wore high-heel shoes, smart suits and striking hats, often with feathers. Their dates were in suits and ties. Every coed had a mum pinned to her shoulder with an orange or blue “AU,” the proper accessory for football games. The 1950s was also the decade when API was moving toward becoming Auburn University. Academic offerings were strengthened. President Ralph Draughon, the trustees and deans established the academic course for API, which was approved by the Southern Association and culminated in legislative action. On Jan. 20, 1960, the Alabama Polytechnic Institute became Auburn University.

Many Auburn women, who for some reason were unable to finish college, later returned as wives and mothers to complete their degree requirements for graduation. Some joined their G.I. husbands, passing off babies and children to their husbands between classes. Others who had their education interrupted returned because they were concerned about the possibility of having to support their children in case they became widowed. They needed the insurance of a university degree. In later years, women explained that going back to college was simply the goal of finishing something they had once started.

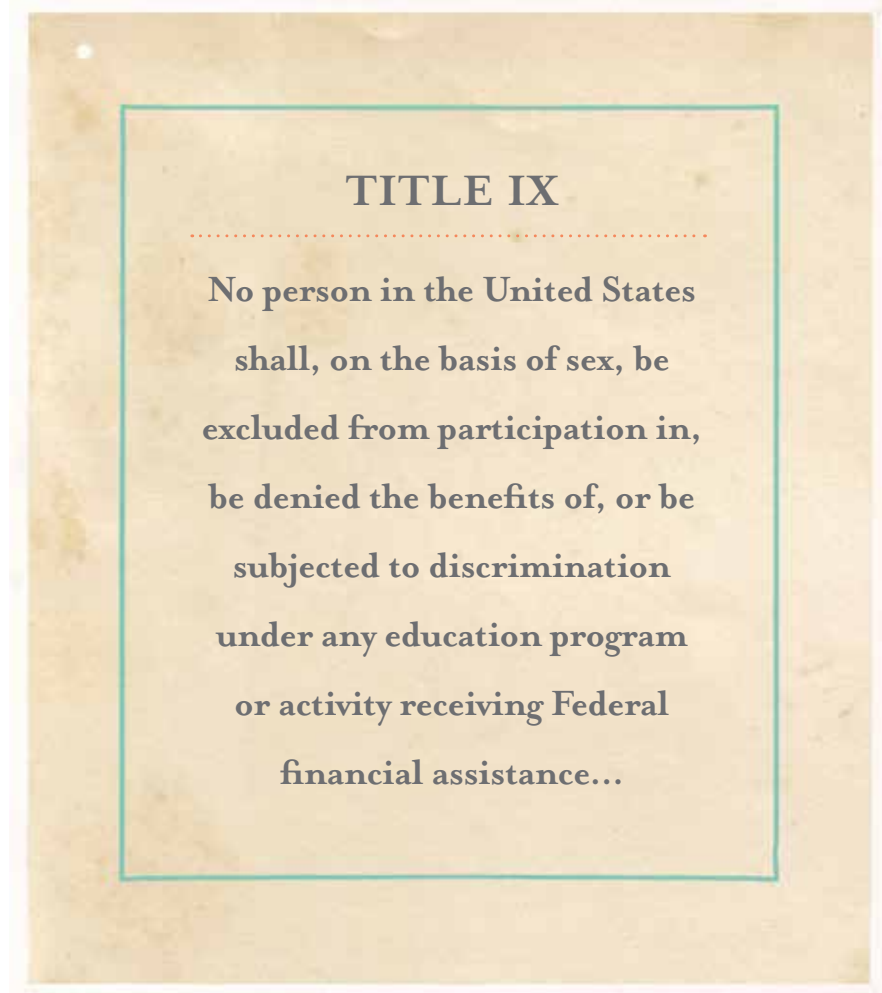
Draughon enthusiastically supported scientific and technical education for women. During World War II, America used women in technical fields, and in the climate of the Cold War he

believed America needed “thousands of technically trained women in almost all fields of activity; we simply aren’t training enough of them.”

Draughon was convinced that there were “many jobs women engineers can do as well as men” and that the land-grant colleges “are tooled up to train people” in fields of national health, safety and defense. He could see no sense in denying “women the opportunity to enroll and study in these fields.”

Tracking the success of Auburn women who graduated in journalism and English was easy because their writings were published. For instance, Anne Rivers Siddons, who entered Auburn in 1954, published her first novel, *Heartbreak Hotel*, in 1976. The story is set on the fictional campus of land-grant college Randolph University, which was much like Auburn in the years of the Civil Rights movement. RU even had a forestry plot. Her next novel, *Peachtree Road*, was set in Atlanta.

New federal laws brought affirmative action, and female graduates found open doors for employment. Two women, Beverly Bradford Crawford ’71 and Rheta Grimsley Johnson ’75, were coeds who edited the *Plainsman* and moved on to careers in journalism. The winter of 1974 brought the “streaker” craze when male and female students dashed across campus completely naked, trying to avoid Dean Cater and the police chief.



Black students gradually increased on campus and enrollment grew rapidly after 1969, when the first black athlete signed a football scholarship. Carolyn Jones, Ruthie Bolton and Vicki Orr were star players on the Auburn women’s basketball team, and black students took leadership roles on campus. Elizabeth Huntley, who worked in Auburn President Bill Muse’s office, now serves as an Auburn trustee. Women’s athletics was nurtured by Jane Moore, who came to Auburn

in 1960 and played a significant role in building women’s intramural programs and then competitive sports programs at Auburn. Moore is emblematic of Auburn women: they contribute, excel and reflect the Auburn spirit.

The 1980s and ’90s continued to be decades of change for Auburn women.

Title IX provisions forced the university to change titles of administrative positions, since deans of women and men were no longer legal. James Foy became dean of student affairs and Katharine Cater was dean of student life, a title she preferred over “Student Affairs.”

Social changes with roots in the 1960s became common. Formal dances on campus were replaced by social events with destination sites, and formal dresses were not those full antebellum dresses of an earlier time. Coeds no longer felt



1950 API students C. Harry Knowles and Joy Love

1924

*Smith Hall* is converted into the first dormitory for women, affectionately called “the Zoo.” From 35 to 40 women lived on the second floor, with one shower area, one toilet area and one telephone.



1928

*Dorothy Duggar '28* is the first woman to graduate with a degree in architecture.

1929

*Martha Haupt* is voted “Miss Personality Plus,” believed to be the forerunner of Miss A.P.I. Rather than win a scholarship, the recipient received the leading role in the school play.

1930

*Q.P.T.* reaches a new peak enrollment for women with 198.

198

1933

*Four new women’s dorms*, known as “the Quad,” are built as part of several Works Progress Administration projects obtained by President Luther Duncan.

1940



*The first three* women graduates return to campus for the dedication of the new Women’s Quadrangle Dorms. Dedication-day ceremonies included a luncheon for Kate Teague Hagler, Willie Gertrude Little Clark and Katherine Conway Broun Fulgham. The dorms featured private baths between rooms, but the mirrors had not yet been delivered.

1941

*Women with experiences* in extension work and education are moved into the women’s corps as WAVES or WACs, to direct food services and social canteens or administer USO operations.



obliged to dress sharply for class, and shorts, once required to be hidden under raincoats, became the standard attire for class, a more comfortable selection for Auburn's warm weather. T-shirts and bulky sweatshirts no Auburn woman would have worn to class earlier could now be seen all over campus, while linen and silk were left in the closet for dressier occasions.

Auburn University finally made a commitment to women's intercollegiate athletics in the 1970s. Urged on by Title IX provisions, in 1976 the university hired Joanna Davenport as the first full-time women's athletic director. She was told that at Auburn there would be separate training rooms for male and female athletes. A dressing room in the coliseum was converted to a women's training room; when Coach Pat Dye became athletic director in 1981, he was comfortable with joint training rooms, and the facilities were combined. Davenport pushed hard for female athletes to be able to eat in Sewell Hall with male scholarship athletes. This was achieved but soon abolished at the coaches' request because the girls could not assimilate the high-calorie meals served at Sewell, and Davenport made other arrangements.

In the early years the women's sports program had been supported by the physical education department; after 1976, it was funded by the athletic department. Within nine years the budget grew from \$100,000 to more than \$1 million. Profes-

sors in the physical education department who served as part-time coaches were replaced with full-time professional coaches, top-ranked opponents were scheduled, and facilities expanded. Auburn kept moving toward full NCAA equivalency in the women's scholarship program for each sport.

By 1977 Auburn women were competing in eight sports: basketball, golf,

gymnastics, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. Two-time SEC Champion Sissy Costner and All-American Angela King led the Lady Tigers track team in the 1980s, and the women's basketball program achieved national prominence under the leadership of Coach Joe Ciampi, winning the SEC in 1989. The outstanding play of African-American coeds Ruthie Bolton, Carolyn Jones and Vicki Orr had much to do with the excellent performance of the Lady Tigers. Jones and Orr were stars on the U.S. Women's Team at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992. The women's golf team won the SEC Championship in 1989.

In 1986, the university established a women's companion award to the Cliff Hare Award, the highest award a male athlete could receive. Named for world champion water skier Leah Rawls Atkins '58, the first award was made to Tracie Tips, a diver on the swim team with a 3.58 GPA in pre-medicine. In June 1992, Jane Moore became the first woman to chair the Faculty Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics. If football is eliminated from the statistics, in 1992 women at Auburn held more athletic scholarships than men. But since Auburn women students do not "walk on" and participate without scholarships (as many men do) the number of women involved in the intercollegiate sports programs has been limited.

As Auburn celebrated the centennial of women's admission in 1992, women's grades continued to be somewhat higher than men's, as they had traditionally been.

In 100 years, tuition had increased from \$12 in 1900 to \$1,755 for nine months' tuition in 1992. Coed enrollment was 44 percent of the student body, and in 1992 female faculty was 12.5 percent, a low percentage but still higher than an earlier zero. Women's enrollment reached across academic disciplines, including veterinary medicine and engineering.

Jan Davis (pictured right) and Kathryn Thornton had flown in space, a woman had served as vice president of extension, and two Auburn women helped the U.S. women's basketball team win in Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

After a century, the Auburn Spirit remained alive and well among its women students.



Ruthie Bolton



1944

For the first time, there are more women (904) enrolled at A.P.I. than men (864). The 3,152 men in the Army Specialized Training Program and Naval Radio and Aviation Training, though, kept the ratio high.

Lucille Dimmerling '44 is the first female veterinary medicine graduate.

1944

Shirley Smith becomes the first female editor of the *Plainsman*; Jean Woodham '46 becomes the first coed to edit the *Glomerata*.

"Tutter" Thrasher became the first woman president of a senior class.

1946



Katharine Cooper Cater arrives at A.P.I. as the new dean of women. By 1950, female attendance under Cater (pictured left with Jim Foy) more than doubles. Feared and revered, Cater kept meticulous, often personal, files on every female student during her tenure.

1950



President Draughon notes that women are not "barred from any course leading to a degree" at A.P.I. and are "enrolled in everything from agriculture to veterinary medicine." Draughon enthusiastically supported scientific and technical education for women.

1957

Several Auburn football players are caught during a panty raid in a women's dorm and are expelled. Halfback Lloyd Nix is moved to quarterback and the ensuing punishment bonds the team and coaches together, leading to the 1957 National Championship.

1961

Women represent more than 26 percent of the total student population (9,270).

26%



## THE AUBURN WOMAN

She's come a long way, but Auburn is working to help her crack those final ceilings of glass.

By Suzanne Johnson

More than century ago, the first Auburn Woman—technically, three women students—crossed the creaky wooden floors of the academic buildings at the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Alabama, located in Auburn. They made up fewer than 1 percent of the student population.

Fast-forward 125 years, and women make up 49 percent of Auburn undergraduates, taking an active leadership role on campus while in college and, in the world beyond, as the 129,140 alumnae who call Auburn University their alma mater.

Take a few moments to enjoy a snapshot of today's Auburn Woman.

### THE STATE OF THE GAP

For the last few decades—especially since Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibited discrimination on the basis of sex—colleges and universities have experienced a growing gender gap, with far more women students applying for enrollment than men. In an ironic reversal of fortunes, male students are now, at some universities, in the growing minority.

According to U.S. Department of Education estimates, in 2017 women will earn 141 college degrees at all levels for every 100 men, translating to a 659,000 college-degree gap nationwide in favor of women. The department estimates the gender disparity to grow over the next decade.

While it's easy to point at Title IX as a contributor to the initial surge in women college students, changes in society at

large regarding women's roles, national economies that require women to work outside the home, and salary differentials are also factors.

Why are fewer men attending college despite *USA Today* statistics that show 18-24-year-old males outnumbering females by .8 million in the U.S.? And why does Auburn's female/male ratio of 49/51 defy the trend of the female majority for public universities, which *Forbes* magazine says, nationally, is 56/44?

*Forbes* attributes the overall gap to the high school/college earnings differential, which has narrowed over the past 15 years. "While the benefits from higher education have stabilized, the costs have continued to rise," said a 2017 *Forbes* article. "The cost-benefit calculation potential students perform have made them more skeptical of attending college."

In other words, some fields of work that do not require a four-year college degree pay more than those that do require at least a bachelor's degree.

Why does Auburn buck the national trend? Because Auburn men and women believe it's a practical world...

### MAJOR DETAILS

If one removed the highly practical-world Harbert College of Business and the Ginn College of Engineering from the mix, 59 percent of the other 3,893 undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees Auburn University awarded in 2016-17 would have gone to women students, which starts looking a lot more like the national averages.

Engineering and business are the largest degree-granting colleges at Auburn, however, and their numbers skew the total. In fact, only four of the university's schools and college had more male students in Spring 2017: engineering, at 80 percent male; architecture, design and construction, at 64 percent; business, at 63.8 percent; and forestry and wildlife sciences, at 65.4 percent.

Conversely, the greatest women-majority schools in Spring 2017 were human sciences, at 92 percent women; nursing, at 90 percent; veterinary medicine, at 80.7 percent; and education, at 70 percent.

The STEM disciplines—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—are still male-dominated, not just at Auburn but nationwide. And colleges and universities, including Auburn, are actively working to attract more women to those high-growth career fields.

According to a report from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economics and Statistics Administration, women hold almost half of all jobs in the U.S. economy, but fewer than 25 percent of STEM jobs. Further, the statistics show that women with STEM degrees are less likely than their male counterparts to actually work in a STEM field, opting instead for jobs in education or health care.

Why? "There are many factors contributing to the discrepancy of women and men in STEM jobs," the report said. These include "a lack of female role models, gender stereotyping, and less family-friendly flexibility in the STEM fields."

Because interest in and preparation for study in a STEM discipline usually occurs before college, both Auburn's Office of the Provost and individual schools and colleges offer or host a number of summer programs for high school students in everything from computer and software engineering to robotics. While in school, along with the ability to join a variety of student organizations, women also can participate in gender-specific campus groups and local chapters of national organizations, including Women in Aviation, Auburn's Collegiate Business Women, Alpha Omega Epsilon engineering and technical sciences sorority and the Society of Women Engineers.

## WOMEN MAJORITY SCHOOLS & COLLEGES

(2016-17 enrollment, by percentages)



91  
HUMAN SCIENCES



89  
NURSING



78  
VETERINARY MEDICINE



70  
LIBERAL ARTS



70  
EDUCATION

1966



**Josetta Brittain Matthews** becomes the first black woman to graduate from Auburn. Matthews earned a master's degree in education after completing her undergrad at Indiana. Matthews would later become Auburn's first black faculty member in 1972.

1969

**Auburn's faculty** is 12.5 percent female.

**Auburn women's gymnastics** wins the Alabama Collegiate Championship. This is the first time an Auburn women's team has won a state athletic championship.

1970

**Strike Day** At the end of "Strike Day," students outside the president's house demand immediate action on women's rules, including fewer dorm restrictions. President Philpott suggests a student delegation come to his office the next morning, saying "...adjustments need to be made in giving women their rights," but warns "parents' views must be considered."

1972



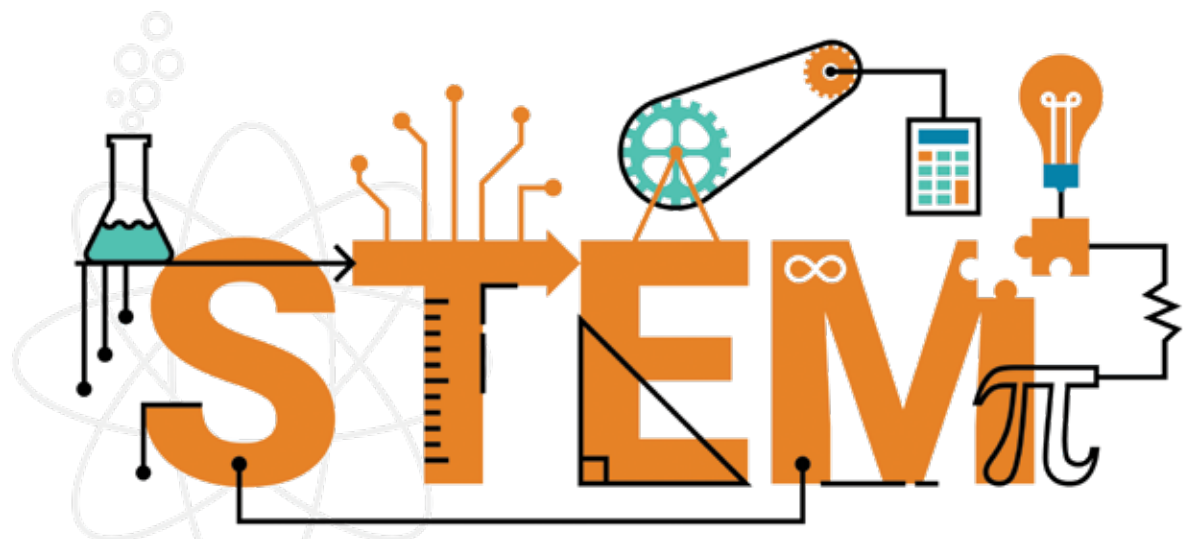
**Title IX** of the Education Act is enacted, signaling the end of "Co-Etiquette" rules at Auburn.

1973



**Susan Horton '73** is the first woman to graduate with a degree in wildlife sciences.



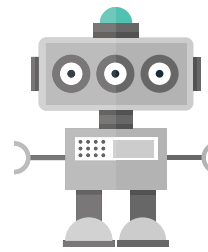


Women hold almost  
**50%**  
 OF JOBS IN THE US ECONOMY, BUT FEWER THAN  
**25%**  
 OF STEM JOBS.

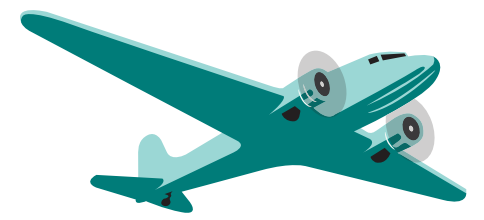
WHY?



HOW IS AUBURN MAKING A DIFFERENCE?



Auburn hosts summer programs for high school students in everything from software engineering to robotics.



While at Auburn, women students can participate in many career-oriented groups including Women in Aviation, Auburn's Collegiate Business Women and the Society of Women Engineers, among others.

1974



*Delta Sigma Theta*, Auburn's first black sorority, arrives on campus.  
*Leah Rawls Atkins '58* (pictured left) earns a Ph.D. in history from Auburn, the first man or woman to do so.

1975



*Sue Fincher* becomes the first woman named to the Auburn University Board of Trustees after appointment by Gov. George Wallace.  
*Marianne Merritt '79* (left) is the first woman to earn a basketball scholarship to Auburn. Merritt represented Auburn in the 2003 class of Women's SEC Basketball Greats.

1976

*The Auburn Board of Trustees* abolishes all curfews at women's dorms and authorizes a plan for coed visitations in response to possible Title IX violations.  
*Mary Lou Rollins Gamble* is the first woman to graduate with a degree in forestry.

1976

*Joanna Davenport* is hired as the first full-time women's athletic director. Auburn women compete in eight sports for the first time: basketball, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field, and volleyball.

1979



*Susan Karamanian '79* is the first female Rhodes Scholar chosen from Auburn. Karamanian (left), named the outstanding student in economics, also played on the golf team. After earning degrees at Oxford and the University of Texas, she did pro-bono work for death row inmates and is associate dean at George Washington Law School.



**OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**

What about women already attending Auburn? How involved are they in leadership positions in Auburn's 477 student organizations (both social and academic)? Women currently serve as SGA president and Student Alumni Board president (see related stories in this issue), as well as sports editor for the *Plainsman*, and are well represented in academic, cultural, social and special-interest groups across campus, many of which do not have officers.

The university also has a number of programs aimed at cultivating leadership among women students.

Under the assistant provost for women's initiatives in the Office of Inclusion and Diversity (formerly the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs) lies the Women's Resource Center, whose wide variety of initiatives include the Young Women Leaders Program, which pairs Auburn women students with junior high school girls from Auburn Junior High and Loachapoka Junior High in a Big Sister/Little Sister program.

The Leadership and Advocacy Council is an SGA organization that serves as a voice for women students and helps plan women's programming.

The Women's Initiatives program also works with other university areas to promote the advancement of women. The Women's Philanthropy Board in the College of Human Sciences, the Women's Leadership Institute in the College of Liberal Arts, the Women's Studies program in the College of Liberal Arts, the Society for Women in Sciences and Mathematics in COSAM, 100+ Women Strong in the Samuel Ginn College of Engineering, and WINGS in Auburn Athletics work to help women develop leadership skills across a range of disciplines.

**THE PANHELLENIC FACTOR**

More than 40 percent of Auburn's women students belong to Panhellenic sororities, which gives them a head-start on successful college and postgraduate careers, says Panhellenic Director Jill Martin.

Auburn is home base for 18 sororities averaging 250 members each. The students represent 41 states, Washington, D.C., and four other countries. They represent every undergraduate

college on campus and, with a 3.3 cumulative GPA, scored slightly higher than the all-women GPA of 3.23 in the Spring 2017 semester (the male student GPA average was 2.96).

"Women who join Panhellenic sororities enjoy greater retention rates than women students in general," Martin says. "They are 5.7 percent more likely to graduate in four years and 7.2 percent more likely to graduate in six years."

In her 15 years at Auburn, Martin says she sees more career-minded women joining Panhellenic sororities now than when she arrived. "That drive and focus are things they're coming in with," she said.

**BEYOND THE PLAINS**

While Auburn women and women's initiatives are bringing leadership and inclusion to the Auburn University campus, the challenges facing women outside the university continue. Call it a glass ceiling or a gender pay gap, equal pay for equal work has not yet been realized in the U.S.

In 1963, when the Equal Pay Act was passed by Congress, full-time working women were paid 59 cents for every dollar paid to men. In the ensuing 54 years, the wage gap has closed only 21 cents, with women in 2017 earning 80 cents for each dollar earned by a male counterpart. The gap widens factoring in age, education level, type of work, experience and years in the workforce, and widens further for black and Hispanic women.

Spread over the course of a 40-year career, that 20-cent gap adds up. The National Women's Law Center estimates that a 20-year-old woman entering the full-time workforce will lose \$418,800 over the course of her career and would need to work a decade longer than a man to earn the same amount of money.

Doesn't that college degree help? Actually, it adds challenges, according to a report by the American Association of University Women: the more a job pays, the greater the gender pay gap. "Wage disparities kick in shortly after college graduation, when women and men should, absent discrimination, be on a level playing field," their report reads. "One year after graduating college, women are paid on average only 82 percent of their male counterparts' wages, and during the next 10 years, women's wages fall even further behind, inexplicably dropping

**EQUAL PAY!**

**1963**

..... WOMEN WERE PAID .....

**59 CENTS**

FOR EVERY DOLLAR A MAN EARNED

**2017**

..... WOMEN ARE PAID .....

**80 CENTS**

FOR EVERY DOLLAR A MAN EARNS

OVER THE COURSE OF A 40-YEAR CAREER, THE 20-CENT GAP ADDS UP TO THE LOSS OF

**\$418,000**

COMPARED TO A MALE COUNTERPART

EQUAL PAY ACT PASSED BY CONGRESS

to only 69 percent of men's earnings ten years after college." That's a key reason Auburn schools and colleges offer leadership and mentoring programs that provide women students with successful alumnae role models.

In 2013-14, the College of Agriculture marked a first in its 142-year history when the majority of Auburn ag students, at 55 percent, were women. The college established the Successful Women in Agriculture donor program to guide, mentor and support women as they prepared to work in what has traditionally been a male-dominated field. They also have career services and professional development programs to help ag majors, male and female, meet with successful alumni.

Although all Auburn schools and colleges work to engage their alumni at large, Ag is far from alone in supporting its women students and alumnae. The Raymond J. Harbert College of Business houses the Women in Business donor group designed to provide not only financial assistance but leadership and mentoring relationships between successful business alumnae and current students. The college also has a mentorship program that is not gender-specific.

The Samuel Ginn College of Engineering enjoys a successful chapter of the Society of Women Engineers as well as the Alpha Omega Epsilon international engineering and technical sciences sorority, and women play a major leadership and mentorship role in the college's Auburn Alumni Engineering Council and Young Alumni Council.

**THE FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT...**

Calling someone an "Auburn Man" has become the ultimate compliment for both men and women AU graduates, but the "Auburn Woman" deserves her due. Auburn Women have served as astronauts and pilots, engineers and architects, CEOs and scientists, doctors and nurses and veterinarians, researchers and educators and artists.

Now, with more programs aimed at fostering leadership roles for young women as they study and learn at Auburn and then move into the great, wide world, Auburn Women will be well represented when the "glass ceiling" once and finally breaks.

1988



*Cindy Holland '88* (pictured left) becomes the first woman elected president of the Student Government Association.

1989



*Astronaut Kathryn Thornton* becomes the first Auburn alumna in space.

1991

*171 women* are enrolled in veterinary medicine, surpassing male attendance for the first time. In 1961 there were five; 20 in 1970; 136 in 1980.

1992

*Excluding football*, women hold more athletic scholarships than men. *1982-1992* Auburn women's GPAs are higher on average for every quarter than men's.

1993



*Vania Clemons* of Mobile is crowned the first black "Miss Auburn." *Auburn women's gymnastics* wins the National Invitational Tournament Title, the first national athletic championship of any kind for Auburn women.



## THE FUTURE

It All Comes Back to the Creed

By Jaqueline Keck '17, SGA President

### WHY CHANGE?

Twenty-five years from now, when Auburn University celebrates the 150th Anniversary of Auburn Women, I hope that students and alumnae everywhere will look back and see 2017 as the year that unified and empowered all members of the Auburn Family to be their best and do well.

My desire is that we can stand together to make this year be the one that we commit to seeing each member of our family for their work ethic, skill set, character, and support our women in shattering misconceptions that have long weighed them down.

But to be able to look back and understand the significance that 2017 will hold, we must ask ourselves in this moment—why change in the first place? Why seek to step into places and positions that have yet to be filled by another woman? Why aren't things good enough the way they are?

The answer to these questions is that change is good, and also inevitable. It can create new, exciting progress, a kind of progress the world has never seen before. But for this progress to happen, change has to happen and that change comes with a lot of firsts.

For women, this means that we are going to have to boldly take the first steps onto ground that has not previously been walked on by women. We need to fill positions that have never before been filled by women—carrying a spirit of encouragement with us along the way.

In doing this, we are saying that things are not good enough and there is a need for change. We live in an ever-changing, fast-paced world that always wants new. Progress cannot be attained without having women at the table.

As we move toward this change, I find us standing at an in-between time of seeing women in leadership roles as the exception instead of seeing them as an expectation.

The boldest and bravest throughout history, women and men, carried the light into the unknown so others could follow. It is that kind of bravery and boldness that we need to create change and make the jump from exception to expectation. Complacency, idleness and aversion to change will get us nowhere. We are at a time where we are ready to set those things aside and commit to change and progress.

### HOW DO WE BECOME AN EXPECTATION, NOT AN EXCEPTION?

Focus on qualifications and attributes rather than gender. Growing up, my parents always focused on my performance and how I could become better. Never was capability questioned because I was a girl, but rather, I was faced with refinement because of the high expectation and belief my parents had in me. I was raised on the belief that “whatever you want to do, do it, and do it well.”

I believe there is an intrinsic value in recognition being merit-based. Shifting praise towards hard work allows not only women—but all people—to rise to the challenges in front of

them, knowing that there are no social barriers standing between them and success.

Through seeking the praise of hard work, we open up the doors for people who take pride in their work, can bring a vision to fruition and be inclusive of those who contribute to those things. This creates hope for those who have to overcome.

This battle for equality can seem like an uphill struggle if one is going at it alone. Thankfully, our generation has women who have gone before us and who can share their experience, inspiring others along the way.

Seeking guidance and mentorship is an invaluable step toward women in the workplace becoming the expectation. Mentors can serve as a safe place to bring the daily struggles that inhibit you from moving forward, hold you to a higher standard by believing in your capability to achieve what is in front of you, and to bring you consistency and speak truth when you need it most.

But just as much as we need mentorship, we need to give it to others—we all have two hands, so we should be helping two people. As one experiences both sides of this coin, the door is opened to learning about others. As you are mentored, your eyes are opened to new perspectives and ideas you had yet to previously think about. As you mentor someone, you learn a lot about your own strengths and weaknesses, both refining you to be the best version of yourself.

### HOW DOES THE EXPECTATION LOOK?

The mission statement of Auburn's first paragraph reads:

*The university's mission is defined by its land-grant traditions of service and access, the university will serve the citizens of the state through research and outreach programs and prepare Alabamians to respond successfully to the challenges of a global economy.*

Each of those things mentioned are things that Auburn Men and Women embody and are capable of doing because of Auburn University. Here, Auburn serves as a unifier of all to promote practical training, research and education amongst



all people, and women play a large part in bringing that mission statement to life.

For us to work well globally and respond successfully, we as a university have to continue to foster a spirit of collaboration. In doing so, we give our students the opportunity to work with others who are different than they are, and that is the key.

As we continue to produce students who are capable of working well with others and have a heart for service, we are sending out leaders into the world who value differences because, from their experiences, those differences result in success. This means women at the table.

We have to know how to work with and produce men and women that are thoughtful leaders, intellectuals and hard workers.

It all comes back to the creed—education, hard work, “sound mind, sound body”—all those things produce women and men that are ready to engage in a global economy. To successfully do that, we must have women at the forefront that are capable of creating changing and living out the commitment Auburn University has made through its mission.

2002

The Auburn women's swimming and diving team wins the first of its five NCAA national titles under Coach David Marsh.

2006



The Auburn equestrian team wins its first Varsity Equestrian Overall National Championship, the first of four national titles.

2009

Women comprise 48.82 percent of the 24,600 students at Auburn.

Auburn women's basketball clinches the SEC Conference title at home with a win over Tennessee.

2012



Auburn Engineering's 100 Women Strong is founded. Comprised of alumni and friends of the college of Engineering, 100 Women Strong provides scholarships and connects female undergraduate engineering students with industry professionals.

2015



The Auburn softball team reaches the first of two consecutive NCAA Women's College World Series.



AUBURN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
2017

# CHECKING the NUMB3RS



of Auburn's colleges have more  
**females**  
ENROLLED THAN MALES



AUBURN UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



MISSISSIPPI STATE



LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



- THE DARKER THE DOT, THE GREATER RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE
- Human Sciences ●
  - Nursing ●
  - Veterinary Medicine ●
  - Education ●
  - Liberal Arts ●
  - Pharmacy ●
  - COSAM ●
  - Agriculture ●
  - Business ●
  - CADC ●
  - Forestry/Wildlife ●
  - Sciences ●
  - Engineering ●

\*Reflects Spring 2017 enrollment.

the female ratio across the SEC

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# Women's Philanthropy Board

The Flagship Division of the Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies



The Women's Philanthropy Board and its men's auxiliary, The Phils, are dedicated to educating and enabling individuals to be financially sustainable and philanthropically engaged. Through a variety of educational programs, mentoring initiatives, and scholarship support, WPB is using its collective impact to prepare the next generation of Auburn men and women to become tomorrow's leaders. We invite you to join forces with the 200-member WPB network, together making a difference for Auburn students and the Auburn family.

For more information about membership opportunities or educational programs, please contact (334) 844-9156 or [wpbch1@auburn.edu](mailto:wpbch1@auburn.edu) • [www.carycenter.auburn.edu/wpb](http://www.carycenter.auburn.edu/wpb)



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HUMAN SCIENCES



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*Lauren Hayes Smith '09*

*Jaqueline Keck*



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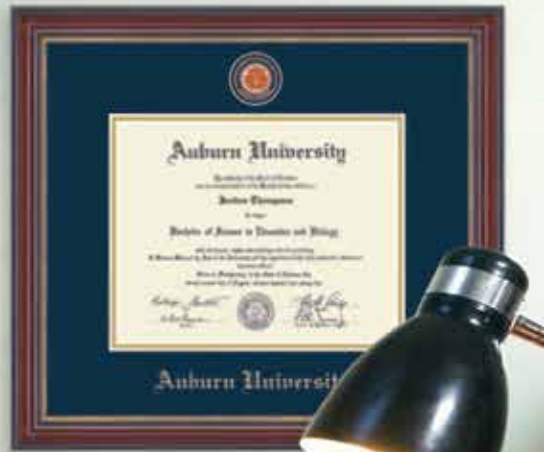


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# *the* Classes

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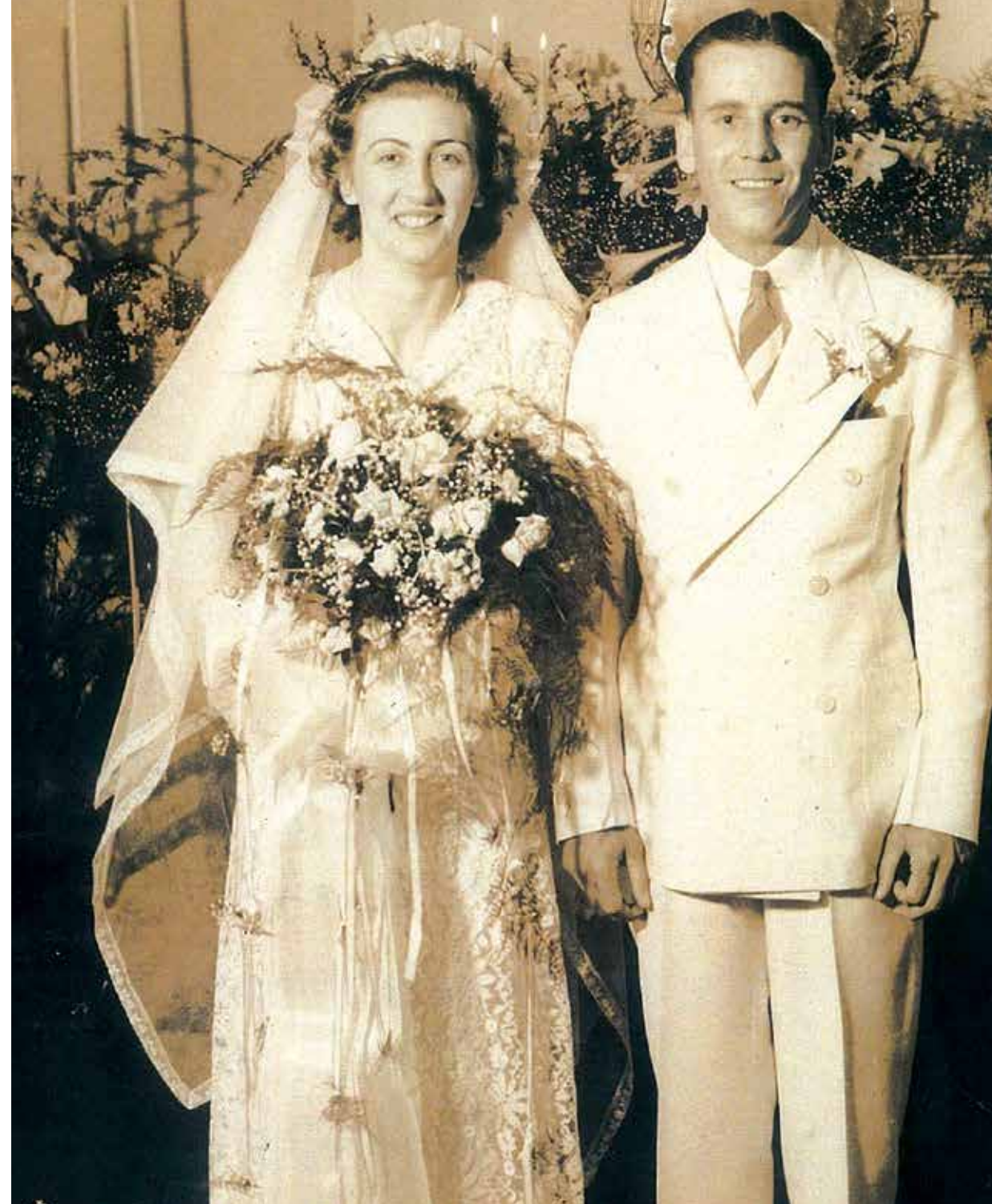
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## *Meant to Be*

Carolyn and Luther Young marry on May 25, 1940, at the Social Center (now Cater Hall). They were the first couple to be married at the Social Center. Luther Young was Auburn's first tennis coach and served 1945-1976.

*Photo contributed by the daughter of Luther and Carolyn Young, Nancy Young Fortner '71. Fortner was the first female president of the Auburn Alumni Association board of directors. She served as president 2008-2010.*



# I'm a Believer

*"And Because Auburn Men AND WOMEN Believe in These Things, I Believe in Auburn..."*



## I BELIEVE IN EVERY AUBURN STUDENT—

male and female—who makes the choice to attend Auburn and become a part of her community and her history. Obviously,

George Petrie agreed when he wrote this famous line of the Auburn Creed, honoring the Auburn men *and women* who believe in and cherish all that Auburn is.

In October, we will celebrate 125 Years of Auburn Women. It will be a tremendous event, and it is absolutely something to celebrate. I hope many of you will join us for the celebration. Honestly, I cannot imagine Auburn without women. Any image or memory I have of Auburn includes women. They are as much a part of Auburn as anyone else.

I come from a family of Auburn women. My mother-in-law graduated from Auburn, my sister graduated from Auburn, my wife graduated from Auburn, two sisters-in-law graduated from Auburn, and my daughter-in-law graduated from Auburn just last May. The number of women in my family who graduated from Auburn far outnumbers the number of men. All of these women had outstanding experiences at Auburn, and they served and contributed to the university in a variety of capacities and leadership positions. They are all better for having attended Auburn, and I think that Auburn is better for their having been a part of the family.

I was a student at Auburn when Cindy Holland Torbert was elected the first female SGA president. I am honored to have met Jacqueline Keck, the current and *third* female SGA president. Both of these ladies were—and are—effective leaders and representatives of our university, and frankly it shouldn't matter at all that they are women. However, the reality is that their gender is significant—and relevant. They prove that our university is better for the inclusion of women in the student body, and our university is bolstered by the contributions of women who have attended, graduated, served and represented Auburn across the country and around the world. Female Auburn graduates have traveled to space; entertained the world through music and film; led major international corporations; made significant advances in medicine, science and technology; and the list goes on.



I, along with all of you, applaud and celebrate the tremendous accomplishments of the women who have been part of Auburn's story. The list of accolades is long—far surpassing my word limit in this letter. However, more than that, I love that all of these women are part of the Auburn family as a whole—and that their accomplishments exceed any designation as “female” or “woman.” Of course, we celebrate and honor the fact that women have been a part of Auburn for 125 years and have thereby served and honored Auburn through their accomplishments, services and legacy. However, the truth is that the women I have mentioned—and countless others I have not—are much more significant than their gender distinction. They are outstanding Auburn students, graduates, alumni and leaders—all of whom love Auburn. They are **AUBURN**—*period*. And THAT is FAMILY!

War Eagle—

Beau Byrd '89

President, Auburn Alumni Association

bbyrd@bradley.com



Send your class notes and other updates to Auburn Magazine, 317 South College St., Auburn University, AL 36849 or [aubmag@auburn.edu](mailto:aubmag@auburn.edu).

## 1960s

**SAM W. IRBY '66** was appointed president-elect of the 18,100-member Alabama State Bar Association on July 15, 2017. Irby will serve for one year as president-elect and will take office as the 143rd president of the Alabama State Bar Association in June 2018 to serve a one-year term as president. Irby lives in Fairhope and has practiced law there since 1972.

**JOSEPH F. BUSTA '69** retired as vice president for development and alumni relations at the University of South Alabama in October 2016 after 14 years. He devoted 47 years to higher education at the Universities of Tennessee, South Florida, Auburn and South Alabama. He also served 10 years as president of the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind, as vice president for advancement at Auburn and as executive director of the Auburn Alumni Association and the Auburn University Foundation. He resides in Orange Beach and operates a fundraising consulting business.

## 1970s

**GREG SAWHILL '73** retired on May 31, 2017, after 27 years as traffic manager of Saginaw (Ala.) Pipe Co.

**RICK MILLER '78**, senior vice president of Renewable Energy

Services, recently received the Dr. Kenneth Henwood Award from the National Hydropower Association (NHA), the hydropower industry's highest award. The award is presented to a hydropower industry professional who exhibits “dedication to hydropower as an energy technology; persistence in the face of institutional obstacles; appreciation and understanding of the relationships among project engineering; environment and economics and uncommon energy, enthusiasm and excitement as a leading force in the industry.”

## 1980s

**ALAN STEPHENSON '81** and **CATHY KERBY STEPHENSON '91** retired from the North Carolina Community College System. Alan Stephenson will continue his career as vice president of academic affairs at Calhoun Community College in Tanner.

**JIM DICKERSON '83** was named principal of Jones Financial Cos., Edward Jones' holding company. Dickerson was one of only 45 individuals chosen from a pool of 43,000 associates across the United States and Canada to join the firm's 372 principals. A Fortune 500 company, Edward Jones provides financial services for individual investors in the United States and in Canada through affiliates. Dickerson, along with his wife, Deborah, and their daughters, Heather and Lauren, will remain in Knoxville, Tenn., and will continue to serve area investors.

**TODD SHIVER '83** has been

appointed the interim dean of the Central Washington University College of Arts and Humanities. Shiver has also chaired the CWU Department of Music since 2010. During his time as music department chair, Shiver oversaw the largest department within the College of Arts and Humanities, with 400 undergraduate and graduate students, 50 faculty and staff members, and a \$4 million annual budget.

**TREY STONE '83** was promoted to assistant vice president of the Gulf Coast Regional Office of FCCI Insurance Group in Ridgeland, Miss., a provider in commercial and casualty insurance. Stone will continue to manage the Alabama office and will oversee FCCI's state directors and marketing underwriters in the Gulf Coast Region. Stone joined FCCI as a senior marketing underwriter in November 2009 and later was promoted to state director of Alabama, then managing director of the FCCI Alabama branch office.

**SANDY NEWMAN '86** recently celebrated her 30th anniversary as director of publications at First Baptist Church in Dothan.

**JEFF DEERY '87** was selected as a 2017 Florida Super Lawyer. Super Lawyers, owned by Thomas Reuters, recognizes attorneys who have distinguished themselves in their legal practice. The selection is multi-phased, with peer nominations and evaluations combined with third-party research and validation of the attorney's professional accomplishments. Deery is part of the Winderweedle, Haines, Ward & Wooman full-ser-

vice law firm, providing legal representation in business law, litigation and appeals, bankruptcy, insurance law, estates and trusts, government, property rights and real estate.

**BETH MCHENRY '88** started working as a hazard mitigation grant specialist for South Carolina Emergency Management in December of 2016. She lives in Columbia, S.C.

## 1990s

**KRISTI STACKS '91** was named executive director of Better Basics, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that works closely with public schools in Birmingham and throughout Alabama to help students gain an appreciation of reading and improve literacy through enrichment and intervention programs. Stacks was selected based on her 20 years of experience in various levels of education. Stacks has received national board certification and is a mentor to other teachers aspiring to receive certification as well.

**ANGELA HUDSON '96** has received an arts and humanities fellowship from Texas A&M University. Hudson's research specializes in American Indian history, representation of American Indians in popular culture, the intersection of African-American and Indian-American lives and the U.S. South in the 19th century. The fellowship will allow Hudson to travel to multiple archives that contain the municipal records relating to women Indian doctors. So far, Hudson's research on women Indian doctors has



focused on newspapers, medical reform tracts and city directories. Her goal is to submit a journal article and a book proposal by the end of the award period.

**JAMES ANDERSON "ANDY" CHILDS '97** has been promoted to vice president for information technology at the SSI Group. He and his wife, **TRACEY CHILDS '98**, live with their family in Mobile.

## 2000s

**GEMINA STROUD '00** serves as traffic coordinator for Fox Sports South. She earned a community award for her service as a FOX Sports ambassador. Stroud volunteered and worked alongside NBA Hall of Famer Michael Jordan on three Charlotte Hornets "Day of Service" community projects, which included the presentation of scholarships to students and the refurbishing of schools and veterans' facilities in the Charlotte, N.C., area. Stroud also competed on "Wheel of Fortune" in 2015.

**COLLIN MCLAIN '02** has joined Holmes-Murphy Shareholders, a privately held independent insurance brokerage, as vice president of employee benefits in Dallas.

**GLENN SCOTT '02** serves as advisory supply chain and operations manager for Ernst & Young in Charlotte, N.C. He is co-author of the industry white paper "Beyond Lean," which focuses on the future and improvement of business operations and management. Scott and his family recently celebrated his 20-year anniversary of remission

from non-Hodgkins lymphoma and continues to raise funds to find a cure. Glenn currently serves on the Charlotte board of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

**BROOKE BULLMAN '03** was a finalist in the Algren Award, a national contest for original short stories. Her story, "Found Objects," was published in the *Chicago Tribune*. "Found Objects" takes place in Auburn and follows the protagonist, Carl, whose hobby is to collect objects found in "refuse and untamed landscapes." Carl falls in love with a downstairs neighbor and desires to win her affection with a gift assembled from his found objects.

**JOSEPH E. MAGARO II '03** and **RAMSEY ROBERTSON MAGARO '04** have announced the birth of their second child, Thomas Robertson Magaro, born on May 31, 2017.

**KENT MCCORKLE '03** was the 2016-2017 Honors Faculty of the Year at MiraCosta College in Oceanside, Calif., where he has served as a chemistry professor since 2014.

**BRAD GARLAND '04** serves as a consultant for full-service CPA firm Brand Blackwell & Co. in Huntsville. He is also president and founder of Rocket City SGO, a nonprofit that provides scholarships under the Alabama Accountability Act.

**BENJAMIN L. and CHRISTINA S. WOLFE '06** announced the birth of Harper Danielle Wolfe on June 15, 2017.

**JENNA MAYO '06** recently published *My First Auburn Baseball Book: Letters Around the Baseball*

*Diamond*. Together with husband **KYLE MAYO '06**, she announces the birth of Madison Belle Mayo on May 2, 2017, joining an older brother, Hudson. The family resides in Charlotte, N.C.

**SHAUNDA "SONNY" T. SMITH '06** is founder and CEO of Air Care Travelers, an all-inclusive travel companion services company in Atlanta that provides travel support for seniors, minors, families and those with reduced mobility. She was nominated for *Jezebel* magazine's "most eligible Atlantans," which Smith jokes helps people know that she is single. She is the author of the upcoming book *Elephants Can't Jump! How to Accelerate Your Ideas, Influence and Leadership in Any Environment*. She earned an Excellence in Leadership award from the National Amputee Golf Association for her work as operations director and has been invited to sit on the committee as a logistics specialist for the 2021 World Games, a quadrennial and multidisciplinary event that showcase 25-plus sports.

**STEVE HIGGINBOTHAM '08** took over as CEO of ReachOut Healthcare America in Farmington Hills, Mich., in November 2015. ReachOut is a portfolio company of Morgan Stanley Private Equity. Higginbotham recently got the chance to meet Elon Musk at a Tesla event during the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

**KATIE (HINES) BROWN '09** and her husband, Russell, welcomed their first child and son, Rhett, in November 2016. The Browns live in Albertville.

## 2010s

**KERRY HASSLEY HIGLEY '10** started her own company, GenConnect Recruiting and Consulting, in Huntsville. The firm assists companies in recruiting, hiring and retaining millennial employees to provide fresh perspectives for the next-generation market. Higley says the firm differs from its competitors by coaching new employees for one year after placement.

**ERIC COLEMAN '11** has joined the Carlton Field law firm's Miami office as an associate in its national trial practice business litigation subgroup. The firm is known for its national litigation practice, class action defense, trial practice, white-collar representation and business law. Coleman's practice focuses on commercial litigation and construction litigation.

**ELIZABETH MERCER '11** is vice president of Jungle Scout, a web application and browser extension that assists Amazon product sellers in being competitive in sales. She and her husband, **GREG MERCER '11**, created the software as a service (SaaS) product in February 2015. Their product helps people find profitable products to sell on Amazon. Their business has now grown to a 17-person team and recently launched other software tools, including Review Kick, Splitly and Fletcher, that help Amazon sellers with reviews, testing and accounting.

**BROOK V. ROBERTSON '13** was

added to the financial services litigation practice group of Burr & Forman, LLP. Based in Birmingham, Robertson represents banking and financial services for industry clients in both consumer and commercial litigation matters. Her practice includes commercial lending, drafting and renewing commercial loan documents for complex transactions, reviewing surveys or title policies and preparing documents for small business administration loans.

**LEE WALTER SMITH '13** serves as information management officer for the U.S. Secretary of State's mobile communications branch in Washington, D.C. He made improvements to former Secretary of State John Kerry's mobile communications and secure connections to the president, the National Security Council and foreign leaders.

**SEAN FIERY '15** is employed as an allocator with lingerie chain Soma Intimates in Fort Myers, Fla. He started with Chico's FAS, the parent company, in March 2016 as part of its executive management training program. Fiery presented a case study within the training program that covered the optimization of the company's e-gift card platform through photo, video receipt and instantaneous delivery enhancements. Fiery's case study earned first place and was viewed by chief executive officer Shelley Broader and the Chico's FAS executive management team. Fiery is now in charge of Soma Intimate's loungewear and sleepwear.



## HISTORICAL CONTEMPORARY POWERFUL

# Art

SEPT. 5–JAN. 7  
*Leo Twiggs:  
Requiem for Mother Emanuel*

OCT. 6, 2017–OCT. 6, 2018  
*Out of the Box*  
Public Opening: Oct. 6

OCT. 6–JAN. 7  
*Jean Shin, MAiZE*

NOV. 11, 2017–FEB. 4, 2018  
*1072 Society Exhibition:  
Celebrating the 125th  
Anniversary of Auburn Women*



THIS IS AUBURN.



# FURTURNITY *sister*

IN 1978, VIKI LEACH WOERNER was a freshman in early childhood education at Auburn University.

She also was a trailblazer, though only a handful of people knew it at the time.

That's because Woerner was the first woman selected as a Friend of Aubie, the individuals chosen each year to represent the AU mascot at events in Jordan-Hare Stadium and around the country.

Most of the Friends of Aubie are a secret, but because Woerner was the first, and so far the only, woman to portray Auburn's beloved mascot, she has received a considerable amount of attention.

"I heard about Aubie tryouts in *The Plainsman*," Woerner recalls. "I was a cheerleader in middle school and high school, and a friend of mine said, 'Oh, my God, you need to do it.'"

Aubie was the creation of cartoonist Phil Neel. The intrepid tiger came to life through the efforts of James Lloyd, then spirit director of the Student Government Association, and the Auburn Alumni Association. Together, they secured Aubie's first costume.

A number of people tried out that first year, and when it was over, Woerner was one of the two alternates.

"We decided then that Aubie was going to be anonymous," Woerner says. "We were never going to tell anybody, and Aubie was never to be photographed without his head."

That pact has been broken before, but Woerner pretty much stayed true to it. Her family knew, and so did

her roommate, but that was about it while she was at Auburn.

That first year was a far cry from today. Aubie appeared at a handful of events other than football and basketball games. These days, Friends of Aubie make more than 1,100 appearances a year.

And an even bigger change was the suit. "It was horrible, and so, so hot," Woerner says. "Nobody was in it for more than 10 or 15 minutes before you had to go somewhere and breathe. It's on display now, and I swear you can still smell it through the glass."

Aubie was still brand new, and no one quite knew what to do with him.

"You didn't have transportation to games or a budget of any kind," Woerner says. "You paid for your own meals. They got you into the game, but you had to get yourself there if it was an away game."

The pluses far outweighed the minuses, though, in Woerner's eyes.

"My favorite was doing fun appearances with the kids," says Woerner, who graduated from Auburn in 1982, taught kindergarten for 30 years and now lives in Vicksburg, Miss.

Woerner helped Aubie at one football game, and that was an away game at the University of Georgia.

"I had to get a ride there, and my mom and little sister drove up to Athens from Daphne to meet me," she says. "We beat Georgia. It was an awesome experience, a fun game. It's probably one of the most fun experiences I've had in my life."

Woerner believes one of the reasons she is still the only female Friend of Aubie is because she was one of the first.

"Aubie's persona had not been established, so there wasn't really anything to look for," she says. "Aubie's body type is

slim and kind of flat-chested, which works against some girls. And Aubie now has definite, distinct male mannerisms, and unless you really practice them, you would likely be able to tell if it's a male or female helping Aubie."

Corey Edwards, director of Auburn's Office of Student Involvement and an adviser to Aubie, says the two-step Aubie tryouts are considered to be about the most fair process on campus. "It's not



VIKI WOERNER

really about the appearance as much as it is the interaction," Edwards says. "Aubie, the character, is a male, whether the Friend of Aubie is male or female."

Woerner is proud of her place in Auburn history, even if there is never another female helping out as a Friend of Aubie.

"To be a part of something the first year it was created was phenomenal," she says.

"I just have great memories. And the smell that will never go away."

—Alec Harvey

## SPEAK UP, Auburn Women



MAKENZIE ROGERS COULD BE the face of the modern Auburn woman—independent, outgoing and determined to be herself.

The Houston, Texas, native drives a pickup, cheers for the Dallas Cowboys and spent her summer helping create a disaster plan for townships in Port Alfred, South Africa. She holds a passion for hunger studies and hopes to spend her career after graduation next spring first attending law school and then working to facilitate international adoptions.

In the meantime, she stays busy as president of the board of the Student Alumni Association, Auburn's largest student organization with an average of 3,000 members.

The global studies major, who is minoring in hunger studies and business, is a first-generation Auburn student, so she says she came to campus prepared to fully immerse herself in the culture. The Student Alumni Association seemed a good place for her to start.

"I was determined to get plugged in and find my place," Rogers said. "This was an organization that stood out to me because their purpose lasted far after my four years as a student. This was an organization that would serve me for the rest of my life. However, I didn't realize I wanted to become a leader within the organization until I felt the love and acceptance of the people around me within the Student Alumni Board. From then on, I realized I wanted to be a part of making other students feel a part of the Auburn family."

Rogers had her first taste of leadership by getting involved with current SGA President Jacqueline Keck's campaign. "I was able to witness the steps women are taking at Auburn to have a seat at the table," she said. "Jacqueline has shown that it is possible to have both humility and confidence. At this moment, I could name more female organization presidents than male, so I really do believe women are paving the way for change and I am so happy to know that Auburn stands behind us and our successes."

The busy senior, who spends her free time crafting gifts for friends and "indulging an unhealthy obsession for coffee shops," said there are plenty of opportunities for leadership at Auburn, but she has learned that women leading behind the scenes often do not reap the recognition enjoyed by their more outspoken counterparts.

"Women who are more soft-spoken and work more behind the scenes are often not viewed as leaders, even by themselves," she said. "While I probably tend to vocalize my opinion too often, there are many other ways to lead. Over the last few years, I have found that some of the greatest leading happens by those who appear to be following."

"My one piece of advice for incoming Auburn women is to be strong and bold and never hesitate to try something challenging out of fear of rejection."

—Suzanne Johnson



# THE CATER mystique



**EVERYONE IN SCHOOL AT AUBURN BEFORE 1970** talks about about the raincoats. Having to wear a raincoat even when it's sunny is the kind of thing that sticks with you.

"That was back...when you couldn't wear shorts across campus," 1970 Auburn alumna Emily Perry says. "Everybody had a London Fog raincoat, because if you were going to gym class, you had to have a raincoat over your shorts."

Dress codes, curfews, special permission to live off campus, in and out cards—once upon a time, coed rules and regulations at Auburn were some of the strictest for public universities in the country. Plenty of students were fine with them. Some weren't. Perry, for example, was art director of the 1970 *Glomerata* that railed against "an administration that would keep us sheltered." Looking back—"I know I'm sounding old-fashioned, but the way young women dress now on campus..."—Auburn women, Perry says, "were taught to respect ourselves."

The woman who taught Auburn women to respect themselves was Katharine Cater, one of the most respected student administrators in the South (and beyond). Dean of women. Social director. Supervisor of women's—and later also men's—dormitories. She also sat on pretty much every AU committee formed from her first day in 1946 inside the building that eventually bore her name.

She was, as the *Auburn Plainsman's* front-page headline put it the day after she died in 1980 at 65, a legend—and not just at Auburn.

Cater regularly received letters from other deans of women, and even university presidents, asking for copies of Auburn's *Co-Etiquette* handbook—asking for her secret.

In her mind, the secret was simple: high standards. To Cater, telling freshmen to be back from a date by 9:30 p.m. wasn't pointless puritanism. It was preparation. College instilled the respon-

sibility the real world demanded. To finish college, young women needed to stay out of trouble. Trouble happened at night. Trouble happened when skirts were too short. Trouble happened down in scary places like Florida.

From the late 1960s through the mid 1970s, deserved or not, Florida's state universities had a reputation for being less than accommodating to feminine virtue. Parents across the Sunshine State soon saw the Housing That Cater Built as a conservative alternative to Florida's "taxpayer-funded warehouses," a term a Florida State regent, disgusted with the school's male visitation policy, made headlines for repeatedly using to describe FSU dorms in 1971.

Even as Auburn slowly began relaxing its rules in the early 1970s, Cater's files were filled with letters from fathers praising her for fighting against free love and feminism. Little did they know that Cater, the Prude of the Plains, was herself a feminist.

"Feminist" might clash with the image of Cater in the minds of many, but if you read the profile titled "Today's New Woman" in the Sept. 27, 1964, issue of the Columbus (Ga.) *Ledger-Enquirer Sunday Magazine*, the one with Dean Cater on the cover posing at the old Ross Square fountain behind Samford Hall, it's there.

Sure, there's stuff about advising young women to "work hard and say no," but the story, like much of her personal correspondence, mostly paints Cater as a civic-minded circuit rider preaching women's rights across the South.

"It is evident that much remains to be done in this area (of women's rights)," Cater told the paper before quoting John F. Kennedy, a personal hero she asked to speak at Auburn in 1957. She ponders the gender pay gap, advocates for greater female representation in politics and, despite being a staunch Democrat, praises Republican Sen. Margaret Chase Smith for running for president that year, because why shouldn't she?

Cater bemoaned what she claimed was a recent decline in female college enrollment, the dwindling number of women

seeking advanced degrees and an alarming recent trend among married coeds: dropping out of school to support their husbands. "What is so tragic about this is, while she is sacrificing her education for his, he advances and leaves her behind," Cater said. "She doesn't continue to develop intellectually, and literally as well as figuratively, she is left behind!"

Cater understood that many women needed "the intellectual stimulation of outside work," but also insisted that there was "no area of activity in which women participate that is more important than that of the home."

"In spite of all of the other accomplishments that women have made and in spite of what some writers have said to the contrary, homemaking remains their most important activity."

And why wouldn't it be? To Cater, the home was "the chief conservator of our moral and spiritual heritage." Strong families meant a strong America. A strong America meant a strong world. To be a homemaker was to practically be a humanitarian, not a maid.

"Homemaking is important because this means human relations, learning to live with other people, the give-and-take of life, developing understanding," Cater said.

At Auburn, the elected officers of Associated Women Students, a student governing body completely autonomous from the SGA, prescribed and even enforced standards for Auburn women—under Cater's supervision.

"The girls have found that they can enjoy college life to the fullest at the same time they prove themselves to be responsible members of the student group," Cater said. "Our women are willing to assume responsibility for their actions and to abide by rules and regulations."

Then those rules and regulations became illegal.

In 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act decreed that "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex...be subjected to discrimination under any education program."

At Auburn, the implications were far-reaching. No curfews for men. No curfews for women. But it was more than that, and it went both ways.

"Katharine Cater was kind of the quintessential iron-fist-in-a-velvet-glove Southern woman," said Charles Schroeder, tasked in 1973 with rehabilitating Magnolia Hall, Auburn's lone, infamously dilapidated male dormitory. "She kind of ruled the roost, so to speak, and there was one tremendous advantage to that."



That advantage was the living conditions for Auburn women. "Just as the Auburn Athletics program had to provide access to intercollegiate athletics for women, Katharine Cater had to provide (male students) access to a residential experience proportionate to what women had at Auburn," Schroeder said.

AU President Harry Philpott ordered two women's dorms to be converted to men's, forcing at least some triple occupancy in 20 of the 24 women's residence halls. "Auburn," Schroeder said, "was the only place in the country where (Title IX) advantaged men and not women."

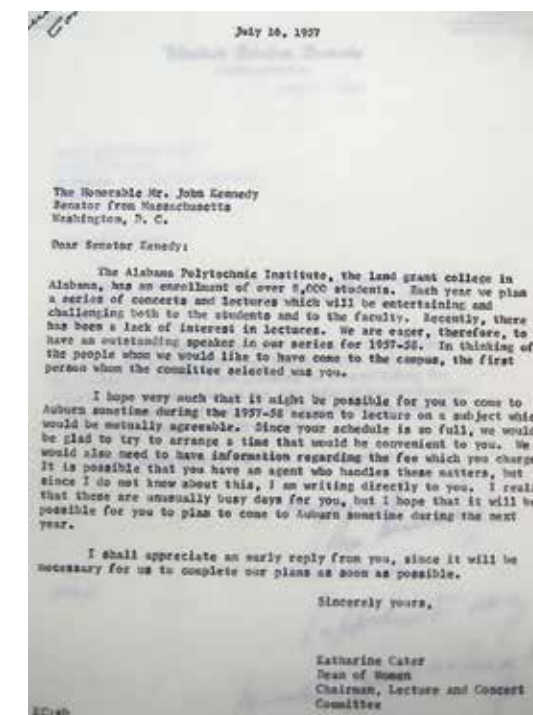
By 1975, it was over. *The Plainsman's* top Oct. 2 headline? *Philpott explains Title IX; Sex Discrimination Must End.* To Katharine Cater, it might as well have been an obituary. "The Women's Dormitories have remained crowded, even

though we do not require girls to live in the dorms any longer," Cater told a former student in June 1976. It was one of the last letters she signed as dean of women. A month later, nearly 30 years to the day she got the job, her position was phased out. Cater was reassigned to be Auburn's "dean of student life"; Title IX wouldn't even allow her to keep her title.

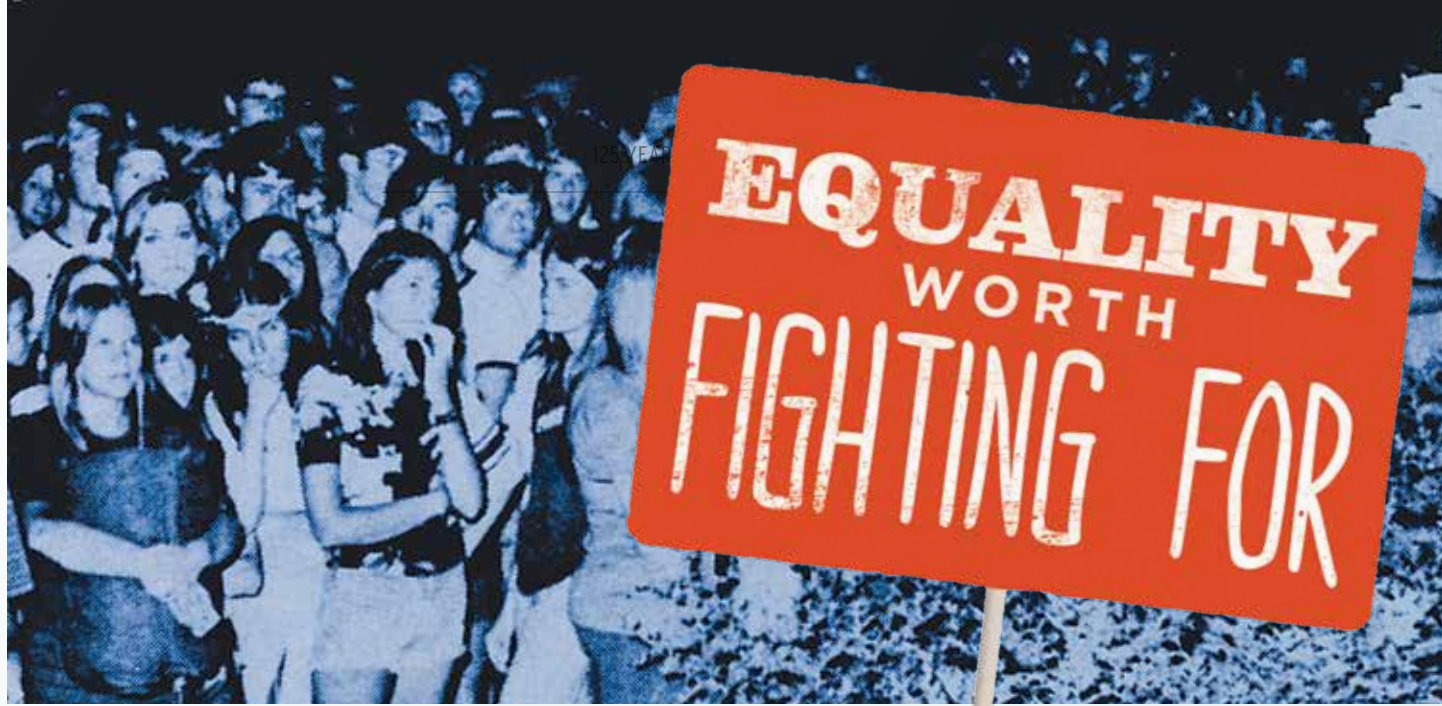
"We have had very few rules and regulations this year and next year we will have even fewer since Title IX requires that men and women be treated the same," Cater wrote. "I feel that in the rush for equality women are losing a great deal of their superiority."

And London Fog lost a lot of business.

—Jeremy Henderson







## THE CLIMATE

Founded in 1922, the Women Student Government Association (WSGA) was an alternative student government dedicated to make women feel comfortable on campus and to “keep them safe.” Early mentions of WSGA appear in 1930s issues of *The Auburn Plainsman*, telling of instances where WSGA raised money for social events and guest speakers. At the head was the dean of women, who oversaw the living conditions and comforts of the coeds.

The influence of WSGA, which became Associated Women Students (AWS) in 1965, was felt in every nook and cranny of a coed’s college experience.

Consisting of executive, judicial and legislative branches, the executive branch initiated programs and social functions (such as teas and dances) within dormitories and worked closely with the dean of women.



House mother reviewing date cards in 1946.

The legislative branch, comprising presidents and vice presidents of each dormitory, set the policies and “made the rules” that Auburn women followed. The judiciary branch enforced rules and administered punishments.

“If you were seen barefooted outside the dorm you had a weekend restriction,” Teresa “Terry”

Rodriguez ’69 recalls. “We had to sign in and out of the dorm, be in by 10 o’clock. You got a weekend restriction if you left the dorm without permission. You had to sign out, saying where you were going, and when. When you brought a male in the dorm, you had to yell ‘man on the hall!’ Even if you went to places like Chewacla, you had to wear a raincoat over your pants until you got into your car.”

The WSGA both helped, and prohibited, Auburn coeds from reaching their goal of equality through the power to give and take away their privileges.

Coeds were punished for breaking any rule—staying out past curfew, missing mandatory convocation or meetings, dressing inappropriately, leaving the dorm without signing her “in-and-out card” and other infractions of the *Co-Etiquette*, the administration’s guideline for how Auburn women should behave and conduct themselves on campus. The thick pamphlet consisted of warm welcomes in the first three pages, then a list of rules for the remaining 40.

Auburn women wanted a chance at responsibility; as editorials flowed into *The Auburn Plainsman* from the 1950s to the 1970s, coeds requested (or demanded) the same freedoms that men already had on campus.

## THE PROTESTS

The “Women’s Liberation Movement” found its way to Auburn’s campus in the ’70s, influencing coed groups to form outside of AWS and promote equality for women.

In 1970, the unsatisfied coeds’ opinions of living on campus became clear after *The Auburn Plainsman* distributed more than 2,000 surveys to all coed dorms.

Of the approximately 40 percent of the surveys returned,

54 percent of respondents said they wanted all curfews abolished, 91 percent wanted to live off-campus and 93 percent felt that parents and the students themselves should decide where students should live.

The survey also asked whether the university should regulate social conduct for women. About 69 percent of the coeds said they needed regulation, but 94 percent believed that universities should not practice *in loco parentis*, or being surrogate parents. The survey revealed the desire for independence was strong, but not one-sided.

Within the dorms, AWS had its own system of communicating opinions and grievances through “Women Students’ Rules workshops.” The workshops were a method where coed residents went before the AWS legislative and judiciary branch, hoping to revise co-etiquette rules to become more liberal.

The changes went before the dean of women and Auburn President Harry Philpott for final decisions. On certain occasions, all of the proposals would be passed, but topics such as curfews and meal plans would end in rejection. *Plainsman* editor Beverley Bradford, in an editorial, beseeched coeds to vote wisely for the upcoming AWS elections, stating a strong AWS that supported rule changes could make the abolition of curfews move quicker, “although a flat-out curfew abolition is ‘next to nil’ when it came to Philpott and the dean of women.”

Then the protests began. The Quad Center protest of May 1970 was one of the first that took place, and was aimed at food quality and mandatory meal plans.

**...they had been served  
cold food, bugs in salad, stale bread,  
warm or watered-down milk...**

Coeds often complained of poorly prepared food and service; in a letter to *The Plainsman*, several girls stated they had been served cold food, bugs in salad, stale bread, warm or watered-down milk or that meals would run out altogether. The protest for abolishing a compulsory meal plan included the burning of meal cards, signs and the chanting of “Alka-seltzer! Alka-seltzer!” to show disdain for the food’s taste. It was reported that Dean of Women Katharine Cater had a calm, but tense, discussion about the meal plans with the group. No change took place until summer.

A week later, a larger protest took place outside of Langdon Hall. During “Strike Day,” students marched to the president’s lawn, protesting coed dorm rules, social regulations and the meal plan. More than 1,000 students, male and female, attended, eventually moving to what was known as “Dorm J” of The Hill dormitories. Later the same week, several off-campus students, including

14 coeds, staged an anti-curfew campout on Philpott’s lawn.

In June 1970, several coeds found an alternative to protesting through legal action: a lawsuit against the university’s rules that discriminated against female students. The case was later dismissed.

In May 1971, a year after the campout, more than 200 coeds met behind the dean of women’s office in what is now Cater Hall to discuss ways of protesting for more rule changes. The group scheduled another campout—the plan being to have coeds stay out past their curfew by 14 minutes, a minute shy of receiving a penalty. At the time, the Women’s Educational Equity Act was pending in Congress for the third time.

The following week, about 50 coeds spent the night on the front of the Social Center lawn in protest of co-etiquette, deeming it unconstitutional. The protest ended, however, with many of the coeds returning back to the dorms by curfew. Views on the demonstration were mixed.

## LEGACY

Amid the whirl of student discord, Philpott sent out a survey to parents to see if the removal of curfews would be acceptable. Philpott asked parents whether changes should be made for coed policy on campus. About 34 percent said coeds should not have a curfew when they did not have one at home.

In time, curfews started to extend and eventually drop. In February 1970, seniors received permission to live off campus and “self-regulate” their hours. The decision was viewed as an indicator for a future without co-etiquette rules. This new freedom would lead to protests later in the same year for those expecting changes to be applied to all coeds.

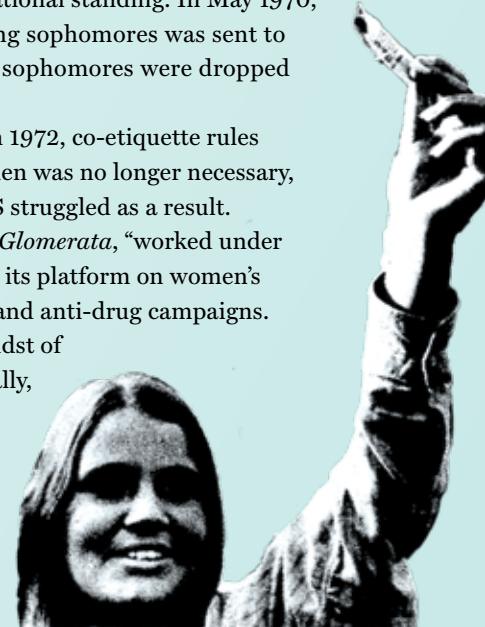
As the class quarters went by, AWS, in conjunction with Cater and Philpott, extended curfew time to juniors, then to sophomores in good educational standing. In May 1970, the consideration of self-regulating sophomores was sent to Philpott. Curfews for juniors and sophomores were dropped in September 1970.

When Title IX was enacted in 1972, co-etiquette rules began to vanish. The dean of women was no longer necessary, so the position dissolved and AWS struggled as a result.

The group, noted in the 1975 *Glomerata*, “worked under fire” to stay relevant by expanding its platform on women’s issue such as birth control access and anti-drug campaigns. It would not be until ’76, in the midst of Title IX making headlines nationally, that Auburn’s female government would merge with SGA to become one entity.

— Ariel Cochran

PROTESTER BURNING MEAL TICKET





# WE SALUTE YOU

Though they waited decades to enlist, Auburn women help sustain a long and storied tradition of military service at home and around the world through a wide range of professions and duties. Around the globe, no matter where they are, they all still call Auburn home.



## MIKAYLA STEWART '15

From Thailand to Korea and the Philippines, U.S. Army platoon leader Mikayla Stewart '15 defends her country abroad through medical assistance to those in need.

"We treat real soldiers and will treat any casualties that may come," Stewart says. "[It could be] something as simple as stitching a finger, to someone that needs to be medevac'd for surgery. I love the medical field and everything that our organization does, and I want to expand that knowledge by becoming a pilot. It will challenge me to learn something out of the ordinary that is not strictly medical.

"Under the Auburn ROTC program, you meet a lot of people. Even to this day, I still meet people wherever I'm stationed at and know whether they are from Auburn. The small community goes a long way when you go across the country or outside the country."



## MORGAN DIAL '18

"I'd never thought I'd join," says U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Morgan Dial. "I didn't join because I was a great patriot; I joined because of the great opportunity. I became a big patriot after being on the job, which is the opposite for most people."

Until her recent retirement after four active years and four years in reserve, Dial was a mass communication specialist who covered public affairs, journalism and graphic design rolled into one department and at times, position. Dial took photos of the field medics within the Navy and participated in the Continuing Promise humanitarian mission throughout 10 different South American countries. She and her team spent 10 days in each, providing medical assistance in the form of medical glasses, medicines and minor surgeries. The mission also built playgrounds and repaired hospitals.

Now married and living in Auburn, Dial is pursuing a degree in public relations.



## ROSHUN STEELE

Overseeing more than 4,300 soldiers and completing three deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan has been a walk of faith for Lt. Col Roshun Steele, professor of military science at Auburn University.

"I started JROTC in high school, [but] to be honest I didn't want to enlist but just go to college and just enjoy the college experience," says Steele. "Once I got into ROTC I started liking it, saying, 'Hey, this ain't bad.' I joined and, fortunately, everything has been going well."

Steele remains grateful for the opportunities the military offered her, even the ones she never expected.

"Someone saw something in me," Steele says. "Sometimes you don't see things in yourself and you're placed in those positions and people expect you to excel. I've always been that type of person to let my work speak for me. I tell my cadets, 'Let your work speak for you. People will respect you as long as you know your job and your craft.'"



## MARY CARAZA '08

Mary Caraza '08, the first woman to graduate from nursing school while in ROTC, served active duty in the U.S. Army for four years before retiring with the rank of captain.

Compared to civilian nurses, military nurses work shifts at Army hospitals in specific areas. Caraza worked in the ER for a time at Ft. Gordon, Ga.

"The biggest difference was that we get deployed. Civilian nurses come in, work their shift and go home. I come in, work my shift and come back later."

Caraza worked a mass casualty event when a couple hundred soldiers were injured from an electrical storm that blew through camp. Through it all, Caraza's mental fortitude kept her going.

"No matter what kind of craziness goes on in the ER, I know that I am trained for this. I know I can do it, even if it's hard, and I'm not going to stop."

By Ariel Cochran



ON NEW YEAR'S NIGHT, 1966, a teenaged Sophia Bracy and her sister Debra returned to their rural Elmore County home following a cherished annual tradition in the black community: the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation. It was after midnight, and soon everyone in the house was asleep.

The peaceful setting was shattered when a series of homemade firebombs crashed through the windows, causing the small cinderblock Bracy home to explode into flames. All 11 family members escaped, but they lost everything.

"Our local paper reported that there was no foul play involved, even though my father found one of the unexploded firebombs in the bed of his truck," Harris recalled. "We were already a poor farming family. Now we were destitute."

Upon her graduation from Wetumpka High School in 1968, Bracy had the opportunity to attend college on a scholarship. Since the family had no income, she was also able to get Pell Grants, loans and a partial scholarship from the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. But the scholarship stipulated she must attend a majority-white school.

She felt drawn to Auburn because of something from her past. "As a teenager, I had visited Auburn as the guest of Jerry Roden, a white man who was an English instructor at Auburn," she said. "Jerry, a progressive leader in the Alabama Council on Human Relations, tutored me and Debra. Jerry saw that I had a knack for writing and he encouraged me in the same way that I now try to encourage children from vulnerable backgrounds."

At Auburn, Bracy sifted through majors before eventually settling on family and child development.

Just before graduation, Bracy was invited to a meeting in Selma where African-American child care activists gathered to express concerns over a new Alabama law that required a complicated—and often arbitrary—licensing process for child care facilities.

From the Selma meeting, Harris was able to work with child care advocates such as Marian Wright Edelman, founder and president of the Children's Defense Fund. She learned the principles of community control, the importance of training teachers and advocates, and how to provide technical assistance to meet the demands of the law. With a pervasive belief that it's not enough to just tell people things—you need to work with them in their own communities—Bracy joined with those Selma activists in 1972 to form the organization now known as FOCAL, the Federation of Child Care Centers of Alabama.

FOCAL's mission broadened from providing day care for low-income families, to establishing child care standards and providing teacher development.

For her success overcoming a systemic deprivation of community-based child care centers in poor communities, Harris was awarded a MacArthur Foundation "genius" grant in 1991.

"I made a commitment to not give over to evil and ignorance, and instead to educate ourselves and push back against a deeply ingrained belief, from slavery, that we aren't equal. I was determined to help others see that we don't have to stay in that place. I try to live that every day."

— George Littleton



## IN MEMORIAM:

For more obituaries, visit [auburnmagazine.auburn.edu](http://auburnmagazine.auburn.edu).

**L. SEAWELL JONES '40** of Selma died on Jan. 19, 2017.

**MAZIE NELSON GORDY '43** of Daphne died on March 2, 2017.

**LOUISE SCALES BROWN '47** of Southern Pines, N.C., died on Dec. 5, 2016.

**REBEKAH NORWOOD LEGGETT**

**WILSON '47** of Auburn died on Dec. 10, 2016.

**LYLE H. SMITH JR. '47** of Minter died on Dec. 25, 2016.

**DORIS BROWN SHERER '47** of Plant City, Fla., died on Dec. 28, 2016.

**NELL MARTIN BRADLEY '47** of Hot Springs, Ark., died on Jan. 5, 2017.

**COL. LOUIE FRANKLIN '47** of St. Petersburg, Fla., died on Feb. 4, 2017.

**HARRY C. MICKLEBORO JR. '47** of Smyrna, Ga., died on Feb. 7, 2017.

**GRACE WARD GILES '48** of Florence died on Jan. 27, 2016.

**MARY LEWIS HUGHES '48** of Birmingham died on Oct. 17, 2016.

**FORD M. MACELVAIN '48** of Opelika died on Oct. 19, 2016.

**HUGH W. GRIFFITH JR. '48** of Springfield, Ill., died on Nov. 22, 2016.

**JAMES A. SMITH '48** of Minneapolis died on Dec. 4, 2016.

**WILLIAM ELLIOTT COLLEY '48** of Birmingham died on Dec. 5, 2016.

**JOHN WILLIS KANE '48** of Mobile died on Dec. 24, 2016.

**JOHN GRAY TINNEY '49** of Moody died on June 21, 2016.

**GEORGE M. GROSS '49** of Atlanta died on Oct. 15, 2016.

**WILLIAM B. GRIMES '49** of Columbus, Ga., died on Oct. 16, 2016.

**SARAH E. SHULTS '49** of North Little Rock, Ark., died on Oct. 24, 2016.

**RICHARD I. KEARLEY JR. '49** of Dallas died on Oct. 30, 2016.

**WILLIAM A. KEITH '49** of Blue

Ridge, Va., died on Nov. 18, 2016.

**ANNE PRIM MATTMULLER '49** of Monroeville died on Nov. 18, 2016.

**FRANK B. KING JR. '50** of Columbiana died on March 3, 2016.

**FRANCES M. GWYNN '50** of Sykesville, Md., died on May 22, 2016.

**ROLAND MCGEE '50** of Huntsville died on Sept. 15, 2016.

**THOMAS ROBERT PAXTON '51** of Harriman, Tenn., died on Nov. 8, 2016.

**MARILYN WILLIAMS DELOACH '51** of Tuscaloosa died on Nov. 23, 2016.

**EUGENE PAUL WILLIAMSON '51** of Pensacola, Fla., died on Dec. 5, 2016.

**JULIA SPENCE KENEMER '52** of Delray Beach, Fla., died on Aug. 30, 2014

**ALFRED H. KENEMER '52** of Delray Beach, Fla., died on Nov. 5, 2014.

**LLOYD SPAN JONES '52** of Decatur died on Aug. 25, 2016.

**MALCOLM F. PULLEN '53** of Troy died on Nov. 5, 2016.

**PATRICIA CHAMBERS HOEL '53** of Athens died on Nov. 6, 2016.

**EDGAR ALFRED KENT '53** of Decatur, Ga., died on Nov. 9, 2016.

**C. RAY HARRIS '54** of Blountsville died on Feb. 29, 2016.

**THELMA LORENE BRASWELL '54** of Wedowee died on Oct. 23, 2016.

**E. WADE SKIDMORE '54** of Union Grove died on Nov. 2, 2016.

**MR. ROBERT H. BOONE '55** of Fayette died on Aug. 6, 2003.

**CHARLES C. SMULL '55** of Columbus, Ga., died on May 29, 2001.

**ROLLIN EDWARD JOHNSON JR. '55** of Littleton, Colo., died on Oct. 4, 2016.

**MARY MORRISON EBERHART '56** of Lavonia, Ga., died on April 1, 2016.

**FRANCES ELMORE NELSON '56** of

Birmingham died on Oct. 1, 2016.

**JAMES GORDON LINK JR. '56** of Athens died on Oct. 14, 2016.

**MARGARET ATCHISON SHINE '57** of Andalusia died on July 5, 2000.

**JOHN C. LITTON '57** of Mobile died on Feb. 17, 2014.

**JOHN HINSON HATAWAY '57** of Kinston died on May 12, 2015.

**CARLOS GORDON GEETER '57** of Riverdale, Ga. died on Sept. 21, 2015.

**JAMES D. BELL JR. '58** of Clanton died on Dec. 19, 2016

**PATRICIA POPE POWELL '58** of Mobile died on Nov. 8, 2004.

**DONALD LEON STEWART '58** of Huntsville died on Feb. 18, 2014.

**A. LAMAR BAGGS JR. '58** of Vienna, Ga. died on Oct. 15, 2014.

**R. LONNIE FLIPPO '59** of Clearwater, Fla. March 17, 2016.

**CARLTON GLEASON COLE JR. '59** of Augusta, Ga. died on Oct. 10, 2016.

**JANE SENTELL PREISS '59** of Little Rock, Ark. died on Oct. 31, 2016.

**ELIZABETH BYRD THORNTON '59** of Columbus, Ga. died on Oct. 21, 2016.

**EMILY HENRY TAYLOR '60** of Birmingham died on Oct. 6, 2016.

**VERNON E. BRACKETT SR. '60** of Sevierville, Tenn. died on Oct. 14, 2016.

**JOHN P. CHAPMAN '60** of Spartanburg, S.C. died on Nov. 4, 2016.

**REBECCA HENLEY STACY '61** of Mobile died on Nov. 21, 2016.

**RICHARD M. HERRING SR. '61** of Fort Meyers, Fla. died on Nov. 25, 2016.

**RANDY S. HARDIGREE '61** of Birmingham died on Nov. 26, 2016.

**ROBERT ANTON WANNINGER '62** of Chelsea died on Dec. 2, 2016.

**PHILIP LAVAL PORTER '62** of Atlanta died on Oct. 19, 2016.

**WILLARD R. VIA JR. '62** of Atlanta died on Oct. 21, 2016.

**RALPH DON LEWIS '63** of Dothan died on Aug. 22, 2016.

**JOHN WESLEY RUTLEDGE '63** of Charlestown, R.I. died on Sept. 11, 2016.

**DONALD L. CREEL '63** of Loganville, Ga., died on Sept. 28, 2016.

**ELMER L. GRAHAM JR. '64** of Birmingham died on June 5, 2014.

**CAPT RALPH M. CUGOWSKI '64** of Plano, Texas, died on Sept. 7, 2016.

**JOHN WILLIAM VAN DYKE SR. '64** of Big Canoe, Ga., died on Oct. 14, 2106.

**LT. COL. FRANK ANDERSON III '65** of Piney Point, Md., died on Oct. 18, 2016.

**LANE DELBRIDGE HOUSER '65** of Raleigh, N.C., died on Oct. 24, 2016.

**MARY PETERS NASH '65** of Athens, Ga., died on Nov. 7, 2016.

**MAC DOUGLAS WALDRUP JR. '66** of Gadsden died on Jan. 3, 2017.

**FRANK M. CLARK '66** of Pittsburgh died on Jan. 4, 2017.

**JAMES KIRK NEWELL III '66** of Birmingham died on Jan. 11, 2017.

**CAPT WILLIAM R. DODD JR. '67** of Lillian died on Nov. 3, 2016.

**PHILIP D. MANSFIELD '67** of Hiawassee, Ga., died on Nov. 4, 2016.

**PAUL W. TIBBETS III '67** of Greer, S.C., died on Nov. 20, 2016.

**MICHAEL G. WINDHAM '68** of Montgomery died on Sept. 12, 2016.

**JON GILBERT APPLETON '68** of Highlands, N.C., died on Nov. 27, 2016.

**JON M. BIEKER '68** of Baton Rouge, La., died on Dec. 1, 2016.

**CECIL TED TINDAL '68** of Greenville died on Dec. 12, 2016.

**NANCY PHILLIPS HILLEY '69** of Gulf Shores died on Nov. 16, 2016.

**JOHN W. ABRAMS '69** of Birmingham died on Nov. 26, 2016.

**M. BARRY ERWIN SR. '69** of Pine Mountain, Ga., died on Nov. 29, 2016.

**MARILYN HAVRDA ADAMITIS '69** of Waukesha, Wis., died Dec. 11, 2016.

**WILLIAM LOUIS OVERCAMP '71** of Lilburn, Ga. died on Feb. 20, 2012.

**WILBUR WADE WALLACE '71** of Tallassee died on April 30, 2013.

**GEORGE THOMAS FONTAINE '71** of Laurel Hill, Fla., died on Sept. 14, 2015.

**JOHN MORGAN DAVIDSON '71** of Russellville died on May 28, 2016.

**JOHN M. HAMMOND '72** of Auburn died on Oct. 2, 2016.

**JOE WESLEY MANN '72** of Carrollton, Ga., died on Oct. 18, 2016.

**CHARLES E. WILLIAMS '72** of Buford, Ga., died on Nov. 6, 2016.

**GABRIEL R. WALLACE '72** of Huntsville died on Nov. 14, 2016.

**WILLIAM J. BRINKLEY '73** of Los Angeles died on June 5, 2012.

**LARRY ELLIS MORGAN '73** of Alabaster died on Jan. 6, 2014.

**DEBBIE ELLISON METCALF '73** of Dothan died on April 4, 2016.

**JIMMY CLYDE CURTIS '73** of Naples, Fla., died on Nov. 13, 2016.

**JEROME L. MCCOMBS '74** of Austin, Texas, died on Sept. 30, 2016.

**DAVID ALLEN MOORE '74** of Franklin, Tenn., died on Oct. 2, 2016.

**PAULETTE M. RILEY '74** of Abbeville died on Oct. 6, 2016.

**TONY F. GRANT '74** of Waynesboro, Va., died on Oct. 15, 2016.

**REBECCA INGRAM CLICK '75** of Vernon died on Aug. 9, 2012.

**FRANCES G. TAYLOR '75** of Birmingham died on Oct. 22, 2016.

**GUNTER E. NEWSOM '75** of Acworth, Ga., died on Oct. 28, 2016.

**SHERRY LENORA DOWNING '75** of Dadeville died on Nov. 10, 2016.

**MADGE S. RUSHING '76** of Prattville died on Nov. 12, 2016.

**MAJ. GEORGE ALBERT OLSSON '76** of Montgomery died on Nov. 25, 2016.

**DENNIS PATRICK MITCHELL '76** of Birmingham died on Dec. 30, 2016.

**SCOTT DYER MCKEE '77** of Butler, Pa., died on Sept. 28, 2016.

**CHRISTIAN P. MORRIS '77** of Lakeview, Ohio, died on Nov. 9, 2016.

**EDWARD E. ROBISON '77** of Russellville died on Nov. 17, 2016.

**HAROLD L. BOYD '78** of Annapolis, Md., died on Oct. 27, 2016.

**CHARLES LESZCZYNSKI '78** of Prattville died on Nov. 22, 2016.

**MARGARET MCGRATH SNOW '79** of Burkeville, Va., died on June 30, 2016.

**ROBIN FLORENCE MEYER '79** of Marietta, Ga., died on Aug. 20, 2016.

**JAMES L. MCDONOUGH '82** of Dacula, Ga., died on Nov. 11, 2016.

**ANDREW TRENT ELLSWORTH '82** of Wellington died on Nov. 23, 2016.

**DON CANDLER WILLIAMS '82** of Macon, Ga., died on Dec. 3, 2016.

**CHARLES S. TORBERT JR. '82** of Opelika died on Jan. 14, 2017.

**BART S. CUTHBERTSON '82** of Indian Trail, N.C., died on Jan. 15, 2017.

**DORIS WHITE PIKE '82** of Greenville died on Jan. 31, 2017.

**WILLARD MCALLEN FAULKNER '82** of Montgomery died on Feb. 2, 2017.

**GERALD W. STEPHENSON '82** of Dothan died on Feb. 24, 2017.

**LESLIE E. THOMPSON JR. '90** of Mobile died on Feb. 11, 2017.

**THOMAS JUDD BYRNE '90** of Montgomery died on March 6, 2017.

**TERRY A. HALL '92** of Montgomery died on Feb. 9, 2017.

**CORTEZ LAWRENCE '92** of Emmitsburg, Md., died on March 1, 2017.

**ABIGAIL KNIGHT WIGGINS '93** of Birmingham died on Jan. 3, 2017.

**STEVEN J. BRYAN '93** of Raleigh, N.C., died on Jan. 25, 2017.

**THOMAS MOORE WILKINSON '96** of Eufaula died on Nov. 15, 2016.

**WENDY CREW BARTLETT '96** of Alexander City died on Feb. 2,

2017.



*James "Jim" Martin*

**FOURTEENTH PRESIDENT OF AUBURN UNIVERSITY**

Former Auburn President James Everett "Jim" Martin died June 3 at the age of 84. Martin was born in Vinemont in Cullman County in 1932, but grew up in Greensboro.

Martin graduated in 1954 from Auburn Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor's in agricultural economics and played on API's basketball team. He earned a master's in ag management in 1956 from North Carolina State University. In 1962, after two years in the military, Martin received his doctorate in agriculture economics from Iowa State.

He married Anne Freeman and had three children. Before returning "home to Auburn" to become president of the institution, Martin taught at the University of Maryland and at Oklahoma State University. He was dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute from 1968-1975 and was president of the University of Arkansas when he received the offer to become Auburn University's president.

As the 14th Auburn president, serving from 1984-1992, Martin was known for completing the most successful private capital campaign in the institution's history at that time, accumulating \$111 million in contributions and pledges. His tenure included a complete administrative restructuring, capital construction projects of more than \$100 million and a 10-year reaccreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Martin was known for establishing a recruiting program for academically talented students in Alabama. In athletics, he spearheaded the project for the aquatic center currently named after him on Auburn's campus.



## BACKCHAT

Around Campus



RAYMOND J. HARBERT  
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS



IN BUSINESS



**IN CASE YOU MISSED IT** (clockwise from top): Air Race Classic; Ambush Tour Lake Martin event; Auburn named best fashion merchandising school in the South; Harbert College of Business celebrates its 50th anniversary; Camp War Eagle Parent Run is now in its 20th year.

# Why are we **COMPELLED TO DO MORE?**

“Because I believe *this* is our moment. I could not be more proud of what we have accomplished and what we will accomplish.”

— Liz Huntley '93

*Auburn University Board of Trustees member*

In 1964, Auburn University enrolled its first black student, Mr. Harold Franklin. To commemorate this significant date, we set a goal of securing gifts from at least 1,964 black alumni, with a total value of at least \$3.5 million. This summer, we exceeded both goals; 2,002 black alumni donors have made philanthropic investments totaling more than \$4.1 million!

To stand still, however, is to fall behind. We are calling on *all members of the Auburn Family* to join together to see just how far we can go in this campaign.

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