AU MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
A Pictorial History - 120 Years and Counting

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AU – 1860s
Agricultural and Mechanical College (AMC) of Alabama

Old Main

William Leroy Broun

AU – 1880s

William Leroy Broun
SECOND PRESIDENT

Died January 23, 1902, while President of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. This institution achieved a national standing in technical and scientific education during the twenty years of his able administration.

Dr. Broun was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1827. He graduated from the University of Virginia in 1850, and at once accepted a professorship in the College of Oakland, Mississippi; later, he served as a professor in the University of Georgia. In 1886 he returned to Virginia and established the Bloomfield Academy, a noted and successful classical school.

In 1861, at the call of Virginia, he hastened to the front, serving as an officer of artillery in the Confederate service. Dr. Broun’s scientific and mathematical ability soon made him authority in ordnance and artillery, and, in recognition of his skill, he was placed in charge of the Arsenal at Richmond, directing the manufacture of guns and munitions of war for the Confederacy. He was, perhaps, the most thoroughly equipped officer in the Confederate service for this work. General R. E. Lee held him in highest esteem. It was at this period that he first realized the fatal deficiency of the Southern youth in technical training.

After the war, Dr. Broun was elected to the chair of Natural Philosophy in the University of Georgia. In 1872 he was made president of the Georgia Agricultural and Mechanical College. From 1875 to 1882 he filled the chair of Mathematics in Vanderbilt University. He left Vanderbilt to become president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, where he remained until his death, in 1902.
AU – 1880s

- Department of Mechanic Arts Formed in 1884-1885
- George H. Bryant from MIT was Hired in 1885 as the First Instructor in "Mechanics". He resigned in 1892.
- B. A. Blakely from Cornell and John Jenkins Wilmore from Purdue Hired as Instructors in Mechanic Arts

J. J. Wilmore

Old Main Burned in 1887 and Samford Hall Built

William James Samford
1898 Glom

JOHN J. WILMORE, M. E., born October 15, 1864, at Winchester, Indiana. Graduated at Purdue University, Lafayette, Ind., in June, 1888, receiving the degree of M. E. Came to Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1888 as Assistant in Mechanic Arts. In 1891 was made Director of the Department of Mechanic Arts, which position he now holds.

AU – 1890s

In 1898-99 AMC was Renamed Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API)
The Faculty - 1890s
AU – 1890s

Graduating Classes

1893

1896

AU – 1890s

Graduating Classes

1895
AU – 1890s

Mechanical Engineering

Mechanics Arts Students (1890s)

AU – 1890s

Langdon Hall – Home of Mechanic Arts Laboratories
AU – 1890s

Mechanic Arts Lab in Langdon Hall
AU – 1890s

Mechanic Arts Lab in Langdon Hall

1893 – Mechanic Arts Engineering Lab
1893 – Mechanic Arts Minerals Lab

1893 – Mechanic Arts Electrical Lab
AU – 1890s

Auburn University Undergraduate Engineering Students

Research by Arthur L. Slotkin

AU – 1900s

- The Department of Mechanic Arts Split into the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1905
- Wilmore was the First Head of Mechanical Engineering
- Wilmore Became Dean of Engineering in 1907 and Served Until 1943

1888 1943
AU –1900s

API Campus Scenes – 1906 & 1909

New Engineering Hall – 1905 (Later Broun Hall)
AU – 1900s

Engineering Hall Renovation – 1910 (Tripled in Size)

AU – 1900s

ELECTRICAL AND MECHANICAL STUDENTS JUST BEFORE EE AND ME SPLIT IN 1905
AU – 1900s

ME Slide Rule Brigade - 1906

AU – 1900s

API Students and Band
1910 College Street

Mechanical Engineering Faculty and Students in 1910

Professor M. T. Fullen  Dean J. J. Wilmore

M. Lottahh  C. R. Ouelly  D. G. Bueker
B. Richardson  J. J. Keyes  J. C. Watts
AU – 1910s

Mechanical Engineering Faculty and Students (1910-1919)

1914 – ME Labs
AU – 1910s

1914 – ME Labs

AU – 1910s

Department Yearbook Drawings
AU – 1920s

Langdon Hall - 1929

AU – 1920s

1920 Mechanical Engineering Graduates
1920 Mechanical Engineering Graduates

Senior Class
James Harvey Allen
Aspinwall, Ala.
Mechanical Engineering

“Harvey” is one of those good-natured, vivacious fellows who never outstays his welcome with his classmates. He is a quick learner and always ready to help others. He is a member of the Track Team and the Debate Society.

Senior Class
Warren Crain
Langdon, Ala.
Mechanical Engineering

Crain is a versatile student who excels in both academic and extracurricular activities. He is a member of the Track Team and the Debate Society.

Senior Class
Jerry Leslie Jimerson
Opelika, Ala.
Mechanical Engineering

“Jerry” is a popular student who is well-liked by his classmates. He is a member of the Track Team and the Debate Society.

Senior Class
James Fontaine Mabry, Jr.
Mobile, Ala.
Mechanical Engineering

Mabry is a hard-working student who is committed to his studies. He is a member of the Track Team and the Debate Society.

1920 Mechanical Engineering Graduates

Senior Class
Oscar Allen Nelson
Birmingham, Ala.
Mechanical Engineering

Nelson is a hard-working student who is committed to his studies. He is a member of the Track Team and the Debate Society.

Senior Class
Milton Oliver Howle
Birmingham, Ala.
Mechanical Engineering

Howle is a hard-working student who is committed to his studies. He is a member of the Track Team and the Debate Society.

AU – 1920s
AU – 1920s

Engineering Seniors (1921)

Mechanical Engineering Engines Class (1926)

1925 X-Ray Equipment
AU – 1920s

Mechanical Engineering Engines Class (1926)

AU – 1920s

Mechanical Engineering Shop (1925)
AU – 1920s

A. S. M. E.

OFFICERS
R. L. Locke ....... Chairman
H. F. Schwellnus ....... Vice-Chairman
J. B. Williams ....... Secretary

FACULTY MEMBERS
C. R. Hixon
J. J. Wilmore

STUDENT MEMBERS
P. C. Amsley
R. J. Bagerfield
C. B. Bergono
T. C. Buchman
L. F. Bell
W. P. Caine
R. G. Campbell
E. F. Campbell
W. H. Francis
J. C. Fleming
W. P. Fuller
J. I. Greenbrell
C. E. Shaffer
W. D. Garman
M. T. Fullan

ASME

1922

1925

AU – 1920s

The College of Engineering

+ JOHN JENKINS WILMORE
M.E.
Dean

The civilization of today depends more and more on the work of the engineer. He is largely responsible for the materials, the machinery and the processes of manufacturing, and his activities in promoting the general welfare are widely recognized.

This is the oldest College of Engineering in the South and the high efficiency of its instruction is unquestioned. The services of its graduates are in demand in every section of the country, and their record of professional accomplishment is one of which the friends of Auburn may well be proud.

From the 1929 Glom
Late 1930s Aerial Shot of Campus

(Broun Hall)
AU – 1930s

1929-1930
Ross Hall
Construction

AU – 1930s

1929-1930
Ross Hall
Construction
On Tuesday, April 30, 1929, the ground breaking for the Ross Chemistry Laboratory was begun by Dr. Knapp and professor B. B. Ross. The cornerstone was laid on August 16, 1929; Ross was occupied in March, 1930; and dedication exercises were held at 5 p.m. on May 19, 1930. This $224,974.00 building was designed by Warren, Knight, and Davis and constructed by Frost Construction Company, Birmingham, Alabama. The March issue of "Alumnews" that year described the building:

[Ross Hall is] a modern building of brick, stone, tile, and concrete, plus a small amount of wood. It is a fireproof building in Georgian style, three stories, containing 67 rooms. The three floors and basement total 42,000 sq. ft. Of the 67 rooms, 22 are small rooms for individual work. The floors are mastic tile and all working surfaces of laboratory desks are of alverine stone. Locks and other hardware are of solid brass. Seventeen fans are included to remove fumes. For repair, all pipes are exposed.

The building was named for Dr. B. B. Ross, who died April 4, 1930, just before the building was completed. The first use of the building was to house the body of the distinguished chemist whose name it bears, while hundreds of friends came to honor him. His body was brought from Florida to Auburn and at noon on Sunday, April 6th, the casket was moved to the Ross Chemistry Laboratory.
AU – 1930s

Ross Hall
AU – 1930s

Ross Hall
AU – 1930s

API Military Band

Charles “Charley” Hixon, Head of ME from 1921-1954
AU – 1930s

ME Seniors (1936)

ME Structures Lab - 1937
AU – 1930s

ME Foundry Class - 1939

AU – 1940s

API Campus - 1948
AU – 1940s

Ross Hall - 1948

AU – 1940s

Textile Engineering - 1948
AU – 1940s

Ramsay Hall - 1948

ME Engine Lab (Ramsay Hall) - 1948
AU – 1940s

Dances at Ross Hall

AU – 1940s

Auburn Pi Tau Sigma Banquet (1946)
AU – 1940s

ASME Meeting (1948)

In 1948 the Auburn ASME won The Auburn Engineer’s subscription drive. Members of ASME chose to invest their winnings in a social event at Chewacla. A notice in The Auburn Engineer accompanying this photo of the event announced that ASME had “appointed an armed guard for refreshments.”

AU – 1940s

Wilmore Retires as Dean in 1946

Wilmore Labs Built 1948-1951
Professor John C. McKinnon
ME Faculty from 1924-1962

Jones, Edward O., Jr.
1946-
Every story I told in class was 100% true.

ME Faculty, 1947-1990

Construction of Wilmore Hall: 1948-1951
AU – 1950s

New Wilmore Hall - 1952
AU – 1950s

New Wilmore Hall - 1952

AU – 1950s

Ross Hall – 1950, 1952
AU – 1950s

Measuring Modulus of Elasticity in Ross Hall

Rear of Ramsay Hall with New Wilmore Hall
Donald M. Vestal
ME Department Head
1959-1976

Doctorate In Mechanical Engineering
To Be Initiated Here In Winter, 62

The Graduate School of Auburn University is to expand its engineering curriculum to include a doctoral program in the department of mechanical engineering. Graduate Dean W. Van W. Spencer reports that applications now are being accepted and work leading to the degree will be offered for the first time in the winter quarter of 1962. "The announcement of the inception of the doctoral program in mechanical engineering is most pleasing to everyone," said Professor Harold E. B. Dunning. "It was required by the U.S. Office of Education that our engineering programs be accredited by the National Board of Engineers. This will aid in the development of our engineering programs."

A good percentage of our students who have completed the work for advanced degrees do not return after this training has been completed. There is an increasing demand for highly trained engineers all over the country. At the present time we have in the fourth year of the six-year program the five-day school of the National Board of Engineers. We have new doctoral program in mechanical engineering, which will be offered in the spring of this year. We are very happy with the results so far, and we expect to continue the program in the future.

The graduate school at Auburn University will hold a symposium on the topic of "The Future of Engineering Education" on February 22. The symposium will feature discussions on the future of engineering education, the role of the engineer in society, and the significance of engineering as a profession. The symposium will be open to the public, and interested individuals are encouraged to attend.
AU – 1960s

Wilmore Hall Engines Lab - 1962

AU – 1960s

Wilmore Hall Mechanical Testing Lab - 1962
ME Electronics Shop

Photoelasticity Laboratory
AU – 1960s

ME Students

AU – 1970s

The “Blue Machine” Room
AU – 1970s

1973

OUSTANDING PROFESSOR — Students in the School of Engineering selected Dr. Joe W. Reese, associate professor of mechanical engineering, as their outstanding professor. Dr. Reese, left, received a citation from Steve Budenstein at the recent Engineers' Honors Banquet.

1979

ROARING RETROFIT—Dr. David Dyer sits by a retrofit fireplace designed to circulate air around the fire box. It will heat a modern three-bedroom house and will fit into an existing masonry fireplace.
AU – 1970s

RECOGNITION FOR RESEARCH...Dr. David F. Dyer, left, mechanical engineering professor at Auburn University, has been selected for the ASME Research Recognition Award by other faculty members at Auburn, making the presentation was Engineering Dean J. Grady Cox.

Dyer Named For Research Award

Dr. David F. Dyer, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, has been awarded the Research Recognition Award at Auburn University for the project. Presentation for the award, presented by the Southeastern Section of the American Society for Engineering Education, is by the members of the school faculty.

AU – 1970s

1973
AU – 1980s

Ross Hall 1985

ME Faculty 1983
AU – 1980s

First ME PC Lab in Wilmore (1984)

PCs Move to Shop Building 308 in 1985
AU – 1980s

The Harris Computer and Man with Beard

AU – 1980s

The “Data General”
AU – 1980s

AU – 1980s
AU – 1980s

AU – 1980s
AU – 1980s

AU – 1980s
AU – 1980s

Back to Racing

AU – 1990s
AU – 1990s

ME Faculty - 1998
AU – 2000s

Design and Manufacturing Laboratory

Annual Elements of Mechanical Engineering Conference
AU – 2000s

Renovating Ross Hall (2004-2006)

AU – 2000s

Renovated Ross Hall
AU – First 120 Years

Summary

- AU Mechanical Engineering Began in 1885 as the Department of Mechanics Arts
- ME Provided the First Dean of Engineering
- We Have Been and Continue to be one of the Strongest Departments at Auburn, and One of the Premier ME Programs in the Southeast
- We Graduate Highly Successful Students
- Our Faculty Have a Colorful History
100 years of Mechanical Engineering

Auburn University