AUBURN - Auburn University’s College of Human Sciences is proud to announce that the Halliday-Cary-Pick House, the second oldest home in Auburn, AL will house the newly-developed Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies at Auburn University.

June Henton, dean of Auburn’s College of Human Sciences, made the announcement Monday at the 9th annual Spring Symposium for the Women’s Philanthropy Board (WPB).

“This historic home and subsequent creation of the Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies is not only a tremendous benefit for Auburn University and the Auburn community,” said Henton.

By using the historic home on North College Street as its headquarters, the WPB will be in a unique position to enhance its current programming and expand as it is integrated into the Cary Center for the Advancement of Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies. The Women’s Philanthropy Board has achieved much success since it was created in 2002 to educate and inspire participants about financial and philanthropic responsibilities.

The Cary Center will broaden the current variety of programs and also develop distance education, certificate and degree programs, and ultimately conduct research centered around topics related to financial and philanthropic responsibility, nonprofit leadership and mentoring.

Henton said the creation of the Cary Center is in tandem with the announcement of a new minor in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies for undergraduate students at Auburn. This minor will be offered through the Department of Consumer Affairs in the College of Human Sciences and students can begin to pursue this credential as early as Summer 2011. The Cary Center will serve as a nationally-recognized venue to promote the curriculum.

“This space will undoubtedly enhance learning outcomes and connect Auburn University faculty and students with philanthropists and nonprofit professionals from around the world,” Henton added.

The center was aptly named in honor of Dr. Charles Allen Cary, the original owner of the home, for the leadership qualities he embodied as the first dean of Auburn’s College of Veterinary Medicine.

Frances Pick Dillard, a Women’s Philanthropy Board Founding Member, and steward of the family homestead, shares the enthusiasm for the establishment of the Cary Center. “Our family has upheld traditions of patriotism, responsibility, leadership, mentoring and philanthropy for generations,” said Dillard. “We are thrilled with the establishment of the Cary Center and look forward to the impact that this work will make on current and future generations of leaders and philanthropists.”

This historic home will be used far beyond the College of Human Sciences. For faculty and students in interior design and architecture, the space will be an example of 19th and 20th century design, preservation, and architecture. For those in the vet school, the Cary Center has committed to leave Dr. Cary’s office intact and will permanently house his archives and other artifacts important to the field of veterinary medicine.

“The establishment of the Cary Center in the Halliday-Cary-Pick House preserves Dr. Cary’s legacy and demonstrates our commitment to the advancement of Auburn University,” Henton said.

Plans are for the Cary Center to be open by July 1, with a formal dedication scheduled in the fall of 2011.