

Carol Larson Warfield, Ph.D.

Professor and Head, Department of Consumer and Design Sciences

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Ph.D., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1977, Consumption and Family Economics M.S.,

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1967, Textiles and Clothing

B.S., South Dakota State University, 1963, Home Economics Education

Administrative Philosophy and Scholarly Interests

Teamwork, partnerships, and transdisciplinary approaches focused on the Science of Design are utilized within the Department of Consumer and Design Sciences to identify and meet the needs of consumers in their near environment. Teaching, research/creative scholarship, and outreach emphasize innovative, science-based solutions to meet consumer needs in a global economy. The goal of the department is that its programs become recognized as the programs of choice for students, faculty, employers and the community, locally and globally.

My research focuses on the role of consumers in a globally competitive textile/apparel/retail environment. My teaching focus is on the development of learning experiences to prepare students for a globally competitive marketplace. Outreach to consumers and to the business community is a personal commitment as well as an essential component of our Departmental mission. Administratively, my goal is to facilitate an environment where faculty, staff and students can grow to their own unique potential.

Administrative Responsibilities

As Department Head I provide leadership for academic programs which include the B.S. in Apparel Merchandising, Design and Production Management (AMDP) with Options in Apparel Merchandising and in Product Design and Production Management; the B.S. in Interior Design (INDS); the M.S. and Ph.D. for Consumer and Design Sciences; and the Minor in Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies. Undergraduate programs include a full time 10 week professional internship as a graduation requirement.

Departmental research and creative scholarship programs focus on the integration of consumer sciences, technology, and design & creativity within the context of human sustainability. Research/creative scholarship efforts in the department include topics such as consumer decision making, leadership and professional practice issues, body scanning technology, virtual technology, neuroscience, design technology, e-commerce, heritage tourism, health and wellness, small business development, and wearable technology. The goal of these research and creative scholarship efforts is to address quality of life issues for consumers.

Departmental outreach programs include development of academic/industry/community partnerships designed to ensure responsiveness of academic programs to needs of industry, students, and the community, locally and globally. Outreach occurs through the Alabama Cooperative Extension System, through service learning activities in classes and the Philanthropy and Nonprofit Studies Minor, as well as outreach as an integral part of research/creative scholarship activities.

Significant Departmental Accomplishments

- Interior Design program re-accredited by Council for Interior Design Accreditation (CIDA), 2015-2021
- Interior Design program ranked #9 for 2016 among CIDA accredited programs; #4 for research skills of graduates by Design Intelligence. Ranking is based upon surveys of employers of Interior Design programs.
- Apparel Merchandising program ranked #2 nationally and #1 in the South among fashion schools by www.fashion-schools.org; Apparel Design ranked #11 nationally and #2 in the South.
- Apparel Merchandising, Design and Production Management program endorsed by American Apparel and Footwear Association (AAFA), 2012-2017; one of 13 programs in North America to be endorsed by AAFA.
- Six departmental faculty recognized for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence by Auburn University Alumni Association.
- Three endowed professorships within the Department: Wrangler Professor for Apparel Retailing, Under Armour Professor of Apparel Product Development, and W. Allen & Martha Reimer Reed Professor of Interior Design.
- Industry Advisory Boards for both Interior Design and Apparel Merchandising, Design & Production Management
- President's Collaborative Units Award for working across campus units: Interior Design and Auburn University Facilities Division + Industry Advisory Board
- Working Labs Project, a collaboration of Interior Design Advisory Board & their contacts, Auburn University Facilities Division, and Interior Design Faculty and Administrative team to completely refurbish Interior Design faculty, graduate student, and administrative offices with furnishings reflective of different companies, styles, materials, price points, and working styles in order to provide learning resources for INDS students.
- Upgraded lighting in first floor CADS labs and corridor, creation of a Mac computer Lab and a collaborative design resource room were made possible through partnerships between Industry Advisory Board, Auburn University Facilities Division and Interior Design faculty and the College of Human Sciences administrative team.
- Conversion of a textile chemistry lab to a multipurpose Innovation Center was made possible through a partnership between Industry Advisory Board members, Auburn University Facilities Division and the College of Human Sciences administrative team.

Significant Honors and Awards

- President, International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA), 1991-1992; President-Elect, 1990-1991; Counselor, 1992-1993.
- Fellow, International Textile and Apparel Association, 1995.
- Fellow, Textile Institute, 1996.
- Educator of the Year, 1992. Award given by Bobbin---Blenheim Media Corporation and the International Textile and Apparel Association.
- Outstanding Faculty, School of Human Sciences, 1990.
- Outstanding Faculty, Department of Consumer Affairs, 1989.
- Award of Appreciation for Meritorious Service on Committee D---13 on Textiles, American Society for Testing and Materials, 1988.
- Alumni Award of Merit, University of Illinois School of Human Resources and Family Studies, 1987.

- Listed in Who's Who in American Men and Women of Science and Who's Who in American Women
- Phi Kappa Phi (all academic honorary)
- Phi Upsilon Omicron (Human Sciences honorary)
- Kappa Omicron Nu (Human Sciences honorary)

