



BRAVO BAVARO!

LIKE ANY OVERCROWDED FAMILY seeking space in which to grow, the Curry School is planning a new home to accommodate its increasingly diverse array of academic, research, and clinical programs. The \$37 million facility, to be named Bavaro Hall in honor of the late Anthony D. “Wally” Bavaro (see “He Loved the Classroom,” page 16), will be constructed adjacent to Ruffner Hall, Curry’s home since 1973. Groundbreaking is expected to take place in 2007, and the building is scheduled to open in 2009.

Bursting at the Seams

Anyone who has spent much time in Ruffner Hall knows that it has been filled to capacity for years. “Ruffner has been too small from the day we moved in,” says David Breneman, Curry’s dean since 1995. In anticipation of the school’s centennial in 2005, he led the faculty through a strategic planning process in 2001–02. One result of the process was a blueprint for Curry’s second century. Another was a very pointed wake-up call to everyone involved in the exercise. It became apparent that the school could not maintain its proud position as an educational leader across Virginia and the nation without significantly improving and expanding its facilities.

Robert A. M. Stern Architects Team:
Connie Osborn, Preston Gumberich
(standing), Graham Wyatt, and
Robert A. M. Stern

The types of research in which Curry faculty members are engaged are driving changes in instructional methodology and educational policy today. But Ruffner Hall does not have the space to accommodate important, innovative research programs or expanded clinical offerings, and they have been forced to take root elsewhere. “Our faculty and staff are scattered all over Charlottesville, some of them in expensive rental property,” Breneman says. “Not only is this not cost-effective, but it prevents people from working together and thereby inhibits truly groundbreaking work.”

Enter Bavaro Hall

Bavaro Hall will ameliorate the current situation. At 72,000 square feet, the four-story structure will nearly double the space currently available to Curry, enabling the school to bring some of its far-flung programs home. Bavaro will take shape in the space between Ruffner Hall and Emmet Street, where it will link to Curry’s current home.

The project has been a fascinating undertaking for Robert A. M. Stern Architects of New York, the firm chosen by the University to design Bavaro Hall. “The steep slope of the site was especially challenging,” says Graham S. Wyatt, project partner for the firm. “We have turned the slope very much to the new building’s advantage by linking it to Ruffner Hall at several of Ruffner’s levels.”



The proposed site plan for the Curry School of Education (all building illustrations are subject to revision)

According to Wyatt, U.Va. requested a building that is Jeffersonian in inspiration—and one that presents a dignified, yet inviting, presence along Emmet Street. “We took that to mean a design that looks to how Thomas Jefferson worked as he built the University of Virginia nearly two hundred years ago, and to the work of the architects who inspired him.”

In a nod to Jefferson, Stern decided to give Bavaro Hall a pitched roof and double-hung windows, and to design it in local brick. “We will incorporate a few playful touches,” Wyatt says. “The Ionic columns we propose are not typical of Jefferson’s buildings on the Lawn but are associated historically with wisdom and scholarship, and as such, we believe, are an appropriate touch for a school of education.”

A Community Project

Curry faculty, students, and staff have been involved in every step of the design process. Robert H. Pate, Jr., and Rebecca D. Kneedler, the school’s associate deans, have coordinated their efforts. “Our involvement started more than three years ago when we conducted a needs assessment,” Pate says. “Since then, we’ve worked with the University as it hired Stern, and we’ve served as the dean’s representatives and the primary liaison to the faculty. It’s been a team effort that we’ve enjoyed very much.”

“Our goal from the very beginning has been to help create for Curry a well-designed, attractive environment so that we have better opportunities to collaborate with each other and our students,” says Kneedler.

Bavaro Hall will provide such a space. Clusters of faculty offices and research spaces will be located near conference and meeting rooms with large windows and comfortable seating. “The faculty chose offices that afford them privacy yet are located close to their colleagues to facilitate interaction,” Kneedler explains.

A highlight of the facility will be a two-story gathering place, called The Commons, whose doors will open to a landscaped courtyard. “We’ve had absolutely no place for informal gatherings, and The Commons will provide us a living room of sorts located at the very heart of the school,” Breneman says.

Sheila C. Johnson Center for Human Services

THE SHEILA C. JOHNSON CENTER FOR HUMAN SERVICES

will be headquarters for the most significant outreach efforts of the Curry School of Education. Serving the community, commonwealth, nation, and beyond, these clinics specialize in communication disorders, reading and literacy acquisition, counseling and career development, and clinical psychological services. At the present time, the clinics serve more than 4,000 women, men, and children annually, with the potential for growth when space permits. Additionally, these services provide clinical experience for Curry students and practitioners from throughout the world. The Sheila C. Johnson Center for Human Services will enable these clinics to operate under one roof on the historic Grounds of the University of Virginia, creating unique opportunities for collaboration and cooperation within Curry’s and the University’s programs. Thank you to Dr. Johnson for her commitment of \$5 million to make this vital outreach center possible. (See page 60 for more about Dr. Johnson.)

The dean believes the new facility will make it easier for Curry to attract faculty members who need space for their research programs. “We’ll have room for them here, so they can quickly become part of and enrich our community, instead of requiring them to establish themselves elsewhere in Charlottesville.”

Expanded Clinical Space

Bavaro will bring four of the school’s renowned evaluation and treatment clinics together for the first time on its first floor, where they will share waiting room space, administrative services, and their own ground-level entrance to the building. “The new clinical space will afford us the type of collaboration and cross-disciplinary practice that will benefit our clients and contribute to meaningful research activities,” says Ann Loper, professor and director of Curry’s Center for Clinical Psychology Services. “A child who is being seen for a reading problem at the McGuffey Reading Center, for example, may well need an assessment to determine the likelihood of a contributing attention deficit disorder, emotional disorder, language disability, or some other problem. In such a case, the McGuffey Center, the Speech-Language-Hearing Center, and our own center could matrix our services to produce a top-quality evaluation that integrates multiple aspects of the child’s behavior.”

“This arrangement models for students an optimal ‘quality-of-care’ system,” says Sandy Lopez-Baez, associate professor and director of the Personal and Career Development Center. “In planning Bavaro Hall’s clinics, clinic directors met often to discuss their planning and design. We all had an opportunity to learn from each other and cooperate in creative ways to maximize the use of space, equipment, and materials, thus containing cost and increasing function.”

Bavaro’s clinical area will provide Curry faculty members something for which they have long been wishing: room in which to grow. “The McGuffey Reading Center served

109 students during the 2005–06 academic year,” says Marcia Invernizzi, Henderson Professor of Education and center director. “Unfortunately, due to limited resources, we turned away as many students as we accepted.

We are committed to expanding our intervention and diagnostic services by, among other activities, conducting an on-site prevention clinic that offers year-round tutoring services to the local community.”

Randall R. Robey, associate professor and director of the Speech-Language-Hearing Center, recognizes the benefits Curry students will receive from expanded clinical facilities. “We must offer students many and diverse experiences from a well-developed client base,” he says. “To do this successfully, our center must operate as a professional practice capable of targeted growth. One way we can accomplish this is to bring more clients to Curry through the preschool we’ve planned for the new building.”



Proposed north elevation

Plans for Ruffner Hall

While Bavaro Hall promises to contribute greatly to an enhanced experience for students, faculty, and staff, its creation represents only a part of Curry’s ambitious capital expansion plans. Equally important is the renovation of Ruffner Hall, which will continue to house the school’s classrooms and library. It is anticipated that the Commonwealth of Virginia will support the much-needed renovation. “We’ll be improving Ruffner’s current layout, opening up corridors that once stretched down the center of the building and were closed years ago to give us desperately needed space,” Kneedler says. “Our vision is that Ruffner and Bavaro will flow together in a seamless way.”

He Loved the Classroom

BOSTON NATIVE ANTHONY D. “WALLY” BAVARO played football for the San Francisco 49ers in the 1960s until a knee injury ended his days on the gridiron. He then embarked on a forty-year career as a history teacher and coach in the public schools of Malden and Chelsea, Massachusetts. Bavaro died in 2002.

“He was committed to teaching kids in some pretty tough, inner-city schools,” says Daniel Meyers, chair of the Curry School Foundation. He credits Bavaro, a family friend, with helping to shape his educational beliefs. “He had plenty of opportunities to move into administration, to



Wally Bavaro at his desk in a school yearbook.

become a principal, but he didn’t want to leave the classroom, where he believed he was really needed.”

Meyers committed \$22 million to Curry in 2004. With this gift, the school’s largest ever and the second largest to an American school of education, he chose to name the school’s new facility for Wally Bavaro, a largely unheralded public school educator. Meyers believes that the Curry School responds to what he calls “real needs,” much as Bavaro did.

“Curry is out there developing better ways to help at-risk students—and preparing teachers who can deal with their issues.” 

A Big Challenge

Curry's vision for the future offers its alumni and friends an unprecedented challenge: raising the funds to make Bavaro Hall a reality. "It's sited in a very prominent location," says U.Va. architect David J. Neuman. "Bavaro Hall not only will represent the image of the Curry School and serve its program needs for many years to come, but it also will be experienced by thousands of other U.Va. students and faculty as well as countless passersby. It's very important for the project team to do an excellent job designing its architecture and landscape and for the school to fund the project so its design is built and maintained to the highest quality standards."

"We are deeply grateful for the extraordinary financial commitments to Bavaro Hall," says Jane Urbaska, executive director of the Curry School Foundation, which is coordinating fundraising efforts for the building project. "As we close the gap on the fundraising for this building, we will look to our alumni and friends who believe as we do that the Curry School is a vital force in education and worthy of our investment. With your support, we will build it!" 



Bavaro Hall will help Ruffner Hall blend more easily with University architecture.

Leadership Gifts

GARY AND JULIE HOLLOWAY,

both Darden School graduates (MBA, '77), have seen firsthand the importance of effective teachers

in the lives of their three children. When your child has a great teacher, Gary says, you'll appreciate it more than anything else.

Producing great teachers is a unique ability of the Curry School, the Holloways believe, especially because it remains a research-based education school that emphasizes teacher training. "A lot of great universities still study education, but they no longer train teachers," Gary says. "This is a terrible mistake. We need the best and the brightest to become teachers."

The Holloway family's commitment of \$1 million to the Bavaro Hall project is a generous expression of their support for the Curry School. They expect the school will make an even bigger impact on education in the future as a result of the opportunities Bavaro Hall will make possible.

Gary has served on the board of the Curry School Foundation since 2001 and is currently Vice Chair.

Leadership Gifts to Curry's Bavaro Hall Building Project

We are deeply grateful to the Curry School Foundation Board members as well as alumni and friends who have provided support to the Bavaro Hall building project at a leadership level.

E. Taylor Armstrong & Carol Armstrong
Robert A. Barnhardt * & Shirley S. Barnhardt
Mary-Scott Birdsall * & John H. Birdsall III
Margaret VanDeman Blackmon *
Jane Spangler Craig * & William R. Craig
Sandra R. Galef *
Lindell A. Hertberg
Gary F. Holloway * & Julie D. Holloway
Sheila C. Johnson *
Paulette Goerig Katzenbach * & G. Richard Katzebach
Daniel M. Meyers *
Sandra F. Stern * & Evan P. Stern
W. McIlwaine Thompson, Jr. * & Elsie Wilson Thompson
Curry School of Education Foundation Board commitment

**Curry School Foundation Board Member*

Commitments as of October 2006: \$33.2 million

TOTAL NEEDED: \$37.2 million



Gary Holloway