

A CHARITABLE AmISSION

LONG-TIME AATCC MEMBER CHARLES GAVIN HELPS ESTABLISH EDUCATIONAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT FUTURE TEXTILE PROFESSIONALS

By Scheryl McDavid, Publications Director

Since its creation in 1997, the AATCC Foundation has worked to advance the charitable mission of the Association. Its members, a broad cross-section of textile, retail, chemical industry experts, and business leaders have created a unique opportunity to make a lasting and significant contribution to the careers of future textile industry professionals. One of the founding members, Charles E. Gavin III, the Southeastern Section representative on the Council that approved the establishment of the Foundation, speaks candidly here about his role in setting up the AATCC Foundation and his continuing role in its support.

“Establishing a foundation for AATCC has long been a priority for me and I was pleased to be a part of its early planning stages. Being the first donor to our Foundation demonstrates the importance that I feel it deserves as a part of our organization. I am also pleased that I was instrumental in encouraging some of the early donors to become contributors.” In December 1998, just prior to becoming the Association’s president and chair of the Foundation in January 1999, Gavin made a very significant contribution to the Foundation—stock valued at more than \$11,000. He has continued to demonstrate his and the Gavin family’s commitment with additional gifts of stock bringing his donations to approximately \$50,000.

“To say that I grew up extremely poor would be an understatement. I was the first member of my family to go to college. After graduating from high school I was very fortunate to receive a scholarship from major textile company, West Point Pepperell, which allowed me to attend Auburn University for two years on its co-op program. For my final two years, it was necessary to borrow the funds for my education from the

Pickett & Hatcher Educational Fund, Inc. in Columbus, Ga. I also worked a full 40 hours per week.

I had always hoped that I could give back in some way what had been given to me. In 1997, Carol Ann and I were able to make a gift to the Alabama Textile Education Fund that has provided two annual scholarships of \$2,500 each to the Auburn School of Textiles. With continued earned interest, this gift should provide students with scholarships for many, many years. When we created this fund, AATCC did not have a Foundation to receive gifts and provide tax advantages to donors.”

Gavin has some very definite thoughts about what he would like to accomplish.

“You might ask, ‘What do we [the Gavin Family] hope to gain by providing scholarships?’ Well that is the easy

part—we hope that we can be a part of some young person’s dream and through our gift; he or she might achieve a more productive life than might otherwise be possible. We would also ask, but not require, that those who receive our gift be dedicated to passing on the same opportunity to someone else in the future. Carol Ann and I have always pushed our own children to excel and have stressed the need for higher education; however, we expected each of our three children to earn a portion of their college expenses and at that time it was necessary that they contribute. This year, we accepted an invitation to become members of the Auburn University’s Samuel Ginn College of Engineering’s Keystone Society. This is a small group of individuals who provide a significant, unrestricted gift, which enables the college to pursue



Charles Gavin with wife Carol Ann at Belle Meadow Farm. Gavin is the single largest contributor to the AATCC Foundation.

on-the-horizon opportunities in higher education. We are hopeful that some time soon we may be able to establish an endowed professorship to Auburn's School of Engineering. We are also pleased that we have had the opportunity to be a part of the Westscott Fellowship (hospital), Harvest Outreach (gifts to the homeless and the needy), Special Programs for Under Privileged Children, and the First Baptist Church of Dalton.

I was very pleased and humbled to be named one of the outstanding alumni of Auburn's School of Engineering for 2002. Auburn, like AATCC, has always been a special part of our lives and we both realize that we will not have time in this life to pay back what each has done for us."

CHARLES E. GAVIN III FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP

In its mission to promote continued education, provide educational assistance; and promote the science and knowledge of textile design, coloration, materials, processing, and testing, AATCC Foundation is proud to have added to its portfolio, the Charles E. Gavin III Family Scholarship. The Gavin Scholarship will award \$2,500 annually to students seeking degrees in Textile Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, and Polymer & Fiber Sciences at University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, Auburn University, North Carolina State University, and Clemson University. The Foundation will be asking each school to match the award.

To be considered for the scholarship, students should have SAT scores that show reasonable success to graduate as required by their school (not necessarily the highest SAT scores), have held leadership roles in their school or community, be able to demonstrate financial need and a solid work history, and be native-born American citizens.

CHARLES GAVIN

A member of AATCC since 1958, Charles Gavin has served with great distinction at both the national and local section levels. He was councilor of the Southeastern Section in 1978 and 1979, 1992-1994, and 1997-1998 and president of the Association from 1999-2000. From 2001-2002, Gavin

served as chair of the AATCC Appropriations Committee (as immediate past president) and as vice chair of the Foundation. Gavin has served as treasurer of both the Association and the AATCC Foundation, Inc. since January 2003.

In addition, Gavin has served as chair of the Study Committee on Employee Benefits, the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Council. He has served on a number of other AATCC committees including the Global Interaction Committee, Executive Committee on Research, Technical Committee on Research, Corporate Membership Committee, Individual Membership Committee, History & Archives Committee, Publications Committee, Committee on Conferences, Textile Education Committee, Subjects & Speakers Bureau, Retirement Plan Administration Committee, Harold C. Chapin Award Committee, Olney Medal Award Committee, and the Henry E. Millson Award for Invention Committee. Gavin has been a member of the Building & Grounds Committee, of AATCC since 1999 and chair since 2003. During that time, the Association has made extensive renovations to the Technical Center building including, installing new ceilings and lighting, installation of new HVAC equipment and boiler, a new roof, and renovations to the laboratories and a restroom, and improvements to the grounds.

At the local level, Gavin has served the Association in both the South Central and Southeastern Sections. He has served as section chair, section vice-chair, section treasurer, section secretary, sectional committeeman, outing chair, section meeting speaker, student chapter liaison for Auburn University, and as a member of the planning committee for the 1986 AATCC International Conference & Exhibition. He has also served as a judge for the Intersectional Technical Paper Competition. Gavin was recognized by the Southeastern Section in 1997 for "dedicated and unselfish service"—one of only four Southeastern Section members ever recognized with this award.

"It has been my distinct pleasure to work with Charles in so many of his leadership roles for our Association and Foundation," says Jack Daniels,

AATCC executive vice president. "It should be no surprise that Charles was the recipient of the coveted Chapin Award for outstanding service to AATCC in 2002. He has truly been a man that walks the talk and has personally helped in so many ways that it is hard to count. Charles has been a great asset to AATCC and our Foundation, with both his monetary gifts, and gifts of his time and leadership. As current treasurer of the Association and Foundation, Charles continues to look after our best interests and we all owe him a great debt of thanks." "Charles has been instrumental in establishing and growing the AATCC Foundation," says Perry Grady, director of business development. "It is very appropriate that our first endowed scholarship will be in his honor. We would like for Charles' associates and friends to help us support this scholarship so that we can give more awards to more students at more schools every year."

In its first year, the scholarship will offer just one \$2,500 award but is already planning for two scholarships each year as the fund grows. The Gavin Family will be looking to increase funding both personally and seeking contributions from friends. We hope that all AATCC members will consider making a contribution to AATCC Foundation. All gifts, big or small, are welcome to further the education, research, and scholarship mission of the Foundation. For more information, please contact Perry Grady at +1 919 414 9260 or gradyp@aatcc.org.

Charles Gavin is currently chairman of the board of MFG Chemical Inc. in Dalton, Ga., and spends time between Dalton, his Belle Meadow Farm in Wartrace, Tenn., and his vacation home in Orange Beach, Ala.

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