

The Buildings of the Department
by Chris "Spence" Spencer



**A look into the history of the buildings
which house
the Department of Computer Science**

- I. [Daniels Hall](#)
- II. [Leazar Hall](#)
- III. [Withers Hall](#)


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*Daniels Hall,
Circa 1945*

I. INTRODUCTION

Daniels Hall was originally constructed in 1926 for the Electrical Engineering and Physics departments. The building was named after Josephus Daniels in 1938. Daniels was a Secretary of the Navy, an Ambassador to Mexico, and the Editor and Publisher of The State Chronicle and News and Observer newspapers. Finally, Daniels was also a member of the Board of Trustees for North Carolina State College (as N.C. State University was known then), from 1932 to 1948. In 1928 an East Wing (two stories high) was added to the building and later named Mann Hall. At the time, Mann Hall housed the Civil Engineering and Architectural Engineering departments, as well as the newly created Engineering Experimentation Station.


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*Daniels Hall, shortly after construction
of the East Wing in 1928.
(Photo courtesy University Archives)*

II. FROM 1937 TO THE PRESENT

In 1937, the Deans office of the Engineering department officially moved in. Due to the rapid growth of the Experimental Station, it required larger facilities and moved out of Mann Hall in 1946. By 1950, the Deans office followed the Experimental Station to Riddick Labs.

The next phase of construction of Daniels Hall occurred in 1953, when the West Wing was completed (again, being two stories high). Soon after the expansion, the Nuclear Engineering department moved to the newly constructed Burlington Labs, where it still resides today. In 1956, the Architectural Engineering program moved to its new home in Brooks Hall, and later became what is today known as North Carolina State University's School of Design.


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Only eight years after the Architectural Engineering program vacated the building both the Physics and Civil Engineering departments also moved out - Physics to the brand new Cox building, while Civil Engineering moved to the brand new Mann Hall (the new Mann Hall was dedicated in 1964, and the East Wing of Daniels then became known as simply that -- the East Wing of Daniels Hall).

Finally, in 1967, the Computer Science Department moved into Daniels Hall. Today, the department occupies approximately one-third of the building, the rest being dedicated to physics labs and class rooms. Professor offices, as well as graduate labs, and computing labs (such as the Computer Based Education Laboratory, the Operating Systems Lab, and the Algorithm Lab) are located in this building. In fact, the server in which this web site resides is located in the Computer Science Department's Operating Systems Laboratory (OSL), as well as the offices of the WebMaster (Charles Brabec), and the Systems Administrator for the Computer Science Department (Tim Lowman).


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Leazar Hall at its dedication ceremony, circa 1912

I. INTRODUCTION

Having the distinction of being built on the site of Norm Carolina State University's first barn (on campus), Leazar Hall was commissioned in 1912 to H.P.S. Keller, architect. The building was completed in 1912 at a cost of \$50,000, a significant sum for the time. Originally Leazar Hall served as a Dining Hall, although it was not designed with that specific purpose in mind.

Named after a school trustee and former Speaker of the North Carolina House, Augustus Leazar (who was the sponsor of the original bill to create the college), Leazar Hall has been and continues to be an important fixture on the N.C. State campus.


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One of Leazar Hall's many functions was as a dining hall. This photo was taken in the early 50's. The hall served its last meal in 1970.

II. FROM 1922 TO PRESENT

In 1922, D. Murray Nelson and Thomas W. Cooper (both architects) were commissioned for the expansion of Leazar Hall. This addition included the creation of the North and South connecting halls and a West Wing (originally, Leazar Hall only consisted of the East Wing). Originally limited to seating 750 students, the addition of the West Wing allowed the Hall to serve meals to over 1800 students. But Leazar Hall also served many other purposes over the years. It housed the Student Supply Store (the predecessor to today's Student Bookstore) from 1932 to 1936. In addition, the University's Print Shop, Bindery, Housing Rental Office, Dairy Records Center, and Payroll Benefits Office, all found homes within its grand walls.

Today, the building is primarily occupied by the School of Design (whose freshmen and sophomore studios are located within), and by the Computer Science Department. The department has its famous Eos Computing Labs located in the basement of the Hall. This lab is the primary teaching environment for all students of the university to become accustomed to the Engineering Department's Computing environment, Eos (adopted from the M.I.T./I.B.M./Digital Equipment cooperative project entitled "Project Athena"). The Computing Center (responsible for University-wide computing resources, has adopted the Eos model for their own "Unity" system -- in 1993, all university computing resources agreed to a cooperative "realm", allowing for common standards [courtesy *The Guide to the Eos Computing*

Environment, Dr. Ellen McDaniel, 1993].)



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*A picture of Leazar Hall
taken in the early 1930's.*

In addition, the Computer Science Department also maintains its Multimedia Lab in Leazar Hall. This lab is a fully developed lab with over 40 workstations and multitudes of software packages to aid in the creation of all forms of multimedia presentations from movies (.mov, .avi, .mpeg formats), to photo-realistic rendering and editing, the multimedia lab provides students with opportunities to experiment with the leading edge of computer technology.

In addition, Leazar Hall is the center for the introduction of computers in a teaching environment. For example, the course "Introduction to Computers and Their Uses" (CSC 200) is taught in the large Eos Lab facility.

Having more computers than any other single lab, the Eos Lab (and its Main Office) are housed in Leazar; an odd pairing of having the leading edge of technology housed in one of the oldest buildings on campus.


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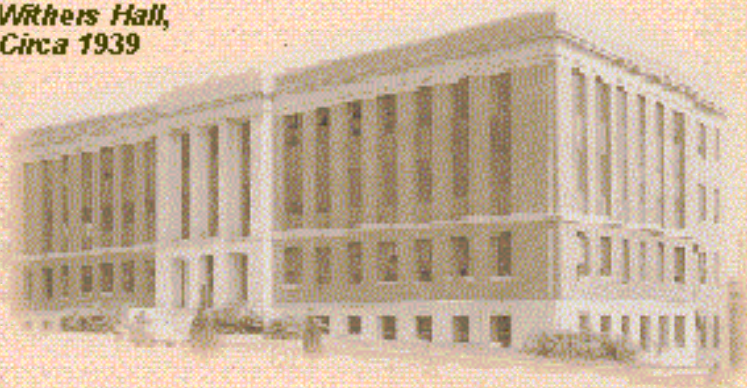

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***Withers Hall,
Circa 1939***



I. INTRODUCTION

Originally, Withers Hall was constructed for use by the Chemistry Department. As a matter of fact, even today, there are Chemistry Labs located in the building. Construction began on the building in 1938. By 1939, with construction complete, the new building was said to be "the finest of its type in the South" (N.C.S.C. News Service Press Release, 12/21/38). The actual dedication ceremony was held on March 6th, 1940. Withers Hall was named after the late Dr. W.A. Withers, professor of Chemistry at N.C. State College from the date of its founding (on 1889) until his death in 1924.


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Withers Hall, during its open house

II. FROM 1939 TO PRESENT

The building remained the home of the North Carolina State University's Chemistry department from 1939 until 1969. In 1969, the Chemistry department moved many of its facilities to the newly constructed Dabney Hall (the slightly shorter twin of Cox Hall, home of the Physics Department) -- although some Chemistry Laboratories remained in Withers Hall.

Corresponding with the Chemistry Departments move-out was the moving in of the Geosciences department. In 1981, the Marine Sciences department joined the Geosciences department and created what is known today as M.E.A.S. (or the Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences) program. Within eight years, the M.E.A.S. program outgrew its space in Withers, and moved into the newly constructed Jordan Hall. At the same time (in 1989), the Computer Science and Physics departments moved in to claim the vacated space.


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Withers Hall, in 1949

At the present time, the Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Science Department all maintain some classrooms, labs, and teaching facilities in the building. It also houses the Departmental Offices of the Computer Science Department, as well as the impressive N.C. State Video Conference Lecture Room, allowing students to interact with other students in universities across North Carolina (part of the MCNC network).


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