



Ken Gaylord, above, the head architect on the Pisgah House project, gives a presentation to faculty, staff and alumni about the new building, which is energy efficient and serve as the chancellor's residence.

SHANNA ARNEY - STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Pisgah House plans underway

New building will serve as the chancellor's residence and a meeting house for public events

By Sara Pardys
STAFF WRITER

Several planners for Pisgah House, the future residence for Chancellor Anne Ponder and future chancellors as well as a space for public events, discussed plans for the building Monday night in the Owen Hall Conference Center.

"Pisgah House will be energy efficient and will be built using sustainable construction practices, materials and equipment."

MERIANNE EPSTEIN
Public Information Director

"This is not the McMansion," said Bill Massey, vice chancellor of alumni and development.

The house will be at the corner of W.T. Weaver Boulevard and Broadway, next to the Forest Service facility. The living space for the chancellor and her family will only make up a portion of the building, while the other part serves as a house for public events for the university and community, according to Ken Gaylord, lead architect for the project.

The Pisgah House will be environmentally friendly, according to Gaylord.

"Pisgah House will be energy efficient and will be built using

"This program intends to identify and recognize green buildings."

KEN GAYLORD
Chief Architect

sustainable construction practices, materials and equipment," said Merianne Epstein, UNC Asheville public information director.

The building will also comply with the principles of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green

Building Rating System, according to Gaylord.

"This program intends to identify and recognize green buildings," Gaylord said.

Pisgah House will have solar powered hot water installations and will be built with aerated autoclave concrete as opposed to brick, according to Gaylord.

The developers hope to get Healthy Built Homes Certification, as well. To receive certification, they would have to build the house according to certain guidelines. Depending on how many guidelines the builders and developers meet, the house will receive either silver or gold certification.

"We may only get silver, but we're going for the gold," Gaylord said.

The UNC Asheville Foundation raised more than \$1.5 million in private support for the public portion of the building, grounds and the building's infrastructure, according to Epstein.

No part of the funding for the project will come from student tuition or fees. The sale of the chancellor's residence on Macon Avenue will fund most of the residential portion of the building.

Gaylord said he hopes to achieve a type of Blue Ridge architecture that looks native to Asheville.

"This house should feel like it belongs in Asheville and it doesn't belong anywhere else," Massey said.

The house will be somewhat v-shaped, with four different personalities, according to Gaylord.

The front door, which the public will use as an entrance will make up the first side. On another side, the great room will lead into a garden, so people can flow in and out of the house. The garden will help contribute to the green-friendly feel of the house. The third side will act as a service entrance, where caterers can make deliveries and will face Broadway, the noisiest side, according to Gaylord.

"This is not a facility to overwhelm the neighborhood," Massey said.

Those involved in the project

committed themselves to designing a facility that honors the neighborhood in scale and style and opens out to lawns and park-like areas, "creating a front porch for the university," which will become a place for meetings, gatherings, discussion and entertainment, according to Epstein.

Developers plan to coordinate parking for the Pisgah House with the Forest Service facility so less of the natural surrounding is lost in paving, according to Gaylord.

"We're actually hoping that we can restore it to native forest," said Stephen Baxley, associate vice chancellor for campus operations.

"In our culture, there's a disconnect between the academic world and the practicing world," Baxley said. "We'd like to have the benefit of the latest state of the art

"This house should feel like it belongs in Asheville and it doesn't belong anywhere else."

BILL MASSEY
Vice Chancellor of Alumni & Development

information that people in the academic setting would have access to."

According to Baxley, there is a chance that students will have an opportunity to do internships at the Pisgah House.

"We would like very much to have a regular interaction with the students," he said.

Pisgah House, a project started before Ponder's arrival, will serve as a residence for all future UNC Asheville chancellors. The University of North Carolina school system requires that all universities have on-campus housing for the chancellor, according to Epstein.

For information on internships, contact Stephen Baxley, sbaxley@unca.edu or 828-232-5031.

GIFT

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"I proposed what was essentially the GIFT program and got it," Himelein said.

The professorship is awarded to a faculty member for a two-year period, and Himelein received \$8,000 to spend on the GIFT program during this time, she said.

Before participating in GIFT, students must enroll in Practicum and Family Wellness and receive permission from Himelein to do so, she said.

"They are terrific students who are true believers who really believe in fitness and exercise and have a personal interest in it," Himelein said.

Many people struggle with weight throughout their lives, according to Ali Rahimzadeh, junior psychology student.

"I myself have struggled with it, and I have tried to change my own lifestyle and I do feel better as a result," Rahimzadeh said.

Luella Heetderks, senior health and wellness promotion student and intern for the program, said she also struggled with weight and exercise.

"I'm a person that didn't use to exercise at all. I used to hate exercise," said Heetderks.

As she became more physically fit, she took interest in the GIFT program because it gets people active, according to Heetderks.

"Over the last few years, as I have lost weight and become a more physically fit person, I have been really drawn to the GIFT program because of the whole concept that it starts with people

where they are and gets them going and gets them moving," Heetderks said.

Through the program, each family is paired with a student, who acts as the family's mentor, according to Himelein.

"Every student in the class is paired with one of the families and they mentor that family, which means they go to their homes before the program begins and meet them and ask them some questions," Himelein said. "They call them each week and make sure that they are doing okay, and if they miss a session, they call them and find out what is going on or if they need help or have any concerns."

The families participate in a variety of activities like a scavenger hunt, African dance, soccer with a beach ball and more, according to Himelein.

"We do a mix of activities for the whole family," Himelein said.

The first few sessions include family activities and gradually the groups are broken down as participants are more comfortable with their surroundings, according to Himelein.

The younger kids do things like kickball, water balloon fights and any sort of game that take place outside, weather permitting, according to Himelein.

"Any day that we can be outside, we are," Himelein said.

For the adults, there are plenty of activities as well.

"My goal in working with the adults was to introduce them to a lot of variety so they could find something that fit with what they wanted to do," Heetderks said.

It is exciting to participate in the program and get to work with children, according to Rahimzadeh.

"I have grown up in a large family, so I am used to being around families in general," Rahimzadeh said.

Everyone involved is experiencing everything together, according to Himelein.

"For me, this was an opportunity to give people a really quality hands-on experience," Himelein said. "It is a fantastic, true service learning experience for students."

GIFT is a great program because it integrates the students and the university within the community, according to Rahimzadeh.

"It integrates the community with the school and it establishes the school's contribution to the community will be more aware about it," Rahimzadeh said.

"Over the last few years, as I have lost weight and become a more physically fit person, I have been really drawn to the GIFT program."

LUELLA HEETDERKS
Health & Wellness Student

GIFT is a truly dynamic program, according to Heetderks.

"It gets the community involved with what is happening at UNC Asheville," Heetderks said. "It gets families working together and it inspires the kids with toys and fun."

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