

Science and Tech building takes shape

By Barron Green

Nearly every morning Fayetteville State University students have been waking up to the sounds of loud bangs and deafening forklifts. The noise is a factor of the university's newest capital construction project, located where students once enjoyed the festivities of the fraternity and sorority plots.

For some FSU students, the new Science and Technology building appears to be just another infuriating scene that alters travel routes and limits parking. However, for other FSU students the new building is way overdue.

FSU alumni and biology major Tameka Bethea said the new building is very much needed. "This should have been implemented a long time ago," said Bethea. "For a while we [science department] have been operating in labs that operate at minimum occupation, and are a little past due on technology."

Professors are also looking forward to the new facilities. Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem, interim chair of FSU's department of biological sciences, said the new building will be "state of the art," and include labs, lecture rooms, and newly equipped spacious classrooms. Kassem was involved with the preliminary planning for the new building. He said original plans included a greenhouse however it was unfortunately dropped due to budget cuts.

Dr. Jianshi Wu, a FSU Physics professor, said the new building will provide "much needed space." Due to a lack of room in the current science buildings several professors travel across campus to the School of Business and Economics building to teach class.

The new science and technology building will stand four stories tall and occupy about 75,000 square feet. The project is expected to be complete by fall of 2012.

The new science and technology building is part of the 2008 campus master plan. The purpose of the campus master plan is to improve campus facilities through new construction, renovations or additions. The science and technology building falls under phase two of a three-phase plan. The one building alone is estimated to cost a little more than 18 million dollars.

"Not to worry" said Dr. Kassem. Construction improvements are funded by the state and do not affect student tuition costs.

The entire three-phase capital improvement project will require nearly 500 million dollars and span 20 years, according to master plan. Once complete by 2028, the new facilities are expected to attract new students and increase FSU enrollment to 7,500.



Voice Photos by Jennifer Lucas

Students: Are you a self-directed and self-regulated learner in school and in life?



Voice Photo by Jennifer Lucas

By Chancellor Anderson

Last fall in my opening talk to the Freshmen I stressed the importance of not just graduating, but of also doing well academically (that is, having a good GPA). I even stated that the penalty for not doing one or both was a bleak future – no job or a low-wage job. The requirements associated with becoming a competitive and attractive job applicant in the 21st century are "rigorous". To believe that one can graduate with a low GPA and be in demand is sheer folly. To not graduate and believe that is sheer madness.

Many students do not think about their own learning and goal attainment on a consistent basis. The factors which influence both are associated with classroom/academic learning and learning/maturity in life in general. There are those who, when conflicts arise between pursuing important academic goals and alternative tempting options (like one's social life), make the wrong decision and continue to encounter setbacks. Amazingly, when you ask them about these bad choices they indicate that they don't know why they made certain choices. I generally believe that such a statement is one of denial. One chooses to engage in self-defeating behaviors like using

drugs, drinking, or simply not studying. I often say to students "Wallowing in mediocrity with others is a choice and you deserve the consequences of such choices." Sounds kind of harsh doesn't it? I intend it to have that impact because I want students to understand the harsh reality of trying to compete in a tough world when you are unprepared.

So, what is the difference between students who make the appropriate choices and those who don't? One concept that can be applied to this discussion is "self-regulation." Self-regulation refers to learners' (students') beliefs about their capability to engage in appropriate actions, thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in order to pursue valuable academic goals while self-monitoring and self-reflecting on their progress toward goal completion. The relationship between success in college and life, and self-regulation is undeniable. Self-regulated learners remain task-focused despite immediate impulses to succumb to attractive temptations. Daily temptations abound: tweeting nonsense, watching TV, hanging-out, wallowing with mediocre no-goal people, unregulated eating and sleeping, trying to be "cool" or seeking attention from others.....the list goes on. Why do students give in to such temptations? Generally, they do so because they lack the willingness and the ability to delay gratification or fend off peer pressure.

If you want to get your dream job after graduation or after attending graduate school you must make a commitment to self-regulation. In some cases this means remaking yourself. This may mean giving up certain behaviors, false strategies, friends and temptations. Change begins when you are motivated to change and then create the circumstances for change.

Think very seriously about the consequences of not motivating yourself to self-regulate, self-direct, and self-evaluate. Your future is at stake. You don't want to look back in a few years and say "I wish I had....."