

THE FALCON FORUM

Enlightening minds. Broadening perspectives. Informing a community

VOLUME 2, No. 5

The Student Newspaper of Saint Augustine's University | www.thefalconforum.com

February 2016

Student center planned for Baker Hall

By Adonica Stewart

Baker dormitory, the women's dormitory that was closed in Spring 2014, will be brought back to life as a student center, according to university officials.

The Center will be housed on the first floor of Baker and will include four rooms, according to Dr. Paul Norman, Dean of Men and Director of First-Year Experience. Along with areas for students to interact with one another and watch television, the center will have equipment for playing cards, billiards, and Ping-Pong, Dr. Norman said.

The new student center is expected to open in late spring, but Dr. Norman cautioned that

structural problems that contributed to the dormitory's closing could delay its opening.

Baker had problems with its utilities before it closed. Also, the building may have fallen into disrepair, he acknowledged. The building will have to undergo inspections by fire officials and other authorities, he said.

"Based on the number of inspections and repairs, this may push back the expected date to open," Dr. Norman explained.

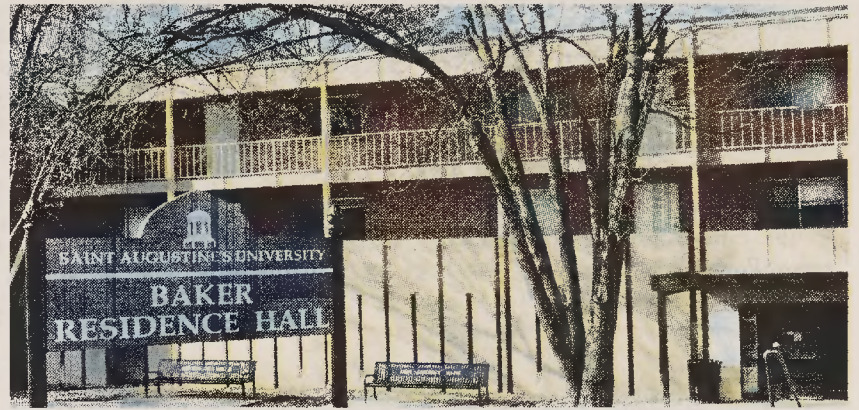
Dr. Norman declined to discuss cost, but he said a \$10,000 donation secured by Assistant Professor J. Peder Zane of the Department of Media and Communication is helping to fund it. "I am delighted to help make

this student center a reality," said Mr. Zane. "Our students shouldn't spend all their time studying."

Students interviewed by the Falcon Forum reacted enthusiastically to the news.

"I'm very excited about this new student center," said Gentel Blair, a senior majoring in Journalism and Mass Communications. "I think it will give students the opportunity to engage more with each other and have fun. I just hope that this project will be done before I graduate this spring."

At the same time, some students are worried about the conditions inside the old dormitory. Charles Gilchrist, a junior, majoring in Journalism and Mass Communi-



Plans call for vacant Baker Hall to become a student center with recreational facilities.

Jaquan Leary

cations, said, "I am more worried about my health. Will there be inspections happening before they open this student center? Will there be air conditioning once temperatures become high? If not, then I don't think I will be going in there."

Work already has started on the project,

Dr. Norman said. Workers are getting rid of old belongings and furniture. The new center will get an all-around makeover, he said. It will have new wall paintings and be more aesthetically pleasing, he added.

"It will not be a brand new situation, but it will be better than what we

have right now, and right now we have zip," Dr. Norman stated.

The Student Government Association and Campus Activities Board met with administrators and gave input on the Center to ensure that it will have what students want, Dr. Norman said.

Quiet on the set!

Students create SAU version of MTV show

By Anthony Dixon

Lights! Camera! Action! These words are usually associated with Hollywood studios, but these days they are being heard here at Saint Augustine's University as part of a new television show, "College Code." Inspired by MTV's popular programs "Girl Code" and "Guy Code," the show is shot at the Seby Jones building and features students on campus sharing their experiences and wisdom on situations that everyday college students may face.

Topics so far have included dating, balancing relationships and friendships, different types of food students can make in their dorms, the "Freshman 15," sports, fashion and the best places to eat off campus.

The show is produced by Saint Augustine's University students; Aaron "Magic" Thomas, a senior majoring in Journalism and Mass Communications, is the producer and director, and Will Darden, a junior Journalism and Mass Communications major, is the assistant producer. Thomas said he is "really excited about the show coming out." He added, "It's something fun and relatable to college students everywhere."

Darden said the show has been a real team effort. "The students worked hard to come up with the topics for the show," he said. "They also spent the time to seriously think about their responses to each question because the show is not scripted."

COLLEGE CODE, Page 2



Jamaal Owens and Gentel Blair discuss campus dating on the set of "College Code."

New health center serves SAU, community

By Kendall Morrison

The old Tuttle Day-care Center on Tarboro Road will reopen as the Tuttle Public Health Center, a facility that will serve the university's health programs and help the public, Saint Augustine's University officials announced Jan. 26.

That announcement was made during a ceremony at the Center that included a ribbon cutting and comments by Presi-

dent Everett B. Ward and other officials.

"The ribbon cutting was to allow students, faculty and the community to know that Saint Augustine's University has a lot in store not only for our university but for our community," Dr. Ward stated. He spoke about the university's historic role in the community's health, especially the historic St. Agnes Hospital on campus, which Dr. Ward said he continues

to hope can one day be restored.

"The Tuttle Center could be starting force for a bright future," Dr. Ward said.

The Center's focus will be eliminating health disparities, according to Dr. Derrick L. Sauls, chairman of the Department of Public Health and Exercise Science. The Center's purpose will be "to support the un-

TUTTLE, Page 2



Dr. Everett B. Ward cuts the ribbon on the new Tuttle Public Health Center in a ceremony on Jan. 26. The facility will serve the university's health programs as well as the public.

Jaquan Leary

Alumni Spotlight:

Grad finds importance of being in right place at right time

The Falcon Forum introduces a new feature: Alumni Spotlight. We will shine a light on Saint Augustine's University alumni and find out what they are doing with their lives.

By Johna Mitchell

One of the first lessons April Qualls learned after graduating from Saint Augustine's University in 2012 was the power of networking. Qualls majored in theater and wanted a career in entertainment, but after returning to her home in

Los Angeles she was having a hard time breaking into the business.

Her luck changed when some friends told her about a party that would include the cast and executives of the hit TV show "Empire." Qualls made sure to attend.

At the party, she managed to impress someone connected with the show, who arranged an interview with an executive responsible for hiring. It turned out the position was in Chicago and she made it clear that she

would be willing to relocate there. Two days later, Qualls packed up her life into her car and drove 36 hours straight to Chicago from Los Angeles.

The former Blue Chip, Belle J'Adore model and Campus Activities Board member is a writers' production assistant on Fox's hit musical drama. The series, which is set to return to air when the new season begins on March 30, stars Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson.

The experience taught Qualls some lessons about finding the kind of

job you want.

"You definitely have to surround yourself with people who are like-minded and also people who are successful at what you wish to do," she said. "I made sure to be around like-minded young adults and people who had already started their career in the entertainment industry. This industry is all about who you know; that's why networking is so important."

Qualls is not a big-time executive yet. Her



April Qualls (center) works with production personnel for the Empire television show.

ALUMNA, Page 2