

# No change in tuition, new look to campus

Continued from Page 1

"Because by having more first year students and the retention numbers going better, we are now running out of room for upperclassmen, so we're going to build another dorm to cover about fifty or fifty-two beds."

It takes about two years to plan and execute the construction of a new residence hall, the school will work through this one in about a year and a half. The rooms have been projected to be needed in 2021, and a similar process was done when it came to Stanback.

The plan is to build the new dorm building in the back of the Villages near the tennis courts and to then enhance and renovate the outside of the existing Villages to match the newly built one. Designs for the new building have not been figured out and finalized yet.

"The Villages are twenty years old," Joyce said, "they need some work on the outside anyway. Now is an opportunity."

Other renovations in the plan include: adding air conditioning and rehabilitating Beam and

Jones residence halls, hoped to be ready in time for next Fall; setting up an on campus farm, planned to be placed by the football practice field and hopefully ready by next Fall; setting up a new road for campus access on that same end of campus; taking out the road between Myers Dining Hall and Coltrane in order to create a student plaza there; placing new sidewalks and widening existing ones; building a new maintenance facility behind Ross Hall; working to expand parking space on campus; expanding the turf field to make it a small stadium-like atmosphere and allow all of the college's sports to be played on campus; expanding and adding enhancements to Myers Dining Hall and fixing up the Alumni House.

"The whole intent is to make our campus more functional, walkable, [and] climate controlled," Joyce said. "The goal is to get all of the buildings—with the exception of Green because we haven't ultimately decided what we'll do with it because we need the space and students like it—all the residence halls should be air conditioned."

Right now the student population is at around the 750 range, which is the most the school has ever had. Given the facilities and the faculty and staff, it has been determined that the ideal size for the college to grow to is about 850 students.

"Looking at our metrics given what we are doing," Joyce said, "mostly through persistence, students staying and graduating, we'll get to eight-hundred fifty real quickly in two or three years."

"The Board also approved of a campaign, a fund raising effort, to help build a new Experiential Learning Commons," Joyce said. "It would include learning areas, offices, student center components to it."

Plans have not been drawn up for the new ELC, but it has been estimated to cost between eight and ten million dollars. It is planned for the building to be built where it will connect Jones Library and Coltrane.

As of now, the projects that are planned, approved and will be happening are the campus farm, added air conditioning in the dorm buildings, the student plaza, the new dorm building by the Villages, the barn being renovated for WLEE and a new athletic facility. Now it is only a matter of when these projects will be able to happen.

"Someone actually came up to me and told me something that I really liked," Joyce said. "They said, 'There are two big moments in this college's history, its founding in 1853 and this meeting today,' and I'm very happy to be a part of this history."

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# View Mercury's transit

By Mike Castelaz  
Associate Professor of Physics

On Monday, Nov. 11 from 7:30 a.m. until 1 p.m., the shadow of the planet Mercury can be seen crossing the surface of the Sun.

This is a rare event, occurring only a dozen times in a century, with the next occurrence on November 13, 2032! We will have a solar telescope set up by the Bell Tower to observe this event, and everyone is welcome to take a look.

Expect to see the Sun as a nearly featureless disk with just the tiny shadow of Mercury, almost imperceptibly moving across its surface.

Mercury and Venus are the only two planets that cast their shadows on the disk of the Sun. Transits of Venus are much more rare than those of Mercury, with the next one to occur in 2117 – we'll invite you back for that one.

It will pass nearly across the diameter of the Sun. We are lucky this time. In 2032, and the next ten transits, it will cross only a small part of the Sun.

Transits like this are historically important. Edmund Haley in 1716 observed at the time

the transit began and the time it ended. Using these measurements, he was able to calculate the distance to the Sun – a fundamental number used by astronomers to understand the scale of the universe. Astronomers continue to make these observations, improving the distance measurement each time.

