

News

GWU campus undergoes structural changes

Sarah Olimb
Pilot editor

If you've walked around campus lately, you've probably noticed that Gardner-Webb is changing. The gigantic steel structure now looming over Spangler Stadium and the dull roar of construction equipment droning from the field across from the University Commons are symbols of this change.

GWU is currently pursuing five building and renovation projects, which were presented as a package to the board of trustees last May, who consequently approved these changes.

According to Donnie Clary, vice president for business and finance, by initiating these projects GWU is continuing in its move forward.

First, the university is renovating Spangler Stadium's existing seating as well as increasing its occupancy by adding seating to the current visitors side of the field, which will become the home side.

GWU contracted F.N. Thompson Company, who built Charlotte's Ericsson Stadium, to complete this project.

The plan also includes a three-floored structure that will include concessions and restrooms on the first floor, office space for athletics on the second floor and a new press box and special seating areas on the third floor. The back of the building will include a new field house and training room.

Clary said that the athletic train-

ing facilities, now occupying space in the LYCC, will move to the new facility upon its completion. The football team will also move from Hamrick Field House to this new facility.

Clary hopes to have this project finished during the summer of 2004, making it available at the start of fall semester.

The second aspect of the package presented to the board is renovations to Hamrick Field House, which will be completed this spring.

The project includes creating four new team rooms, office space and a study area for athletes. Two new sports will move into the facility. Wayne Johnson, assistant vice president for operations, is in charge of this project.

Thirdly, the university is constructing another apartment building in addition to those comprising the University Commons area. The building will be completed by Aug. 1, 2004, and there is room to build two more apartment buildings if enrollment calls for it in the future.

"Right now there is a demand and a need for that kind of housing," said Clary.

GWU contracted David Drye Construction Company of Concord to complete the building.

The fourth project consists of adding classroom space to the back portion of the Communications Studies hall. The target date for this renovation is next fall.

"This space is expected to support the art and theater programs,"

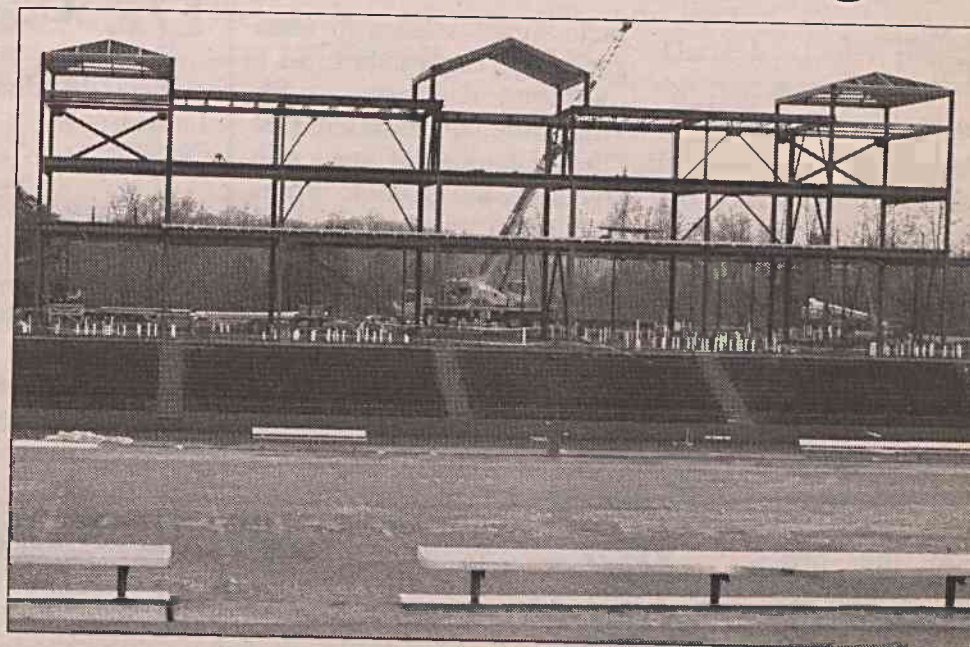


Photo by Christina Tyler

The recently constructed framework for the new football stadium towers above Spangler Stadium, said Clary.

Finally, the package includes minor renovations to Withrow in the immediate future, specifically the summer of 2004.

However, Clary looks to make major renovations or construct a new science facility within the next three to five years.

"Work is underway in designing a new science facility and we are trying to raise money for that new facility," said Clary. "Whether that be a completely new building, which is what we want, or major renovations and an addition to the existing structure, depends on funding."

The university obtained a low-interest variable rate bond to fund the current projects. The process was finalized in Dec. 2003.

"The president and the development office are raising money and are working towards other capital needs that we have," said Clary.

Frank Campbell, president of the university, feels that these projects benefit GWU in both the short term and the long term and will contribute to the overall good of the university.

"These projects help everyone to understand that GWU is about students and that we'll provide them with the best facilities as they work on their degree," said Campbell. "They also continue the positive trend that GWU is traveling as well as providing perspective students with the knowledge that they are coming to a place that is good, growing and always wanting to the best for its students."

Marketing professor crosses ocean to speak to students

Katie Main
Pilot staff

The office of international programs will host speaker Dr. Richard R. Dolphin, of the University of Northampton, on Jan. 29 and 30.

Dolphin, who teaches at Northampton Business School and specializes in marketing and public relations studies, will speak at 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 29 in Blanton Auditorium. He will

address the marketing crisis currently faced by Michael Jackson's various agencies due to the bad publicity that has recently surfaced about the performer.

The lecture is open to all students.

On both days, Dolphin will speak to marketing and public relations classes about several cases of business enterprises that failed due to a lack of adequate market research. Cases will

include McDonald's, Domino's and Kentucky Fried Chicken, all of which opened restaurants in a Hindu India and quickly went out of business.

The speaker was asked to come after Helen Tichenor, director of international programs, received an e-mail from study abroad student Kevin Cantwell, who was in Northampton at the time. "He e-mailed me and said, 'I have the greatest

professor!'" Tichenor said.

After speaking with Dolphin on the phone, Tichenor said she is looking forward to his arrival and what he has to say.

"He is funny," she said, "And he has that wonderful British accent."

Dolphin's former exchange students will have the opportunity to visit with him during a breakfast on one of the two mornings, and he will meet with facul-

ty members at lunch.

Dolphin is the author of two books about corporate communication and has written a number of journal articles and papers on the subject. Despite his qualifications, however, Tichenor values most the fact that the professor's visit is a result of a student suggestion.

"We're bringing someone in whom a student has recommended, and I think that's really great," she said.