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UNCW shells out \$1.2 million for Chancellor's housing, renovations



Until Kenan house renovations are complete, the Chancellor will reside in Landfall.

SARAH BRODERS

NEWS EDITOR

Before faculty, students and staff can properly welcome Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo to her new home, Kenan House, it will have to go through \$1.2 million in renovations.

UNCW acquired Kenan House in 1968 when the owner of the house, Sarah Graham Kenan, passed away and her family decided to give the house to the university. The Kenan family also set up the William Rand Kenan Charitable Trust, awarding the university \$1 million to be used for upkeep and maintenance of the house.

Kenan House was built from 1909 to 1911, but was rebuilt in

1931 after a fire caused extensive Jordan, vice chancellor for busidamage. Since the house was donated to the university, the house has served as the home for the university's chancellor.

"Chancellor DePaolo plans to set up a steering committee to advise UNCW on the future of the house and historic preservation issues," said Mimi Cunningham, assistant vice chancellor for university relations.

As Dr. Leutze prepared to retire, he made a recommendation to the Board of Trustees that the house be renovated before his successor moved in.

"No major renovation was made to the Kenan House prior to Dr. Leutze's appointment as Chancellor in 1990," said Tim ness affairs. "During Dr. Leutze's residence in Kenan House we have basically tried to keep the place livable. Dr. Leutze experienced several occasions where his personal property was damaged by mildew and mold as a result of leaks throughout the house."

The renovation will include modernizing the plumbing, electrical, heating and air conditioning systems, as well as replacing the roof and gutter systems.

"The work is to renovate and repair basic infrastructure, for example, repairing the 1930s plumbing," Cunningham said.

The total bill for the Kenan House renovations is estimated at \$1.2 million. The cost of renovation is higher than usual because the house is designated as historical and therefore the renovations have to be done a certain way to keep the historic integrity.

"Funds for the renovation will come from a combination of available non-state university reserves, private gifts, and a band loan secured by gift pledges," Jordan said.

The renovations are expected to be completed in approximately one year. Until the Kenan House is ready, Chancellor DePaolo will be living in a condominium in Landfall. The university will pay the \$2,750 per month rent until the work on the Kenan House is finished.

"It is a condition of the Chancellor's employment that the university provide housing," Cunningham said.

"That's kind of expensive, but at the same time she's probably worked really hard, and it sounds like she'll do a lot for the university," said senior Melina Gammans.

It is also a condition of the Chancellor's employment that the university provides her an automobile.

"Currently this vehicle is provided by a local car dealer at no cost to the University," Jordan

This historic mansion on Market St.is used to house UNCW's Chancellor. Dr. James Leutze lived here during his term.

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