

Chancellor's hard work pays off for ECSU

By DeAnna Rudisill

When it comes to money for new buildings and facilities ECSU, like other schools in the UNC system, must compete for its fair share of money controlled by the General Assembly.

The competition is intensified due to an influx of ten thousand new students into the UNC system over the past three years, according to UNC systems President C.D. Spangler.

"Every campus needs new facilities," said Spangler. "We have not had any new funds for capitol improvements in three years. Libraries are becoming too small and classrooms are running out of space."

Spangler added that UNC-Chapel Hill, the flagship institution in the system, is in need of a new school of social work, a school of business and a school of journalism and mass communication.

Some schools in the UNC system have been forced to hold classes in trailers, and many institutions have had to endure cutbacks in supplies and academic programs.

Despite the lean economic times ECSU has fared well in the past decade. Although the University has not been allocated any new funds for capital growth since 1989, ECSU has expanded its existing facilities with the addition of a \$4.5 million new Administration building, completed in 1987 and the \$5 million Science Complex, completed in 1990. The \$1.2 million bowling alley/commuter center was completed in 1991 and construction of a new \$4 million dormitory has already begun on 33 acres the University acquired in 1989.

"There is an effort to make sure Elizabeth City State University has quality buildings," said Spangler. "It's attracting better students and more students are staying and graduating as a result of new and better facilities and overall improvements."

One ECSU instructor said that the capital improvements to ECSU are "long overdue" and added that the University was "treated like a red-headed stepchild" for years when it came to getting money from the state legislature.

Credit for ECSU's more recent good



Photo courtesy of the Chancellor's office

ECSU Chancellor Jimmy R. Jenkins.

fortune in capital improvements goes to Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, according to State Senator Marc Basnight (D-Dare), Chairman of the N.C. Senate Appropriations Committee.

"It is all due to Jimmy Jenkins' efforts," said Basnight, who praised Jenkins for "his dogmatic approach for the campus'

need for new buildings, his contacts with everyone and the way he always prepares himself while constantly educating all the right people of ECSU's needs at both the local and regional meetings."

Although the Chancellor has been working hard on funding the University's proposed new Fine Arts and Mass Communications building, its status is "still in the air" according to Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance.

Spangler, too, said he can't predict when the building will be constructed.

"The status of the fine arts building, like all improvements and new facilities needed in the UNC system, will depend on the General Assembly approving a bond referendum and the supporting votes of people across the state," Spangler said.

The University is also plans to improve its infrastructure according to McLean, citing the planned addition of pedestrian walkways, outside places for students to relax, alterations on campus to make the terrain more accessible for the handicapped and additional lighting.

Photo courtesy of the Chancellor's office



Construction has already begun on the new 200-bed residence hall, to be completed in Sept. 1992.

University's \$5 million Science Complex to accommodate increased enrollment

By Anna Herring

ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins has referred to it as "the crowning jewel" in the University's expansion program.

ECSU's new 54,000 square foot science complex cost approximate 5.2 million dollars. Construction began in 1989 and was completed in January 1990.

Before the construction of the complex, classes were held at Lester Hall according to Dr. Curtis Turnage, chairman of the Biology Dept. "Lester Hall was too small to accommodate the ever-increasing science programs," Turnage said.

"The complex is to accommodate the increased enrollment in the Science program and to advance scientific technological capabilities of the that program."

The complex contains various state-of-the-art facilities such as a micro-computer lab, several research labs and cartography labs, a conference room, a reception room, a dark room, seminar rooms, an animal room, a cold room, a faculty lounge, faculty offices, a student lounge, student offices, a library, a greenhouse, an auditorium and a planetarium.

The "cold room" is a refrigerated room for the storing of specimens, while the

animal room contains live small animals such as mice used in experiments.

ECSU students and instructors say the new facility has greatly enhanced their opportunities for learning.

"I can see the changes among faculty and students, because the level of sophistication has been raised which will enhance current and future program offerings," said Turnage.

"The building itself is beautiful but I don't like the idea that there are no blinds or shades in some of the rooms with large windows," said Lisa Miller, a biology major.

Photo by Rodney Moore



Dr. Lavern Jones (right), Lab manager of the new science complex, helps Sykima Lee.

New 200-bed dormitory to alleviate overcrowding

ECSU's new residence hall now being constructed behind the New Complex, will ease the problem the campus has been having with overcrowding.

"The new hall will greatly enhance the living conditions of boarding students," said Dr. Leon White, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. "A great deal of planning went into the building to insure our students will have the latest in living and learning environments within a state-of-the-art residence hall."

"This will be the University's largest self-contained air conditioned residence hall, study areas, meeting rooms and

snack/meal preparation areas."

The new \$4 million hall scheduled to be finished in September, will not result in a tuition increase, according to Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance.

The new dorm will house 200 beds. Students living in the dorm will pay a fee, however the amount has not been decided on yet, he said.

He added that the 45,000 square foot residence hall will be a "state-of-the-art building" which will include suites, telephones, sprinkler systems, an elevator and small banquet facilities.