

Fine Arts Building to be completed fall, '98

by Chenay Beamon

The University's long awaited new Fine Arts Building will be completed in October, 1998.

The 61,400 square foot building, to be constructed on Weeksville Highway, will provide students of art, music, and drama with "a state-of-the art education," according to Chancellor Mickey L. Burnim.

"Our new Fine Arts Building will be a wonderful addition to the campus," said Burnim. "It will be the centerpiece in the reorientation of the front of the campus towards Weeksville Highway, and it will provide a wonderful facility for our fine arts students to study, practice and perform."

A \$3 million allocation from the NC General Assembly provided the necessary money for the building's completion, said Burnim.

In 1993 voters approved \$6.4 million for the new building in a bond referen-

dum; however, due to rising construction costs, the University was unable to construct the building as originally designed.

In September of 1995, then interim Chancellor Mickey Burnim met with N.C. State Senator Marc Basnight and State Representative William Culpepper and William Owens to discuss how the General Assembly could assist the university.

Burnim attributed the legislative windfall to support from those representatives.

The building will be constructed in two phases, said Burnim. The first phase will not include the planned 1000-seat auditorium or the 700-seat amphitheater, said Burnim.

Ground breaking for the auditorium and amphitheater will take place "after the arts center is built," he said.

Burnim said the new Fine Arts building will provide a "state-of-the-art cen-

ter" for teachers of the arts. It will have improved facilities for art, drama, and music. Current facilities in these areas are "out of date," he said.

Since the auditorium and the amphitheater were funded by the state it will be used "to serve citizens of the state" according to Chancellor Burnim. The primary purpose for the building will be for education but all "facilities for performances can benefit students and the community."

The next step in ECSU's agenda for capital improvements will include a new Academic Computing Center, expansion of the Vaughn Center, and a new commuter student parking lot.

The new Academic Computing Center will be built near the Fine Arts Building. Originally the University planned to expand the 5,000 foot E.V. Wilkins Academic Computing Building; however, space limitations forced officials to change their plans.

According to Chancellor Burnim, the new 25,000 square foot Computing Center will have state-of-the-art facilities for student use and electronic classrooms. It will also combine the academic computing center with computer operations.

Ground breaking will begin "before the end of the school year," said Burnim. Work on the Vaughn Center expansion will begin before January, 1998, he added.

In response to the students' concern about the overcrowded weight room, the expansion will include an exercise physiology and wellness center, Burnim said.

Another capital improvement project already in process will be a new parking lot behind C.W. Griffin Education and Psychology Building and McLendon Hall. The new lot will provide parking for students with classes on that side of the University.

NEWS BRIEFS

By Frances Hughes and Kim Hines
ECSU's homecoming activities will begin Friday, Oct. 10, at 9:00 p.m. with the Miss Alumni Coronation, in room 107 in the K.E. White Center.

An ice breaker will follow the coronation at 10:00 p.m., featuring music by "The Music Man" and "The FunkMaster."

The festivities continue Saturday Oct. 11, with a parade scheduled for 10:00 a.m.

At 1:30 p.m. a pre-game show in Roebuck Stadium serves as a fan warm-up for the ECSU vs. Bowie State football game slated for 2:00 p.m.

Effective Oct. 1, 1997 the G.R. Little Library began operating under an extended schedule, according to a news release from the Chancellor's Office.

Monday through Thursday the Library will be open from 7:40 a.m.-11:15 p.m.; Friday, from 7:45 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; and Sunday from 2:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Academic Computing Center will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight Monday through Thursday; from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Friday; from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and on Sunday from 4:00 p.m. until 12:00 midnight.

Also effective Oct. 1, Offices of the Registrar, Financial Aid and the University Cashier will be open until 6:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. These offices will be open until 6:00 p.m. on Nov. 5, Dec. 3, Jan. 7, Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, and May 6.

In addition to the extended day schedule, offices of the Registrar and Financial Aid are open from 8:00 a.m.

until 5:00 p.m. weekdays. The Cashier's Office will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m., daily.

The University extended hours for these facilities and offices following the results of a student survey which "indicated students desired extended evening and weekend hours," according to the news release.

Junior Honors Program members, Chenay Beamon and Jarred Turner, traveled to England as part of a two-week English Literature and Life course on August 9-23.

The course gives students an opportunity to explore English culture while also teaching them about the roots of English Literature.

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania invited 40 students from across the nation to join them in a two-week stay at Exeter College in Oxford, England.

Exeter College is one of 35 constituent colleges of the University of Oxford.

While in England, Beamon and Turner traveled to London, Bath, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Stonehenge.

The women of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. have donated their time throughout the week to the students at the H.L. Trigg Alternative School and to a "soup kitchen" to help feed the needy. They participated in both the Health Fair and the grand opening of the Wellness Center in the Infirmary on September 11, 1997. On September 25, 1997, the sorority conducted a "Self-Defense and Health" forum. They are working with a group of ladies at

Northeastern High School known as the Ivy Academy.

The blue and white ladies of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. participated in "Clean Sweep 97" on September 20th, along with the brothers of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., the men of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., and the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The Zeta's also conducted a "Safe Sex" forum on September 30, 1997.

In addition to their participation in "Clean Sweep 97," the gentlemen of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. sponsored a charity raffle and donated 50% of the proceeds to P.W. Moore Elementary School.

The gentlemen of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. have kept busy with the students at the H.L. Trigg Alternative School, where they donate their time three days a week. They have also become "Big Brothers" to a group of Northeastern High School students known as the Kappa League and continue to work with the "Adopt-a-Highway" program.

The women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. donate an hour every Thursday to "Meals on Wheels" and "Project Sunshine", where they are mentors to elementary school females. They are also involved in a program called "Habitat for Humanity." Once a month, they participate in "Project Generation," a program in which they provide entertainment for the residents of Guardian Care.

The brothers of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. have donated their time to a tutorial program at a local elementary school and are involved in a program called "20-20 Vision" a tutoring

and mentoring for at risk youth. They are also involved in "Meals on Wheels."

The women of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. have adopted a class at P.W. Moore Elementary School where they visit once a week.

Monica Rascoe, a 1997 Business Education alumna, received a 1997 Award of Merit from the National Business Education Association. The award is given to the outstanding senior business education graduates. Rascoe will also receive a one-year professional membership in NBEA, which includes a subscription to Business Education Forum, Keying In and a copy of the 1998 NBEA Yearbook.

Rascoe is currently a business education teacher at John Yeates Middle School in Suffolk, VA.

Pianist Kevin Sharpe will launch ECSU's 1997-98 Lyceum series at 8 p.m. on Oct. 20 in Moore Hall. Sharpe's musical career began when he was cast in the Off-Broadway production of *Lost in the Stars*. He has also toured with Duke Ellington.

His piano studies began at the age of 12. After high school, Sharpe received his Bachelor of Music degree from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and his Masters and Doctorate degrees in piano performance from Indiana University.

Currently, Sharpe is Associate Professor of Piano and Chamber Music at the University of Florida. During his career, he has performed throughout the United States, Mexico, Iceland and Finland.