

Features



Ram students, faculty and guests introduce the land for the new dorm, Foundation Heights.

Photo courtesy of Lee Adams

New dormitory puts WSSU on the map

Tiphane Deas
MANAGING EDITOR

Construction officially began on the new Foundation Heights residence facility at 11:45 a.m. Friday, Oct. 6 during the dormitory's groundbreaking ceremony. The event was on-site between Brown Hall and the C.E. Gaines Center. Many student participants and community officials were in attendance, reflecting the large amount of student involvement in the planning and design of this building.

Kasseem Smith, senior business administration major, and Courtney Barfield, senior sociology major, are two members of the Student Committee on Construction who volunteered to work on this project.

"The university's giving me an opportunity to make my voice heard. A lot of schools wouldn't allow a student to be over \$800,000 worth of interior designing. They just build dorms without considering the students' opinions," said Smith, who served as the lead student on the committee, and as chair on the Interior Design Subcommittee.

Barfield decided to join the committee just before the end of the last academic school year when she received a

campus email seeking interested students.

"I wanted to have a say in something that would be here after I was gone, something that I could look at and say, 'Hey, I helped,'" she said.

Foundation Heights, which will be a 114,000 square-foot, 316-bed living facility, was given its name in honor of the Winston-Salem State University Foundation and its efficiency in meeting the university's needs. Every suite and apartment will include a living room and full-sized kitchen, and residents will have access to a community computer lab, fitness center and laundry room.

It was up to student committee members like Smith and Barfield, though, to make sure that each of these features were pleasing to the eye and were able to help occupants feel comfortable, safe and at home.

"We were involved in every single bit; they asked for our input," said Barfield. "If we didn't like something or felt students wouldn't like something, we said so, and they made adjustments. We wanted to make sure that the students would be comfortable, so we thought about what could be better. Freshmen don't like the little closets in Moore, so let's have

closets like in Rams Commons," Barfield said.

Smith agreed that improving on problems that students have encountered with other dorms was a key focus, so during construction meetings, he advocated for more stable furniture, better beds, better insulation against sound and echoes, and brighter lights in the corridors, all of which were granted.

The committee seemed highly concerned with seeing that every detail was aesthetically pleasing, despite working with fewer funds than had been available on past projects.

"Each wing has a different color theme," Smith said. "All the appliances are black. We didn't have as much money to work on Foundation Heights as they had for Gleason-Hairston, so we had to try to find a way to work on a tighter budget and still make it nice."

But even with less money, Smith was pleased with the minor details that they were able to get worked into the blueprints.

"We got a fireplace in the lobby," he added with a smile.

The most innovative and attractive aspect of this dorm, however, is sure to be the eight-person mega suites cre-

ated for "academic interest groups." Each suite will include four bedrooms, four bathrooms, one full kitchen, and a more spacious living room with two couches.

"[The mega suites] are aimed at organizations and social groups, like fraternities, sororities, the SGA, or *The News Argus*," Smith said.

The suites will not be designated to any of these organizations, but they are available if they decide that they would like to take advantage of them.

According to Smith and Barfield, there are two main reasons that the student body should be excited about the groundbreaking and construction of Foundation Heights.

"Our university is actually taking a step to improve the housing situation on campus," Smith said. "Students take for granted what we have here. The school is trying hard to accommodate the students. We may not have enough for everybody, but we never will [as the school grows]."

And as Barfield summed it up: "It's a hot place to stay."

Foundation Heights is scheduled to open its doors Fall 2007.



Photo by Sharrod Patterson

The library is a great resource for students during final exams.

WSSU offers studying services

Tiffany Ross
STAFF REPORTER

Anticipation to view midterm grades can be nerve-racking for anyone. However, midterms allow students to see how effective their study habits are and provides them with enough time to improve their grades before the end of the semester.

Students should remember that studying does not take place when they leave class, but it begins by coming to class prepared, paying close attention in class, and then reviewing and processing information after class.

There are Web sites that provide study tips for students such as www.how-to-study.com and www.studygs.net. How-to-study.com provides students with tips on taking notes in class, good listening skills in class, strategies for reading textbooks and how to overcome test-taking anxiety.

Studygs.net provides a list of effective study habits such as students taking responsibility, centering themselves on their values and principles, following up on priorities, and doing their best.

Like many other students at WSSU, Sierra Feaster, 20, junior, says she could use tips on

studying.

"Typically when I have a major project or test, I go to the library to read," she said.

"But I want to improve my studying habits, so I plan to study in advance, by pushing myself to stay focus and making sure that I write down questions I have for the next class," she explains.

Several services on the campus are available to help students develop better study skills.

Tutorials are held in Hauser by the University College in room 305. Tutorial schedules are posted on the WSSU website and are given for courses such as math, accounting, biology, biochemistry, and microbiology.

The writing center in Hall Patterson provides assistance to help students develop better writing skills.

Student Support Services on campus also provides tutorial services, offering tutoring for courses in natural and life sciences, reading and English, computer science and calculus.

Overall students should set goals for themselves and strive to do their best. If students keep this as their first priority they can develop good study habits in no time.

Advanced, from page 1

benefits to attending graduate school.

"If you wait one to one and a half years and go to graduate school, what jobs want to pay you will increase. It is a good investment," he said.

An advanced degree can increase earning power, the amount of responsibility students assume, and the freedom they have to make their own decisions, as well as enhance their job satisfaction, according to "Graduate School and You: A Guide for Prospective Graduate Students," a publication by the Council of Graduate Schools.

Hudson also agrees and recommends going directly into graduate school because students may face obligations such as marriage, children, family and bills. Olagunju

suggests that students get their degrees in a different field than their current bachelor's degree. "It makes you more marketable," he explains.

Both Hudson and Olagunju urge students to not let financial resources be a hindrance to deciding to seek a master's degree.

"[Undergraduate] student loans can be deferred; loans [for graduate school] are an investment in the student's future," Hudson said.

"As a minority, if you are a good student, you can receive scholarships. You need at least a 3.5 GPA to receive money. Even if you have a 3.0 GPA, you are still a good student, especially with internships and work experience," she adds.

For many professors and much of the administration, students are the future pro-

fessionals who will be taking their places.

"We serve as mentors and role models. We need students who will be equipped to replace us because there is a shortage of those who come back to get advanced degrees."

Olagunju says the greatest gift his students can give him is to go to graduate school.

"Knowledge is power; you can never have too much knowledge."

The School of Graduate Studies and Research strongly encourages students to participate in the Graduate and Professional School Fair to learn more about and possibly discover future opportunities.

According to Hudson, students applying for graduate school should keep these tips in mind to avoid common mistakes:

Apply early. Do not miss deadlines.

Get into prep classes for the Graduate Reading Exam (GRE). Do not go unprepared. Stay disciplined. Do not forget to practice, practice, practice.

The following is a list of important questions that students should ask graduate school representatives at the fair.

What are your graduate admission requirements? (Average GPA, standardized test and average scores)

What programs are available at your institution? (Department highlights and strengths, facilities and internships)

What financial support is available? (Tuition waivers, fellowships and assistantships)

NASCAR, from page 1

isn't as diverse as we'd like it to be," Burton said. "I love my sport and it's full of good people. However, we do need to be better at diversity, and it all starts with the youth. It's not going to happen overnight."

Reaction was positive from students in attendance, including Tierra Berthau, a freshman sports management major.

"[NASCAR] is an industry that people will go into. A plus is that it's a major that caters to exactly what the industry is looking for," she said.

Donica Young, also a freshman Sports Management major, echoed that idea.

"I don't know much about NASCAR, but anywhere opportunity appears, I'm going to go," she said.

October 19, 2006, has a chance to be looked back on as a great day in the history of WSSU. The university may one day be able to lay claim to being the first Historically Black University to offer a bachelor of science degree in Motorsport Management.

As Dr. Dennis Felder, WSSU Director of Sports Management said, "I'm happy about the turnout from students, faculty, and community leaders, and of the numerous media outlets in attendance. This was a great day."

Radar, from page 1

rear antennas. It also certifies officers in handheld radar detection. After course completion, forms are sent to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission in Raleigh. Radar Operator Certification lasts for a three-year period.

WSSU Campus Police Department has five radar certified officers: Sgt. A. Pittman, Ofc. H. Thomas, Ofc. P. Ansel, Ofc. M. Bowers and Ofc. W. Garnett. These officers completed radar

training, June 26-30, at Davidson Community College Criminal Justice Center.

"In the near future, we intend on having more officers complete radar training class," Police Captain V.L. Thompson said.

"It's a good plan, as long as campus police does not get too wrapped up in giving out tickets, neglect other safety precautions, and regular police responsibilities," said Rashad Byrd, senior Psychology major. "I feel it will decrease the number of speed violators on Martin

Luther King, Jr. Drive, because people tend to remember places they get speeding tickets at. As long as they strongly enforce the plan, it should be very successful."

It is not certain if this radar plan will be a success or a failure. If it can prevent vehicle-pedestrian accidents, it will make for a safer campus. For questions or comments concerning the new plan, contact Captain V.L. Thompson at (336) 750-2918. For more info about radar certification, visit www.ncdoj.com.