

Preschool gets Headstart

## Child Development Center to re-open

Jaye Cole

ASSISTANT EDITOR

jcole109@wssu.edu &

Grace Anderson

ARGUS CONTRIBUTOR

Due to popular demand, the once defunct day care center and student research lab at Winston-Salem State tentatively plans to re-open as the Child Development Center at the end of this month.

The day care, which initially opened in 1975, shut its doors Aug. 21, 2009, largely due to budget cuts. The abrupt closing brought to an end a legacy of the five-star rated childcare facility.

Chancellor Donald Reaves and the administration made the decision to shut down the day care specifically because operating costs were too exorbitant.

"Our current budget will not allow us to spend money on the center when there are other alternatives available in the community for our students," Reaves said in the Winston-Salem Journal June 30, 2009.

There were many people — which included alumni, students and faculty — who were not pleased with the closing of the facility, which eventually led to its inclusion of a protest on campus.

Eventually lawmakers and other community leaders got involved, and, after budget adjustments and collaboration with the Child Development Division of Family Services, Inc., the administration found the resources to re-open the childcare facility.

With the re-opening of the facility comes new purpose and direction.

It is no longer classified as a day care and research lab; it is a Headstart Child Development Center with the Family Services of Winston-Salem on campus. The Center accepts children ages 3 to 5 years. The staff screens and evaluates each student and keeps meticulous records of the child's development.

In addition to faculty and students, parents living in surrounding neighborhoods such as Happy Hill and Morningside who are at or below the poverty line have an opportunity to enroll their children as well.

Child Development Center manager Sheila Ebrahim says the Center uses a 'creative curriculum' to teach the children.

"This is more than a day care," Ebrahim said.

"It is the task of the Center to get the students ready for the next level. The classrooms are outfitted with several learning tools, not just toys.

"We are preparing our students for elementary [school]," Ebrahim said.

The Center also accepts children with learning disabilities. Many students with learning disabilities may receive priority based on the needs of the child. Ebrahim said the children go through assessments and ongoing observations.

"If there is a concern in either developmental speech or hearing, then we provide additional services through community resources."

The staff is ready for a Sept. 30 start date. Nearly every classroom has been completed.

Angela Roberts, a pre-kindergarten teacher from Brooksdale, Fla., said she anticipates a productive grand re-opening.

"I'm looking forward to a new year, a really good year," Roberts said.

The Child Development Center began accepting applications for WSSU faculty and students Sept. 1. The applications are being taken on a first-come, first-serve basis. Associate Director of Adult and Graduate Admissions Victoria Hanchell, a mother of a four-year-old, was on the waiting list at the old facility for over a year. Her daughter was enrolled at the day care for two weeks before she learned of its closing, she said.

Hanchell said she remains optimistic and hopes to get her child into the new Child Development Center.

"The WSSU Child Development Center has a history of instilling good foundations in reading, writing and mathematics. Also, the children aren't just playing all day but rather are learning and building developmental skills. It is truly a preschool and not a day care," Hanchell said.

Spaces at the Center will also be available for families in the community, with a special focus on providing services to families who need financial support for child care. Additionally, the Center will be available to meet WSSU student training needs, faculty research and grant-writing opportunities.

## CAMPUS CRIME BLOTTER

**The Campus Crime Blotter is a concise summary of the up-to-date incidents that affect the Winston-Salem State campus and community. Certain incidents may lead to News Argus articles that discuss them at great length.**

**Tuesday, Aug. 10**

A bookstore employee admitted to stealing \$2,000 worth of textbooks. The employee was escorted to Campus Police to be interviewed. The employee was read his rights, transported to the Winston-Salem Police department and placed under arrest for larceny. He was given a secured bond with a preliminary hearing date Aug. 27.

**Friday, Aug. 20**

At 8:30 a.m. a staff/director entered his office to find pornographic material on his computer screen. Staff from IT was notified of the situation and assisted with the investigation indicating this type of problem is campus wide. They are working to correct the problem. There being no further information, the case is closed.

**Monday, Aug. 23**

Approximately 12:30 a.m. an individual who was with other subjects gave a female student his number. Red Sea of Sound members congregating nearby said the individual was being disrespectful to the female. An altercation ensued, and a student was punched in the face. A gun was pulled out and the statement was made, "I will shoot one of y'all." One shot was fired in the air. No one was hurt or injured.

**Tuesday, Aug. 24**

At 12:20 a.m. a student was assaulted and robbed at gunpoint of money, dorm and house keys, jewelry and a cell phone. The student had been dropped off when a car pulled up carrying four males. Two males, one with a gun, jumped out of the car and demanded the student to empty his pockets. No further information at this time.

**Tuesday, Aug. 31**

At approximately 1:05 a.m. two male non-students were involved in an altercation that resulted in gunfire. A female student was a passenger in the vehicle that one of the male non-students was driving. The other male non-student fired two rounds of a small caliber handgun into the vehicle shattering the glass, giving the occupants non life-threatening injuries. According to the report, the injured male non-student may have been under the influence of narcotics. A BB gun was found under the driver seat. Charges to the shooter and the victim are pending. No further information at this time.

**Thursday, Sept. 2**

At 9:45 a.m. an officer was dispatched in reference to a shuttle bus being on fire. There were no passengers and the driver said that there have been problems from the bus before. The brakes may have overheated, causing a leak in the brake line and smoke to come from the rear tires. No further information at this time.

Source: WSSU Department of Police and Public Safety

Compiled by Myiesha Speight, News Argus Contributor

## SACS continued from Page 1

by the University's Quality Enhancement Program.

"We will not know what action SACS has taken on our response to the areas of non-compliance until the annual meeting in December 2010."

The Financial Aid Office staff was unavailable for comment.

The areas which received citations were just a portion of what the SACS representatives were looking for.

### QEP: Rams Write

In 2007, the University was introduced to Rams Write, a five-year plan to improve writing in the majors.

This initiative was originally set forth by the QEP, and after two years of training faculty and staff, 2010 marks the genesis of Rams Write's five-year journey.

Pamela Simmons, the new QEP director, and her staff have worked to get the students involved as much as possible.

Their achievements are reflected through the high marks received from SACS.

"There are very few [HBCU's] reaching this level of achievement," Simmons said.

Rams Write's goal is to remain compliant within the SACS as well as assist in WSSU's reaffirmation process.

QEP is targeting both junior and senior levels of writing, but would eventually like to implement the program at the developmental level.

"Everyone has the ability to write," Simmons said.

During the spring semester, the administration made efforts to promote Rams Write as much as possible.

This included posting advertisements around campus, giving out gifts for students who actively participated, and even erected a banner in the breezeway of the Thompson Center.

Their efforts have not gone in vain.

According to the assistant QEP director Tanya Walker, there have already been signs of positive results.

"I have seen improvements in student's writing, particularly because of the clarity of the assignment sheets the students are now receiving, clarity in instruction, and a better grasp of the content," Walker said.

She also said that the outlook of the five year plan is "optimistic" and encourages all majors to utilize the new writing center.

Students who have difficulty with their writing skills may visit the Language Arts Center, located in the Hauser building, for assistance.