

Monarch Messenger

Fayetteville, NC

Vol. XXXVIII, No. 1

September 18, 2000

New Residence Hall Offers A New Look For Methodist

By Lee Neugent
Staff Writer

Methodist College is very fortunate to have a new apartment-style residence hall on campus this fall. Called the Cape Fear Commons, it is located behind the Riddle Center on the way to the golf course and baseball field. This is the first of five that are being built on campus. The others will be completed in the next few years.

Cape Fear Commons gives a new name to luxury apartments. College students are able to live in flats featuring a kitchen area for cooking, four bedrooms, and two bathrooms as well as a living area for studying and relaxing. Brand new furniture, new paint, and new carpet set the standard in this new building for primarily upperclassmen.

Rob Foreman, director of residence life, said "We are excited about our new facility. Our staff and students have worked extremely hard on every detail going into the residence hall, such as selecting comfortable furniture, to provide a community area."

Other staff, faculty, and students are pleased with the new building as well.

Rick Lowe, vice president for enrollment services, said "This is certainly a building that will have a "wow" affect for potential students."

Sherry Ingram, the area coordinator, said, "The students really love this place. At first they thought it was going to be styled just like the Pines Apartments. We [Residence Life] really surprised them."

A community center has also broken ground behind Cape Fear Commons and will open in December.

"The community center will have a multipurpose room for special events, a full kitchen for catering, a study area, and a deck that will extend around the building. It should make a nice touch allowing students to have a common place to gather," said Foreman.

For students who have been familiar with calling the apartments be-



Students enjoy the suite style of living.

Photo by Robin Warrington

hind the Student Media building Honors Hall, it is now called the Pines Apartments. The Pines Apartments also houses upperclassmen students.

Residence Life strived to house students in Honors Hall when it first opened as a reward for having a GPA of 2.75 and higher, hence the name.

As far as the name change, "We wanted to take away the restrictions making it more community oriented," said Foreman.

The name "The Pines" came from the obstacle course of pine trees that outline the parking lot in front of the facility.

Ashley James, assistant director for residence life, keeps an eye on the spacious two bedroom apartments.

"This is my second year as area coordinator. I believe that, 'The Pines' is a more suitable name for the apartments that provide a quiet atmosphere for students and allow opportunities for community interaction," said James.



Resident Advisors Prag Patel and Brian Nordby help check in their residents in Cumberland Hall.

Photo by Jami Sheppard

Your Residence Hall Association

By Jimmy Crayton
RHA President

Your residence hall association (RHA) is the student organization that plans the events for the residential campus. This body is composed of the residential students. If you live on campus, then you are a member of RHA.

For those of you who are returning students, you may remember the huge event that happened last spring. It was called the "Block Party." It was a success with over 650 people in attendance.

This year plans are even bigger. Plans for a big event in the fall and the spring are underway.

In addition to the event planning, RHA is tackling the controversial subjects pertinent to student life on campus. Some of these issues are twenty-four hour visitation, alcohol policy, bundling program, an on-campus phone directory, and much more.

Everyone is invited to come out to RHA on Thursday nights at 8 p.m. in the basement of Garber Hall.

Get involved. Get it done. Do not let something you could have had a say in slip by you.

Methodist College Starts First Master's Program

By Jen Colletti
College News Co-Editor

Effective August 2001, the P.A. Program will be enrolling students to graduate with a master's degree in physician assistant studies. This will be the first graduate level program in Methodist College's 44 year history. The P.A. Program has existed since 1996, but Program Director Ron Foster didn't begin planning the school's upgrade to a master's program until 2 years ago after receiving a vote of approval from both the trustees and faculty.

According to Foster, drastic enhancements to the curriculum were not necessary to receive accreditation from CAAHEP (Commission on the Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs) because the students were already graduating with more than enough credits to receive a master's degree.

In fact, only three additional courses will be required of students in order to meet CAAHEP standards.

Other changes include a doubling in future class size to approximately 25 students. The program expects an increase in applicants because of the professional opportunities a master's degree offers in today's competitive job market.

Also, incoming students with all their prerequisites completed will no longer need to attain 27 credit hours at Methodist College before gaining admission into the program.



Future PA's look forward to Master's program.

Photo by Jami Sheppard

The upgrade to a master's program has been a fast spreading trend in P.A. schools across the country.

Three years ago there were 12 schools offering master's degrees and today there are at least 50. Another 40 programs are anticipated to begin shortly.

Program Assistant Director Tom Colletti says this reflects a trend nationwide to produce better-educated medical professionals. Already both nurse practitioners and physical therapists are obtaining their master's in order to practice.

In essence, Colletti says, "We're anticipating a future change in the profession."

In fact, there are several changes to anticipate. For one, this year the AAPA (American Academy of Physician Assistants) is expected to recommend a law requiring a master's degree of all new physician assistants wishing to practice.

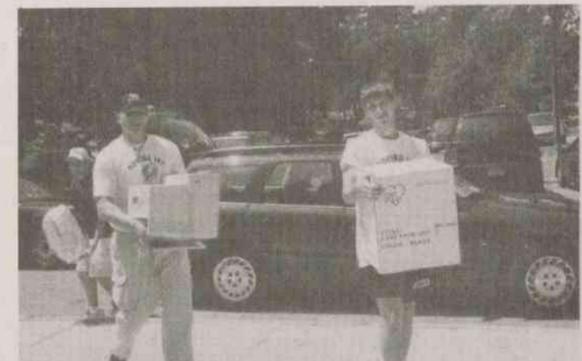
It is also felt that insurance companies in the future will better reimburse P.A.'s with a graduate degree. The many benefits of this advanced degree surely provide a convincing argument in support of Methodist's decision to start a master's program.

With the overall increase in students who pursue a professional degree today, one wonders whether this first graduate program at Methodist will act as a pilot for others. We wish the P.A. Program's new educational endeavor great success.



Just one of the few steps to a great college room.

Photo by Jami Sheppard



The Monarch Movers were more than glad to help out.

Photo by Jami Sheppard

Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard: Register To Vote

By Kim Dowd
Vice President of Student Life

As you are hopefully aware, this is a big election year. Not only will we have an opportunity to elect new local and state representatives, but also a new President. You have already heard a great deal about the Presidential campaign, but have you thought about for whom you will vote?

Before you go out and vote, there are a few things you should do.

First, you can't vote unless you're a registered voter. If you are not yet registered, there are a number of ways to do so.

You can register electronically by going to the following web site: www.naicu.edu, then clicking on the "Register to Vote" icon and following the instructions.

You can also register by paper application. North Carolina forms are available in the Student Life Office. If you wish to register in another state, there is also information available in Student Life that will assist you in contacting the elections department in your home state.

If you will not be able to get to your polling site on election day, you will need to obtain an absentee ballot. This can be done through the web site listed above (www.naicu.edu) or by calling the elections department in your home state. A list of contact



numbers for state elections departments can be obtained in the Student Life Office.

The Student Government Association will be coordinating a mock election in October. It will be interesting to see who the majority of the Methodist College community supports for the next President of the United States of America. However, nothing compares to the real thing. Make sure you exercise your constitutional right to vote.

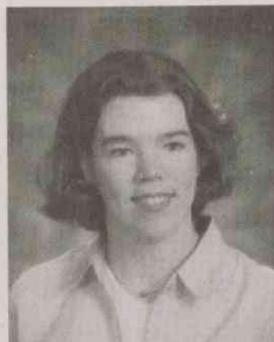
The election may not be until November, but it is not too soon to become a registered voter. Most election departments have a voter registration deadline that is around October 1, 50 act now! Get involved! Learn about the candidates. Be sure to vote!

From The SGA President's Pen...

By Jessica Kupper
SGA President

Hello fellow Monarchs! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of the returning students as well as welcome the new students to our campus. It is wonderful to see so many people at Methodist this year. I hope you all had a great summer and I also hope that everyone is as excited for the year ahead as I am. This school year is one of many new and exciting happenings on campus. With all of the great opportunities to get involved on campus, I encourage each and every one of you to take pride in your school and participate in some of the many activities that are offered.

Through getting involved in any activity on campus, you can make a difference. Whether it be bringing forth an issue to the Student Government Association, helping plan cam-



pus events, or doing community ser-

vice, everyone has the chance to make something happen here at Methodist. We, the students, are the people who can make changes on campus. It is one thing to talk about things that need to be done or changed, but is another thing to actually take action and start getting involved.

SGA has a lot planned for the school year, so keep a lookout. For example, we are planning to run a mock election a week or two before the presidential election. We are also working on organizing some community service projects. As usual, we are looking to input positive change

into the Methodist College community. Please remember that we cannot do any of the above without student support. I, as well as the other members of the Student Government Association look forward to living and working together with everyone that makes up the Monarch family.

Good luck this semester and remember to take pride in our school. If you have any questions about clubs and organizations please feel free to stop by the SGA office or give us a call at 630-7108.

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