

School of Law trial advocacy team wins championship

from staff reports

North Carolina Central University's School of Law trial advocacy team took first place in Region IV in one of the nation's oldest national trial competitions, the National Trial Competition.

The National Trial Competition was held Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Students were judged on their ability to present a trial. NCCU defeated law school students from law schools around the country, including Duke University, Wake Forest University and the University of Mississippi.

The team will travel to San Antonio, Texas on March 5-7 to compete in the national finals. That same weekend, two teams from NCCU's School of Law will represent the university at the Association of Trial Lawyers of America student trial competition in Orlando, Fla.

Last December, the trial advocacy team earned second place in the two-day Southeastern Regional Mock Trial Tournament, which was held in January and sponsored by the N.C. Bar Association.

NCCU defeated teams from the University of Alabama, John Marshall Law School of Georgia and Florida State University, but fell to Georgia State University during the championship round.

In October, the trial advocacy team defeated 14 schools from around the nation and earned second place in the Tournament of Champions Trial Competition held in Orlando, Florida.

The trial advocacy team is coached by Grady Jessup and Thomas Ringer, professors at the School of Law.

SGA, department of residential life working hand-in-hand to improve dorm life

by Tomeka D. Ruffin
Features Editor

On-campus residents may be wondering why their phone features were increased at the start of the semester, even though they did not request the services.

Anthony Wade, chairperson of the committee and a senior, Biology major, said the committee has been working hard to improve North Carolina Central University's dormitories since the beginning of the school year.

"This is my first time living on-campus," said Wade. "There was a gap between the students and the staff [in Residential Life] and we had to fill that gap in order to get things accomplished."

Filling the gap has led to many changes in the dorms on-campus. Phone services have increased, and now students can use features such as three-way calling and call waiting.

Student Government Association's Residential Life Committee is also in the process of increasing the number of cable television channels available to students who live on campus.

Last year, Michael Robinson, president of the Alfonso Elder Student Union Program Board, conducted a survey to find out which channels that they would like to have on campus.

"From the results of the survey," said Wade, "We are in the process of trying to add such stations as TBS, ESPN, MTV, USA and Comedy Central."

Wade also said the Residential Life Committee is attempting to set up a separate channel through NCCUNet (the university's cable television station) that will air about 20 different movies each month.

'I want the students who are currently living in rooms that they like to be able to have first choice for that same room the next year. In the next two weeks we will be announcing a free-housing scholarship...It will be based on the student's academic standing as well as community service.'

Paul Goldblatt
director of residential life

These new cable services will cost the university approximately \$20,000. But before any of the channels can be added they must be approved by the Student Services Planning Committee and the University Planning Committee.

Wade said the committees are scheduled to meet within the next few weeks.

Paul Goldblatt, director of residential life, said the department is doing everything it can in order to improve the quality of life on campus, including making sure student work orders requesting dorm repairs are processed quickly.

"We are currently working on a new work order system to track work orders to make sure that we are aware of what has and has not been done," said Goldblatt.

Goldblatt also said his department will be replacing the windows in the hallways and bathrooms of Chidley Main.

Chidley Hall will also receive a new roof to replace the present one, which was damaged by Hurricane Fran last fall.

Goldblatt said these repairs are scheduled to begin March 16.

Goldblatt said the department of residential

life is also ordering 32-inch-screen televisions for the lounges in the residence halls.

"I don't think that a 19-inch television, located in Latham Hall, is sufficient for the lounge," said Goldblatt.

Annie Day Shepard dormitory will also undergo changes in the lounge located in the basement of the building. Goldblatt said that room will soon be turned into a

recreation room.

"We will place pool tables, air hockey and other games in the room," he said.

Goldblatt said that these changes will cost NCCU students about \$62 per person each academic year. He is hoping that the money will help cover debt incurred from the construction of the new residence hall (which will replace Chidley Hall), as well as generate a surplus for future campus repairs.

Goldblatt also wants the university to set up a store on campus where students can go for supplies instead of having to go to places like home depot.

"We are committed to focusing on quality of life issues," said Goldblatt.

Goldblatt has planned an open forum on Feb. 23 to discuss housing for the dorm currently under construction, which is scheduled to open for the fall semester. He said that he wants the housing selection process to run smoothly.

"I want the students who are currently living in rooms that they like to be able to have first choice for that same room the next year," said Goldblatt.

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