



# Dorm breezeways 'structurally unsound,' says architect

*They will be demolished over Spring Break and finished by fall.*

**□ Breezeways need updating -- duct tape on columns was hiding rust.**

REBECCA BARRINGER  
Staff Writer

Facilities Services administered the closing of the breezeways between campus dorms last Thursday on the advice of the College's architects who said the structures were rusting and structurally unsound. The breezeways, which have not had a major renovation since the 1960s, are scheduled to be torn down over Spring Break.

"The prudent thing to do is to close them. Our long term goal is to replace them," said Tom Sherry, director of Facilities Services.

The breezeways between

Stringfield and Vann dorms and Brewer and Faircloth dorms will be closed for the remaining portion of the week until students leave for the week-long break. Bill Wade, vice president of Business and Finance, said that immediately demolishing the breezeways was not expected.

While the administration has been considering renovations for the breezeways for the last few years, Wade said that after Monday's inspection, the architects "said it would be better in the long run to tear the breezeways down and start from scratch."

"Because we are starting over," said Wade, "it gives us the opportunity to make the breezeways more cosmetically appealing and more functional. We are in the process of deciding what will be possible."

Wade said that the

breezeways would not be completed until the beginning of fall semester, but the area that connects the breezeways and the sidewalks will be opened up after Spring Break to allow students access through the first floor.

Padlocks will remain on the doors of all additional floors to prevent students from trying to access the area of the construction breezeways.

"I am glad we will get this walkway back," said Junior Ashley Horn. "The breezeways provide me with a shortcut to most of my classes."

Sophomore Mary Rudd expressed a student concern about the padlocks being on the residence hall doors. "Having padlocks on the doors seems to be a fire hazard," she said.

Joe Brown, maintenance supervisor, said that the

padlocks were placed on the doors as a way to protect students from walking into the breezeways during construction. Bill Wade said that blocking these entranceways was not a fire hazard.

"These doors are not officially fire exits anyway," he said. "Students should use the stairwells, parlor doors and other exits."

Wade said that next week he will join the Office of Residence Life, the Dean of Students Office and Facilities Services to meet with the architects and begin preliminary planning on the breezeway reconstruction.

They will discuss whether there will be any possible cosmetic changes to the breezeways or whether they will be rebuilt the same way.

Sherry said that the current design of the breezeways is not up to current guidelines.

"The railings are too short and do not meet current codes for construction. The second and third floors of both breezeways do not meet ADH codes for handicap accessibility," Sherry said they should be widened and the steps should be removed.

"I was starting to suspect the breezeways needed renovation," said freshman Jessica Jones. "One of the columns between Stringfield and Vann is being held together by duct tape."

Brown said, "The columns were rusting out. The tape was meant to hide the rust." Sherry said the rust on the columns is due in part, to the salt that Facilities Services spreads on walkways during the winter to prevent ice from forming. "But over many years," he said, "it has caused the columns to rust."

# Research Conference deadline today

**□ Students will present research in April.**

LADONNA LOGUE  
Staff Writer

The College will hold the second annual Undergraduate Research Conference celebrating students' research during the past year on April 17. The conference originated from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Pro-

gram (UROP), a campus-wide program for students to present research and creativity in all areas of study.

Last year's conference, known as the Meredith Opportunities for Research Experiences (MORE) conference, featured research projects from 60 students. This year, prospects for participation are even higher.

Director Dr. Rhonda Zingraff is hoping for many exhibits, new information, and new developments in all

areas, not only from the expected science and mathematics programs but also from areas such as dance and theatre.

Carolyn Tucker, a student who is involved with the research program, is hoping that her work in religion will help her in graduate school.

"All the strong graduate schools want you to be published, presented or known," said Tucker who believes that working with UROP will get schools to look more seriously at her accom-

plishments.

UROP encourages faculty and students to interact, students to develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills and students to participate in hands-on research. All participants are expected to put in between five and 10 hours of research per week.

The conference will act as the culminating point of the research. Students will give oral presentations of individual research and present posters and performing/visu-

al arts presentations.

To become involved with this year's conference, students should complete submission forms located on bulletin boards campus-wide.

Submit forms to the Undergraduate Research Program Office in 100 Ledford by March 8. A faculty sponsor's signature is required with each form. Students can also access the rules and forms can also be found at [www.meredith.edu/urp](http://www.meredith.edu/urp).



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