

## Know your student government leaders

By Christian D. Roberson

The 2015-2016 academic year is off and running! An important part of how smoothly the year goes for students is the leadership of the Student Government Association.

Heading this dynamic team is SGA President Henry Capers, who promises that the board will work hard for students. "I believe that my SGA board will be the best SGA board to ever effect change at Saint Augustine's University," Capers said. "The SGA, along with Campus Activity Boards and the Queens Council has been working very diligently to be the voice for the students at Saint Augustine's University to make a change for the better."

In addition to Capers, other members of the SGA include: Porscha Walton, Chief of Staff; Howard Walker, in charge of Internal Affairs; Chris Acevedo, the executive secretary and Denard Haney, the Board of Trustees representative.

The board also has the following class representatives: Kendrick Cunningham, sophomore class president; Stephon Gumbs, interim junior class president; Jermaine Goods, interim junior class vice president; Colliet Bramwell, senior class president; and Dondre Banks, senior class vice president.

All of the positions for SGA are not yet filled. There will be elections for the following offices: SGA vice president,



Henry Capers

freshman class president, freshman class vice president, Miss Freshman, Mister Freshman, sophomore class vice president, Miss Sophomore, Mister Sophomore, junior class president, junior class vice president, Mister Junior, Mister Senior, and Mr. Saint Augustine's University.

Elections will be on held Sept 8 on the second floor of the MLK building. Any student in good academic and financial standing with the university can apply to run. For more information about running for these SGA offices contact Mr. Henry Capers (hecapers@st-aug.edu) or Ms. Ann Brown (abrown@st-aug.edu).

## SAU gets \$1.5 million grant for the TRIO program

Staff reports

Saint Augustine's University's Academic Achievers/TRIO Programs has been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for a five-year period from 2015 to 2020. The university will receive an \$310,810 annually.

SAU's proposal was one of 906 selected to receive funding out of 1,476 proposals submitted.

According to Antonio C. Stephens, director of the SAU Academic Achievers/Office of TRIO Programs, the

mission of the SAU Academic Achievers/TRIO Program provides academic services and a supportive environment in order to retain and graduate low-income, first generation and/or disabled college students.

The Academic Achievers/TRIO Programs has been at SAU since 1978. This federal grant will enable SAU to provide the motivation and advocacy necessary for low-income, first-generation, and disabled students to complete a program of study in the attainment

of a bachelor's degree. Eligible students will be provided mandatory and permissible services which include including academic one-to-one tutoring, individual needs assessment, academic advisement, financial literacy and economic literacy, financial aid counseling, career and/or graduate school counseling, peer mentoring, assistance with writing and technology, academic progress checks, academic enrichment workshops, cultural enrichment, and supplemental grant-aid.



### LIVING, from Page 1

Under the program, students are grouped by major on dorm floors, so that they not only take many classes together but live together in "Living/Learning Communities." Plans call for new computer labs in the dorms so that the students can have 24-hour access to learning resources.

Living/Learning communities have been established at Latham and Weston dormitories, which are mostly inhabited by freshmen. Eventually, the goal is to

expand the communities into Falkcrest and target upperclassmen as well, according to Dr. Paul Norman, Dean of Men and Director of First Year Experience.

In the Living/Learning Communities, students on the same floor spend roughly nine to 12 hours together in class, Dr. Norman said. The floors will have a "study hour" when a professor will come to the dorms to give personal help to students, he said.

It's not a new idea, Dr. Norman said. In fact,

almost 20 years ago the university -- then Saint Augustine's College -- tried a similar program.

"I am not sure why it ended but, based on research this tool is a great way to assist in our retention efforts," he said. "The thinking behind the Living/Learning Community is that it takes a community to educate a student. The plan is to begin with our freshman students and the goal is to see what type of impact we can have on our retention. The ultimate goal is to improve rela-



Dr. Paul Norman

tionships outside of the classroom between students and faculty, and to improve academic performance."

The benefits of Living Learning Communities Dr. Norman said, include involvement with stu-

dents who have similar academic goals, greater opportunity for peer mentoring and tutoring in the residence halls, and the creation of a more collaborative learning environment.

"It works like a 'buddy system' -- if one succeeds, then all succeed," he explained. "The school is not trying to pick your friends or control you, the 'buddy system' is simply a set-up for success."

The program is part of a larger effort to change the culture at Saint Augustine's University, Dr.

Norman said. Other efforts include the Sons and Daughters of Saint Augustine's University program, where freshmen males and females gather periodically in separate groups to discuss issues about life on campus.

Also, a policy begun last year has been extended -- attendance at chapel on Sunday is mandatory for freshmen.

"There are a lot of opportunities on campus," Dr. Norman said, "but you have to meet us halfway."

### LIBRARY, from Page 1

degrees of responsibility. She worked at the Richard B. Harrison Library in Wake County from 2008 to 2011 as a library assistant. From there, Nevels moved on to N. C. Central University in Durham. There, she worked in the Catalogue Department, getting new books in and placing them into a database. After that, she moved to Elizabeth City State University, where she was appointed Catalogue Manager.

Nevels left Elizabeth City State in mid 2012 to work at Alabama State University as a manager in three different areas of the library -- acquisitions, collections and assessments. In 2014, Nevels migrated back to North Carolina where she took a job in the main branch of Durham County Public Li-

braries as the Adult Services Manager.

She has high hopes for the library. For instance, she wants to apply for grants for improvements such as 3D printing, green screening, new projectors and smartboards. "This would make the library more of a global learning environment," she said.

Nevels has not made any changes yet, though. "The library is the central hub for information on campus," she said. I want to work with faculty and staff on building a bridge from the classroom to the library. It's a collaborative thing."

One thing she is sure about: Nevels loves her job: "As an employee I feel the same way now as I did back then. I want to interact and connect with the students here at St. Augustine's."

### CHIEF, from Page 1

in that position."

Interim Chief Headen said he is excited to be in his new position. "I am very grateful that Dr. Ward and his staff chose me to do the job," he said.

Interim Chief Headen has 26 years of law enforcement under his belt. He worked for the New York City Department of Correction from 1989-2010. His assignments included stints at the city's main jail complex, Rikers Island, as well as at other detention centers and courts in Manhattan.

After retiring in 2010, he attended Vance-Granville Community College. After earning a degree in basic law enforcement training in 2012, he began working at Saint Augustine's Univer-

sity as a security guard.

Born and raised in Bronx, New York, Interim Chief Headen said he wants students to see that no matter where you come from you can make something of yourself just as he did. He believes in a firm, but fair, discipline.

The chief urges students to use the campus police. "If a student feels unsafe or uneasy, or simply doesn't feel comfortable walking in the dark spots on campus, do not feel hesitant to call or ask a nearby officer to escort you on campus," he said. "I want everyone to know that I have an open door policy and I am here for the university."

Interim Chief Headen said anyone on campus can contact him at wheaden@st-aug.edu

### NRSA, from Page 1

side of Oakwood Avenue -- Washington Terrace, between Saint Augustine's University and Raleigh Boulevard, and College Park, generally south of the university. The two neighborhoods have high needs, city data shows.

In College Park, more than 47 percent of families live below the poverty

line. In Washington Terrace, 98 percent of residents have incomes less than 80 percent of the region's median income.

The area does have advantages -- chiefly Saint Augustine's University, which provides stability to the neighborhoods, a city report states.

The plan calls for a number of improvements

over an eight-year period:

- \* New sidewalks on Oakwood Avenue from Heck to Raleigh Blvd.
- \* 320 new rental units.
- \* 195 new homeownership units.
- \* 30 home rehab loans to assist seniors and low-income residents.
- \* Creation of at least 500 construction jobs.
- \* Construction of a

child-care facility on the Washington Terrace site.

Other improvements may include computer training, health and wellness classes, Bible study and exercise classes for senior citizens, as well as classes for money investments, parenting education, mentoring and job prep programs for youth.

So far, residents are

cautious about the plan.

Esther Delany, a longtime resident of Washington Terrace, admits "the neighborhood needs repair," but she said the city should move slowly and be careful to get input from residents.

"Citizens should have a voice," Delany added. "They should be asked what programs they need

to better the neighborhood rather than just assumptions on what they need."

Marji Smith said the plan "sounds good on paper" but added it might hurt residents: "The plan will move a lot of people out of the area. When it is finished, current residents will not be able to afford it."