

Air Of Excitement Fills Campus Life

This is the 123rd year that Saint Augustine's College has served its student body and the surrounding community. There is an air of excitement this year that has not been felt before at the Raleigh college.

Dr. Prezell R. Robinson, president, says this is probably one of the most important periods in the life of the historically Black college's history.

Change and improvement can be readily observed as you move about the 120-acre northeast Raleigh campus. Renovation and construction is all over the place, said Dr. Robert E. Shepherd, vice president for development, and academic improvements complement the structural improvements, and the structural complement the academic.

The Reserve Officer's Training Corps (ROTC) facility was completely renovated. The Penick Hall of Science and Mathematics and the final addition of the college's Fine Arts Center are close to completion.

The new wing of the Fine Arts Center will house the academic communications program and the college's low-powered television station, which has been broadcasting for almost a year.

Penick Hall of Science's full renovation will include furnishing the structure with state-of-the-art equipment, making it second to none among colleges of the size of Saint Augustine's, according to Robinson.

Renovation is scheduled to begin shortly on the Cheshire Building. Once completed the

structure will house the academic business department and the computer science program.

Saint Augustine's has the largest enrollment in its history. "We received close to 2,700 applications to fill 800 slots. We started the year with 1,862 students, and more than 800 are new or transfer students, and we have some of the best SAT scores we've had in a long time," Robinson said.

Saint Augustine's is on the verge of launching a \$17 million "Renaissance Campaign Fund" that will provide additional endowment for student scholarships; endowed distinguished professorships; the construction of a new Student Activities/Wellness Center that will serve the college family and the surrounding community; and provide the funds for completion of renovation and building projects.

As the next century quickly approaches, Saint Augustine's Board of Trustees and administration is acutely aware of the importance of continued planning if the college is to continue to meet the needs of its students and the free enterprise system in which we live. The legacy which is inherited must continue if Saint Augustine's is to continue on the cutting edge of a quickly changing society.

"We must make sure our students are properly equipped to compete in our world of the future and what we do now will play a major role in meeting these needs of the future," Robinson added.

\$180 Million Set For N.C. Schools

Approximately \$180 million has gone into a fund set up by the General Assembly to shore up North Carolina's aging public school facilities.

As of Nov. 1, 171 different schools in 43 counties have begun or are about to begin school renovation or replacement projects totaling just under \$77 million.

One hundred five schools all around the state have already made plans to add classrooms, expand cafeterias, renovate libraries or re-do multi-purpose rooms from one end of North Carolina to the other.

Another 18 will add air conditioning, 33 will remove asbestos, three will replace boilers and 40 will replace old or leaky roofs. Six more will retire building bonds or purchase land for new schools. Twelve schools have new construction planned, and that also

qualifies for monies from the Public School Building Capital Fund.

The General Assembly created the school building fund in 1967 to provide a source of money for counties to expand, renovate or replace outdated school buildings. Funds are distributed to the 100 counties on a per-pupil basis.

Approximately \$164 million of the money already in the fund has been generated by a one-percent increase in the corporate income tax. In addition, each county earns interest on the money credited to its account. Approximately \$15 million has already accumulated in the 100 counties' accounts.

Over the first 10 years of the program, the money in all 100 counties' accounts is projected to grow to more than \$850 million.



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