



RICHMOND matters

A Newsletter for the University of Richmond Community
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Executive committee approves planning for construction projects

IN BRIEF

- Top priorities are recreation center, library renovations and wireless network
- Projects are scheduled to be completed by December 2006

The Board of Trustees' executive committee has voted to move forward with the planning and design phases for construction of a new \$12 million recreation and wellness center and a \$3.4 million renovation of the lower levels of Boatwright Memorial Library. They also voted in favor of extending the wireless computer network throughout the campus.

President Bill Cooper had announced Nov. 30 at a "Hanging with Dr. Cooper" event that he would recommend the construction projects to the Board of Trustees. Students had identified the recreation center as their top priority on a recent student-designed survey.

In addition to these projects, the University is moving ahead on an \$8.9 million renovation and expansion of Heilman Dining Center that will add more space for dining, a new combination display cooking and serving area, and space for a new campus post office.

The two new construction projects will be reviewed by the board's business management committee in January. Proposals are then expected to go before the full board for final approval in March.

The proposed recreation and wellness center includes a major new facility to be built alongside the Robins Center, adding 26,400 sq. ft. of new space and renovating 32,500 sq. ft. of existing space within the Robins Center. New space will include a three-bay auxiliary gym with an elevated running track. University officials are currently seeking a major donor to help fund this project.

Cooper also said at the "Hanging with Dr. Cooper" event that he was pleased to see a Program Improvement request to upgrade a half-time counselor position in the Counseling and Psychological Services Office to full time. The need for additional counseling staff had been raised at a previous "Hanging with Dr. Cooper" session.

The president gave students a summary of the University's capital needs that total \$164.1 million, including \$40 million for revisions to residence halls and \$11 million for

a business school addition. Of the total, \$81 million is expected to be available to the University from 2005–15, with \$83 million left in unmet needs.

Ongoing annual needs during the same period total \$20.4 million, including \$5.4 million for merit scholarships, \$4 million for new faculty lines and \$2 million for faculty development, he said. Available annual resources total \$11 million.

When fully phased in, the new tuition increase will generate annual proceeds, net of financial aid, of \$11.8 million, he said.

In the November survey, students said the University should use the new revenue from the tuition increase to improve quality of life issues on campus, such as a recreation center, improved campus housing and more funding for student organizations.

In response to other student questions, President Cooper said:

- The University definitely has plans to increase the number of faculty.
- It may be difficult to bring back lost residence hall lounges in the short term, since that space is now needed for student rooms.
- CIGNA and other minority scholarships are "safe and sound and growing."
- The coordinate system "will continue to flourish."
- The University will examine separating Family Weekend and Homecoming.
- He is prepared to discuss with the board of trustees the possibility of putting a student on the board as a voting member.
- The vice president for student development is working with the Greeks and their national organizations regarding the liability issues surrounding having kegs in the fraternity houses.
- The University is making progress in providing more financial aid to international students.

A spring session of "Hanging with Dr. Cooper" has been scheduled for Feb. 2.

Build It 2005 plans emphasize impacting a local community

IN BRIEF

- Community service week in April to replace former Community Service Day
 - Volunteers will blitz-build a Habitat for Humanity house and enhance three public schools
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Making an impact has had a big impact on the University of Richmond.

For the past three years, the University has sponsored Community Service Day, in which students, faculty and staff worked together one day a year to renovate local public schools.

Two years ago, students sponsored “Merriewood Miracle,” in which they raised more than \$50,000 and blitz-built a Habitat for Humanity house in one week.

The University’s latest project, Build It 2005, will combine and expand those efforts, adding alumni, high school students and community partners to undertake the largest community service project in the institution’s 175-year history.

“Our expanded vision for 2005 is to make a lasting impact on a community, build a Habitat for Humanity house in one week, enhance three public schools, and initiate and incorporate academic studies outside of class,” said Jill Fasching, co-chair of Build It 2005.

Most work will be done April 4–10, but tutoring, book drives for school libraries, college advising and analyzing research data collected by the schools will continue throughout the spring semester, she said.

Students have been raising money toward the Habitat house for two years. Their \$100,000 goal would give them enough to build the house and have seed money remaining for a future project. A partnership with Ryan Homes led to a \$10,000 donation to the project from the Richmond-area homebuilder. An annual 5K run also raises thousands of dollars for the project.

Richmond Habitat for Humanity and Henrico County Public Schools will partner with the University. The Edgelawn neighborhood of eastern Henrico County is the site of the blitz-build project, and three schools in the same area—Baker Elementary, John Rolfe Middle and Varina High School—will receive renovation, landscaping and other services.

Projects at Baker Elementary will include creating an interactive and educational nature trail, tutoring second and third graders and painting a world map on the playground pavement and school spirit murals in the cafeteria and gym.

At the middle school, University students will tutor and mentor students, revamp the front office display, repaint hallways and lockers, landscape the grounds, increase the number of library books through donations, and analyze research data collected by the administration.

High school projects include creating an outdoor classroom and seating, planting educational gardens, tutoring, preparing students for college, collecting books for the library, improving the football stadium and creating school signage in different languages.

All three schools will participate in a kick-off essay contest (younger students may draw pictures) and students will visit the Richmond campus for athletic events and campus tours.

Edgelawn is a Habitat for Humanity community, explained Brandon Boxler, co-chair of Build It 2005. Volunteers will ride buses to the site from campus and work four shifts a day, with a total of 1,400 “people shifts” available during the week, he said. Another 1,500–2,000 volunteers will be needed for work at the schools.

Students and parents from the three schools may help build the Habitat house, and Richmond staff members may take time off from work with pay to volunteer for a shift.

An integral part of Build It 2005 is the academic component, Fasching said. The committee is encouraging faculty to develop writing assignments, research, lectures, and roundtable and brown-bag discussions around the initiative. Law and continuing studies students also are being encouraged to participate.

To help sustain community service week, students from all classes have assumed leadership roles.

A future Web site will offer online registration.

Jessie Ball duPont Fund awards University \$219,975

IN BRIEF

- Campus Community Partnership will use funds to develop ConnectNorthernNeck
- Project will replicate ConnectRichmond information network

Nonprofit organizations in the Northern Neck of Virginia will soon have an information-sharing network similar to one developed at the University for Richmond-area charities.

A \$219,975 grant from the Jessie Ball duPont Fund will underwrite the new program as well as build a central system at the University that can be replicated in other communities.

"The value to participating nonprofit organizations is considerable," said President Bill Cooper. "For example, ConnectRichmond provides links to the U.S. Census and other demographic data that Richmond organizations are now required to provide in applications to a growing number of donors."

The idea for ConnectNorthernNeck emerged during an information-sharing meeting of representatives of Northern Neck nonprofit organizations to discuss how they could work together to tackle a variety of issues. It was clear that many of their needs could be filled by an information resource network like ConnectRichmond, founded at the University's Jepson School of Leadership Studies as part of the Campus Community Partnership," said Betsy Curtler, assistant vice president of foundation, corporate and government relations.

In 1993 the Jepson School established the partnership, a consortium of four area colleges and universities, to employ campus resources to address community challenges in metro Richmond and to offer students relevant, community-based learning experiences. In 2000 Campus Community Partnership

brought together Richmond-area nonprofits through ConnectRichmond, a Web site providing the nonprofit community with centralized access to information to improve its capacity to fulfill its many missions.

"The Northern Neck site development will be accompanied by development of a three-year plan for the Campus Community Partnership to slowly migrate away from dependence on donations to operate largely on revenues generated through replication and annual maintenance fees," said Nancy Stutts, director of Campus Community Partnership and founder of ConnectRichmond.

Stutts explained that the Campus Community Partnership plans to develop a "ConnectSystem," a global network of affiliated community information brokers that will link people involved in service organizations to information and each other for three primary purposes: enhancing communication; integrating services, programs and policies; and organizing communities to advocate on their own behalf.

Each affiliate will host a local information network, while the ConnectSystem application will be centrally housed on its own server and feed local sites state and national data provided by ConnectRichmond.

"We have had interest from communities in the U.S., England and Australia," said Stutts. "Once the Northern Neck pilot is launched and evaluated, we will be positioned to replicate the system elsewhere."

Spiders graduation rates among highest in nation

For the third consecutive year, Richmond student-athletes are ranked in the Top 20 nationally for graduation rates, according to the NCAA Official 2004 Division I Graduation Rates Report.

The Spiders finished tied for sixth with an 88 percent graduation rate, according to the report, which tracks the 1997-98 freshman class. The average graduation rate for that class of student-athletes was 62 percent.

In addition, Richmond's four-class average tied for 10th nationally at 84 percent. The four-class average for all Division I institutions was 60 percent—a figure matched or exceeded by every Atlantic 10 school.

Moreover, each Atlantic 10 institution ranks at or

above the national average for graduation rates, and all 12 schools graduate student-athletes at a percentage equal to or higher than the general student body for both the 1997-98 class and the four-class.

"The institutions of the Atlantic 10 have a history of providing environments for student-athletes to excel both on the field and in the classroom," says Atlantic 10 Commissioner Linda Bruno. "These figures again prove that the term 'student-athlete' is not lost among our institutions."

In 2002, Richmond's student-athlete graduation rate was 89 percent, ninth nationally, while in 2003 it was 84 percent, rated 12th in the nation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meetings and Deadlines

Jan. 24, Feb. 21, March 21, April 25 (if needed)

Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Participants (IRB)

12:45 p.m., Dean's Conference Room

Boatwright Administrative Wing, Room 4

Please remember that research involving human subjects may not begin before approval is received. Though some applications can be processed quickly through expedited review, others must be considered by the entire committee at the next scheduled meeting. To avoid delay, please submit your application to the IRB well in advance—at least two to three weeks—of the planned starting date for your research. Applications are available online at oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/grad_a&s/forms/index.html.

Jan. 20, Feb. 17, March 17, April 21 (if needed)

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)

1 p.m., Dean's Conference Room

Boatwright Administrative Wing, Room 4

All faculty contemplating research on animals are reminded that the federal government requires that such research be cleared by the University IACUC. Applications for proposals are available at oncampus.richmond.edu/academics/grad_a&s/forms/index.html.

Proposals should be submitted well in advance—at least two to three weeks—to be considered at a scheduled meeting of the IACUC. Federal regulations also require that the University provide training and education for all individuals working with laboratory animals. To comply with those regulations, the IACUC is requiring that all individuals—faculty, staff, lab assistants, and undergraduate and graduate students—working with laboratory animals view the film *Animal Care Matters* before beginning work. Copies of the film are available in the biology and psychology departments, the Media Resource Center and the Graduate School Office.

Around Campus

Large format scanner

Information Services has recently purchased a large-format, sheet-fed scanner for use by the University community. Items may be up to 42" (92 cm) wide, with no limit on their length. Fragile items can be placed inside plastic sleeves, protecting them from damage. The scanner is located in the Technology Learning Center on the third floor of Boatwright Library and is available by appointment only. Please contact Melissa Foster (mfoster2@richmond.edu; ext. 8777) for more information.

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Jan 10 is the deadline for submitting news and announcements for the Jan. 19 issue. Send information to rmatters@richmond.edu.



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