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Wellness ideals: Group of freshmen to form 'Living/Learning Community'

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Wellness ideals: Group of freshmen to form 'Living/Learning Community'

This fall, 26 Furman freshmen will live in a specially designed campus community that promotes emotional and physical health as well as academic success.

During the summer, freshmen applied for a spot in a "Living/Learning Community" in either Poteat or Haynsworth residence halls. Those accepted into the pilot program will automatically be enrolled in Health and Exercise Science 10, the required HES course, for fall term. The class will meet at 1 p.m. Monday through Thursday for the traditional curriculum, as well as Sunday from 7 to 10 p.m. for specialized lectures.

The 10 Sunday sessions will focus on social, spiritual, physical, intellectual and emotional issues. As part of the program, students will be required to read books and watch films that emphasize self-discovery and personal relationships. The book list includes such selections as *Tuesdays with Morrie* and *How Reading Changed My Life*, while likely film selections are "Dead Poets Society" and "October Sky."

Living/Learning Community members will also plan a campus event on a wellness-related topic, cook a meal for classmates using specific nutritional guidelines, and participate in other group activities throughout the school year.

Beau Seagraves '02, South Housing area coordinator, and Si Pearman '87, assistant academic dean, are coordinating the program. Seagraves approached Pearman last fall with the idea.

"Our goal is to provide a solid academic program that embodies the university's engaged learning philosophy while promoting strong community," says Seagraves. Pearman, who will teach the HES class, says his objective is to engage students "in a way that's not possible in a normal, 50-minute, day-to-day class."

Over the last decade, these types of communities at other universities have shown that the students involved are more successful academically, more connected to the university and more committed to their living environment. By exposing students to wellness ideals early in their college careers, Furman hopes they will incorporate what they learn into their everyday lives, both throughout their years at Furman and beyond.

— Katie Dickens '06



The Charlie Peace Wing will add 48,000 square feet to the library.

Construction update

Library project moves forward; Furman Hall renovations begin

Despite a spring and early summer filled with rain, rain and more rain, construction is proceeding apace on the Charlie Peace Wing of the James B. Duke Library.

Although weather problems caused a slight delay in the original August 15 completion date, the new wing, located on the rose garden side of the building, has risen steadily over the last few months and, at press time, was scheduled to be completed by September 2. Once the new wing is finished, the library faculty and staff will move there so that renovations on the original building can begin. If all goes according to plan, the new-look library should be open for business by the start of the 2004-05 academic year.

The renovations and addition to the library will double its capacity from more than 400,000 to more than 800,000 volumes. The amount of research and study space available to students and faculty will grow from 300 seats to more than 900 seats in a variety of settings, including 25 group study rooms. The expanded library will also feature a Multimedia Computing Commons, which will be the largest computing facility on campus, as well as a 40-seat study lounge that will be open 24 hours a day for student use.

The cost of the full library renovation, including maintenance endowment, is approximately \$25 million. For construction updates, photos and floor plans for the newly configured facility, visit the project's Web site at <http://library.furman.edu/icu>.

While construction continued on the Charlie Peace Wing, the university also began restoring and renovating James C. Furman

Hall, the oldest academic building on campus.

The classroom building, which was first used in 1955, is being revamped in two phases over a two-year period. The project will bring the building's offices and classrooms in line with the newer academic facilities on campus.

Work during the first phase is focusing on the south section of the building (toward Plyler Hall) and the east half of the center section (facing the front gates). To accommodate classes during the renovation phase, seven portable buildings have been placed behind Plyler Hall to serve as temporary classrooms.

The lower level of the Joseph Baylis Earle Infirmary, which housed the admissions and financial aid offices before their move to the Hartness Welcome Center in 2001, is providing temporary faculty office space during the construction process. Members of the religion and modern languages and literatures departments have moved into the basement area, while the classics department and members of the history and English departments have moved to John E. Johns Hall or Lay Physical Activities Center.

The first phase of the Furman Hall project is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2004-05 academic year. At that time work will begin on the north and west sections of the building, which will result in the relocation of faculty in the departments of English, history, modern languages and literatures, philosophy and communication studies. The anticipated completion date of the project, which has an estimated cost of \$9.2 million, is the end of August 2005.