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## These Storied Walls Were Once Brand New

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## *from the VAULT*

These storied walls were once brand new.



### **SOUTH HOUSING COMPLEX**

The South Housing Complex originally consisted of four residence halls built between 1955 and 1958 — Manly, Geer, Poteat and McGlothlin. A fifth residence, Blackwell, was added in 1967. The buildings were named in the spring of 1958.

The first, Manly, welcomed 102 first-year men and six upperclassmen when the 1955-1956 school year began, dividing Furman, for a time, into three campuses: the downtown campus, the former Greenville Woman's College and the new campus, which became the present-day university. In 1958, the entire men's campus and the senior women moved to Furman's current campus.



### **MANLY HALL**

Manly Hall stands alone as the first building completed in the South Housing Complex around 1955.



### **LAKESIDE HOUSING COMPLEX**

The approach to the newly constructed Lakeside Housing Complex in 1961. When it opened in the fall of 1961, all classes from the former Greenville Woman's College were for the first time located on the new campus, and the men's and women's dormitories were fully separate on opposite ends of the campus.



### LAKESIDE HOUSING COMPLEX

The front entrance to the Lakeside Housing Complex, 1960s.



### GAMBRELL HALL

Rear façade and entrance to the newly completed addition to the Lakeside Housing Complex in 1968.



### GAMBRELL IN THE SNOW

Gambrell Hall, shrouded in snow, soon after its completion. In 1971, it was named after Mary Latimer Gambrell, who graduated from the Greenville Woman's College in 1917.

*Captions provided by Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist Jeffrey Makala.*

## NEXT



RON THOMPSON

**Over the past two years, our team has implemented The Housing Director, a software program that has enhanced our communication with students and reinvented the housing lottery process into one that is community-focused.**

Students now see everyone who has already chosen a room, which means they choose more than just a room to live in — they choose to be part of a community. With that project complete, we are now setting our sights on the residential experience.

Students' residential experience facilitates their growth through developmental stages along a four-year pathway. Anchored by belongingness efforts for all students, we provide developmentally appropriate challenges tightly coupled with an integrative support network during their transition to campus, academic and social integration, and community engagement.

A key piece of that is the job satisfaction of resident assistants, who guide and live alongside their fellow students. In recent years, serving as an RA has become more rewarding. We know this because they're coming back after their first year more often than they used to. RA programming, too, is enhanced through frequent collaboration with other offices and departments, including faculty, through Cultural Life Program offerings.

As students progress through their residential experience, they live in larger communities, in larger living spaces with more roommates and amenities and with less staff, while they learn to manage more autonomy. During their junior and senior years, while living in apartment-style housing in North Village, we partner with groups such as the Malone Center for Career Engagement and the Internship Office to ensure students are capitalizing on the available career readiness opportunities.

I am most proud of how these initiatives have enriched the student experience. For years, we spent much of our time reacting to student complaints and service delivery issues. For the past couple of years, however, we have flipped the script and now spend most of our time planning enhancements to the student experience and developing communication plans to better inform and prepare students.

More progress is coming. In early April, we began the master planning process to envision the future of the housing facilities and students' residential experience, facilitated jointly by teams from the architectural firms Hanbury, and Brailsford & Dunlavey.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Ron Thompson** is the director of Housing & Residence Life. ♦