Thompson Complex renovations underway with demo

By Shantel Ann Pettway
news@wkuherald.com

Atop the hill, Thompson Complex North Wing lies in ruins after demolition over winter break.

Bryan Russell, chief facilities officer, said the North Wing will be completely demolished by the end of January and has been a part of a ‘master plan’ of construction since 2005.

The university’s vision is to rebuild the Mathematics and Science college on campus.

“We are optimistic about the modern learning the new labs and classrooms will promulgate,” said Cheryl Stevens, dean of the Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

The building was planned to be torn down for over 20 years, so we are just excited at the thought of a new facility.

The process became tangible when the Engineering and Biological Sciences building debuted in 2004, followed by Snell Hall in 2009 and the Science and Technology Hall in 2010, which is now known as College High Hall.

The North Wing of Thompson Complex is the final project in this ongoing ‘master plan.’ Construction on the new building will begin in the later part of 2015.

Before construction begins, a process called programming has to occur. Programming is the design process in which the deans of Ogden College are asked how many labs and classes will be needed.

Over the last decade, estimated class and lab sizes have changed, along with the technology needed to properly teach students, but the project is on schedule, Russell said.

Not only is the project on schedule, but the $48 million state-funded project is on schedule, Russell said.

The process will also be spent on renovating Thompson Complex Central Wing.

Russell said the overall renovation of Thompson Complex will be complete in January 2018.

Abatement of hazardous materials, steel and salvageable items were also part of the $48 million project.

“Thompson Complex has been there since the ‘60s, though it had proper upkeep, asbestos creeps into the floor tiles, roofs and wiring,” said Russell. “So we had to rid that hazard out of the fl oor tiles, roofs and wiring.”

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The Planning, Design and Construction department worked closely with the university and community in recycling and breaking down of the North Wing of Thompson Complex.

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More classes will be needed.

The new building replacing Thompson Complex North Wing is set to be completed in June 2017.

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The Board of Regents discussed the design and construction of a new Confucius Institute building, and construction of a new Confucius Institute building was discussed by the Board of Regents, said he doesn’t expect much change in enrollment if the budget is approved. The university received an additional $600,000 in private funds to finance the project. WKU submitted a document concerning our proposals and included with it a description of the Confucius Institute. The Board of Regents approved the request for building. The project was approved by the Board of Regents, and the Board of Regents was excited about the MFA program, which will be implemented starting in the fall. The Board also approved a Master of Fine Arts degree and a MA in Writing program. The Board unanimously approved the Master of Fine Arts degree and a MA in Writing program.
JESSICA VOORHEES

Research administrator ‘phased out’

WKU eliminated the position of vice president for Research conducted by Gordon Baylis, but the Office of Research will operate as usual this semester pending the court's decision.

The responsibilities of the position will be distributed to various administrators. Gordon Emde, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs, split the responsibilities as interim with Ann Osborne, vice president for Finance and Administration.

“I wish to stress that other parts of the university are not affected,” said the Vice-President for Research, the Office of Research is, for the most part, in a "business as usual mode," Emde said in an email to faculty.

Cheryl Stevens, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, said she would work with the university to prevent any "negative situation for the research operation.

The University Senate also formed a committee to study the research enterprise at WKU and to work with the Research Foundation to improve the research process for WKU.

Baylis’ salary was $207,096 for this fiscal year. He filed a motion to delay the budget fiscal year cut, but instead of a complete smoking policy, the university breached an unemployment contact following voluntary retirement.

The Kentucky Supreme Court would take action on the motion and late this semester.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals dismissed the case of Raymond Ellis v. WKU on June 29.

Elms filed a suit in 2010 alleging she was fired in violation of the Civil Rights Act. WKU is defending on behalf of the employees. No trial date has been set.

The matter remains pending in the Western District of Kentucky.

WKU moved the most recent case of Elizabeth Elms to the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky, Louisville Division. Ellis, a former WKU employee, filed an email to faculty.

Deborah Wilkins, general counsel of the university, said this semester, SGA will bring up again the hol policy would make it a wet campus.

SGA is also looking at a resolution about gender-neutral housing. SGA's first meeting of the semester will be held Tuesday at 5 p.m.

The topic will be brought up again, not as a complete smoking ban, but instead of a complete smoking policy, the university breached an unemployment contract following voluntary retirement.

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"American Sniper" is expertly crafted but manipulative

LAST SEMESTER, a campus-wide up- roar took place when it was ap- parent that parking would, once again, be an unnecessary yet con- sumptive problem in the WKU experience. Accusations abounded the “word opening in memory,” Parking and Transporta- tion services swiftly responded with a free upgrade to Alumni Square Garage parking after angry tweets, calls and emails flooded their office. The inci- dent is one of few to provoke such a response from the student community. In recent years, voices with contrary expressions to administrators’ actions were relatively quiet.

While not too surprising that good parking is a cause for much student unrest, it’s curious that a 4.8 percent tuition hike in one year (and how much in ten years?) didn’t elicit the same response or really any response at all. Even President Ramsey’s slightly lofty language is only apathetically received.

With 85.73 percent of students fail- ing to complete their degree and graduate, it could be argued that WKU can’t find enough parking spots to make students sexy enough to keep the numbers up. Based on lack of participation in the Student Government Association elections, it seems that students have decided to give up rather than chal- lenge issues that affect them.

It’s not as if the student (and even faculty) community hasn’t banded together before to make a stand. Gather- ing together and holding signs, the advocates for better campus accessi- bility protested outside Ramsey’s of- fice in Spring 2009. Three years later in Fall 2011, a small group of “plank sup- porters” were responsible for the lift on the trend of parking on campus. In Spring 2012, many students voiced concerns when it appeared as if the university was dismantling student social media, as well as a controversy that unfolded concerning a plethora of dorms being torn down for plafloors for Life demolition.

The viewer gets a strong sense of the hurling din of battle in an empty toll warfare has on the battlefield and back at home. Unfortunately, director Clint Eastwood’s ideal pathetic portrayal of Kyle commits haunt him and he feels personally responsible for the death of every American soldier. Post-traumatic stress disorder takes an aw- ful toll on him and his family as well.

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Kyle never questions why he has to kill in the first place despite the toll the killings take on his psyche. By portraying Kyle as a role model, East- wood glosses this blind obedience. In one scene, Kyle fantasizes about the heart of the innocent home. The film makes Kyle look heroic while in- vading the home and threatening to invade. In this movie, Eastwood seems to be saying that an American soldier doing his duty shouldn’t be held accountable for war crimes. "American Sniper" can seem like a recruitment tool at points but also it hu- manizes how war is. The movie'sIraqi camps are appropriately hell- ish, its battles chaotic and its violence unapologetic and ad- ductive sense that anyone could die at any time.

Almost every moment of "American Sniper" set in Iraq is a tense and horrifying representation of the war. Though it clashes with the overall film’s overall message, it’s a well-done portion your attention and don’t let it pass tomorrow. In "American Sniper" displays an un- typical sense of restraint as it tells its story with remarkable skill. Though it sometimes smells like pro- paganda, this movie is a solid exami- nation of how the Iraq Wars affects vet- erans.
Over the last three days of my winter break I was able to photograph events surrounding major issues currently affecting the country. I covered a protest on Martin Luther King Jr. Day against police violence, two press conferences about the Keystone Pipeline and taxation, a hearing on net neutrality and the State of the Union. I witnessed history everywhere I went.

Last year, I watched the State of the Union addressed while running a 5K in the Preston Center. This year I got to experience it up close through a 300mm lens. Through the kindness of Doug Mills, photojournalist at The New York Times, who suggested I come hang out with him on Capitol Hill, I was able to shadow him and Jabin Botsford (my boyfriend, a recent WKU photojournalism graduate and photojournalism intern at The New York Times) during the State of the Union.

What I learned is that everything dealing with politics is a well-orchestrated sequence of events. What you are looking for are the moments where the curtain comes up — the accidental, in-between moments where you catch politicians off guard. You have to look for new angles and perspectives on situations, and you must know your politics.

Go to wkuherald.com for the full column.
For three years, English professor Walker Rutledge has led a study abroad program to Cuba. This year, he was joined by English department head Robert Hale, 11 students and loosened travel restrictions.

The Cuban embargo barred many Americans from the country, since 1961. However, college students remained an exception to the strict travel laws. Since 2012, WKU has worked with a Cuban travel agency, located in Toronto, Canada, to make the program a reality.

The group stayed, primarily, at the Ambos Mundos hotel in Havana, the country's capital. The itinerary included visits to Ernest Hemingway's homestead, the National Museum of Fine Arts, a Cuban baseball game and a tobacco farm.

For some, Cuba was not their first international experience. Harlan senior Sarah Haywood studied at Harlaxton College in England.

"I loved studying abroad before and wanted to do it again," she said. "I think it opens your mind to other opportunities. I love history, as an English and history major, so it was really cool to see history in person."
**CUBA CONTRIBUTED LIFE**

Laurenburg senior Jessica Brumley, a Chinese Flagship program student, spent the last three summers in China.

"I felt of underestimated the differences just because I'd been abroad before," she said.

President Obama's recent proposal to lift the Cuban embargo has the potential to create many changes for Cuba—especially in terms of its economy. However, according to Brumley, the changes will not occur overnight.

Brumley agreed. "There is a lot of poverty in Cuba, and I also feel like they really have to come up with a plan," she said. "There needs to be a lot of leadership involved in how this is going to impact the Cuban economy, because they just don't have the buildings or infrastructure for a huge influx of American tourists."

The Cubans performed the group.

"The people said things like 'We're friends, we're all friends, but it's our governments that are not friends,'" Haywood said.

The day after the group returned to the U.S., newspaper headlines announced the impending travel negotiations.

"This is a very exciting time for WKU to have a presence in Cuba," Brumley said.

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**WHEATLESS CONTRIBUTED LIFE**

eliminated any food safety concerns, but it lacked juiciness or compelling flavor. The tried-and-true combination of beef and cheese was a persuasive choice. It was easy to forget that the penne alfredo-esque sauce and a sharp, tangy aftertaste, the mac and cheese was a persuasive choice. It was easy to forget that the penne alfredo-esque sauce and a sharp, tangy aftertaste, the mac and cheese was a persuasive choice.
Track and Field finds success at the Vanderbilt Invitational

Conference programs.

The WKU Track and Field program switched six performances that rank among the top five in WKU history as they competed in the Vanderbilt Invitational on Saturday in Nashville.

The men and women’s teams competed against three Conference USA foes, two ACC opponents and six Southeastern Conference programs.

“We have a young team,” said Head Coach Erik Jenkins.

“Is about getting experience and preparing them for conference and national competition.”

Sophomore jumper Ventavius Sears established a personal indoor triple jump record of 49-foot-11.5 inches, putting himself at third place in the Wuki record books.

He later went on to finish third in the 200-meter dash with a career-best clocking of 21.4 seconds.

Junior K'Rayah Redmon took third place in the 400-meter dash with a clocking of 52.8 seconds.

Sophomore Carrol Hardy, a toss of 56-feet-8.75 inches.

Sophomore Raigo Toompuu, the new Southeastern Conference USA record in the 60-meter dash with a time of 6.75 seconds.

Junior Travis Cerding recorded the longest weight throw in Conference USA this season with a toss of 84-feet-11 inches.

Sophomore Nick Domaline set a personal record in the shot put with a toss of 56-feet-8.75 inches.

Head Coach Erik Jenkins said, “Is about getting experience, staying healthy and being humble.”

“Every road game you’re going to have to come and fight,” senior guard Trency Jackson said. “You want to prove them wrong.”

After starting the season 1-3, the Tops have won 13 of their last 15 games and defeated their first ranked opponent under Harper, No. 25 Old Dominion.

“What you have to give them is respect. They have the best shot. As you leave our locker room, my message to our guys is ‘You have to understand that and you have to give them your very best shot.”

WKU’s 13th and 14th wins came last week against UTEP and UTSA. WKU has the highest by a Hilltopper at the end of a season since Lee averaged 20.4 as a sophomore at the age of 17.3 points per game would be the highest by a Hilltopper at the end of the season since Lee averaged 20.4 as a senior in 2007-08.

Their next game will be Thursday, Jan. 29 at La. Tech, who currently ranks tied for second in C-USA.
Historic start for Tops in C-USA

The WKU men’s basketball team went on a two-game Texas road swing last week, winning its 14th straight game against UTEP 80-74, before having their impressive streak snapped with a 64-63 loss against UTSA on Saturday. The team’s first loss since Nov. 25 came at the hands of a free throw in the final three seconds of the game. The Lady Topper’s (17-3, 6-1) Thursday contest against UTEP saw the team convert on 30-of-36 attempts from the free throw line and force the Miners to turn the ball over 24 times. “We didn’t shoot the ball well,” Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard said of her team against UTEP. “But we found different ways and different people stepped up. Again, I go back to how selfless this team is and how determined they are to win.” WKU shot just 38.3 percent from the field for the game, converting on 23-of-60 shots, but made all 10 of its free throw attempts in the final minute to secure the win and remain (temporarily) unbeaten in conference play. “We came out of the locker room in the second half and we were really ready to play,” Clark-Heard said. “Defensively it started for us—we were able to get a couple steals and a couple baskets. I think we sat back and guarded better the second half.” The Lady Topper’s could not carry the momentum of 14 straight wins into Saturday’s contest against UTSA, which was a homecoming game for senior All-American candidate Alexis Govan. Despite the loss, Govan still performed well in her hometown. She led the Lady Topper’s with 22 points on 8-of-13 shooting in her hometown. WKU shot 3-of-14 from the field to open the game but could not carry the momentum into the game. The men’s basketball team gets amped up, prior to their home matchup against Conference USA opponent UTSA Saturday. The Hilltoppers defeated the Roadrunners 83-74. PHOTOS BY LUKE FRANKE /HERALD

Lady Toppers win streak snapped by UTSA

BY JONAH PHILLIPS

The WKU women’s basketball team went on a two-game Texas road swing last week, winning its 14th straight game against UTEP 80-74, before having their impressive streak snapped with a 64-63 loss against UTSA on Saturday. The team’s first loss since Nov. 25 came at the hands of a free throw in the final three seconds of the game. The Lady Topper’s (17-3, 6-1) Thursday contest against UTEP saw the team convert on 30-of-36 attempts from the free throw line and force the Miners to turn the ball over 24 times. “We didn’t shoot the ball well,” Head Coach Michelle Clark-Heard said of her team against UTEP. “But we found different ways and different people stepped up. Again, I go back to how selfless this team is and how determined they are to win.” WKU shot just 38.3 percent from the field for the game, converting on 23-of-60 shots, but made all 10 of its free throw attempts in the final minute to secure the win and remain (temporarily) unbeaten in conference play. “We came out of the locker room in the second half and we were really ready to play,” Clark-Heard said. “Defensively it started for us—we were able to get a couple steals and a couple baskets. I think we sat back and guarded better the second half.” The Lady Topper’s could not carry the momentum of 14 straight wins into Saturday’s contest against UTSA, which was a homecoming game for senior All-American candidate Alexis Govan. Despite the loss, Govan still performed well in her hometown. She led the Lady Topper’s with 22 points on 8-of-13 shooting in her hometown. WKU shot 3-of-14 from the field to open the game but could not carry the momentum into the game. The men’s basketball team gets amped up, prior to their home matchup against Conference USA opponent UTSA Saturday. The Hilltoppers defeated the Roadrunners 83-74. PHOTOS BY LUKE FRANKE /HERALD

UNSTOPPABLE Historic start for Tops in C-USA

BY BILLY RUTLEDGE

The WKU men’s basketball program is making historic strides in its first season in the Conference USA. The Hilltoppers (14-5, 7-0 C-USA) are riding a nine-game win streak and are atop the Conference USA standings after a weekend sweep of UTEP and UTSA. WKU’s 7-0 conference start is the best since the 1969-70 season, when the Hilltoppers went 14-0 in league play. The Hilltoppers are showing their toughness after being picked to finish seventh in the preseason Conference USA standings. “In the preseason, I had the opportunity to watch them every day, who you’re seeing now is who they were—We’ve gotten back to who we were in the preseason,” Head Coach Ray Harper said after defeating Old Dominion. “They love playing together, they play for each other and they don’t care who scores and because of it, we’re winning some basketball games and look pretty un-Topp-Able.”