Work in progress: ‘Great’ campus projects continue

By Jessica Phillips
Editor-in-Chief

This month, the Humanities building was closed and cleared out for its renovation to begin.

Features of the renovation will include restrooms that meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, new flooring and LED lighting in the classrooms and hallways, paint and new exterior doors, said Richard Andrews, director of Operational Efficacy.

The budget for the Humanities renovation is $887,481, and the expected completion date is May 1.

Andrews said the building will have “mainly restroom modifications … (and the) majority of classrooms will remain the same.”

“Basically all of the campus mall buildings” will have the same features,” he said.

To locate a Humanities professor or adviser who has been displaced due to the renovation, visit rose.edu/humanities-office-moved.

Social Sciences reopens

The Social Sciences building renovation was completed in December. The building has new flooring and lights, fresh paint, updated restrooms and more upgraded features.

“We’re very pleased,” Andrews said, “I think it went very well.” The project stayed also “within budget.”

Andrews said the building still has one “major issue” – the new exterior doors have yet to be installed. He said the doors should be installed in the next month or so.

“We’ll try to keep as much (of the building) open as we can,” he said.

Upcoming changes

Andrews said the plan for this summer is to see work beginning on a student lounge, the renovation of the Business building, as well as initial construction for the Learning Resource Center renovation beginning in May. Andrews said the hope is to keep the LRC functional throughout the summer; however, it will probably be closed in the fall.

He said the LRC renovation will include an addition to the southwest side of the building which will have a café, additional seating, an information desk and restrooms, all with a two-story glass facade.

The construction for this addition should begin around September, Andrews said.

The Fine Arts building will undergo “similar treatments” as the Social Sciences and Humanities buildings, beginning mid-February, Andrews said.

The H.B. Atkinson Theatre will have new flooring and LED lighting installed, as well as fresh paint, beginning mid-February. The restrooms will not be renovated.

The Administration building will have a complete restroom renovation, beginning mid-February. Andrews said the goal is to “minimize the impact of our construction project on the Administration building.”

Student housing progresses

Dr. Tommy Klepper, director of Student Conduct, said the expectation is for the student housing to be move-in ready by early August.

“Everything is proceeding as planned,” he said.

“It’s a great project.”

Klepper said the housing rates have been set and will be announced in the coming weeks.

Housing applications will be posted on rose.edu on Jan. 29. Applications will be accepted beginning Jan. 30, Klepper said.

“We really expect a lot of people are going to want to do this,” he said.

The student housing will be equipped to host 180 students.

“It’ll bring that college experience that everyone’s looking for,” he said. “It’ll change the dynamics.”

Updates and student housing applications will be available on the webpage, rose.edu/residence-life.
**Fundation fundraising for scholarships**

By Alex Roberts
Assistant Editor

The RSC Foundation, the organization responsible for supporting student scholarships and campus enhancements, is running its annual fundraising campaign, with a goal of raising $50,000.

Cindy Mikeman, executive director of the Foundation and Resource Development, explained the organization’s importance.

“The Foundation continually strives to raise funds and work with community partners to increase the General Scholarship Fund,” Mikeman said.

According to rose.edu, the Foundation seeks to provide scholarships for all who qualify and to fund educational enhancements that improve the community’s quality of life.

“It is our ultimate goal to ensure that every student who wishes to attend college can do so without the fear of financial restraints,” she said.

Last year, the Foundation raised $42,000 during a campaign that lasted one month. This year, the campaign started Dec. 3 and will end Feb. 9, which will last more than twice as long as last year’s.

Mikeman said donors can go to the Foundation website at rose.edu/about-foundation, or send a donation to the college at 6420 S.E. 15th Street, Midwest City, OK, 73110.

For more information, contact Mikeman at cmikeman@rose.edu.

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**Aerospace kids camp to fill art exhibit**

By Marisa Caban
Chief Photographer

A new art exhibit opened in the Professional Training Center in fall 2014, with the theme of aeronautics, and is soon to be filled with art from the RSC Kids’ College Aerospace Camp.

“Aerospace is one of the five major industries Oklahoma is a part of,” said Stan Greil, vice president of Workforce Development. “We work very closely with the Oklahoma Aeronautics commission, who sponsors our kids space aeronautics program,” he said.

This summer, the PTC will host six children’s camps. At the camps, the curriculum will encourage students to form their own team, or emblems, which military squadrons use to identify each group or squadron. Each of the seals will be featured in the exhibit, alongside photos of various airplanes.

A painting of the Tuskegee Airmen, a famous squadron of African-American pilots who fought in World War II, is also on display. The painting is signed by many of the famous pilots and was donated to RSC by the local Oklahoma chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen.

The camp’s goals are to teach the children about science, technology, engineering and math, and inspire them to look into a STEM-based career in the future. Greil shared a personal success story about his granddaughter, who attended an Aerospace Camp in summer 2014.

Greil had just picked up 12-year-old Tailor Lewis from her Aerospace Camp graduation. He said that she had been reluctant at first to join Aerospace Camp.

He said on the ride home, she said to him, “Grandpa, I don’t want to be a teacher anymore. I want to design rockets.”

The bottom line of the program is to bring recognition to STEM in children’s education, Greil said.

Enrollment for Aerospace Camp will begin in late Spring 2015.

For more information, visit rose.edu/kids-college or call 733-7392.

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**Global Oklahoma posters available**

Chris Meyer, dean of the Learning Resources Center, said in an email that the LRC staff is giving away posters from previous years of Global Oklahoma, a cultural festival hosted by RSC.

“The posters span 25 years and as many countries,” Meyer said. To own a poster, contact Brad Robison, coordinator of Library Archives and Special Projects, at 733-7402.
President Barack Obama delivered the annual State of the Union Address on Jan. 20. In his address, Obama presented the idea of America’s College Promise, two years of free community college for qualifying students, citing the need for higher education in the workplace as a driving force. But do students need it?

“Whatsoever you are, this plan is your chance to graduate ready for the new economy, without a load of debt,” the transcript for the address read on Medium.com.

Although the program may benefit some students, America’s College Promise simply is not necessary. There are numerous options for students to obtain an associate’s degree without paying for tuition without assistance. Federal aid, scholarships and tuition waivers are available.

Federal Student Aid, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education, provides ‘more than $150 billion in federal grants, loans, and work-study funds each year to more than 13 million students paying for college or career school,” according to StudentAid.ed.gov.

The “federal grants, loans, and work-study funds” provided by FSA are not used solely for tuition and fees. These funds also go toward textbooks, supplies and other expenses of attending college. According to ProjectOnStudentDebt.org, 65 percent of community college students receive Pell Grants.

If community college is free, scholarship opportunities practically become void. Receiving a scholarship at the community college level can aid students in being rewarded additional scholarships at the university level. Scholarships can still benefit students who do not meet the requirements under America’s College Promise, but those who do meet the requirements will miss the opportunity for financial advancement in the future.

According to InsideHigherEd.com, the federal government would pay for 75 percent of the tuition used in America’s College Promise, then “participating states would be required to cover the remaining tuition balance,” according to the website.

This plan would put an excess strain on state’s education departments that are already struggling financially.

America’s College Promise is not a qualifying student’s only shot at attending community college. Scholarships, loans, Pell Grants and other financial aid are available.

Editorial

Should community college be free?

By Jessica Phillips
Editor-in-Chief

This includes, but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid and educational services.

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Campus rocks out for Raider Dayz

By Christian Tabak
Volunteer Reporter

RSC welcomed returning and newly enrolled students to the new semester with Raider Dayz in the Main Dining Room of the Student Center on Jan. 20-21.

Raider Dayz kicked off Jan. 20 with a performance by acoustic soloist Dante Schmitz, while Student Activities provided pizza and beverages. Student Senate joined in by hosting games and challenges with prizes.

On Jan. 21, students had the opportunity to show off their lip-syncing skills at the Lip-Sync Battle, where they signed-up to lip-sync to their favorite songs for a chance to win a gift card, as well as replenish their energy with free Chick-fil-A.

"It was an awesome experience," Daniel Moore, winner of the battle said. "The feedback from the crowd fed my own energy, the DJ was awesome, the whole event was just really awesome."

Campus clubs and organizations such as the American Indian Association, the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Club and Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society set up tables to provide information and recruit new members. The campus also advertised the new student housing and the math tutoring program, PASS.

Peter Aguirre, a community member considering enrollment, described the event as "fun, light-hearted and informative."

"The atmosphere, students and faculty were friendly and the tables really informative," Aguirre said. "After this event, I’m definitely enrolling here at Rose."

Student Activities also expressed satisfaction with the success of the event. Alicia McCullar, assistant coordinator of Student Activities said she was overjoyed with the turnout and participation.

“We’re happy to welcome students back to campus and Raider Dayz was fantastic. We love having students engage in acts, activities, and participation was wonderful with over 30 participants in the Lip-Sync Battle," McCullar said.

The next event Student Activities has scheduled is Paint Night on Feb. 12, with 75 spots still available for participation. For more information contact McCullar at amccullar@rose.edu, Kirby Harzman, coordinator of Student Activities at kharzman@rose.edu, or visit the Student Activities office.

Submit your story!

The 15th Street News is looking for volunteer writers, photographers and designers, as well as story ideas.

Interested students can come to the Fine Arts building, Room 110 for information. Regular staff meetings are at 3:30 p.m. every Monday and volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Anyone who would like to see a story about an event or programs on campus, or in the community, may submit their story ideas. The information must be submitted at least a week in advance to Editor-in-Chief Jessica Phillips at jphillips@rose.edu.

For questions or story suggestions, contact Phillips by email, or call the newspaper office at 733-7400.