



THE TOUGALOO HARAMBEE

Working Together

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Tornado recovery complete; Student concerns linger

By Maha Mohamed & L'Mia Jenkins

Tougaloo College has all but recovered from last week's storm that caught many, but questions linger about the college's emergency evacuation plan.

Chief of Security Earnest Manuel says that Tougaloo does have an evacuation plan in case of severe weather. "We developed a plan for evacuation not only for storms, but for fires, shootings, and other disasters."

Manuel says that he presented the evacuation plan at the beginning of the academic year in front of faculty and staff. The Emergency Procedures Manual generated by the Department of Campus Security provides students, faculty, and staff comprehensive measures in responding to potential or developing emergency situations. The manual also provides information on

See **STORM**, 4

Korean students adjust to campus



Director of International Programs Larry Ray with Korean exchange students, from left, Huj Gun, Bora Choai, Sueun Lee and Jin Sun. The quartet is spending the semester at Tougaloo as part of an student exchange.

By Terrance Mallory

Diversity is an attribute that comes with living on a college campus that many students have the opportunity experience, in some cases even for the first time.

However, on a unique campus

like that of Tougaloo College or any historically black college or university for that matter, a diverse crowd is often unexpected.

Nonetheless students at

Tougaloo may have noticed a

recent reoccurrence of distinctive faces joining the Eagle Queen's student body.

Tougaloo is no stranger to exchange programs, but recently the borders in which the exchange programs operate in

See **DIVERSITY**, 3

Restorations, construction set for Tougaloo

By Rashan Johnson

Tougaloo College is in store for a major facelift over the next few years.

The college has secured funds to resurrect the restoration of the Robert O. Wilder Building, also known as "The Mansion," as well as money to renovate Warren Hall. Renovations

also include a new academic complex, where the art collection will be stored.

Brownlee Hall, which at one point was to be renovated, is now set to be razed.

Many students complain about how depressing the campus looks day to

day, but they feel the changes already. Recently a new sidewalk had been added to the front exterior of the mansion.

Adding to the campus projects Tougaloo the proposed Civil Rights Museum in Mississippi is also set to be constructed on property owned by

Tougaloo that is adjacent to the campus. No word yet when this \$80 million dollar project is slated to begin.

Kelle Menogan Sr., vice president of facilities and real property management, the renovation of the mansion will start in the spring and take two years to complete.

See **RESTORATION**, 2

Editorial

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008

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Fisk Has Right to Sell Paintings

By The Meter Editorial Board - Black College Wire

If something is given to you, it's yours to do with as you please. Well, that's the conventional wisdom many of us were raised with and still hold to be true.

Back in 1949 a collection of paintings was given to Fisk University by its artists Albert Stieglitz and his wife, Georgia O'Keeffe.

In Stieglitz's will he left 99 pieces of his artwork to Fisk University upon his death.

When his wife gave the pieces, she also gave two pieces of her own work, which she received a tax deduction for.

About two years ago, officials at Fisk, including the president, Hazel O'Leary, an alumnus of the university, decided there should be more opportunities for the students of the prestigious and historical university.

Therefore, O'Leary and her team proposed a plan, before the courts, to allow the Crystal Bridges Museum in Arkansas to house the paintings for a certain amount of time.

With the museum in Arkansas housing the paintings, Fisk could have gained \$30 million that they would have used to open doors for more students. However, the courts did not approve their proposal.

Somehow, the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum in Santa Fe, N.M., found out about the proposal before Fisk took it to



Fisk president Hazel O'Leary with students in 2005

the courts and felt they were entitled to the paintings.

How can the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum claim the right to the paintings? Do they really have the right to decide the final destination of the paintings?

In our humble opinion the answer is clearly, no! The Georgia O'Keeffe Museum does not have any rights whatsoever to the paintings because the paintings never came from that museum.

The paintings came personally from Stieglitz and O'Keeffe with no intermediary.

We think the paintings should be left at Fisk where the artists wanted them to be. If Stieglitz and O'Keeffe wanted the paintings to be at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, they would have given the

paintings to them after Stieglitz's death.

The question still remains; why was there even a trial brought forth over these paintings?

Once the courts denied the proposal, the entire situation with the paintings should have been dropped. But that would bear a striking resemblance to the right thing to do.

In our litigious society, lawsuits have surpassed baseball as America's pastime.

However, instead of the situation being dropped, it has then turned into a long drawn out trial that has had President O'Leary sitting on the edge of her seat and Fisk hanging by a string. Our solution would be to just leave the paintings where the two artists intended them to be.

If the artists wanted the paintings at

the museum in New Mexico, that is where they would have been from day one.

If the courts do decide that the paintings will go to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum, they are denying Fisk their basic rights of ownership.

The paintings belong on the campus of Fisk University where the artists left them to be used at the discretion and benefit of the university.

The collection itself is invaluable and if anything this should mobilize Fisk alumni to dig deep into their pockets and donate to their Alma Mater so the paintings will remain.

This editorial was originally published in The Meter, the Tennessee State University student newspaper.

Articles in the Voices section reflect the opinions of the writers and do not represent the views of Black College Wire.

The Harambee

The Harambee is a publication written by Tougaloo College students with the counsel of an advisor. The newspaper's name is derived from the Swahili language which means "working together." Editorial comments are the views of the writers. Other views expressed are not necessarily endorsed by the newspaper, the newspaper staff or Tougaloo College. Letters should be limited to no more than 200 words. Editors reserve the right to edit or reject submissions. Letters should be sent to:

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Tougaloo College
Pope Cottage
500 West County
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Tougaloo, MS 39174**

Restoration: For Tougaloo

From 1

He said \$7 million renovation of Warren Hall will start in the fall of 2008 and will take a year to complete.

Tougaloo isn't a state school but the college has been successful at raising the money needed for these developments. "Just trying to raise the money for development is some of the hardest money to raise," Menogan said. "We also share concerns of the students. We want to see the campus look better."

Tougaloo is a part of the Historic Campus Architecture Project and has also won an award from the Louisiana Landscape of Architects.

Students can feel the buzz of the changes in the "I'm happy about the

new sidewalk I thought I was going to fly off the old one," said Alisha Graham of Natchez, a freshman history major.

Just as important as the campus growth of the campus is room for Tougaloo's art collection. The 2,000 piece collection includes African Art, European as well as many other types. The collection is said to have been in storage for over a decade and one person in particular is ecstatic that the collection will see the light once again.

"I feel like it's Christmas, like everyday is a celebration," said Johnnie Gilbert, who chairs the Department of Art. "This small growth in the college is sure to be a

stepping-stone towards greater things at Tougaloo. I feel that this is a sign of growth and maybe one day we can make the transition from classrooms being scattered to possibly a school for the performing arts here at Tougaloo."

The idea of a school for the performing arts doesn't sound far-fetched with all the new changes in the works.

Some students feel that it's way overdue for changes to the physical aspect of campus life take place. "I think it's a good idea that they want to restore old buildings on campus, it would be a site to see them returned to quality," said Aireiun Binion, a junior sociology major from Chicago.

Diversity: Bringing Cultures Together

From 1

have vastly widened. An exchange program spearheaded by Chung Dong-Hun in the summer of 2005 is responsible for the four Korean exchange students attending Tougaloo this current semester.

“The idea for an exchange program was started by Dr. Dong-Hun during the summer of 2005 while visiting at art colony,” said Larry Ray, director of international programs. “Two of the visitors were from Wonkwang University and while visiting they expressed interest in an exchange program. The idea was presented to Dr. Young,?? who then proposed the idea to Professor Johnnie Gilbert in the Art Department. Then it reached (Provost) Dr. (Abdul)Turay, who finally presented the idea to President Hogan. A memorandum of understanding was then established between the two institutions and a reciprocal program was formed.”

Four art majors from Wonkwang in South Korea are currently studying at Tougaloo.

Sueun Lee, 22, arrived last fall. She is joined by Jin Sun, 23, Bora Choai, 23, and Huj Gun, 20. Lee is finishing her second semester at Tougaloo while the others are first-time visitors.

Lee also serves as a translator for her peers. “This is a very beautiful exchange program, and I am thankful for my Tougaloo friends who help me everyday,” Lee said. “They are very kind and help me with everything.” Lee said.

This is a reciprocal program, which means Tougaloo students also have the opportunity to attend a semester at Wonkwang.

Two Tougaloo students are studying at Wonkwang this semester: Deidre Draggs and Dominique Ingram, 19, a sophomore English major from Washington, DC.

“They are nice to us, well it seems that way because we don’t understand what they are saying to us,” Ingram said. “I am staying in the dorm for foreign students, which means two Americans and the rest Chinese students. The rooms are very nice, we have

heated floors which is really cool.”

The benefits that come with the exchange program are endless, and the program doesn’t show any sign of ending anytime soon. Students are encouraged to explore their many options to gain experiences that would otherwise be unobtainable.


“I wasn’t expecting to be so

thrown aback by the culture, but I really was,” Ingram said. “I was always nervous and scared and just worried. All I wanted to do was cry, which is what I did. So for two days I cried and talked to my mom and told her how much I wasn’t prepared for this experience.

Things are beginning to look up for Ingram. “The people here

are wonderful to us,” she said. “They have welcomed us with open arms and nothing but the best has been given to us. So right now we are just getting started. We have 15 more weeks, and so much to look forward to,” Ingram said.

Ingram can be reached at <http://www.dominiqueinsouthkoreaingram.blogspot.com>.




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Storm: FEMA has denied funds for recovery

From 1

how to prepare for emergencies before they happen.

The major buildings on campus have building captains. In case of emergency they are the ones who alert people where to go in a disaster. They understand the method of operation during an emergency and report to the emergency manager who communicates with other on campus officials. Residence hall coordinators also direct evacuation training in the dormitories.

Manuel says that during such emergency situations the campus communicates by phone and radio. The campus also takes measures to ensure that every student is accounted for during emergencies. "We send out an email, we have student numbers, and dorm coordinators can locate students. Currently we are in the process of getting a code blue system, but we have not finalized that yet."

However, the designated plans for evacuation during this storm were not fully implemented. Students, faculty, and staff were forced to evacuate from campus.

Japonica Brown, a senior English major from Mobile, Ala., said she was pleasantly surprised by Tougaloo's reaction to student's needs.

"President Hogan offered rooms in the Jackson area to the students stranded on campus. Mr. (Harold) Jones, Mr. (Fred) Alexander and Mr. (Kelle) Menogan were even around to empathize with us. This experience reassured my faith in Tougaloo College."

Tougaloo placed most of the more than 150 students in hotels such as the Quality Inn, Econo Inn and Drury Inn of Jackson and Ridgeland.

Though most students were placed in hotels within 24 hours of the storm, others feel their needs weren't met soon enough. "I did not receive instruction, I was told to leave campus," said Shanell Hodges a sophomore English major from Memphis, Tenn. "I was in a house without any power for about a day before I was alerted of the fact that out-of-state students were arranged with hotel rooms. At this point I contacted the dorm coordinators who told me there were no more rooms available, so finally Sunday afternoon, I was given a room at the Drury."

Manuel said the campus community did not have time to fully implement the emergency plan. "When we got the notice of the storm, it was already upon us," said Manuel. "When we could no longer

sustain a comfortable setting on campus, President Hogan, Frederick Alexander, Kelle Menogan, and myself decided that it would be beneficial to move the students to a motel."

"Actually it was a state of thankfulness in that we thanked God that no one was injured or killed. The lack of power and water and the other damages were things that could be managed and fixed. The administration and staff assessed damages and the overall condition of the campus and followed our emergency protocol," said Menogan, vice president of facilities and real property management.

He also said that Tougaloo will be installing back-up generators. As of

now Tougaloo has only one back-up generator which is located in the New Women's Residence Hall. However, he says that in the forthcoming construction projects on campus, new generators will be placed near the water tower, Warren Hall, and the new multi-purpose building which will take the place of Warren Hall while it is renovated.

The storm left many fallen trees and debris, but no buildings were destroyed. The Offices of Special Projects and Research was severely damaged after a large tree fell on it. Other damages included roof and fence damage, broken windows and other minor damages.

The cost of damage is still uncer-

tain, but Manuel believes that it will be similar to that of Hurricane Katrina. "We are still assessing the cost of damage, but it will probably be similar to that of Katrina." Menogan also agrees, "We haven't met with the adjusters yet but I would imagine in the neighborhood of \$50,000 or so.

"This does not include damages that were the result of the loss in power or the loss of several of our oldest trees, some of which were probably close to 100 years old. We are still assessing damages though and that number may increase. After all that happened on that Friday- roughly three days later we were back in operation. That's not bad."

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