

Combs Hall Ready To Go

By **PETER YU**

Staff Writer

This fall, faculty and staff from the Historic Preservation, Modern Foreign Languages, and English, Linguistics and Speech departments will teach under one roof in Combs Hall, which opens its doors to students after renovations.

Additionally, other departments and offices on campus including Instructional Technology, Business Administration, Psychology, and alumni Relations and Giving will be relocating to utilize the vacant spaces.

Matthew Duerkensen, Capital Outlay Director, said that the English, Linguistics and Speech department moved to the third floor of Combs Hall, the Language Department to the second floor, and the Historic Preservation department to the first floor and basement. The three departments moved in July 2002.

Duerkensen said construction on Combs began in March 2001.

Historic Preservation Professor Wendy Price said that she is excited and enthusiastic about this transition.

The Historic Preservation Department, which was moved from the Trinkle Hall basement, will have a new conservation museum and archaeology lab in Combs Hall.

Price said that major department labs, such as the archaeology lab and computer labs, were located in

separate buildings. She said that she is excited to see the department labs joined with classrooms in Combs Hall.

In addition, she said that new computer modules and full Internet access to all students in Combs Hall will provide big improvement for new classrooms.

The space in Trinkle vacated by Historic Preservation will be occupied by Instructional Technology. Judy Brushwood, administrative assistant for Instructional Technology and Historic Preservation, said that the director of Media Center and Help Desk, currently located in the basement of Chandler Hall, will relocate to the basement of Trinkle. The Technology Training Center will also move from the first floor of Trinkle to the basement.

Brushwood said that computer lab aids and the Help Desk will be located next to each other and will continue to help students with computer repairs.

The English, Linguistics, and Speech Department, which moved from Chandler Hall and Fairfax House, will unite under Combs Hall, said Bill Kemp, professor of English. According to Kemp, the move was prompted because the department is the largest on campus and due to increased faculty enrollment.

Carol Parkinson, the department's secretary, said that the English department had over 300 majors.

▼ see **COMBS**, page 11

Various Departments Move To Combs

◀ **COMBS**, page 1

Parkinson said.

Kemp says that he is looking forward to a "lot of specialized teaching spaces," which means that the departments will have its own computer labs—one lab will be used for English 101, writing workshop and another lab will be used for Linguistics and Journalism courses. The department used to share a computer lab with the psychology department.

"I am looking forward to it," Kemp said.

Galen deGraff, associate professor of Business Administration, said that part of the Psychology department located on the second floor has moved upstairs to the third floor. He also said that part of the Business Administration has moved to the third floor of Chandler Hall, since it is one of the largest majors on campus.

DeGraff said that when the Business Administration department was located in Monroe Hall, he had less face to face interaction with three of his colleagues because their offices were separated by floors. He says that Chandler Hall will provide contiguous faculty offices along the hallways, which will show collegiality and improve greater chance for face-to-face interaction among faculty members.

DeGraff said that while he will have less office space in Chandler Hall personally, he is happy about having contiguous faculty offices and more classroom space.

Furthermore, deGraff said that Chandler Hall will maintain its interior until the school budget allows for new carpets, paint, and additional computer lab, and an amphitheatre type classroom in the future.

French professor James Gaines, chairman of Modern Foreign Languages, said that the department will have more rooms, offices, book space, and an advanced language lab in Combs Hall.

Gaines said that this is an attractive idea because Combs has additional rooms and offices for adjunct professors. In duPont Hall, where the department was formerly located, there were no offices for adjunct professors.

"Nice thing about new office is book space. The department will get 100 linear feet of book space," Gaines said.

Gaines said that this is a positive transition because the department will have a new language lab with new machines, which will replace the old language lab in duPont Hall. He said that some of the machines in the old language lab do not function anymore because they are made from the 1950s.

Cynthia Snyder, director of Alumni Relations said that the office of Alumni relations and Annual Giving will replace the Language department in duPont Hall. She said that the Alumni buildings in Trench Hill are in process for construction and expansion, and the new building will be completed in summer 2004.

In the revised document titled "Authority to Initiate Capital Outlay Project," the total funds \$6,019,330 was available for Combs Hall renovation. The total project scope for renovation was 49,015 gross square feet.

According to Rick Pearce, assistant vice president for Business and Finance, the cost of movable equipment and furnishings of Combs Hall is \$595,148. In addition, \$400,000 from the Education fund will cover additional equipment.

Construction cost \$4,509,000; architect and engineer fee cost \$578,732; project inspection cost zero; construction contingency cost \$225,450; and others cost \$111,000.

The items for other costs include independent cost (\$12,000), subsoil investigation (\$10,000), construction testing services (\$45,000), printing (\$8,000), advertisements cost (\$2,000), signage cost (\$4,000), and utilities cost (\$30,000).

Duerksen said that the mechanical system, which includes air-conditioning, heating, and ventilation, is complete.