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Georgia Southern Begins Construction on Centennial Place

JUNE 17, 2008



Advances in design and planning will make Georgia Southern University's new residence hall, Centennial Place, a model for the future. In fact, it's enough to make you want to go back to college. Remember your college residence hall Community bathrooms down the hall. Long hallways lined with crowded two-bed rooms. Everyone on your hall was a freshman. With Centennial Place, that is all changing.

'We'll have a mix of students in this residence hall,' said Vicki Hawkins, director of University Housing. 'The building will feature a variety of room types, from two-bed rooms to super-suites with individual bedrooms and shared living and kitchen space. And the best part: no more than two students to a bathroom.'

Expected to be completed by July 2009, just in time for Fall 2009, Centennial Place will be staffed by two full-time residence hall directors, and 33 resident assistants will be appointed to oversee programming for students living.

With multiple room arrangements at varied costs, Centennial Place will be available to students at all socio-economic levels. In addition to living space, students will have computer labs and classrooms, a multi-purpose room with a kitchen, and recreational areas with computer games, table tennis, pool tables, and other amenities design to bring the out of their rooms. Retail shops and a food court will also be included in the facility.

'Some of the students living in Centennial Place will be grouped by major or interest,' said Hawkins. 'With a gathering space on every floor, students will be able to study in groups and develop into a true living and learning community.' Residents will have wireless access to the Internet, but Centennial Place will also be hardwired for use of other technologies as well.'?

Georgia Southern University, a Carnegie Doctoral/Research University, offers more than 120 degree programs serving nearly 17,000 students. Through eight colleges, the University offers bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs built on more than a century of academic achievement. The University, one of Georgia's largest, is a top choice of Georgia's HOPE scholars and is recognized for its student-centered approach to education. Visit: www.georgiasouthern.edu.

Georgia Southern University's Centennial Place will feature food court and retail shops

JUNE 17, 2008



Georgia Southern University has begun construction on its newest and largest residence hall to date, Centennial Place. The new building will have space for more than 1,000 students distributed in varied living arrangements, from shared rooms to super-suites with shared living space and kitchens.

Centennial Place will also offer two amenities that none of the University's other residence halls have: retail stores and a food court.

'Georgia Southern University has obtained franchises to operate a Coldstone Creamery in the Centennial Place food court," said Tom Palfy, director of Auxiliary Services at Georgia Southern University, who will oversee these new facilities.

On the retail side, an optometry store is planned and the University's existing convenience store, The Pickle Barrel, will relocate to Centennial Place. Georgia Southern University's Eagle Print Shop will relocate to Centennial Place and will be adjacent to the food court, with an entrance on Forest Drive.

'We're excited about being able to provide a variety of conveniences for our students," said Palfy, 'The shops and food court will face Georgia Avenue, giving the area a "main street" look. These new offerings will provide a convenience not only for students, but for everyone who comes to campus regularly, including faculty, staff, and visitors," said Palfy.

With the addition of the new food and retail stores, Georgia Southern has created a retail corridor in the heart of its campus. Combined with the University Store and the Russell Student Union, students who are on a break between classes or returning to their residence halls will now have more conveniences nearby than ever before.

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Georgia Southern University Interior Design Students Map Residence Halls in 3D

JUNE 17, 2008



Thirty-three students in Georgia Southern University's Interior Design program constructed three-dimensional floor plans for all of the University's on-campus housing as part of their spring semester Advanced Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) course.

Working with University Housing, the CAD students created models of every residence hall floor plan including the new Centennial Place. Under Assistant Professor Amy Boyett's instruction, the students first learned new CAD software program, then applied their skills in a hands-on, real-world work experience.

'This was quite a big undertaking,' says Boyett, who organized the student effort. 'The students were grouped in teams according to residence hall and each team was supervised by a team leader.'

University Housing, contacted Boyett about creating the three-dimensional renderings. 'They (Housing) wanted to promote on-campus housing and stay competitive with other schools,' says Boyett. 'Most people don't know how to read floor plans. The three-dimensional models help clients, future students, and their parents visualize the space.'

Once they learned the CAD program, Boyett's students created three-dimensional skeletal renderings. Each residence hall layout was reconstructed in CAD right down to the fine details such as cabinet knobs and microwave buttons. The final step in the process involves applying "finishings" to the models like lighting, carpet and wood finish texture. The results are highly life-like three-dimensional images that capture the living spaces University Housing offers.

'A lot of these students will be working for architecture and design firms [after they graduate],' says Boyett, 'and nearly every firm uses CAD or Building Information Modeling (BIM).'

In a job setting, a project such as this would require a design or architectural firm and the use of highly skilled CAD technicians. Boyett's Advanced CAD students get the benefit of hands-on job experience while still learning in the classroom.

– See more at: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/pressrelease.php?id=1664#sthash.RJakBsnB.dpuf>

Centennial Place construction brings jobs and expertise to Statesboro

JUNE 17, 2008



Creating Centennial Place, Georgia Southern University's new 1,000-bed residence hall, calls for the talent and expertise of many people and their organizations. Scheduled for completion in July 2009, the large-scale project includes a developer, an architect and a general contractor.

'Centennial Place is one of the largest construction projects that the University has undertaken," said Vickie Hawkins, Georgia Southern University's Director of Housing. 'Working with professionals makes this project a win-win situation for everyone involved.'

'The success of Centennial Place is directly tied to and dependent upon our strong relationship with the University," said Paul Morgan, vice president of project management for Ambling University Development Group of Valdosta, Ga., which will coordinate the building process. 'The key to success will be open communication among all the partners and team members, from the project's inception through design, programming, construction, and delivery." Ambling University Development Group's portfolio of work, which includes nearly 30,000 beds and 10,000 units in university and college housing across the U.S., can be viewed at <http://www.amblingunivdevgroup.com>.

'This is an exciting project for Niles Bolton Associates," said Gordon Karns, senior project manager of the Atlanta architectural firm that designed the new residential complex. 'We're part of an experienced team that has worked on major universities in the University System of Georgia, and we're pleased to now have an opportunity to work in Statesboro." Karns' firm was designated among the top 40 architectural firms in the U.S. by Building Design and Construction Magazine, and the company has completed projects in 42 states and 14 countries around the globe. Completed work by Niles Bolton Associates can be viewed at <http://www.nilesbolton.com>

Actual construction of Centennial Place will be accomplished by Hardin Construction Company, headquartered in Atlanta. In addition to building residence halls at Kennesaw State University, Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology, Hardin has completed education-related projects in Florida and Texas. Atlanta-based Hardin Construction Company is the winner of multiple awards including two exclusive "Best Of" awards in Southeast

Construction magazine's 2007 construction and design competition. In the Best College Housing category, Hardin was honored for its work on University Commons of Georgia State University. More about Hardin is available at <http://www.hardinconstruction.com>.

'We were approached by Ambling University Development Group to join them on this project, and we previously worked with this team on the Georgia State University Commons project," said Joe Dusek, vice president of Hardin. 'With Georgia Southern University supporting our efforts and with the weather cooperating, we're ahead of schedule.'