

# EAGLE VIEW

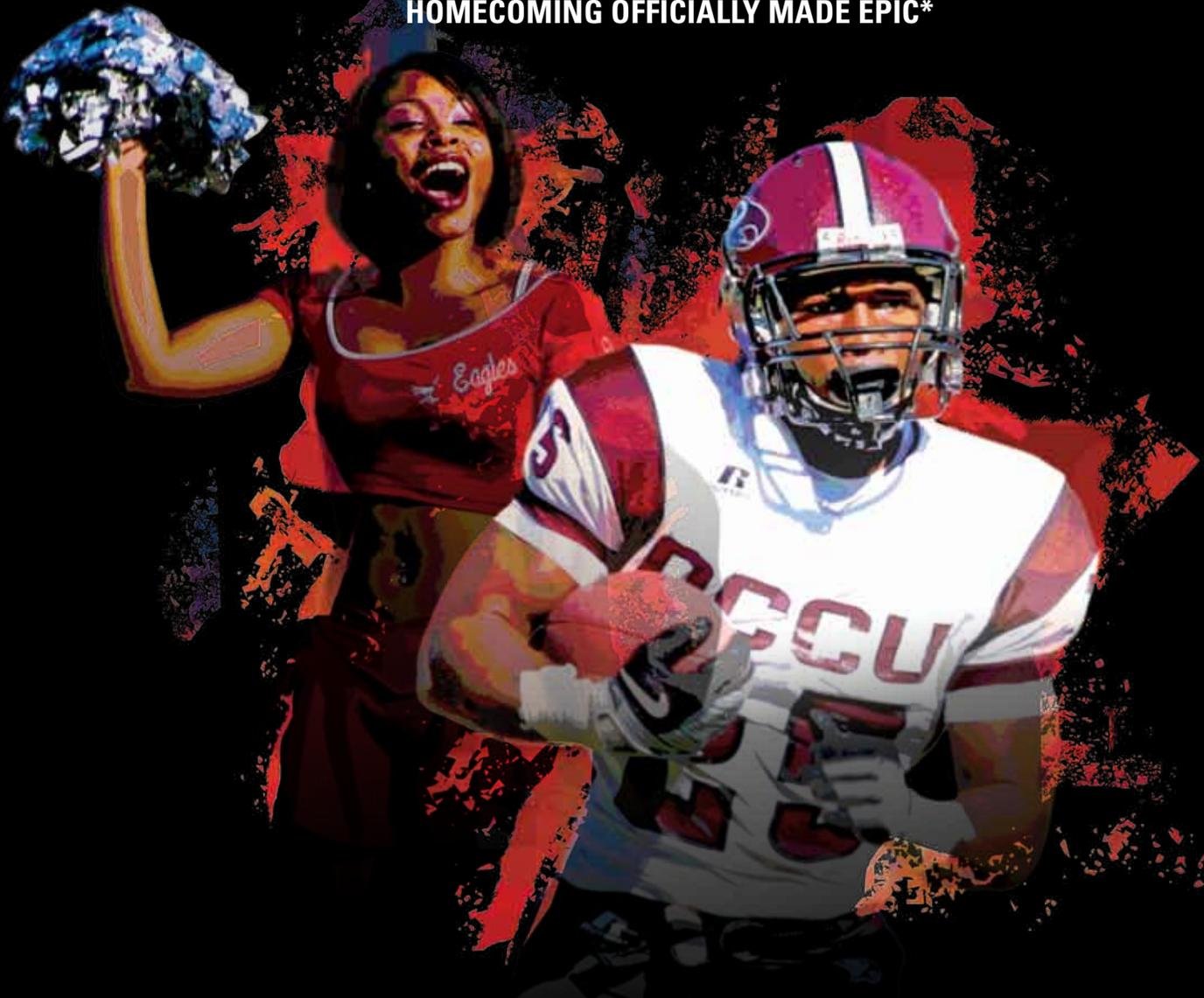
A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2011

# WELCOME H.O.M.E.\*

## HOMECOMING WEEK OCTOBER 23-30

HOMECOMING OFFICIALLY MADE EPIC\*



# NCCU Gets Board Approval to Plan for a Ph.D. Program in Biosciences



The University of North Carolina Board of Governors approved a request from North Carolina Central University to plan a doctor of philosophy (Ph.D.) program in integrated biosciences. If the planning proceeds on schedule, the program would accept its first students in fall 2012, and could award its degrees four years later. They would be the first Ph.D.s awarded by the university in more than 50 years.

According to NCCU's proposal, the interdisciplinary doctorate would be offered on two tracks, biomedical sciences and pharmaceutical sciences. Administratively, the program would be housed in the College of Science and Technology, but it also would draw on resources of NCCU's Julius L. Chambers Biomedical/Biotechnology Research Institute (JLC-BBRI), the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise (BRITE) and the School of Library and Information Sciences. The curriculum will include offerings from the life sciences, physical sciences, computation and information sciences, pharmaceutical sciences and mathematics.

The decision to offer a Ph.D. in these areas reflects NCCU's growing research capacity in health disparities and drug discovery, said Hazell Reed, vice chancellor for graduate education and research. "That's where our strengths are," he said, "We have the faculty in place to do it, and we have state-of-the-art research and laboratory facilities. We're determined to build a very, very strong program in integrated biosciences that is competitive with any in the country."

Research involving health disparities — the gaps between the health status of the nation's racial and ethnic minorities compared with the population as a whole — has been explicitly part of the mission of BBRI since it opened in 1999, and a key focus of other NCCU science and public health programs for decades.

NCCU expects the program to reach an enrollment of about 20 full-time students in its fourth year of operation, and to graduate about five per year. An additional aim of the program is to expand the number of minority scientists, particularly African-Americans, in biomedical research. A recent report by the National Science Foundation noted that African-Americans make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population, but account for only 3 percent of the work force of scientists and engineers.

"We want good students, period, without regard to race or ethnicity," Reed said, "but NCCU has a commitment to drawing more minorities and women into the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) disciplines. We want to ensure that we have a diverse student body."

NCCU had a doctoral program in the mid-20th century that was short-lived but historically significant. From 1955 to 1964, five people earned the Ph.D. from the institution then known as North Carolina College at Durham, all in the field of education. The degree received in 1955 by Walter M. Brown, a future dean of the NCCU School of Education, was the first Ph.D. awarded by a historically black college or university in the United States. As of the late 1960s, North Carolina College and Howard University were the only black colleges to have awarded the degree.

# NCCU Gains Full Division I Membership

NCCU is now a full member of NCAA Division I athletics. The five-year reclassification process moving from Division II is complete, and the Eagles are eligible to participate in post-season championships starting this fall.

“Gaining full membership to NCAA Division I has been our goal for several years now and I am excited and delighted to see it come to pass,” Chancellor Charlie Nelms said upon receiving the official word from the NCAA on Aug. 11. “I appreciate what a tremendous effort this was for Athletic Director Ingrid Wicker-McCree and her entire team, and I thank and congratulate them for the superb job they did. The Eagles have arrived!”

Wicker-McCree, who has overseen the long transition, said she was thrilled by the NCAA’s final decision. “We worked diligently toward meeting all of the requirements set forth by the NCAA, and with the continued support from Dr. Nelms and our Board of Trustees, we accomplished a magnificent task,” she said. “We will strive to continue meeting all NCAA Division I and MEAC (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference) requirements. Our continued goals are to graduate our student-athletes, win championships and maintain institutional control.”

The journey to Division I began in November 2005, when the NCCU Board of Trustees approved making an application to the NCAA to reclassify its athletics program. The Eagles captured eight conference team titles in their final two seasons as a Division II member in the CIAA (Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association) before competing as an independent without conference affiliation starting in fall 2007.

NCCU joined the MEAC as a provisional member last summer, and spent the 2010 – 11 campaign as provisional members of the conference, meaning they were not eligible to compete for a conference championship.

To meet Division I standards, NCCU made some major improvements in its facilities, the most visible being installation of a new artificial turf field and a digital scoreboard at O’Kelly-Riddick Stadium. The university also increased its minimum amount of scholarships in each sport.

## ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

### Men’s Football

9/1	at Rutgers University	7:30 p.m.
<b>9/10</b>	<b>vs Central State University</b>	<b>noon</b>
<b>9/17</b>	<b>vs Elon University</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>
<b>9/24</b>	<b>vs Savannah State University</b>	<b>6 p.m.</b>

### Women’s Volleyball

9/2	at Central Connecticut State University	5 p.m.
9/3	at George Washington University	noon
9/3	at UNC Wilmington	5 p.m.
9/16	at Winthrop University	4:30 p.m.
9/17	at Elon University	12:30 p.m.
9/17	at Campbell University	4:30 p.m.
<b>9/20</b>	<b>vs UNC Asheville</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>9/23</b>	<b>vs North Carolina A&amp;T State University</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
<b>9/27</b>	<b>vs Radford University</b>	<b>7 p.m.</b>
9/30	at Hampton University	3 p.m.
9/30	at California State University Bakersfield	7 p.m.

LEARN MORE AT [WWW.NCCUEAGLEPRIDE.COM](http://WWW.NCCUEAGLEPRIDE.COM)

PURCHASE TICKETS AT [WWW.NCCU.EDU/TICKETS](http://WWW.NCCU.EDU/TICKETS).

## NCCU Eagle Talk

Join NCCU Athletes, staff and coaches for *Eagle Talk* every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. at Champps Americana, South Point Mall. The talk show is broadcast live on Rejoice 1410 AM, the flagship station of the NCCU Sports Network and is hosted by play-by-play man Chris Hooks. Arrive early for lunch. All Eagle Club members receive 10 percent off their meal.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**“Cash Crop” Exhibit**, Sept. 1– Oct. 30, Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m, NCCU Art Museum

**Eagles Rutgers Pre-game Hospitality**, Sept. 1, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., Piscataway, N.J., hosted by the New Jersey Chapter and the NCCU Alumni Association. Complimentary, but registration required. Visit <[www.NCCUAlumni.org](http://www.NCCUAlumni.org)>.

**NCCU vs. Rutgers University Watch Party**, Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m., Kickback Jack’s Restaurant, 1600 Battleground Ave., Greensboro. Contact Ronald Gantt at <[ronald-h-gantt@msn.com](mailto:ronald-h-gantt@msn.com)> or 336-272-7180.

**Wear your College Colors Day**, Sept. 2.

**Sampson County Chapter Meeting**, Sept. 3, 6:30 p.m., Sessoms Medical Practice, 500 Beaman St., Clinton. Contact Rodney Sessoms at 910-290-5000 or <[sampsoncountynccualumni@gmail.com](mailto:sampsoncountynccualumni@gmail.com)>.

**Greensboro Chapter Meeting**, Sept. 8, 7 p.m., Vance Chavis Library, 900 South Benbow Road. Contact Robert Chiles at <[rschiles@aol.com](mailto:rschiles@aol.com)> or 336-273-3241.

**South Florida Chapter Meeting**, Sept. 10, 10 a.m., E. F. Walter Conference Room, African-American Research Library, Fort Lauderdale. Contact Cliff Outlaw at <[nccuaasfc@bellsouth.net](mailto:nccuaasfc@bellsouth.net)>.

**Cleveland Classic — NCCU Eagles vs. Central State**, Sept. 10, Cleveland Browns Stadium, 100 Alfred Lerner Way, Cleveland, Ohio. For more information and tickets.

**NCCU Winston-Salem Chapter to Host SAT Prep Session**, Sept. 10, 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m., Emmanuel Baptist Church, 1075 Shalimar Drive, Winston-Salem. Registration is \$40 and includes breakfast and lunch. The session will be conducted by Dr. Joseph Aicher. Contact Sylvia Squire at <[scsqu@aol.com](mailto:scsqu@aol.com)> or 336-972- 0790.

**EVENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 7 >>**

## Welcome H.O.M.E.

With a jampacked schedule of concerts, luncheons, dances and other activities, this year’s Homecoming at North Carolina Central University promises to live up to its official theme of “epic.”

The fun kicks off Oct. 23 with the coronation of Miss NCCU and ends Oct. 30 with an afternoon tea. In between, there’s the Choir Ball, the Lyceum Gospel Concert, a networking reception, fashion show, class reunion banquets, a step show, mentoring events, and more.

And of course, there’s football. The Eagles will play Bethune-Cookman University on Saturday, Oct. 29.

“Everybody has worked really hard to make Homecoming very special this year,” said Anita Walton, director of Alumni Affairs. “And it cannot happen without collaboration. Every single unit on this campus has a role.”

The planning for Homecoming begins a year in advance and pulls in people from every corner of campus. The Chancellor’s Office, Facilities Services, University Police, Public Relations, Athletics, Student Affairs and others are pitching in.

One of this year’s highlights will be the induction of the Class of 1961 into the Society of Golden Eagles – a special honor reserved for those who graduated 50 years ago. The induction will be held during Founder’s Day, which also will be marked with a wreath-laying ceremony to pay tribute to Dr. James Shepard. Clarence Williams, 1961 alumnus and Golden Eagle, will deliver the Founder’s Day address.

“For me, I think homecoming is the event of the year for NCCU,” Walton said. “It’s the opportunity to shine a spotlight on our campus and have our friends and families join us. It’s a time to reminisce and reflect. People live for it.”

It’s also a time to relish in Eagle Pride as alumni come flooding back to their alma mater.

“There is a very strong sense of community and deep love and appreciation for what they received when they were here,” Walton said of graduates. “There is gratitude for all that NCCU stands for.”

# Cash Crop Exhibit

The North Carolina Central University Art Museum is proud to welcome artist and alumnus Stephen Hayes, who returns to Durham with a moving sculpture exhibit that is receiving critical acclaim in the art world.

“Cash Crop” is the title of the work that reflects one of the most tragic ordeals in human history: the cruel and terrifying journey of enslaved Africans across the Atlantic Ocean. Through cement sculptures of 15 men, women, and children, Hayes vividly recounts the nearly four centuries of the slave trade in which millions of Africans were torn from their homeland, herded onto ships and dispersed across the new world.

Museum Director Kenneth Rodgers describes the exhibit as a powerful, provocative narrative. It is especially stirring because of the life-sized scale of the sculptures, which are shackled at their feet and bound by chains.

“Stephen Hayes presents an unsettling portrayal of a dark chapter in American and African American history,” Rodgers said. “With searing eloquence, he tells the story of this horrific diaspora in 15 extraordinary cement sculptures of men, women and children.”

“Cash Crop” premiered at the Mason Murer Fine Art Gallery in Atlanta last year, at the same time Hayes was completing his Master of Fine Arts degree from the Savannah College of Art and Design in Atlanta. The exhibit marked the first time the gallery showcased a student’s work.

Hayes worked on the piece for five months in the basement of SCAD. He used 14 of his friends and family members as models, draping them from head to toe in plaster gauze to create a full body mold. The 15th figure is Hayes himself. The molds were filled with cement and allowed to dry for 24 hours. Next, Hayes carved each slave ship, working until his fingers bled.

The result made the art community take notice. After the exhibit opened, Atlanta Journal-Constitution art critic wrote, “Hayes has demonstrated an ambitious vision and the ability to manipulate space, scale and detail to realize it. Bravo, Mr. Hayes. We’ll be watching you.” Art blogs have been dedicated



to the piece and YouTube videos of “Cash Crop” pop up regularly. Hayes and his work were featured in a spot on the Atlanta ABC affiliate, WSB-TV, and he appeared on CNN with weekend morning host T.J. Holmes.

While he appreciates the acclaim, Hayes said it’s the visceral response by those who see it that is most meaningful to him.

“It changed my idea about what art is and how people view art,” he said. “It feels good just to see people experience it. Their reactions have definitely amazed me. People cry, they tell me it’s beautiful and it’s horrible at the same time.”

A Durham native, Hayes graduated from NCCU in 2006 with a bachelor’s degree in visual arts. He’s young, yet he already displays a style and technical mastery usually found in more experienced artists.

“Since his student days, Stephen Hayes has demonstrated what can be accomplished with hard work and perseverance,” Rodgers said. “It is no surprise that he has created an extraordinary body of work in just a few short years.”

“Cash Crop” is scheduled to show in other venues around the Southeast as the buzz about Hayes builds. But Hayes takes it all in stride.

“I don’t consider myself an artist because, right now, art is more conceptual,” he said. “I think you have to make art for the everyday person, and not just for other artists. I want my art to speak to people.”

# New Buildings

NCCU's two newest buildings opened for business in August. Formal dedication ceremonies are planned during the fall. Here's a look at what's new on the campus:

## NURSING BUILDING

**Location:** Alston Avenue, on the former site of Holy Cross Catholic Church. The old stone church building was moved across campus last year to Centennial Square on Fayetteville Street, where it is now called Centennial Chapel.

**Cost:** \$25 million

**Specs:** 69,000 square feet over three floors (plus basement and penthouse for mechanical systems)

### What it contains:

The first floor has three classrooms, including a 203-seat auditorium and two 72-seat classrooms; a student services section with a grab-and-go food service and a student lounge. The lobby can accommodate up to about 360 people for receptions.

The second floor has a 62-seat classroom, simulated hospital rooms including simulated patients — computer-controlled mannequins and robots that react like human bodies, quiet study and group-study rooms and locker space for the students.

The third floor consists mostly of offices for faculty and staff.

Presently, the provost and her staff are housed there while renovations are completed at Hoey.



## CHIDLEY NORTH RESIDENCE HALL

**Location:** Corner of Alston Avenue and Lawson Street, next to the original Chidley Residence Hall

**Cost:** \$30 million

**Specs:** 135,000 square feet, four floors

### What it contains:

517 beds for juniors and seniors; most are in double rooms, each with its own bathroom; there are eight corner suites designed to house four students each.

On each floor there is a large laundry room, a big kitchen and a study room, Wi-Fi throughout, lounges on every wing and a classroom and computer lab on the second floor.

**Named for:** The Rev. Howard Chidley (1878-1966), Congregationalist minister from Massachusetts, who was a close associate of NCCU founder James E. Shepard. Chidley was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1916 to 1921 and board chairman from 1919 to 1921. He and members of his church provided financial support to the school in its early days for scholarships and special projects. The college awarded him an honorary doctorate in 1917.

**Status of the old Chidley:** The 60-year-old dormitory is closed, awaiting a renovation expected to start in 2012.



## Appointments



**Debbie Thomas**, an administrator and scholar with more than 20 years of experience in higher education, has been named provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at NCCU. As provost, she oversees academic programs and provides leadership for deans, department chairs and faculty.

She previously served as associate provost and associate vice chancellor, and she succeeds Kwesi E. Aggrey, who resigned to return to a full-time teaching and research position in the Chemistry Department.

Thomas came to NCCU in 2010 from Indiana University Northwest, where she was executive director of the Center for Urban and Regional Excellence. She previously held administrative posts at Fisk University, the University of Arkansas at Monticello and University of Central Florida. She has a bachelor's degree in journalism and a master's degree in communication studies from the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She earned a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.



**D. Keith Pigues**, a business executive, author and teacher, has been named dean of the NCCU School of Business. He comes to the university from PlyGem Industries, a privately held building products company based in Cary, where he was senior vice president and chief marketing officer and member of the company's executive committee. He previously

held executive positions at CEMEX, RR Donnelley, ADP and Honeywell International. He also has been an adjunct professor at Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill, where he taught courses in leadership and served as an executive coach for the Leadership Immersion, a course on

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Nash-Edgecombe Chapter Meeting**, Sept. 15, 6 p.m., OIC One Senior Citizen Center, 721 Pennsylvania Ave., Rocky Mount. Contact Kay Thomas at 252-977-3451 or <kaythoma@suddenlink.net>.

**Winston-Salem Chapter Meeting**, Sept. 22, 7 p.m., Forsyth Tech Community College, 2100 Silas Creek Parkway, Winston-Salem. Contact Sylvia Squire at 336-650-0523 or <scsqu@aol.com>.

**4th Annual Authentic Maryland Crab Feast**, Sept. 23, 7–11 p.m., Grace Presbyterian Outreach Center, 2604 Bannister Rd., Baltimore. The cost is \$50. Contact Sam Parham at 410-367-3966 or <www.NCCUBaltimore.org>.

**NCCU Fall Convocation**, Sept. 30, 9:15 a.m., McDougald-McLendon Gymnasium.

## New York City Alumni Chapter Hosts Scholarship Event

New York City Metropolitan Chapter of the NCCU Alumni Association hosted a Day at the Races scholarship luncheon at Belmont Park Racetrack. Sixty-one alumni and friends supported the event.



corporate leadership development.

The author of *Winning with Customers: A Playbook for B2B* (Wiley & Sons, 2010), Pigues is past chairman of the Business Marketing Association's board of directors and a member of the Executive Leadership Council. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering in 1984 from Christian Brothers University in Memphis, Tenn., and an MBA from UNC's Kenan-Flagler in 1993.



**Ontario S. Wooden** has been named dean of University College, the campus unit that guides students through their first two years at NCCU, providing academic advising and other support aimed at improving retention, graduation rates and overall student success.

Wooden, 33, succeeds Bernice Duffy Johnson, who is now associate vice chancellor for academic affairs. He had been associate dean of University College since 2008. In that role, he managed NCCU's academic advising program. A native of Albany, Ga., he received his Bachelor of Science degree in early childhood education from Albany State University in his hometown. He earned his master's degree and Ph.D. in higher education administration from Indiana University.



**Betty Pierce Dennis**, who chaired the Nursing Department at North Carolina Central University from 1999 to 2004, has returned to chair the department once again as it heads into a period of significant expansion in its new, state-of-the-art teaching facility. Before her return to NCCU, Dennis was a professor of nursing and dean of the Division of Nursing at Dillard

University in New Orleans. She was also the director and a professor at the Minority Health and Health Disparities Center,

a collaboration between Dillard and Louisiana State University funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Dennis assumed leadership of the department at NCCU as it has moved this month into its new building. The \$25 million, 69,000-square-foot facility includes classrooms, a 200-seat auditorium, skill labs with advanced simulation technology and facilities for expanded student services.

Dennis earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from N.C. A&T State University, a Master of Science in medical-surgical administration from Emory University and a Doctor of Public Health from UNC-Chapel Hill. Before she led the NCCU nursing program from 1999 to 2004, she held associate professorships at both NCCU and UNC - Charlotte. She is an Army veteran, having served in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, where she attained the rank of captain. She also has extensive international experience, as a teacher in Moshi, Tanzania, at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre School of Nursing, and as a consultant and staff member at the Ithusheng Community Health Centre in Tzaneen, South Africa.

## Featured Photo



Students carry their belongings into the residence halls during Move-In Day on Aug. 13. The university welcomed about 800 new students into residence halls this semester.