Renovation projects proceeding as planned

College expects major part of construction campaign to conclude by Fall 1998

by Matt Becker
Griffin News Reporter

Plans to renovate the Koessler Athletic Center (KAC) and the Palisano Pavilion are progressing with few setbacks.

"All specific plans about exactly what will be done are already in place," said Vice President for College Relations and General Management and responsible stewardship. This means that most of us are a/Vision of Excellence begins to take shape

by Ben Krass
Griffin News Reporter

The Long Range Strategic Planning Committee is nearing completion of a vision statement, mission statement and list of strategic goals for Canisius College.

Prominent members of the committee include Dr. Herbert J. Nelson, vice president for Academic Affairs, College president Rev. Vincent M. Cooke, S.J., Dr. Laurence Franz, vice president for Business and Finance, Mr. John H. Hurley, vice president for College Relations and General Counsel, and Dr. Richard Wall, vice president for Student Affairs.

A College Forum was scheduled for Thursday, October 23 to provide faculty and administrators with a chance to comment on the proposed document. The meeting was not open to students, although the committee is seeking student feedback.

Wall asked Undergraduate Student Association (USA) president Matthew Watters to develop a mechanism whereby USA could give feedback to the committee.

Wall also indicated that he would be happy to meet with students or USA members about the plan. A copy of the plan can be found in the link "office of the president" on the Canisius College homepage.

The plan has already been presented once to the Board of Trustees, which will ultimately be responsible for accepting or rejecting the document. How formal the "vote" will be remains to be seen.

The five strategic goals as outlined in the plan include excellence instruction, concern for the student as a whole person, the Catholic/Jesuit tradition, strategic coalitions, and sound management and responsible stewardship.

The vision statement of the as yet unrevised plan reads, "Canisius College aspires to excellence as a student-centered regional institution of higher education, ranking among the top quartet of comparable Jesuit and other regional institutions in the Northeastern United States." Canisius is already tied for sixth among regional universities with the best value (best education per money spent) in the north as ranked by U.S. News & World Report. This northeastern region includes the states of Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Strictly in terms of academic quality for regional universities, Canisius is located in the top tier in the north, but does not rank among the top 15. It is conceivable that it is these schools that the vision statement is referring to. At the very least, the statement would seem to be the next logical step for Canisius to take in terms of striving for improvement. Providence College and Villanova University top the U.S. News & World Report list for regional universities in the north in terms of academic quality. Other Jesuit institutions in the top 15 include the University of Scranton (#3), Fairfield University (tie #4), Loyola College (#7) and St. Joseph's University (tie #11).

As it currently reads, an objective emphasizing active learning is found under Strategic Goal 1 of the plan. According to Nelson, active learning has always been an integral part of Jesuit education. This method includes working in small groups inside the classroom, and involvement in student clubs and internships outside of the classroom.

Two professors in the Chemistry department, Dr. Frank Dinan and Dr. Joseph Bieron, have used grant money in the past to conduct research involving chemistry and environmental science.

"Serving the Canisius Community Since 1933"

Weather: Today—Mild with a rain shower. High...52.