

## Woodlands: Looking Back

STAFF WRITER

JASON MARSHALL

Words like "Woodlands Estates," "Shuttle buses," and "Off-campus housing" weren't even in the St. John Fisher College vocabulary last May. Now, one year after an over-crowding problem forced the school to expand its walls, students reflect on the year that was.

Life in the Woodlands was unique. Students appreciated the apartment space, including a living room, kitchen (with dishwasher) and closets. But they found themselves in situations they would never have seen on campus - dealing with neighbors - non-Fisher people, families and retirees, who weren't quite sure what to make of the Fisher students.

"I think that the neighbors thought it was going to be very difficult living near college students, because of the different type of schedule students have, but it didn't turn out to be that big of a deal," said Melissa Zeigler, a junior living in the Woodlands.

Zeigler added that she thought she had a great relationship with her neighbors even having snowball fights with the kids who lived next door.

This first year has produced a variety of challenges and led to some good and bad experiences. "This was my first year as a professional staff member and this was the school's first year in the situation, so the experience has been very interesting," said Michael Puglisi.

Puglisi is an area coordinator who lives at the Woodlands. His responsibilities include overseeing the four resident assistants at the Woodlands and managing the relationship between the Fisher community and other residents.

The shuttle bus that brought students to and from campus to the Woodlands had its own problem. No one ever seemed to use it.

"I have my own car and I don't like waiting out in the cold for the shuttle," said Jon Thompson, a junior.

Other students felt the same way about the convenience. "I have my own car and I had an internship so I had to get to places at different times on my own," said junior Kate Kearney.

Building community was also a challenge for the year at the Woodlands. "I think it'd be a lot better if all the college students lived together in a general area," said junior Jesse Roberts.

Some students lived close to one

another and had a chance to build their own community, having barbecue dinners together and hanging out on the weekends.

Resident assistants have tried to build community within the Woodlands by encouraging residents to participate in programs like snow tubing and other organized trips and events.

Teresa Curinga, a senior and an RA, said, "most of the community-building has been done by the four people in the individual townhouses."

But past friendships are what strengthened those ties, said Puglisi. "I don't think there would be much community in the Woodlands if there were only transfer students there."

The Office of Residential Life's idea of having upperclass students live in off-campus housing was a way to transition them to the feeling of the "real world." The results seem to be successful.

"I don't know if I'm more prepared, but I think living over here definitely gave people the opportunity to experience what it'd be like to live in an apartment or out on their own, without just throwing them into the situation their first year out of college," said Roberts.

Zeigler added, "I think it was a great step for us to be off-campus



Kevin Aubrey

Junior Dave Finch taunts roommate Paul Emborsky during a game of NHL 2K2 in the living room of their Woodlands townhouse.

but still maintain part of the campus feel. It was nice to be able to come home at the end of the day and just sit in a living room, rather than only having your bedroom to go to."

For some students, though, living off-campus and having a mandatory meal plan was a real drawback. "I don't use all 14 meals

and I have my own kitchen," Thompson said.

That issue has been settled. After originally deciding not to offer the Woodlands next year, the college decided to bring it back as an option for upperclass students. Next year, though, the meal plan will be optional. I think that's probably a good idea," Zeigler said.

## Apathy infests campus

STAFF WRITER

CHRISTAN VOSBURGH

While the Fisher student body has grown over the years, so has the lack of student involvement on campus. Although many activities are offered on campus, the number of students participating is relatively low.

Organizations such as *Jo Roffs*, the yearbook, have had difficulty recruiting people to be on the staff. One staff member, sophomore Kristen Basillion, claims that there are only four people working on it. "This is enough, but it would be easier if we had more people on it." She says that "for the past few years, their staff has been nothing."

Other campus events which were once popular, have been faltering in recent years. In the height of the Teddi Dance, more than 400 dancers rallied together to raise upwards of \$67,000 to benefit Camp Good Days.

In recent years, the numbers have fallen and dancers have only raised sums in the low \$20,000 range. This year, the 20th anniversary was not as successful as the committee had hoped, raising only \$21,900.

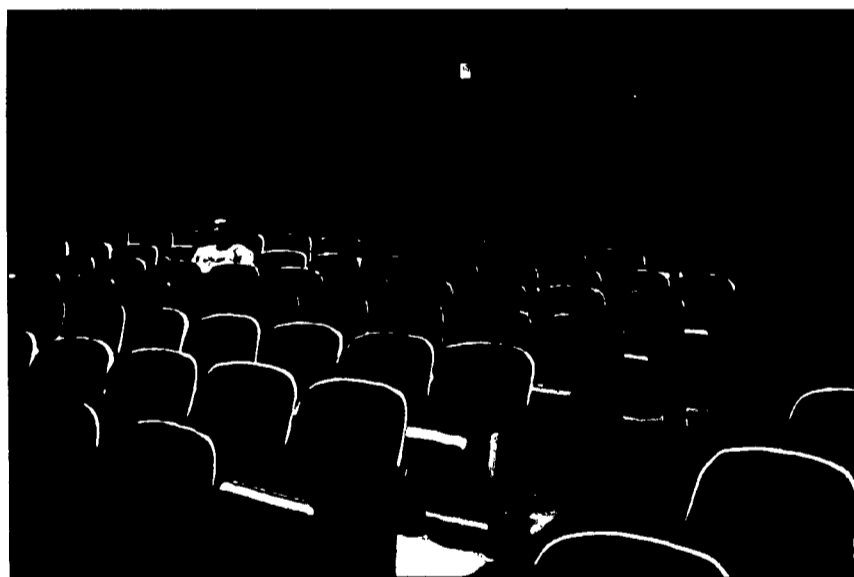
"It's really sad that there isn't more student involvement because not only does being a member of a club give you some pride in your college, it also teaches you skills that you could never learn in the classroom," says Junior Vanessa Cardinale, vice president of the Council of Presidents (COP).

Although "each year is different," Beth Herberger, director of Student Life, has noticed a lot of apathy on campus this year in particular.

"It is probably a result of Sept. 11," she says.

With the two-week delay for campus organizations to start because of the disaster, it was hard to plan events so "there weren't many in the fall."

Herberger believes that because



Alexis Speck

The April 17 showing of "Ali," sponsored by SAB, drew a small crowd.

Fisher is a "mixed group" with commuters, workers, athletes, and adults, the student body is "involved a little less in student life." They have other things to do outside of the school environment.

Despite the fact that there were more events this spring than last fall, Jessica Morse, president of the Student Activities Board (SAB), says, "it seems that the same group of people come to the events." Those who attend the SAB events, for example, are the people who "consistently go to other organization's events."

Another possible reason for this lack of involvement is the physical set up of the college without a student union. Barry L. Wells, the student life director at Syracuse University, believes that part of the reason Syracuse has captured the interest of its students is that the university atmosphere is conducive for involvement.

With a large central quad and the Schine Student Center, "it is hard not to see different aspects of student life that will interest you," he says.

Besides the lack of a student union, it's not always easy for Fisher students to find out about events. "The biggest thing is that

students don't know where to look," says Morse. "There are things out there."

Her organization advertises through "flyers, bulletin boards, email, and campus newsletters."

Herberger believes there are many ways to capture students' attention. They just need to "keep their eyes out for flyers," she said. They will find something that will spark their interest.

Besides that, involvement in student activities helps students build their resumes, she said. "Employers are not just looking at grades, but involvement in the community as well."

Most students say they would be more involved if there were more social activities or such incentives as extra credit.

Andre Lewis, a junior, claims that he would attend more events "if it was something that could get me a job." While he is already involved in intramural basketball, he is too busy for the other events that the school offers. "There are just no incentives to attend."

The SAB says it is listening and offering more incentives to students, with the hopes that "events will be on the rise."

## Sports Studies sees rapid growth

STAFF WRITER

ALEXIS SPECK

As Fisher is growing in size, both in facilities and student population, so are the programs offered.

In 1998, the Sports Studies program was introduced to the student body, offering two classes. Now in 2002, the program has grown to include 10 classes such as: Introduction to Sports, History of Sport, Psychology of Sport and Sport Marketing and Promotions.

"I like to think that we are the pioneers in creating new programs that will be offered to students," said Greg Austin, professor in the sports studies program.

Currently there are 60-80 students enrolled in the program including both majors and minors. The program has one graduating senior and is anticipating 15 for 2003. According to Austin, freshman and sophomores dominate the program.

The department has two staff members, Greg Austin and Michael Gibbons. Austin said that they bring a lot of adjunct teachers

to help teach the classes.

Following graduation, many sports studies majors will go on to work as athletic directors, tournament directors, ticketing agents, sports team managers and work in marketing departments for sports teams.

"With a degree, there is a vast area of job opportunity. Especially with a liberal arts background, we hope that our students will be prepared to work in many areas," said Austin.

The Sports Studies Department requires its students to complete an internship before graduating. Currently many students work with the Rochester Amerks, Rhinos and Red Wings. According to Austin, they are exploring possible internships with the Buffalo Bills and Toronto Maple Leafs. Currently, 10 to 12 students are participating in internships.

"This is a competitive field and we want to give our students cutting edge information. The internship is one of the most important parts of our program," said Austin.

## S.S. major explains all

Angela Blauvelt is a junior majoring in Sports Studies.

**Speck: What are your goals for a career in sports?**

Blauvelt: I plan to graduate in 2003 with a degree in Sports Studies and then go on to graduate school anywhere in the U.S.

**Speck: What led you to a career in sports?**

Blauvelt: Sports have always been a huge part of my life and I find it interesting. I started off as a business major and switched to sports studies my sophomore year. The sports program has an interesting twist.

**Speck: So far, what has been your most beneficial class?**

Blauvelt: Sport Law, but it was also the most challenging. So

much in the sports world comes back to the law.

**Speck: How do you think this major is going to help you with your career?**

Blauvelt: I am currently doing an internship with the athletic department here at Fisher and the hands on experience is very valuable.

**Speck: Would you recommend this major to other students?**

Blauvelt: If you are interested in sports it is an excellent major. Sports will always be one of the greatest forms of entertainment in our country, so it will always be a growing field. I think the program at Fisher prepares you for that.