



New Wing, New Life

The date is not yet set. Previously thought to break ground during the fall of 2012, many students are still left without a home. Time is passing and students are becoming anxious.

Texas Tech University's Plant and Soil Science department in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources has needed a facelift for quite some time. Luckily, that time is fast approaching. The PSS department is slated to have a new wing added to its existing building. The new wing will not only help student and faculty life, but in recruitment and research as well.

Chris Berger, a senior horticulture and turfgrass sciences major from Altus, Oklahoma said, of course, is every department's goal, and moving forward is what the PSS department is all about.

"The new wing of the PSS building is going to help expand the college and possibly get more students into the department," said Berger

With the recent addition of new classes, changes in faculty, and founding of the Fiber and Biopolymer Research Institute, the PSS department is making lengthy strides in the right direction. All that is needed now is a building for everyone in the department to call home according to Berger.

According to the PSS department's website, the department is in phase one planning for the new wing.

Currently the idea is that by attaching the wing to the west end of the PSS building and extending north, the PSS department will have adequate room. The new "L" shaped complex along 15th street will provide a visual presence that is not currently available.

The main offices for the department will also be relocated. By moving the offices to the northern most part of the new wing and out of their current location on the second floor of the PSS building, there will be a greater transparency between the department and the students.

Loren Davis, a senior horticulture and turfgrass sciences major said, "The new wing is a much needed facelift for PSS. It's supposed to have new offices, a seminar room, and state-of-the-art labs."

Davis went on to explain that she is very excited to see the department growing and "more space, new equipment, and new tools will definitely go a long way and benefit the department and the ag. college."

According to Davis the new PSS wing will also help the relationship between students and faculty.

"A large amount of what the PSS faculty and students do takes place in a lab or office, so it will be very beneficial to both parties," Davis said. "Building the new wing is going to help house all of our new students and in all of the research to come."

With the relationship between students and faculty ever growing, more and more students feel that changing the current atmosphere of the PSS department will be a good, and positive change.

Katie Setterbo, a junior horticulture and turfgrass sciences major from Fredericksburg, Texas, said, "The new PSS building will absolutely help students because right now we don't really have a specific spot. Our professors are running around having their classes in Ag. Sciences, Food Tech, some in Goddard, and some are in PSS, or what we have of PSS." Setterbo went on to explain that she even has some lecture class in laboratories.

Setterbo said, "Having the new wing will give us the environment and the atmosphere to sit down in an actual classroom and learn some of the material without being so scattered all over the place. It'll definitely be more of a direct route to learning."

Many students feel the same as Setterbo. By putting the entire faculty under one roof and adding more space for lecturing and research students will be positively affected in more ways than one.

Berger said, "I believe it will help the students by adding more classroom space and updating the rooms."

Since the department is currently spread throughout campus this makes it difficult on many of the professors as well.

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Setterbo said, "I think each professor does the best they can to teach us everything in their own discipline, but it definitely stinks sometimes when you're sitting in class on time and the professor runs in five or ten minutes late." She said "I know we have that 15-minute period, but that's just time spent sitting there and then the teacher has to rush the lecture. That gets kind of frustrating especially when it's something as complicated as crop physiology or genetics."

Overall, prospective students, current students, faculty, and staff will all greatly benefit from the new wing of the PSS building. Students and faculty will be closer to each other and prospective students will see state of the art facilities for teaching and research. Not to mention, the amount of research that will be able to be conducted in facilities that do not have to be shared and double as classrooms.

Students in the Plant and Soil Sciences department will soon have a new place to call home. The date may not be known, but one thing is for sure, the day is coming.

Max Allen Thompson
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