



Courtesy of Howler

In 1983, rolling the Quad could be a challenge. A blight forced the removal of these tall elm trees four years later, a move which many saw as symbolic of the university's loss of its old traditions.

Things ain't what they used to be



Old Gold and Black photo

Last spring 150 students gathered outside Wait Chapel to protest the Program Planning Committee's computer proposal during the trustees' visit. The trustees later passed the plan unanimously.

In 12 years, university makes giant leap to national status

By BRIAN J. UZWIAK
EDITOR IN CHIEF

If you think of Wake Forest before the mid-1980s, the image that probably comes to mind is that of a small Baptist liberal arts college.

Now, on the threshold of the year 2000, the image evoked is one of a national university with IBM ThinkPad-toting students.

But what of that generation of students who attended the university during the interim?

Those of us who will receive our diplomas in the next few years mark the end of an era.

This year's freshman class marks the end of a transitional period at the university. The class of 1999 will be the last of a 'notch generation' which attended the university during a brief period when it couldn't be easily associated with any single institution or identifying characteristic.

The only unifying theme of the notch generation seems to be the rapid change that will take the university into a new era.

From N.C. Baptists to PepsiCo

Changes in student body composition correlate directly with the changes instituted by the Hearn administration to direct Wake Forest to national stature.

One of Hearn's earliest moves was to force a split with the Baptists. In the 1985-86 and 1986-87 school years, the university fought with the North Carolina Baptist Convention to wrest control of selection of members of the board of trustees.

Until the Baptists agreed to let the university go its own way in 1986, the convention had veto power over trustee selection and dictated that two-thirds of the trustees be North Carolina Baptists.

Once the Baptist control was eliminated, the selection of trustees opened up and became clearly lined with economic and corporate rather than religious connections.

In fact, the past two chairmen of the board of trustees have been the CEOs of companies that have close corporate connections with the university.

The former chairman, Wayne Calloway, is the CEO of PepsiCo. His company donated \$1 million toward

According to a survey of last year's freshman class, 44 percent of the students reported that their parents had a combined income of \$100,000 or more. And according to the office of financial aid, over the past few years consistently only 25 percent of the student body received need-based financial aid.

The changes in the student body are also seen in the changes in the average SAT score. Since 1985, the average SAT score of entering freshmen has gone up over 100 points. The number of minorities attending the university has gone up along with the geographic distribution.

Visit, but don't drink

Institutional changes have also resulted in numerous social policy changes during the evolution.

One of the most rankling social issues of the mid-'80s was that of visitation. Most of the dorms on campus were single sex until the late 1980s and rules as to when men could visit women's dorms were very strict.

Men were only allowed in women's dorms until

Safety becomes big worry

Campus security has been an issue of great concern over the past decade. Violent incidents every couple of years continually rekindled the issue.

With increased parental concern about crime on campus, administrative concerns over liability and the state attorney general's efforts to formalize all private police forces, the department in 1994 became more akin to a professional police force.

Now known as Campus Police, the department has gotten marked cars with lights and an office in Davis House in the last few years.

Security has also been a big issue in the face of some recent criminal acts.

After a student was beaten up in the fall of 1992 proposals were made to construct gates at the entrances to campus. These proposals are now being reexamined in the face of a kidnapping last semester and the prospect of 5,000 laptop computers on campus in the coming years.

A familiar result of the drive to make the campus more secure is the keycard system. Keycards were first installed in hall-style residence halls in 1988, but until this year they only operated from midnight to 6 a.m.

Administrative growth

The impetus for most of the change in the past 10 years can be found in the selection of Thomas K. Hearn Jr. as university president in 1983.

Hearn, who is in his 13th year as president, replaced James Ralph Scales, who had served since 1967.

The selection of Hearn marked the beginning of an unprecedented increase in the size of the administration.

During his tenure, several new vice-presidency positions have been created, including those belonging to Sandra Boyette, the vice-president for public affairs and Ken Zick, the vice president for student life and instructional resources.

In fact, the entire student life division of the administration was created in the Hearn administration.

His presidency also marked the waning influence of old Wake Forest in the administration.

Ed Wilson, the last administrator to attend college and teach on the old campus stepped down from his post as provost during the 1988-89 school year. He had been the provost since 1968, before which he was the dean of the college.

"In one sense I am the last member of the executive council to have actually been a student or taught at the old campus," Wilson said upon returning to teaching.

David Brown replaced Wilson as provost in 1989. Brown had no previous connection with Wake Forest and was previously chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Asheville and an administrator at Miami University of Ohio.

Brown was the primary architect of the university's Plan for the Class of 2000, which, among other things, mandates that students entering next year enroll in freshman seminars and own laptop computers.

Faculty: Changing of the guard

More than anything else, Wake Forest is known for its faculty and the high level of interaction between the faculty and students. But this too has changed.

The old generation of professors, many of whom lived in faculty apartments and had very special mentoring relationships with their students, is passing from the university scene.

The new crop of professors are committed to their undergraduate students in a way that is unique to this university, but the flavor of that commitment is somehow different. Because of the increased pressures on faculty members and the larger size of the university, the sense of community among colleagues is not what it once was.

"The demands on this generation of faculty to teach, do research and find a personal identity are much greater than before," said Richard Zuber, a professor of history, in an interview earlier this semester.

"Plus there is an adversarial climate in which they have to work, adversarial in that parents are paying a great deal of money and for their investment they want to have access to (administrators and faculty)," he said.

In an interview earlier this semester, Wilson said, "When I first started teaching, Wake Forest was about one-third the size that it is now. ... I think that I probably knew every member of the faculty because it was so small."



Wilson



Old Gold and Black photo

Though the campus has been free from major building work for the last two years, the construction of the Benson University Center in 1989 and 1990 was only one of several large-scale projects completed in a five-year span. Olin Physical Laboratory, Benson, Worrell Professional Center and North Residence Hall were built, and Winston Hall and the Z. Smith Reynolds Library underwent significant expansions.

the completion of the Benson University Center and got special concessions from the university to move into the former R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co. World Headquarters building, which is owned by the university.

The current chairman of the board, John G. Medlin Jr., is the CEO of Wachovia Bank. The bank gave \$1 million towards the completion of the Worrell Professional Center and is the university's financial institution.

Tuition skyrockets

Since the change in the board of trustees, the board has approved an enormous increase in tuition over the past ten years. In that period the tuition has increased more than threefold from slightly over \$5,000 in 1986 to \$18,500 for freshmen next year.

Both Hearn and Provost Brown have shown a readiness to raise tuition.

"We are known as one of the best 'bargains' in the country, but we must decide whether this is a desirable reputation," Hearn said in a 1984 memo to the faculty.

Even after several years of 10 percent increases, Brown said in 1994, "It is a conviction of mine that tuition is lower than it should be."

Now we face the prospect of a \$3,000 jump in tuition for future incoming classes to fund the Plan for the Class of 2000 programs.

All along as it has increased tuition, the administration has said that it remains committed to need-blind admissions and financial aid.

Indeed the university offers better financial aid packages than many other similar institutions. But the affluence of the student body continues to rise.

Students wealthier, wiser

Of course, because of its transient nature, the student body is constantly evolving, but general trends can be spotted.

Overall, the student population comes from more affluent families and from more distant places.

midnight any night of the week, and they had to surrender their ID cards to a resident adviser at the front desk. If the men did not leave the dorm by midnight, they faced the prospect of reduced housing priority for the following semester.

After the split with the Baptists and much wrangling on the part of the Student Government and resident student associations, the current relaxed visitation policy went into effect in 1988.

Alcohol policies and their enforcement have also been a bone of contention during this period. Oddly enough, policies were more lax before the split with the Baptists. As the state drinking age changed to 21 in 1986 and social host liability became a greater concern, the administration has clamped down.

In 1985, an administrator instituted a new policy by which fraternities were restricted to five kegs at each party. Until this point they could have an unlimited number of kegs.

"The liability for the fraternity and the university would be immense if anything were to happen to a student," said Brian Austin, the administrator who introduced this policy. Then director of the university counseling center, Austin has since left the university.

By the fall of 1990, no kegs were allowed at open parties, and graduate students were used as compliance advisors.

This year the policy became even more strict. Parents are now notified whenever a student violates an alcohol rule.

While the influence of Greek groups has been continually debated over the past decade, the focus of real change has been on host liability for alcohol.

A proposal in 1987 to move the Greeks to the university-owned houses along Polo Road to create a 'Greek Row' was scrapped over such concerns.

Also in that year the first two national women's organizations appeared on campus — the Delta Sigma Theta and Delta Delta Delta sororities.

After the agreement between the existing societies not to affiliate with national sororities expired in 1990, the local groups began to examine national affiliation.

But it wasn't until 1993 that all of the societies were forced by the administration to go national for insurance reasons.

Doing the honorable thing

After making the first changes to the honor code in years in 1985, the Student Government and administration have dickered about the honor and judicial systems constantly over the past decade.

Changes to the honor code focused on emphasizing that membership in the university means that students automatically adhere to the policy and that reaffirming that by signing a policy on test booklets was unnecessary.

Student defenders were added to the system in 1985. In 1989, the Student Life Committee added the Group Advisory Panel to hear group cases.

Revisions to the system in 1992 put all alcohol and drug related cases in the hands of administrative hearings. The changes also made the terminology and process less adversarial, though sanctions remained as stiff.

Also in 1990, the university had the first open judicial trial in 20 years. There since have been two such cases.

The recent debate over the honor code could be seen to illustrate the university's drastic change in direction and the confusion such a change can cause. Indeed, its institutions have not been questioned to such an extent since it moved to Winston-Salem in the 1950s.

Then, the university's once-strong Philomathean and Euzelian academic societies were abandoned in favor of the fraternities and women's social societies. Today, the two academic societies have returned, and the intellectual and social sides of the university brush uneasily against one another.

The big question for the next decade is how the Plan for the Class of 2000 will affect the current state of affairs.

Chronicling change

- Aug. 1983: Thomas K. Hearn Jr. named president.
- 1984 — Oct. 1984: Hearn questions low tuition in letter to faculty.
- 1986 — Sept. 1986: Drinking age raised to 21 in North Carolina.
- Nov. 1986: Baptists give board of trustees complete autonomy.
- 1988 — Aug. 1988: Relaxed visitation policy goes into effect.
- Oct. 1988: Keycards implemented.
- 1990 — Oct. 1990: Benson University Center dedicated.
- 1992 — April 1992: All alcohol cases put in hands of administrators.
- March 1993: Worrell Professional Center dedicated.
- 1994 — March 1995: Trustees pass Plan for the Class of 2000.
- 1996 — Aug. 1996: All freshmen will be required to purchase ThinkPads.