TCNW Closes

VFTH

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WKU biology students are adjusting to new surroundings this semester after the university said goodbye to their former home.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham looks at the impact Thompson Complex North Wing had on thousands of students and faculty.

It’s being called the end of an era. The closing of Thompson Complex North Wing. But it’s been a long time coming and it’s all part of a strategic plan for students in WKU’s Ogden College of Science and Engineering.

“That’s kind of a sentimental place for anyone that was a bio chem major at that time, which I was.”

Dr. Wayne Bush is talking about Thompson Complex North Wing.

The former inside linebacker for the WKU football team spent the bulk of his college career in this building.

“About 85 % of my classes were in Thompson Complex so yeah I spent a lot of time going up and down the hill.”

Bush lived in the short side of Keen Hall, the farthest point from Thompson Complex North Wing and this was long before shuttle service was available.

“In retrospect, that was a good thing for me, playing ball it helped me stay in shape that much more.”

The former student was among an auditorium full of people gathered for a recent goodbye celebration.

Ferrell says labs and classes have been relocated to Snell Hall which opened four years ago with state of the art equipment.

“The ventilation is so much better in here and higher ceilings allow for that to happen. Much better educational environment than what we had over there.”

It still makes goodbye bittersweet for former faculty and students like Dr. Bush who says his memories date back to his childhood when his parents were doing post-graduate work in the North Wing.

“I spent a lot of days running up and down the steps of Thompson and playing on the rails, picnic lunch under the tree, a lot of good memories.”

The final piece of the puzzle for Ogden College of Science and Engineering is the renovation of Thompson Complex Central Wing. That will provide additional lab space and much needed office space when state funding becomes available.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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