

Student Center Construction

At the beginning of the semester, the University began an effort to repurpose the second floor of the Student Center into a one-stop-shop of student services.

Up to this point, most students have seen the buzz of construction work around the area: cranes lifting, bulldozers coming and going and large trucks delivering construction materials. While many have seen these external signs of progress, few have seen what's going on inside the space where students used to gather to play games and socialize. To satisfy students' curiosity a photographer and writer from *The Collegian* received a tour to give students an inside look at the construction process and what's coming in the future.

The first step in the renovation process was to completely gut the area. BJU handled most of the demolition work in-house.

"We saved a significant amount of money doing our own demolition," said Tom Berg, director of Utilities and Energy Services at BJU.

With the demolition complete, the Triangle Construction Company, a local general contractor, has begun renovating the space into an area that will now serve a myriad of purposes. The majority of the functions currently housed in the Administration Building (the Business Office, executive offices, the Records Office, etc.) will be moving into the renovated upstairs area. Also some services, like the Admission Office, will be relocating from the Office Annex.

Randy Page, director of public relations at BJU, said the move will be beneficial for students. "Everything will be much more centrally located and convenient for students," Page said.

Page explained that now, instead of having to go all over campus for certain services, students can make a one-stop trip to the new office area. After the move, the Administration Building will be left empty, and Page said it will be demolished within a year and turned into a green space.

The University hopes to have the project completed by the time students return this fall, Berg said.

