

Account

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA
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JOHN E. MATHEWS, JR. COMPUTER SCIENCE BUILDING GROUNDBREAKING,
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING DEGREE ACTIVITATION
HELD AT UNF SATURDAY

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. -- Formal groundbreaking for the John E. Mathews, Jr., Computer Science Building were held at the University of North Florida today (Saturday, March 14, 1987, 3 p.m.), during an outdoor ceremony on the University Green.

At the ceremony, officials from UNF, the University of Florida, and the State University System of Florida also announced the activation of the joint UF/UNF bachelor's degree program in electrical engineering.

The ceremony was highlighted by the participation of former State Sen. John E. "Jack" Mathews, Jr., who has been hospitalized in Gainesville for several years, and members of the Mathews family. A number of state and local dignitaries gathered at the groundbreaking to honor Sen. Mathews.

By naming the building for Mathews, UNF, the State University System and the Florida Legislature "pay homage to the man whose vision and determination is credited as responsible for bringing higher education to Jacksonville," UNF President Curtis L. McCray said.

(more)

Groundbreaking --Add One

"Drastic action must be taken if we are to meet the obligation of providing a higher education for every young person who wants to go to college," Mathews said more than 25 years ago.

The senator co-authored the bill which created Florida Junior College (now Florida Community College at Jacksonville) and, during the 1965 legislative session, introduced his bill to authorize a study for what eventually became the University of North Florida.

Mathews' political career ended on an ironic note in 1970 when he resigned his senate seat -- in compliance with legislation he helped to create -- to seek the Democratic nomination for governor. It was his second unsuccessful gubernatorial bid. He returned to law practice in Jacksonville until 1979 when he was stricken with cryptococcal meningitis. Since then, he has remained hospitalized in Gainesville.

The three-story, 50,000 square-foot Mathews computer science building will cost \$5 million and should be completed in time for spring term classes beginning in January 1988. It will house teaching and research labs, faculty offices, two 200-seat auditoria and state-of-the-art computer equipment that keystones undergraduate and graduate level programs in the UNF Division of Computer and Information Sciences which are moving Jacksonville toward educational leadership in vital research and technology industries in the Southeast.

At the ceremony, State University System Chancellor Charles B. Reed, University of Florida President Marshall Criser, and President McCray also formally activated the joint UF/UNF baccalaureate electrical engineering program which will enroll its first students here during the 1987 fall term beginning in August.

(more)

Groundbreaking --Add Two

"The joint UNF/UF electrical engineering program is a further testament to the state's commitment to provide higher education within the region," said President Criser.

About 30 students are expected to enroll in the two classes that will launch the program this fall. Thereafter, an increasing number of courses will be added, building to a steady offering of nine courses per term.

"The numerous inquiries we've received from qualified students about an engineering program indicated a great demand for this program here," said McCray. "There are a number of people in the Jacksonville area who for numerous reasons, are unable to enroll in engineering schools elsewhere. Adding the prestige of the University of Florida's College of Engineering to a program taught on the UNF campus benefits both schools and the community."

Persons taking the courses will be enrolled as University of Florida students and will receive degrees from that institution. The program will be offered under the auspices of UF's Department of Electrical Engineering. The program consists of 75 upper division semester hours. Students applying for admission must have a 2.5 overall grade point average (GPA) and 2.7 GPA in calculus and physics lecture courses, based on first attempt.

"The electrical engineering field is particularly relevant to the developing industrial base in the Jacksonville area," said Dr. Hansford Farris, a UF professor who will teach and administer the program at UNF.

FACT SHEET

University of Florida/University of North Florida Joint Baccalaureate Program in Electrical Engineering

JOINT PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The University of Florida will offer upper-division course work, taught by University of Florida faculty on the University of North Florida campus in Jacksonville to support the UF Bachelor of Science in Engineering (Electrical Engineering) degree program. [NOTE: The wording of the degree is to distinguish it from UF's on-campus degree program; the UNF program will not be eligible for accreditation until it graduates its first students.] The academic program is the same as the on-campus electrical engineering program at UF.

PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

To meet the expressed needs for trained engineers in the electrical engineering discipline voiced by Jacksonville industries.

APPROVAL

Academic program approved by the UF Department of Electrical Engineering, College of Engineering, on October 15, 1986; approved by the faculty of the UF College of Engineering on December 18, 1986.

ADMINISTRATION

The program is administered by the University of Florida, which is hiring faculty. Dr. Robert Sullivan is chairman of the UF Department of Electrical Engineering; Dr. Peyton Peebles, associate chairman of the UF Department of Electrical Engineering, will coordinate the program for UF; Dr. John Bardo, provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Florida, will coordinate the program for UNF.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Hansford W. "Bill" Farris, director-lecturer, former acting dean of Engineering and chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Two UF lecturers are being sought -- one to be hired on or about March 1, 1987; the second, by August 1, 1987.

Ms. Camille Hibbert, half-time UF secretary, hired in January 1987. A part-time secretary at UNF also has been assigned to assist Dr. Farris.

PROPOSED BUDGET*

1986-1987 -- approximately \$235,000
1987-1988 -- approximately \$1 million
1988-1989 -- approximately \$1 million

*Contingent upon approval by the Florida Legislature.

FACILITIES

UNF will provide the facilities. UNF's share of the budget also includes \$150,000 to renovate, by August 15, 1987, 4,080 square feet for eight laboratories in seven rooms (two will share space) in a building currently used in the UNF Technologies program. Additional space may become necessary as enrollment grows.

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Applications currently are being accepted. The first students will be transfers from junior/community colleges and other locations. Students must meet admissions standards established by the UF Department of Electrical Engineering.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Students may apply for financial aid through the University of Florida. Applications, handled primarily by mail, are available at both schools.