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WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY'S STUDENT NEWSPAPER

University adds new seating areas to campus

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On any given day, students can take a look around and notice some of the obvious additions to campus. Starting last semester, tables and chairs were added to various places on campus along with a solar powered piano, a ping-pong table and carts stocked with exercise equipment and games on the upper quad. New tables and chairs can be found in front of Reynolda Hall and around the library. The library has also added a new outdoor reading room, complete with books and magazines.



Kristen Hutton/Old Gold & Black

Since Provost Rogan Kersh arrived on campus last September, he has been talking to numerous groups about his studies on Generation Y. He has found that people of this generation, especially students at the university, have extremely busy schedules and not much time to stop and relax. The administration decided to address these concerns by creating spaces for the students, faculty and staff to take a moment to enjoy the outdoors.

The university brought in Dan Biederman, park and public space expert, and his firm Biederman Redevelopment Ventures. Biederman was instrumental in the restoration of NYC's Bryant Park in 1991.

Students are mostly pleased with the new additions to campus. "I think it is good they added more chairs because when it gets prettier outside, students will want to sit outside and need more space to sit," junior Lisa Michelson said. In anticipation of the warmer weather coming, students are hoping to make use of the new chairs and tables outside.

"I think it is positive, but I haven't seen anyone use them," senior Aashish Daulat said. "Students will probably use them when it warms up."

The chairs will also provide students with a place to study outside and enjoy the nice weather. "The weather has been bad but when it warms up I will use them," freshman Sapna Pathak said. "I think they should do more stuff to promote studying outside because it is refreshing."

Students plan on utilizing the chairs and tables to relax and study while enjoying the nice views on campus. "I think that the campus is beautiful and I'd love to sit outside and enjoy it more, but there aren't many places to sit especially where you can eat or sit with a large group," freshman Sarah Repko said.

"The tables outside the Pit are great for solving those problems though, and you can always grab snacks from Benson, sit outside, eat and relax, and maybe even work on some homework because there is enough room. The view from the Pit also highlights the Mag Quad really nicely, and it's easy to run into friends because you're outside the Pit."

However some students are dissatisfied with the style of the new additions. "I think its great. I wish they made the base [of the umbrellas near the library] a little bit smaller because you can't really sit underneath them," Michelson said.

Students are also pleased with the other new additions to campus. "I absolutely adore the piano. It provides the campus with a creative outlet," freshman Eleni Kristy said. "I enjoy walking on the upper quad and hearing my fellow classmates play fun tunes such as Heart and Soul. It is quite de-stressing."