Topper Café/WKU Store

VFTH

9/13/12

The massive renovation of Downing University Center has created quite a few changes for students at WKU.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham looks at how the campus is adapting to these temporary transitions.

The one stop shopping dynamic of Downing University Center is on hold while a two year, 49 million dollar makeover takes place. For the time being, a ballroom has turned into a bookstore and fresh food has taken over the south lawn.

Downing University Center isn’t what it used to be….

10:42 “At first when I walked in everything was blocked off and I was like where is all the food and stuff we used to have?”

The answer is both here, and here.

The Garrett Conference Center ballroom is the temporary home of the WKU store.

 8:14 “When you think about it, you rent an apartment for a year and try to make it like home. That’s what we’re trying to do with this place, make it like the bookstore people are used to coming to.”

The campus is also making the best of Topper Café, a temporary building on South Lawn that houses Fresh Foods.

42:34 “It was a push to get in, but it’s gone very well. We’ve gotten positive feedback from students and faculty and staff, even Dr. Ransdell who says it’s much larger than it appears when looking at the outside.”

39:24 “It is a little inconvenient I’ll admit to have DUC and Fresh foods the way it will be closed down but I think everyone’s adjusted to Topper Café’ really well and they enjoy it.”

And this is just phase one for the Topper Café.

14:45 “In year one, this year, it will be all you can eat fresh food, the plan next summer, this will shift and become the retail food court.”

. The end result will be well worth the wait.

40:16 “My dad was on campus when DUC was first built so I can’t wait to tell my kids what the new DUC will be like.”

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The DUC renovation will be complete in the fall of 2014. That’s when the Topper Café building will be removed and the South Lawn will return to green space. By the way, a new restaurant called Panda Express will open at Garrett in early October.

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

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