

Western Piedmont Community College plans 25-year time capsule

By LETA PARKS
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Western Piedmont Community College will soon bury a piece of the present which will spend 24 years waiting to be opened in the year 2014.

On Aug. 5 school representatives will install a time capsule under the brickwork in front of the new Phifer Learning Resources Center.

The glass cylinder will remain under the ground until its scheduled opening on April 2, 2014.

Many of the objects in the clear, glass cylinder will be from the college's 25th anniversary, which the school celebrated during the months of April through July, 1989.

"In preparing for Western Piedmont's 25th anniversary we logically thought about our past and began to think about the future," said Larry

Clark, dean of planning and research. "This is reflected in the anniversary motto, 'Founded on Tradition -- Dedicated to Change.'

"The college's Marketing Committee decided to share the experiences of this anniversary with the future by burying a time capsule."

The capsule is currently being displayed in the new Phifer Learning Resources Center, and guided tours of the center will be offered after the capsule is installed at 4 p.m. Aug. 5.

Cards are located beside the modern-looking container donated by Kimble Glass Inc.

Teachers, students, staff members and others have been writing messages which will be placed in the capsule.

Also inside the container will be the state Financial Audit Report from 1989, a 1989 graduation program, a publication describing the college at its 25th anniversary, a 25th anniversary catalog and a copy of "Blueprint for

Progress," which describes fund-raising for the Phifer Center.

It will also contain the "Visions of the Future 2001" task force report containing recommendations for the school's future, the April 2, 1989 edition of The News Herald indicating the college's 25th birthday and the "Forecast 2000" edition of The News Herald.

Also included in the time capsule will be predictions of the school's future such as student dormitories, a Howard H. Haworth Business/Industry Institute, a personal air vehicle landing site and becoming the administrative center of five western campuses.

The WPCC alma mater, a 1989 fall course schedule and a campus map will also be placed in the capsule.

Each item will be covered with a special type of plastic to preserve it



Photo by Mark Hannan

Freedom High School teacher Mary Choate throws a message to the future into a bowl beside the capsule.

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before being placed in the container.

Once everything is in place the cylinder will be purged with nitrogen gas to remove moisture. Then, it will be sealed with a silicon sealant and tape.

After it is placed under the "front porch" in front of the Phifer Center a stone marker will be placed over the capsule to mark its placement and the date of its opening.

Following the capsule's installment, guided tours will be available of the \$6,000 square feet of the new Learning Resources Center.

The center was named after Dr. Edward William Phifer Jr. and Mary Adair Edwards Phifer.

It houses classrooms, a library, a drama studio, an expanded audiovisual center, offices, meeting rooms and a life-size reproduction of Sen. Sam J. Ervin Jr.'s library which will be open this fall.

There will also be a reception in honor of the new facility after the tours. Present for the burial of the capsule and the dedication of the new building will be WPCC President Jim A. Richardson; the Rev. Steven P. Eason; Otto Woerner, president of the Western Piedmont Foundation, Inc.; and Claude S. Sitton, chairman of the WPCC Trustees.

Also, H.G. Jones, orator of collection for Wilson Library at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and Saul R. Cheslock, who will give the Dedicatory Prayer.