Renovation

Gym floor complete after delay

By ZACH HESTER
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IU Southeast's gym floor was refinished this summer for the first time since it was built 20 years ago, but the project took longer than expected.

The contractor, Vanderhoff Floor Company, began the project in early June. The $34,000 project was originally scheduled to be completed by June 19, but was not opened for general use until Tuesday, Sept. 4, and was not completely opened until Friday, Sept. 7.

"There were a lot of things that changed and weren't in the original contract we signed," Courtney Paris, Sales Director and Co-owner of Vanderhoff Floor Company, said.

Changes in color choice, the decision to use a non-standard color that had to be specially mixed and high humidity levels in the gym contributed to the delay in the project's completion, she said.

"All of the products we use for it to finish properly and maintain a good finish need a humidity level of 30-50 percent," Paris said.

She said the humidity levels in the gym averaged between 70 and 80 percent causing the floor to have to be re-sanded and repainted after a coat of paint did not dry properly.

Paris said organizations like the National Hardwood Flooring Association and the Maple Flooring Manufacturing Association recommend that floors be screened and coated every year and be completely resurfaced every 10 years.

Other changes included the volleyball court, which was repositioned to run parallel with the bleachers instead of perpendicular, adding about a week to the project.

The delay interfered with volleyball practices, four volleyball matches, two basketball camps and open gym sessions.

"Everything we intended to do, we still had… but we moved them to the Southern Indiana Sports Center," Pat Mrozowski, athletic director, said.

He was, however, disappointed that the events could not be held at IU Southeast.

"One of the ideas of having a camp is bringing people to our facility," he said. "We kind of missed out on an opportunity to bring in 150 young people here. We really are thankful for the cooperation from the Parks Department… They couldn't have done more for us, but it would have been better to play in our own gym."

Mrozowski said that he is pleased with the floor now that it is finished.

"The gym looks absolutely beautiful. We're just very thrilled," he said. "They did a very good job. It just took a bit longer than expected."

The first official collegiate event to be held on the new floor will be the home volleyball game against Oakland City University on Tuesday, Sept. 11.

Now that the floor is finished, there are other renovations of the gym to come.

New lights were installed after the last coat of paint was put on the floor two weeks ago, and a sound system is scheduled to be installed this week.

Mrozowski said the gym will get a new scoreboard in either 2008 or 2009 to satisfy new NAIA and NCAA requirements.

Bob Snip, director of Physical Plant, said other renovations may also come.

"We're going to try to appropriate money to have the gym painted," he said. "Now the floor looks beautiful but the rest of it needs a facelift."

Mrozowski said the lines on the floor had been painted several times, but the floor had never before been sanded down to bare wood.

He said that the floor will now be sanded and recoated regularly.

"We want to make sure that the floor stays in the good condition that it's in," he said.

Photo by Zach Hester

Members of the IU Southeast basketball team practice on the newly painted gym floor. The project took about three months to complete and the floor was repoened for use on Tuesday, Sept. 4. The floor had not been refinished since its construction 20 years ago.

Who am I?

Common Experience continues this fall

By CAROLINE BRYAN
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The second year for the IU Southeast Common Experience is beginning. The theme for the 2007-08 academic year is "Identity in a Multicultural World: Who Am I?"

The books chosen for this year's program are Barack Obama's "Dreams of My Father" and David Hurst Thomas's "Skull Wars." There will be a faculty led discussion of "Dreams of My Father," an author appearance by David Hurst Thomas and several speakers and discussions centering on this year's theme.

The first event for the Common Experience will take place on Sep. 12 in the IUS Library.

The event is a discussion called "Transitioning to College: Exploring Identity or Identity Crisis." Ruth Garvey Nix, vice chancellor for Student Affairs, and Shannon Staten, University of Louisville director of Housing and Residence Life, will discuss the college experience and the impact that college has on changing one's identity.

Gloria Murray, dean of the School of Education and chair of the Common Experience program, is optimistic about the response to the program this year.

"There has been a big response so far," Murray said. "We were at Fresh Fusion giving away books and there are a lot of faculty members who have adopted the books and require their students to attend Common Experience activities."

Murray plans for all speakers to sign the Common Experience posters this year and have them put on display as a way to get students interested in the program.

"We may even give some of them away," Murray said.

Carl Kramer, adjunct lecturer in history, is one of 24 faculty members who have incorporated the program into their classes. Kramer's students are required to read "Dreams of My Father."

'This country was a multicultural country before Europeans ever set foot on it, and it has become more so since.'

Pat Mrozowski
Athletic Director

The students will be required to choose a passage from reading assignments and to discuss it in class, as well as write an essay on the passage.

"I want to know how it helped them get a sense of cultural diversity in the United States," Kramer said.

"This country was a multicultural country before Europeans ever set foot on it, and it has become even more so since."

Kramer said he hopes the Common Experience will help his students understand something that some of them might not have been confronted with.

He believes that reading Barack Obama's book could shed some light on many issues.

"You learn more when you are personally confronted with the problems you're learning about," Kramer said.

Honors program begins

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With the start of a new academic year at IU Southeast, the first semester for the new honors program also begins.

Angela Salas, honors program director and professor, was hired in the summer of 2006 to run and develop the program. Program participants vary from first year to non-traditional students and athletes. The honors program currently has 44 students enrolled, 22 of which are first year students.

Due to limited enrollment, honors classes are smaller than others at IU Southeast. The classes range in size from four to 12 students, allowing a close teacher-student relationship.

There are currently five different program offerings, including criminal justice, history, journalism, political science and sociology. More curricula will open in future semesters as the program expands.

Honors students conduct research in topics of their own choosing relating to a tier one or multidisciplinary course. After researching their topic, students share their findings with the rest of the class.

Students can submit their project to participate in the Upper Mideast Honors Conference in Indianapolis this spring.

Other honors program professors include Marty Rosen, director of library services, Deborah Finkle, dean of research, and Charles Pooser, associate professor of French, who teach tier one and multidisciplinary courses.

'In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But in practice, there is.'

– Yogi Berra