

## A Facelift for WNCU 90.7 FM



For 10 years WNCU has been bringing wonderful music to the ears of its listeners. Now the station is bringing something new to their eyes as well.

Six months after the staff moved into makeshift offices and studios and major renovations began, the station finally reopened its doors in April 2006.

An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony will take place in AUGUST to celebrate the completion of this major renovation project.

The renovation process was completed through three phases: a renewal of the station's on-air and production studios, refurbishing of the student radio station (AudioNet) and a major overhaul of the station's business offices.

This is the first renovation of the jazz station since it first opened in August 1996. General Manager Edith Thorpe is thrilled to see such a dramatic change. "It just doesn't look like the same place," she says. "It's something I've envisioned for sometime, and it's something we're all very proud of."

Before renovations, WNCU had its share of physical wear and tear including bad lighting, poor heating and air conditioning, and small or non-existing work areas for the staff.

Now the station has a welcoming atmosphere thanks to an open area leading from the offices to the studios, a vibrant paint job, new light fixtures and modern designed carpet, a new air conditioning and heating system, and individual office spaces for every staff member.

"The new carpet is great," says Business Manager Lackisha Sykes. "And the new lighting contributes to the brightness of the station."

Renovations also took place in the AudioNet student broadcast center audio and video suites and the AudioNet general manager's office.

"It's great that we have new equipment," says mass communications junior Rony Camille. "We're on the cutting edge as far as reaching out to listeners in the Triangle."

New equipment upgrades such as digital consoles, computers, and new furniture also adds vibrance and professionalism to radio station, which is located in the Farrison Newton Communications Building.

"WNCU has needed renovations for a longtime now and it's wonderful to see progress at NCCU," says Music Director and Assistant Program Director B.H. Hudson.

With a new station to work in, WNCU staff can continue to bring great

jazz music to its listeners. Development Director Uchenna Bulliner feels that the renovations have brought closeness to the staff.

"I like the fact that now we are all part of one unit," she says. "[The station] has a bright, airy atmosphere and it feels more like a radio station now."

Other staff members had this to say about the renovation of WNCU:

"It's been a long process, and we have managed all the tearing down of the walls to continue the normal flow of the program. It was difficult but after seeing every thing put back together it is definitely a more comfortable, attractive place." Kimberly Pierce-Cartwright, News and Public Affairs Director

"[The station] has a wonderful state-of-the art studio, we're able to do more as far as equipment and programming. It's also more comfortable and attractive. They did an excellent job." Ken Grady, Announcer

"The physical renovations to the WNCU facilities have dealt with the noise and cooling problems we have had with the air conditioning system and allowed us to install all new consoles in every control room. Both from a performance and aesthetic standpoint the new studios give us a greatly improved work environment which I think is already giving a boost to our on air performance, which is what is most important to the listeners." Jim Davis, Chief Engineer

"The students are prouder to work here because of its look, and the community will find it vastly improved and much more inviting." Loletha Underdue, General Manger, AudioNet

"I think that the renovations are great; it helped to catch the station up with the 21st century. The station is like a home that you don't mind bringing company to. [Listeners] love the quality of the programming that they hear. Now, the atmosphere of the station reflects the quality of the programming. That's what WNCU is about." Phyllis Houston-Washington, Corporate Relations Representative

"I think the renovations are nice and I appreciate them." Krysty Caldwell, Office Manager

## **BEFORE**

From this (*during* the renovations)...



Staff Barracks Entry - "Enter with Caution"



GM's Sanctum Sanctorum



Staff Barracks and General Drop-Zone



Aasim "On the Air"...



... thanks to the true genius of Chief Engineer **Jim Davis!**

to this [\(Click to view\)](#)

### **AFTER ...**

but still vacant - just milliseconds before staff and crew repopulated the premises.  
Friday the Thirteenth of January, 2006.



**ROOM 145 from the outside lookin' into the scintillating world of 'NCU Jazz - 90.7 FM**



**Offcie Manager's view - from the inside out. (Yep, That 3-octave jazz carpet makes floor music.)**



Office Managers's view past News and DJs' lairs to Studios



Left: Spin Studio; Right: Live Studio The *SOURCE* of all that Jazz - and more.



**The Jazz Galley  
(The Studio Chef's on break....)**



**GM's NEW Sanctum Sanctorum - and still  
accessible!**



**Left door: Funding OUT; R.door: Funding IN.  
View: from the Chief's Quarters  
Far Right: MAIN SWITCH!  
Reprinted from [www.wncu.org/](http://www.wncu.org/)**