

## EDITORIAL



ANDREW PERALES | FOGHORN NEWS

# GAMB complex leaves students confused

Imagine this, you're a new student — unless you are in fact a new student, then just continue being yourself. Or maybe you're a nontraditional student and the last time you stepped on campus, Windows XP was considered "next generation tech."

Regardless, you were likely unfamiliar with the current layout of Heritage Campus when you arrived on the first day, and someone just gave you a slip of paper telling you to go to the math department in "GEN C101." Now, if you hadn't been on campus at any time after 2019, you likely wouldn't know where that is, or even if you had, there is a decent chance that you wouldn't know what the GEN building is. This is because the multi-building complex that is the General Academic and Music Building is known as exactly that, GAMB.

After asking around, you manage to decipher this knowledge and identify GEN C as being GAMB C, and the room you are looking for is on the first floor of that building.

Surprise, the first floor of GAMB C only has a few rooms on the inside: all of which are in the 110s, and none of which is the math department. At this point, you might be wondering if this is a "Platform Nine and Three-Quarters" type situation. Now, before you attempt to dive headfirst into a brick wall in the hopes it will prove to be illusory, we assure you that such a room exists. The other part of the C building's first floor can be accessed through

one of two doors facing the White Library, neither of which being marked by a sign of any kind at the time of writing.

Now, you might be thinking that this is an incredibly frustrating situation. Not only are you correct, but you are also not alone, as hundreds of students have struggled to navigate the complex within the first month of the semester alone.

Since it was first constructed, the General Academic and Music Building complex has suffered from insufficient signage, a confusing naming scheme and design features that serve the building's aesthetic appeal but hinder ease of navigation.

In that regard, we are happy to be the bearer of some good news. Over the past month, the growing frustrations of the lost students and the staff who have had to take on the secondary role of tour guides has not fallen on deaf ears. Both the college president's office and the Office of College Relations have stated that improving wayfinding is a major priority for the near future.

As of now, the college is working on adding window clings to all exterior doors, a form of ambient signage that will inform students of what building they are entering. They are also planning to install decals within the hallways, marking where one ends and another begins.

Probably most importantly, the college will be modifying existing maps to better orientate

students and make it easier to find where you are and where you are going. There has also been some talk that the college will no longer be using the confusing "dual naming scheme" that has made identification so difficult. The complex's colloquial name, GAMB, reigns victorious over the pretenders: GEN and MUSC.

We are quite certain that all of these changes will be welcomed with open arms by the students, faculty and staff. We also believe that they are indeed positive steps, or rather, leaps in the right direction.

Yet, we would like to suggest a few other changes and advancements that could also aid in the college's mission to improve wayfinding.

First is in regard to the afore mentioned C101 room, in fact it is in regard to rooms C101 through C114. While the presence of the window clings would help to identify which building is which, there is still the issue of determine where a door actually leads. All of these rooms can be found in a separate space from the much easier to find C115 and up.

What might be best is for the college to install a proper, permanent sign by each of the entrance ways to that area, stating what rooms reside behind those doors. These signs could be similar to the signs found in the second and third floor hallways, maintaining design consistency.

Our next suggestion involves another rel-

atively new addition to the college's arsenal, and one that we find to be woefully underutilized: the college's VikingGo app. The app is an incredible, free resource that puts a wide range of information right into the hand of any student with a smartphone.

It even has an interactive and informative general map of each campus, making the identification of individual buildings incredibly easy. What it is lacking is an interactive and informative map of the interior of buildings. The link provided on the app just takes a user to the college website and provides maps that do not have the functionality of the campus one.

A good step in improving wayfinding might be the creation of such a map, allowing a student to know the number and purpose of a room with a tap of their finger. It is also a resource that likely could be quickly and cheaply updated whenever a department or class is relocated, unlike a physical map that would have to be entirely replaced if any details were to change.

We commend the college for already being on the ball in terms of trying to fix these problems, but it shouldn't limit itself to the easy solutions. Marking doors and hallways and improving physical maps are good, but the college has the ability to efficiently beam an effective and highly functional map right into the hands of students if it wants to.

## ASK THE VIKINGS

### QUESTION: WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE FALL FILM?



**"For me it's 'Rise of the Guardians.' It's a good movie but didn't make enough money for a sequel. It's got good characters and a great story."**

— Kyle Leon Guerra, Computer Programming



**"'Hubie Halloween' — it's just a funny film. It's a comedy and it reminds me of Halloween and fall."**

— Madalyn Escobedo, Liberal Arts



**"I'm gonna go with 'Coraline.' The theme is my favorite part; the theme and the meaning of it."**

— Salvador Gamez, Petroleum Engineer



**"'Friday the 13th,' only because it has Jason. Out of all the killers he's my favorite, only because of the ski mask of course."**

— Daniel Soto, Nursing



**"For me, my favorite fall film is 'The Nightmare Before Christmas.' I just like the art style and it mixes Halloween and Christmas."**

— Jacob Flores, Business Administration



**"I like the Charlie Brown movies. 'The Great Pumpkin' is my favorite. It's just nostalgic and it's just very comforting."**

— Edith Willingham, Chemistry



**"'Hocus Pocus' — it's just a good movie; it reminds me of my childhood."**

— Mollie Sheffield, Sonography