

IN BRIEF

Library to stay open 24 hours until June 10

University students, faculty and staff who need to put in extra hours of study and research will have 24-hour access to the Knight Library starting today. The library will maintain round-the-clock hours until June 10, when it will close at 7 p.m.

To use the facility after regular hours, library-goers must show University IDs. Extended hours run midnight-8 a.m. Monday through Friday, 7 p.m. Friday to 11 a.m. Saturday, and 7 p.m. Saturday to 11 a.m. Sunday.

During the extended hours, there will be access to copy machines, printers and computers, but services such as library material checkout, reserves and video checkout and reference assistance will not be available.

— Ayisha Yahya

Gates: Speaker declares duty of science to reach the public

Continued from page 5

express scientific concepts in a non-mathematical way.

"First of all, I believe the most important thing for a scientist to do is understand that the general public has a language it uses to communicate ideas," Gates said. "It is our responsibility to learn that language."

"We really owe this to the public, because the public actually funds science," Gates said.

Gates researches string theory, which he said extends the work of Albert Einstein and continues where Einstein failed.

"Science is one of the most cumulative things that people can do," Gates said, explaining that often the value of a scientist's work is not realized within his or her lifetime but adds to a body of knowledge that contributes to future discoveries. He said scientists must be optimists to participate in a field that offers infrequent instant gratification.

"We believe in our species in a way I'm not sure a lot of people understand," Gates said.

Sprague said it was a coincidence that the selection of Gates as a speaker coincided with the World Year of Physics 2005. She said the committee in charge of convocation ceremonies is constantly collecting ideas for future speakers. When the committee started planning the 2005 ceremony, it

received a well-timed tip from University science writer Melody Ward Leslie, who heard Gates speak at the annual meeting for the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"He's able to explain things in a way that even a non-scientist can get excited and feel like they understand what is going on in this rather complex area of science," Ward Leslie said.

Carla Gary, assistant vice provost in the Office of Institutional Equity and Diversity, worked with Gates at the University of Maryland in the early 1990s and said she invited Gates to discuss science at the University of Pittsburgh when she later worked there.

"He is an international star on the physics horizon," Gary said, adding that because there are few African-Americans in the physics field, Gates' example is important for all students.

"He makes it real and relevant and talks about why every citizen should understand science," Gates said.

Sprague said the point of a convocation ceremony is to remind students and faculty of the intellectual collaboration inherent in a university setting, an idea that sometimes gets lost in the day-to-day shuffle of paperwork.

"You can forget the big picture, and something like this reminds us all why that work needs to be done," Sprague said.

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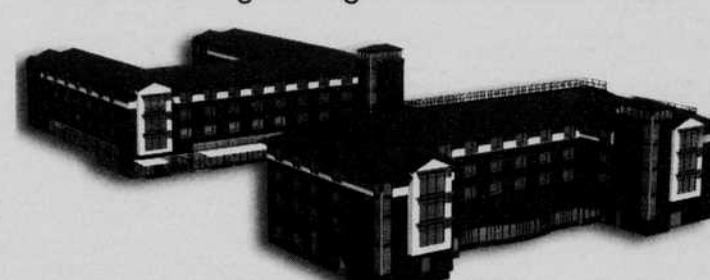


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