

CENTER

by Marti Gillespie



OF ATTENTION

The gift was the largest Lawrence University had ever received from a single donor — \$16 million. Although it came during the “quiet phase” of the *More Light!* campaign, the result was anything but — the entire campus was buzzing. The momentum created with this anonymous leadership gift energized and inspired other donors. The result? A \$35 million new Campus Center at Lawrence would finally become a reality.

With four levels and more than 100,000 square feet the Campus Center will transform the student experience at Lawrence. Nancy Truesdell, vice president for student affairs and dean of

students, said the Campus Center will serve as a crossroads for students, faculty, and staff to interact regularly and extend learning beyond the classroom, lab, or studio. She added, “Having purposeful gathering spaces and places where spontaneous interaction can happen will enhance the residential nature of the education our students receive. They will be able to study, socialize, dine, and enjoy each other’s company as well as feel part of the larger campus community. It will be a lively, energetic place where student clubs and organizations can meet and collaborate, and it will offer new spaces for events to take center stage.”





Above: Lawrence's new Campus Center located adjacent to Sage Hall.

THE CAMPUS CENTER IS NAMED

As this edition of *Lawrence Today* went to press the name of the new Campus Center had not been revealed. The name, chosen by an anonymous \$16 million donor, was made public for the first time October 17, 2008, during a special event celebrating the launch of the public phase of the *More Light!* campaign.

To learn the name of the Campus Center visit morelight.lawrence.edu.

WORTH THE WAIT

When the Board of Trustees initially began discussing the idea of renovating and expanding Memorial Union in 1988, no one could have imagined it would take nearly 20 years for the project to finally begin; however, academic facility needs took priority. In the end the wait has served the college well, allowing Lawrence to create a building that wasn't even imagined all those years ago. "We wouldn't have gotten nearly the caliber of building that we have in this project had we adopted those earlier ideas," said **Gregory Griffin '80**, Campus Center director. "Many ideas involved a facelift of the existing union. While that would have been an improvement, it was limiting because of the building's features. This building is going to do amazing things for the campus. We've never had a central gathering space that brings the entire community together. Every student will be entering that building several times each day and that just brings the whole community together."

Many voices from the Lawrence community helped shape the building that is now rising along the shores of the Fox River. "Students have been asked and have weighed in on everything from what the floor plan should be, what should be sold in the convenience store, furniture choices, environmental features, even the exterior stone," Truesdell said. "In every possible way this building will reflect and enhance student life and respond to the needs and desires of our students." **Lynn Hagee '58**, Campus Center project coordinator, agreed. "The architects listened to us, they listened to our student surveys, listened to what was said in the town hall meetings before they put pencil to paper — and that is really important. The building reflects that fact."

Many students said they find it energizing to witness the phases of construction and to envision what the Campus Center will eventually bring to the campus. "It's exciting to see Lawrence build for future students," said **Dan Karczynski '09**. While he's disappointed the building won't be in use before he graduates next May, he added, "I think it's really going to enhance the campus and Lawrence's reputation."

By May 2009 the building should be enclosed. Kitchen equipment will be moved into place following Reunion Weekend in mid-June. If all continues to go as planned, the Campus Center will be fully operational when students arrive for the start of the 2009-10 academic year.

For Griffin, beginning his job as Campus Center director more than a year before the building opens, has allowed him to familiarize himself with the building's end users. "It's not really moving an existing program into the new building," he said, "it's figuring out how we transform a good program to a great program in a building that's designed to support it. I will be spending a great deal of time helping those who want to use this building imagine what they can possibly do now that they have some of the best facilities in the Midwest available to them." ■

So powerful is the light of unity that it



Above: Julie Esch Hurvis '61 and her husband Tom '60 standing on the land bridge that bears their name.

Below: The inscription chosen by Julie Hurvis that adorns the bench on Hurvis Crossing.

HURVIS CROSSING

A Bridge to the Future

The path that leads to the new Campus Center isn't just an ordinary walkway. It's a carefully landscaped land bridge that combines brick pavers with grass, plantings, and outdoor sculpture. Named Hurvis Crossing after its benefactors **Tom '60** and **Julie Esch Hurvis '61**, the 60-foot-wide passageway extends the natural setting of the Campus Center and connects it seamlessly with the academic campus. Of this most unique gift Tom said, "I think it's a great concept. I know this will be a meeting place that connects the campus and builds unity." Julie added, "It's wonderful that the architects had this creative idea. It's so much more than a bridge; it's a welcoming spot, a gathering place for students. We couldn't be more pleased."

can illuminate the whole earth. -Bahá'u'lláh