



Rebuilding Complete



Two years to the day after an EF-4 tornado caused massive destruction to its campus, Union University celebrated the opening of the facility that completed its rebuilding process.

More than 500 students, faculty and staff gathered Feb. 5 in the Bowld Student Commons for an evening of praise, Scripture reading and prayer as they remembered God's protection the night when no students lost their lives despite the collapse of several buildings on campus.



Bowld Student Commons Opens to Students

Echo, a student-led group, presented the music and Union President David S. Dockery provided a devotional address in which he outlined his vision for the facility.

Dockery said he desires the commons to be a place characterized by worship, and one that reminds the Union community how it needs to draw near to God. He also said the commons should be characterized by hope in a faithful God, and should be a place where members of the Union community can care for, serve and encourage one another.

Several days earlier, students celebrated the start of spring semester and the opening of the new building during the traditional "Holla Back Party." The 30,000-square-foot facility includes apartments for two residence directors, a large multi-purpose room, three classrooms, two kitchens, game room, conference rooms, piano room, band practice room, TV rooms and gathering areas, outdoor built-in grills and outdoor patio space on both the first and second floors.

Bowld Student Commons is named in honor of Kathryn S. Bowld, who was graduated from Union in 1930 with a major in piano. She was a generous supporter of the arts and education. Prior to her death in 2000, she established a trust fund to benefit Union. Members of her family attended a building dedication service in mid-December.

"The Bowld Student Commons will be a magnificent addition to Union's campus and campus life," said Ken Litscher, Union's director of residence life. "We are excited about the way God is going to use this resource in the life of this university and the lives of each student."

Students say newly constructed facilities such as Bowld Student Commons and the residence life buildings already make a huge difference in their daily routines.

"It really is unbelievable how many different opportunities we are given through these new buildings," said Karl Magnuson, a sophomore engineering major from Louisville, Ky. "You have to live here on campus in these buildings and use them to know how great they are." ■

