



COBURN ADDITION TO INCLUDE HISTORICAL SHOWCASE EXHIBITS

RESIDENCE HALL AND EXPANDED DINING

CONSTRUCTION ZONE CONSTRUCT



On the heels of opening a \$20 million White Hall, more new construction is in progress during the 2007-08 academic year.

The recently completed amphitheatre is a gift from the classes of 2003 and 2006. Student musician Christopher “Cody” Curtis was the first artist to perform a concert at the new facility, which is directly east of Jennings Hall.

To the east of the amphitheatre are two other large construction projects that have changed the flow of traffic until completion.

The former circle in front of Coburn Dining Room’s west entrance has been

removed to make room for a 16,000 square foot expansion of the facility.

The new addition adds 600 seats for special events and will free more of the existing facility to serve students.

A multi-story residence hall north of the Coburn construction is also underway. The first step involved construction of a new parking lot to replace the space in which the residence hall will be built. Plans call for 100 private rooms and 25 suites with common kitchen, bathroom and living areas. The entrances to these rooms will be through interior hallways.

Both the banquet facility and the new residence hall should be finished in time for the start of the 2008-09 academic year next August.

The renovation of several areas in Penick Academic Center that now house engineering, physics and career services was completed prior to the start of fall semester. Resurfacing of roads and parking lots across the campus is also completed. ❖

The new addition to Coburn Dining Hall now under construction involves more than added table and banquet space.

Among the plans for the new building is an entry way called Heritage Hall that will include two major permanent exhibits. One is a historical timeline illustrating Union University’s history; another honors Union presidents.

The timeline will exhibit at least 50 large acrylic glass panels, plus scores of documents and other items of historical significance at Union University. The committee working on the project expects to review more than 1,000 documents before choosing the featured items.

“For me, some of the most lasting impressions from working on this project come from looking into the faces of the young men and women who came here,” said Steve Baker, associate vice president for academic resources and library director.

“The whole exercise has given me a better awareness of how the hand of providence has can be seen so clearly in sustaining and nurturing Union University for the special purpose it now espouses within the academy.”

A 50-inch flat screen television will also be mounted in the Heritage Hall, allowing for video presentations and other temporary exhibits.

The Presidents Wall will include 15 large portraits of Union presidents.

Both exhibits will be bolted and anchored in the walls and illuminated with track lighting. Some of the accompanying campus pictures will be so large that a 39 megapixel camera is required to produce adequate resolution.

“As we install walls of this nature, it seems most people are not quite prepared for the overall shock of the ‘wow factor,’” said Jim Harding of Harding Creative Inc., a Memphis company that is working with the committee from Union to complete the project.

Harding has installed similar permanent exhibits in bank buildings and university settings.

“The finishing touches added by our Living Mural Walls have made some of the architects exclaim that it is the key component bringing the whole edifice together,” Harding said.

The Heritage Hall project is scheduled for completion in late spring or early summer of 2008. ❖