

NEWS & NOTES

Gibbons razed to make way for new dining hall

Three-story replacement is scheduled to open in Fall '18

Gibbons Hall, a fixture on the Madison campus since 1964, was demolished in May to make way for a larger, more modern dining facility with expanded menu options.

Aging infrastructure and a growing student population prompted a study which concluded that replacing Gibbons Hall, better known as “D-Hall,” was more cost-effective than renovating it, said Angela Ritchie, marketing manager for JMU Dining Services.



D-Hub, a temporary dining facility, has opened in the parking lot next to Long Field-Mauck Stadium on Dukes Drive.


Construction on the new three-story facility began in June. The building is scheduled to open in Fall 2018.

Meanwhile, a temporary dining facility, “D-Hub,” has been set up in the R-1 commuter parking lot next to Long Field-Mauck Stadium on Dukes Drive. D-Hub offers a

similar menu to D-Hall and, like D-Hall, diners can eat as much as they want. D-Hub also has walk-up windows so students can grab breakfast sandwiches, pizza and burgers to go.

When the new D-Hall opens, it will have a piece of the original—an oven that has been used at Madison since the 1930s. “With a history of over 75 years, we couldn’t resist designing this oven into the new dining hall,” Ritchie said.

The first floor of the new D-Hall will also house Chick-fil-A as well as new options such as Qdoba, Steak and Shake, and Freshens Food Studio, which offers rice bowls, salads and flatbreads. Market One will also return with updated offerings.

The second floor will feature all-you-can-eat buffet-style dining in a large, open environment. It will also have balconies with outdoor seating. The third floor will have space for banquets, similar to the Montpelier Room in the East Campus Dining Hall. 

Another record year of private support for JMU

James Madison University set a record with more than \$18.7 million in total funds raised through private philanthropy during fiscal year 2016, which ended on June 30, 2016. The total eclipsed \$18 million for a second consecutive year after averaging \$10.1 million during the previous three years.

In addition, a record 20,859 donors gave to the university, including 8,610 JMU alumni, also a single-year record. A total of 6,530 donors made their first gifts ever to JMU during the year.

“Thank you to all the donors, faculty and staff, students, parents, alumni and friends who have expressed your belief in JMU through your contributions,” said Nick Langridge, vice president for university advancement. “You are making an impact on the Madison Experience for generations to come.”


Total giving increased in virtually all types of gifts to the university. Individual major gifts totaled more than \$8.4 million, up from \$8.2 million the previous year. Major gifts from organizations increased to nearly \$3.8 million from

\$3.5 million, and the university’s annual giving totals improved to nearly \$5.9 million from \$5.2 million in FY2015.

Planned giving fell from \$1.3 million to just over \$617,000. However, the university recorded more than \$20.2 million in conditional pledges which were not included in the fiscal-year totals. Conditional pledges, which include donor advised funds, certain bequests and other conditional commitments, increased more than five-fold over FY2015.

“These back-to-back record years immediately following the president’s listening tour and the release of JMU’s strategic plan show how strongly our donors believe in the university’s direction,” Langridge said.

JMU President Jonathan R. Alger gathered input during the 2013 *Why Madison? Presidential Listening Tour*, which then informed The Madison Plan. Released in 2014, the plan serves as Madison’s strategic roadmap for future success and sets forth the university’s vision to become the national model for the engaged university, engaged with ideas and the world.

To top off what was already shaping up as a tremendous year, JMU’s first-ever Giving Day on March 15, 2016, brought in a single-day record of 2,840 gifts totaling almost \$340,000. The outpouring of support served as further affirmation that something very special is happening at JMU. 

Funds raised to date

