

Barker addition on target: Future improvement plans in progress

Progress on the Barker Hall addition is on target to meet the early August 2005 completion deadline.

According to Ken Birkenholtz, vice president for business and finance, even though construction on the 20,000-square foot project got off to a slow start this fall, all the wrinkles seem to be ironed out and progress is being made in a timely manner.

"I think the good weather lately has gotten them back in close to schedule," shares Birkenholtz. "They will very quickly go into a winter-type situation, which basically involves putting plastic over the scaffolding so they can do masonry work all winter."

Working through the winter will help get the three-level structure which will accommodate 76 bed spaces, feature a recreation/activity area and a classroom, ready for fall 2005's crop of students. Along with the recreation area and the classroom, the basement will provide an area that, if needed in the future, could be converted to house another 12 beds.

Birkenholtz says the increase in enrollment as well as a desire to get back to traditional-style housing necessitated the addition. "We have accommodated the growth in the past by acquiring apartments in the neighborhood," explains Birkenholtz. He goes

on to say that although the apartments are very popular with students and are less expensive on a per-bed space cost, there was concern about the separateness from campus that often comes with apartment-style living.

"One thing we want to try to do is



The Barker Hall addition in progress and on schedule.

build a community. When you've got an apartment with your own bathroom and your own kitchen you tend to go there and not come back to campus," he explains. "With getting more residents in the central core of campus and looking forward to the hopeful advent in the next two or three years of the new campus center...then we've got a phenomenal focal point for campus...and the addition allows us to put more people directly in contact with that facility."

Architecturally, the Barker addition allows the building to project itself as a mirror image of its sister building, Kresge Hall. Kresge, which was built in two sections now accom-

modates about 210 bed spaces, where as the existing Barker has space for approximately 115 beds. The addition simply brings the two buildings closer together in size and ability to accommodate as well keeping on the same page with the design of the structures.

With the Barker addition well underway, Birkenholtz says the college may look forward to a number of future projects, the most immediate of which is the new campus center. Also in progress are preliminary plans for a 20,000-square foot addition to Blank Performing Arts Center. The college is working with an architect and the theatre department on the project, which is estimated to cost about \$4 million with furnishings.

Birkenholtz says the theatre addition would not only provide much needed space for the college but would also make the current structure much more handicap accessible. "The building would have new restrooms and there would be an elevator that would serve the main levels but also provide service to the studio theatre," explains Birkenholtz. "There is a big bank graded up to the south of the current building. Part of the plan would involve opening up that ground to the south and building on to the south.

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You could actually have a parking lot out there for additional parking and a circle drive coming up to the south entrance.”

The addition would also possibly include an atrium overlooking the current lobby.

In the summer of 2005, the college is looking to relocate the physical plant operation to the old Hy-Vee building. This would allow for additional parking to be created in the area where the physical plant is currently located.

Birkenholtz adds that all of the plans are positive and exciting for the college and fit nicely into the master

plan for campus. He compares the ongoing nature of campus improvements to staffing an office.

“It’s like when you first get out in the business world and you think about staffing, you say, ‘well we’ve got all our positions hired, we’re in great shape,’ and then what happens the next day? Somebody quits, you’re never done. It’s the same way with facilities.” Adds Birkenholtz, “Hopefully if you’re a healthy, vibrant, growing institution like Simpson is, it’s all the time. It’s fun. It’s invigorating. It’s attractive to students or prospective students. We hope it never ends, it’s a sign of outstanding health.”

LaGree’s nativity collection on Iowa Public Television

Morgan Halgren, host of IPTV’s “Living in Iowa” television program (and wife of Carl Halgren, professor of psychology,) will include a story on Patty LaGree’s nativity collection on the following broadcasts in December: Tuesday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m. and Friday, Dec. 24 at 8:30 p.m.

The segment was taped at the Sigler House in late October.

NEW FACE

Jessica Minnihan has joined the theatre department as costume shop supervisor and designer. Minnihan, a May 2004 Central College graduate worked in creative costuming at Walt Disney World prior to her hire at Simpson.



Minnihan

LIFE AFTER FIVE



A look at life with Kristi Elbert

Elbert

Title: secretary to office of alumni relations

Been at Simpson: since October 2003

Family: husband Chad; daughter Taylor, eight; son Brayden, five and son Brock, three.

Likes most about job: “I enjoy the people. I enjoy when we have people call the alumni office and ask questions about a parent or grandparent who attended Simpson. I like to look through the old yearbooks. I like to be able to help people. Also, the people at Simpson are wonderful to work with.”

Outside of work: enjoys reading, although she doesn’t have as much time for that as she would like. Most recently read “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.” Also has fun running her children from place to place and meeting other parents of kids her children’s age.

Upcoming vacation: planning trip over Christmas break to visit family in Kansas City, MO.

Simpson Guild hosts 'Avenue of Trees'

Simpson Guild, celebrating its 60th anniversary of raising money for students and other campus needs, is sponsoring an "Avenue of Trees" on campus from Dec. 1 through Jan. 1.

Twenty-six six-and-a-half foot tall, white lighted trees now line the sidewalks between Hillman Hall and Smith Chapel. At the base of each tree sits a placard individuals or groups both on and off campus have purchased to commemorate a special event, honor an important person or simply wish the community happy holidays.

The cost to sponsor a tree is \$40 with all proceeds going to Simpson Guild.

Becky Beaman, vice president of the Guild, says members thought it would be nice to add a new fund-raiser this year in honor of the Guild's 60th anniversary.

"The idea of some sort of commemoration during Christmas had been discussed for a few years, and we decided to go with 'The Avenue of Trees,'" says Beaman. Adding, "The trees are a simple yet elegant way for the Guild to raise money for our students and the college. We hope the public will enjoy viewing the trees and

have fun reading the placards denoting the various sponsorships."

Beaman and other Guild officials are pleased to report that all 26 trees have received sponsorships. However, the Guild plans to hold the fund-raiser again next year so anyone interested in participating next year should get their order in early. Simpson Guild serves

as a link between the Indianola community and Simpson College for the past six decades. Guild membership dues and money raised through annual projects including the Elves Auction and concessions, provide financial support for scholarships, equipment and capital improvements.



Simpson Guild Vice President Becky Beaman and Guild member, Coreen Witke assemble trees outside Smith Chapel for the "Avenue of Trees."

FACULTY NOTES

Assistant Professor of Computer Science **Jim Bohy's** workshop, *Teaching Ethics Using Structured Controversy*, has been accepted for the Special Interest Group in Computer Science Education Technical Symposium in February 2005. SIGCSE is affiliated with the Association of Computing Machinery.

Tricia Calkins, associate professor of German, presented a paper at the Iowa World Language Association on the *European Union's Common Framework for Languages*. She also attended a workshop at the Goethe Institute in Chicago on moving from learner-centered teaching to helping students

become autonomous learners and plans to use the things discussed there to train other teachers of German.

Jan Everhart, director of Lilly, was one of four Regional Scholars honored at the annual Society of Biblical Literature meeting in San Antonio, Nov. 19-23. She also gave a paper in the Religion, Gender, and Sexuality section.

The Rev. Angela Gafford, chaplain and instructor of religion served as Assistant to the Conference Artist at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference of the UMC, held in Davenport in July. Gafford was featured in the

October 2004 issue of *The Interpreter* magazine, a monthly UMC publication. The article highlighted the leadership of Generation X first career ministers.

Bob Gieber, professor of French, attended the Iowa World Languages Association conference in Des Moines on Oct. 1.

Jack Gittinger, associate professor of education, attended the 24th Annual Lilly Conference on college Teaching: Creating Community for Teaching and Learning in November at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Over 50

FACULTY NOTES CONT.

featured teacher-scholars discussed teaching and learning topics ranging from using technology to cooperative learning. There were over 50 contributed papers.

Jim Hayes, assistant Lilly director, successfully defended his dissertation at the Aquinas Institute at St. Louis University on Oct. 1. His official graduation date is December 2004.

Eduardo Magalhaes, associate professor of political science, attend the annual meeting of the North Central Council of Latin Americanists in October at Luther College where he presented a paper titled *Tips from a Trip to Brazil* and also chaired a panel on *Trends and Developments in the Study of Latin America*.

Four students accompanied **Marilyn Mueller**, professor of management, to the annual Financial Executives International/Drake University School of

Accountancy dinner on Nov. 4. Mueller has joined the board of directors of the Iowa chapter of FEI as academic relations chair.

Bob Nutgrass, professor of physical education, participated in the Iowa Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance State Convention Nov. 5- 6 at UNI. He is on the IAHPERD Representative Assembly as the scholarship chair. He is in charge of presenting two, \$1000 scholarships to Iowa undergraduate students who are majors in the field for 2005-2006. He presented a session to undergraduate and graduate students about the application of course work into the real world of teaching and finding their first teaching job.

Dave Olsgaard, associate professor of physics, gave a presentation at the fall meeting of the Iowa section of the American Association of Physics Teachers Nov. 6 in Ames. His talk was titled: *Assume a Spherical Rocket: Context Connections in the Laboratory*. He was also elected to a one-year term as vice president of the IA-AAPT.

Jeff Parmelee, assistant professor of biology, attended the fall meeting of the Iowa Natural History Association in Cedar Rapids in November. He will work over the next two years on a \$525,789 project funded by the EPA titled *Ecological Assessment of Compensatory Wetland Mitigation*, which he helped write with other members of the INHA. They will determine how selected wetland mitigation sites across central and eastern Iowa are performing compared to natural wetlands by

doing survey of the wildlife and water quality.

Erin Reser, assistant professor of speech rhetoric, presented a paper entitled *Conversations Between the Outlaw and the Civic: 'Trainspotting' and British National Identity* at the National Communication Association's annual convention in Chicago.

Steve Rose, associate professor of education, was the primary critiquer for the Iowa Poetry Association's annual conference held Oct. 30 in Des Moines.

Murphy Waggoner, associate professor of mathematics, and **Jim Bohy**, assistant professor of computer science, went to Stuart, IA, Nov. 16, to make presentations to a group of students and community members. His talk was titled, *Don't Pound with a Big Wrench When a Small One Will Do*, and Waggoner's was *Math Majors Can Do Anything*.

Ruth Weatherly, professor of management, served as a judge in two rounds of the 2004 Iowa State Bar Association sponsored annual Iowa Middle School Mock Trial State Tournament. The tournament is a competition among the top 32 teams from across the state, having advanced according to their performance at regional events.

Mel Wilk, professor of English, and **David Wolf**, assistant professor of English, gave a poetry reading at Barnes and Noble Bookseller in West Des Moines on Oct. 23. They were invited to read as part of the bookstore's Autumn Poets Series.

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