

Student center jewel of MU construction plans

First room expected to open in October.

New dining centers, residence halls being built as well.

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OXFORD — As summer begins to wind down and the first new Miami University students begin to trickle in to Oxford in preparation for the 2013 fall semester, several

construction projects around campus are wrapping up as well.

Since the 1960s, the student population of Miami University has more than doubled, according to the college's Physical Facilities Department website. Ranging from 6,000 in the 1960s to over 16,000 in 2013, the outdated Shriver Center is slated to be upstaged by the new Armstrong Student Center.

Primarily to provide meeting space for the university's more than 350 student organizations, the new student center — in planning since 2008

— will open its first room in October: The Shade Family Room. The Center is expected to officially open in January.

The new student center will feature a 500-seat theatre and a pavilion with banquet-style seating for 600 or lecture-style seating for 900. It will also include a large common area and a specialized Center for Student Engagement and Leadership or "SEAL," and a 24-hour sit-down dining location serving breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the week.

Eateries part of MU plans

Miami
continued from B1

Also in the student center will be a circular wick-

iaami room, built with Miami's Native American traditions in mind.

It was designed with the help of the Miami Tribe and students in the architecture program. The patterned, circular nature of the room will stoke discourse unlike any room before it.

Other expected projects include restaurants of foreign

cuisine such as "Latin Flavors" and "Mongolian Asian Noodles."

Additionally there will be a "Sports Grill and Games," a "Pizza/Sub/Salad" location and a "Coffee Emporium," among other several small café locations and dining areas. Also included will be an "Irish Pub and Kitchen."

Smaller renovations

around campus include emergency generators in King Library and smoke-detector updates in some older residence halls.

Bishop Hall's renovation, ongoing since 2012, includes new finishes, mechanical, electrical, fire protection, elevator and building upgrades. Bishop Hall will be ready for students in the fall.

Kreger Hall is also

being renovated for the fall.

Three other residence halls being built on Western Campus will be completed in January. The new halls will house 720 students.

Also, a new dining facility on Western Campus is being built. The 46,000-square-foot dining facility will contain 625 seats, five serving

stations, a teahouse and a convenience store.

Finishing up this month along Maple Street, south of Hiestand Hall, will be a mixed dining/residence facility known formally as Maplestreet Station.

It will house 90 upperclassmen and contain seven restaurants. Maplestreet Station will be open in the fall.

CLOSER LOOK OXFORD



A campus bus travels past the construction site for the new Armstrong Student Center on Miami University's campus in May. The center is expected to officially open in January. NICK DAGGY / STAFF