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Nov. 6

Groundbreaking Set For New \$23-Million IWU Library; \$12-Million Commitment from Alums Spearheads Project

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.—Construction of a new \$23-million state-of-the-art library will get a symbolic start Nov. 6 (Saturday) with a groundbreaking ceremony.

A \$12-million commitment from B. Charles Ames, IWU class of 1950, and his wife, Joyce Eichhorn Ames, IWU class of 1949, is spearheading the library-construction project. The facility will be named The Ames Library.

B. Charles Ames, a business-administration major when he was an IWU student, is an executive with Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, a New York City-based private investment firm. Joyce Eichhorn Ames was an art major when she was enrolled at IWU.

The groundbreaking ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. at the corner of Prairie and Graham at the south edge of IWU's 70-acre campus. Among those expected to participate in the event are:

- B. Charles and Joyce Eichhorn Ames, accompanied by a son, Dick, a daughter, Cindy Hoge, and two grandchildren, Elizabeth Ames, age 13, and Hunter Hoge, age 10.
- Bloomington Mayor Judy Markowitz.
- President of IWU's Board of Trustees Craig C. Hart.
- IWU President Minor Myers, jr.
- IWU Provost and Dean of Faculty Janet McNew.
- IWU University Librarian and Associate Professor Sue Stroyan.
- Harold Gauthier, Student Senate president and a senior majoring in political science from Lynwood, Ill.

The Ames Challenge

Support for the library by the Ames family is part of a \$12-million fund-raising challenge targeted to Illinois Wesleyan University alumni that was announced during Homecoming '98.

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/2

In a statement to IWU alumni when the fund-raising challenge was announced, the Amesese said: "We believe Illinois Wesleyan University has a unique opportunity to rank among the top 40 National Liberal Arts Institutions in the United States within the next few years.

"For this reason," they added, "we are willing to make a substantial commitment of funds if our fellow alumni will join with us to achieve this goal."

The Amesese propose to match—on a dollar-for-dollar basis—all gifts to the Alumni Annual Fund, if IWU alumni contribute a minimum of \$1 million annually for the next three years for a total of \$3 million. IWU alumni successfully met the first year of the challenge, contributing \$1.1 million.

Furthermore, the Amesese propose to match—on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to \$9 million—all gifts earmarked for IWU's proposed new library, a \$23 million project.

"These gifts," the Amesese said, "will be in addition to our previous \$2 million gift commitment for the School of Art."

The Amesese added: "It is our fervent hope our fellow alumni and friends will share our vision and accept our challenge."

New Gateway to Bloomington-Normal Community

The five-story library—an architectural blend of traditional elements and modern technology—will form a new university entryway in tandem with a new, two-section, curved gateway, marking the university's sesquicentennial or the 150th anniversary of its founding in 1850. A groundbreaking ceremony for the gateway took place Sept. 22.

Compare and Contrast

The new library will accommodate 400,000 volumes and a minimum of 100 computer-equipped workstations. IWU's Sheean Library, constructed in 1968, houses more than 250,000 volumes, but was designed to hold a collection no larger than 140,000 volumes. Sheean has been wired to accommodate about 45 computers, sacrificing seating and bookshelves.

The design for the new library calls for a 103,000-square-foot building,

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/3

compared to Sheean's 37,000-square-foot area, situated in a park-like setting.

The new facility will consolidate into a single location IWU's library collection now housed at three sites: Sheean, the Thorpe Music Library in Presser Hall (School of Music), and a storage area in the basement of the Center for Natural Sciences.

The new library, which has been in the planning stages since 1996, also will feature group study rooms, study carrels, space for special collections and the university archives, an auditorium, full computer networking, and an Information Commons. The library's seating capacity can accommodate about 25 percent of IWU students at any one time.

Library construction is estimated to take 18-24 months. Consequently, the building will go into operation no earlier than the fall of 2001.

Heart and Soul of the University

"A library is the heart and soul of a university," said IWU President Minor Myers, jr. "This library will be a wonderful new teaching and research tool for our students and faculty.

"In many ways," Myers continued, "the new library will showcase the remarkable new additions to our collection that have been made in recent years. And, while technology is a major and important part of this new facility—the Internet, CD-ROMS, and videotapes, for example—I hope that this new library will inspire a renewed appreciation for books, and the excitement of the printed word, among our students. I hope this new library will help all of us in the IWU community to heed Thomas Jefferson's observation, 'I cannot live without books.'"

Key Features

Associate Provost Roger Schnaitter, a leader in planning the new library, described some of the building's highlights this way in the Winter, 1998, edition of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*: "One of the main architectural elements of the building is a large central drum, which from within the building will seem like a rotunda—almost like being within the [Illinois] capitol building, though it does not terminate in a dome. This circular element continues on each floor," climaxing with the library's top

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/4

level, which will feature what's being called the Great Reading Room.

University Librarian Sue Stroyan described the new library as a "wonderful blend of modern technology, and what it can offer, with the traditional role of a library. The building provides a traditional library setting with comfortable seating—a reflective environment, quiet environment."

This type of environment, Schnaitter said, provides "an ambiance conducive to serious study."

The library also will provide students with various types of work spaces—spaces where they can meet in groups to work on collaborative projects, individual work areas, and an auditorium for large-group events.

Architect and Architecture

The library was designed by the Boston-based architectural firm Shepley Bulfinch Richardson and Abbott (SBRA). Schnaitter describes SBRA as the "premier firm in college library architecture" with a national reputation for its work at Yale, Dartmouth, Columbia, Princeton, and other liberal-arts campuses.

The building's architectural style, according to Schnaitter, is contextual, rather than modern or post-modern. The library has traditional features, rather than a sweeping steel and glass structure. Its design is consistent with other IWU campus buildings.

The Biggest Challenge: Technology

"The biggest challenge was technology," said Stroyan, referring to the library-design process. "With technology changing almost on a six-month basis, it's hard to plan for bricks and mortar."

Consequently, Stroyan added, flexibility is a hallmark of the library's design.

"Fundamentally," she explained, "libraries are doing the same things they did 50 years ago—they deliver the best service possible to users and identify users' needs. What has changed, dramatically, is how we do that and the tools we use" as the pace of change from print to electronic materials continues to accelerate.

Stroyan developed this point in an interview that appeared in the Winter, 1998, edition of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*, discussing

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/5

how a typical student today uses the library, compared to alumni.

“Thirty years ago, if you were doing research in a periodical index,” she explained, “you looked in each individual volume, year by year, under your subject headings . . . and that was extraordinarily time-consuming. Today you can string those different subject headings together, search all the volumes electronically, and have a list, usually in a couple of minutes—which is terrific for students, because now they can devote more of their time to the research itself.”

Three Key Issues

Schnaitter pointed out that planning a library is quite different from designing a residence hall, a science building, or an athletic complex.

The challenge, according to Schnaitter—who has been involved in many other IWU construction projects—boils down to three issues:

- How do you house a collection and how do you organize it for the benefit of users?
- What are the real needs of students and how will they interact with the collection now and in the future?
- And, the importance of information technology.

Intermingling of Media

A key library feature will be the intermingling of various media. For example, books, journals, videos, and other materials dealing with a similar subject will be grouped together—books will not be in one area and journals in another area—making it easier for students and faculty to explore a subject.

“One thing we know for sure,” Schnaitter said, “is that students will increase their use of technology to access information, so we made technology available throughout the facility.

“There also is a real change in pedagogy in higher education,” Schnaitter explained. “Teaching is more student centered—students collaborate with other students on projects and work in groups. So we put a premium on group study facilities in the library—places where students could meet to share resources.

“A library,” Schnaitter concluded, “is fundamentally not a warehouse

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/6

for books—it's a dynamic, interactive facility for students and faculty to pursue a whole range of information research."

The new library will be a great resource for faculty as well as students.

"It will have a better resource base for their students when they are working on library-based projects," Schnaitter explained, "enhancing faculty expectations about students' work. A faculty workroom is also part of the library. Faculty can use this room when they're working on library-based projects—it's a place where they can assemble resources and use a computer."

Another goal for the library, according to Schnaitter, was to maximize the flexibility of information-technology resources. Consequently, the library will be equipped with a wireless network, especially appropriate for use by students using mobile laptop computers.

Schnaitter, who chaired the users' committee as part of the library-planning process, served as a coordinator among users (the professional library staff and faculty), the university administration, and the architects. This process will continue during the construction phase, Schnaitter explained, to gauge construction progress and to ensure the "intentions of the planning process are being accurately reflected in the actual construction of the building."

Impact on Library Staff

Sheean Library has a staff of seven librarians, nine support staff, and 70-80 student workers. The new library will require nine librarians, 12 support staff, and an increase in student workers.

Moving Hundreds of Thousands of Books

By the time IWU moves into its new library, Stroyan estimates that the IWU collection will exceed 300,000 volumes.

So, how do you move so many books?

"There are many stories in library literature," Stroyan quips, "about moving collections with students carrying books across campus or students checking books out of the old library and returning them to the new one.

"These approaches," she deadpanned, "all have down sides."

Instead of a makeshift approach, Stroyan said the university will retain professional library movers to transfer IWU's collection to the new facility.

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/7

The move will require great organization skills and might take 7-10 days. It also will take about another a week after the transfer to organize the collection and make it usable. Setting up the computers, special collections, and archives also will be a time-consuming process, according to Stroyan.

Stroyan spoke from experience. Earlier in her career, she was involved in supervising the move of a 200,000-volume collection.

These types of moves, Stroyan said, "are very doable with the right amount of time, planning, and serious muscle." Consequently, IWU expects that the actual book transfer will have to take place during a summer break.

Ames Profile

B. Charles Ames, a native of Polo, Ill., was named the university's Distinguished Alumnus in 1990. He received a masters in business-administration degree from Harvard University's graduate School of Business in 1954.

During World War II, Ames served as a cryptographic department section chief with the 8th Army, 1943-46.

Ames joined Clayton, Dubilier & Rice in 1987.

Prior to joining Clayton, Dubilier & Rice, Ames was chairman and chief executive officer of Reliance Electric Co., Acme Cleveland Corp., and Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co. He formerly was a partner of McKinsey & Co.

He is the author of a book on management, "Market Driven Management; Creating Profitable Top-line Growth."

Ames is retired from the boards of directors of Progressive Corp. and M.A. Hanna Co.

Joyce Eichhorn Ames (known as Jay) was born in Rockford, Ill., and graduated from University High School in Normal, Ill.

At IWU, most of her class work was done with Professor Kenneth Loomis, who then headed the Art Department. At that time, there were only a handful of art students and classes were held in a converted residence near campus.

Ames recalls her sculpture class "being conducted in an area that was once a bedroom."

She has applied her fine-arts education by operating an interior design

(more)

IWU Library Groundbreaking/8

business for several years, as well as creating the architectural, interior, and landscape designs of various family homes. She collects art and antiques and supports various organizations associated with the arts.

A \$2-million gift commitment from the Ames Family Foundation, awarded in February, 1998, has endowed IWU's art building.

In addition to naming the art building, the Joyce Eichhorn Ames Scholarship Fund was established on Sept. 9, 1997, by her husband in honor of his wife, whom he met when they were IWU students. The scholarship fund supports students majoring in the fine arts.

According to B. Charles Ames, it is "the Ames family desire to make the School of Art the finest school of art in the nation for a college the size of Illinois Wesleyan University."

The Ameses of Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and Vero Beach, Fla., are the parents of Paula Ann, Richard, and Cynthia. They have six grandchildren.

About IWU

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art, and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts, and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's top 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. IWU shares 12th place with Princeton and Dartmouth.