



Pershing's facade will go through a major transition in 2009, according to the conceptual drawings by architectural firm Hastings and Chivetta. The digital prints (one pictured left) show the anticipated layout of the extended building. A lit walkway that faces the clocktower connects the new extension to the old. This addition will provide more study space if all aspects of the current plans are met.

Photo illustration submitted

Pershing pushes forward with plans

BY CAITLIN DEAN
Assistant News Editor

The future face of Pershing Building teeters on the brink of a decision as renovation plans begin to shift from discussions to drawings and time lines.

The foremost initiative of the Pershing renovation remains the same: a major redo of a building in serious need, said Sam Minner, dean of the school of health sciences and education and co-chair of the Pershing Building committee. This concept continually inches closer to becoming a reality, as St. Louis, Mo.-based project architectural firm Hastings and Chivetta recently presented the school with digital concept drawings of what the completed building might look like.

Despite setbacks early in the planning stages due to lawsuits against the primary funding source, the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority,

Minner said he does not anticipate any additional financial problems.

"I am very optimistic, fully confident that the Pershing project's going to become a reality on our campus," Minner said. "It's desperately needed."

Hastings and Chivetta paid several visits to the campus this summer, primarily to examine engineering issues within Pershing, such as heating, venting and air conditioning, electrical wiring and water, Minner said. Previously, Hastings and Chivetta met with faculty members who will use the new building to discuss what they would like to see incorporated. The firm took these suggestions and requests into consideration when drawing tentative

plans for the building, resulting in a design Minner said will be aesthetically pleasing and will serve as a good learning and working environment.

Minner said plans include an addition in what now serves as the primary Pershing parking lot. The new addition will house the nursing and communication disorders departments, he said. The existing lot on the other side of the building eventually will be expanded to replace lost parking spaces.

"That will be really the main parking that will ultimately feed Pershing," Minner said. "Of course, the long-term plans are to make the entry for the gymnasium on that side."

Minner said he expects the Pershing Building committee to finalize the design with Hastings and Chivetta this fall, which includes obtaining both the University President Barbara Dixon's signature and approval from the Board of Governors.

"This summer has been very difficult in Pershing, in between the floods, ... electrical problems, noise problems, problems with some of the gas from the pool and just so many things," Minner said.

Lori Shook, design project manager, said summer work on the renovation project mostly has focused on the sizes and layouts of spaces within the buildings.

"The overall layouts haven't changed much," she said. "It's just the numbers of offices and things." Shook said a separate project has been created to replace the gym floor in Pershing Arena, which incurred flood damage in July (see story page 1).

Campus planner Mark Schultz said a demolition contract started Tuesday morning to remove the old wood floor. He said a contract to have a new floor installed is in the works and will use the same documents used to put in the previous floor several years ago.

Shultz said he hopes to see drawings completed and ready for construction bids in April or May 2009, with construction to begin next summer. Schultz said he expects a finished project two years after that.

"We've got all the right spaces in all the right places for this renovation, an addition and space blocked out for the next phase," he said.

Students, faculty and athletes will continue to occupy Pershing during the renovation, although Schultz said he would prefer to empty the building.

"We will do the addition first, move people out of the building and into the addition at the same time," he said.

"We've got all the right spaces in all the right places for this renovation, an addition and space blocked out for the next phase."

Mark Schultz
Campus Planner

Department of Natural Resources opens new office

Truman partners with outside resource for science students

BY JESSICA RAPP
News Editor

Education and the environment have meshed in Magruder Hall.

Truman and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources have partnered up to provide students and faculty an open window through which both parties can work together. Dean of Arts and Sciences Douglas Davenport said the partnership will provide internship and grant opportunities for students.

"We want students who would be majoring in an area that could have potential connections to natural resources to take advantage of this opportunity," he said.

Thuy Le, leader for the DNR's water pollution engineering unit, will work as a wastewater engineer in Magruder and the northeast

regional office in Macon, Mo. She not only serves to enforce wastewater regulations in Missouri, but also will sponsor the DNR's link to students and faculty.

"She's going to be meeting with the department chairs of science and showing them how they can work together," Davenport said. "The work of the Department of Natural Resources crosses many of our departmental boundaries."

Working with the DNR will provide environmental education for Truman supplemented by Le's aid with lectures, fieldwork and lab projects, but the department's needs will dictate how these benefits are utilized, he said.

Davenport said he thinks the added DNR resources also could interest students in other majors.

He said this partnership adds to Truman's growth of relations with outside organizations that benefit education.

"We have as part of our strategic plan to develop strong connections to our various consistencies," he said. "...This is very much in line for what we see as

a positive strategic mission for Truman."

Le said she thinks the DNR working with the students and faculty also will circulate more ideas that relate to solving environmental issues and promote interest in DNR careers.

"We have a couple of Truman State students that have worked with us in the past couple of years now, and we hope to provide more of that," she said.

Le's location at Truman also gives Kirksville residents a local DNR representative, allowing for shorter travel time for DNR inspectors, she said. The DNR plans to continue to place field officers at locations throughout Missouri aside from the five main regional offices, said Abbie Stockett, wastewater permits unit chief.

"One of the things that's happening to our department is that we're establishing satellite offices in our community," she said. "It makes our staff more available to our community."

First Cove apartment units to be completed by January

BY JULIE WILLIAMS
Editor in Chief

The grand opening of an innovative Kirksville housing development has been put on hold for a few more months thanks to inclement summer weather.

The Cove, a housing development that will include such amenities as a pool, hot tub, fitness center, game room and tanning beds was scheduled to be partially constructed in time for students to move in this month. Brandt Stiles, president of the Cove, said 10 units will be ready in January and that the other 51 will be ready by August 2009.

"We had five houses full, about 20 residents," Stiles said of the situation this semester.

Those residents were asked to fill out applications to reserve their living space instead of leases because of the possibility that the housing units would not be done on time. Stiles said applicants were informed about a month ago that their units would not be ready for this semester.

"We have assisted them in finding new places for the school year," he said.

The students who were scheduled to move into the Cove apartments for this semester were to receive discounted rates as a pre-construction special. Stiles said the students who had signed up for fall 2008 housing now will have highly discounted rates for next year to account for the inconvenience.

Stiles said the flooding in Kirksville pushed

the project back so far that he wasn't sure it could be constructed on time, so he made the decision to push the date back in case the houses couldn't be finished.

"It was more of a risk than we wanted to take," Stiles said of trying to complete the project in a shortened amount of time to get done for the start of the semester.

Stiles said the clubhouse will be open by mid to late October and that about 10 units will be ready by January, both in time for use during the spring semester.

Sophomore Amanda Tharp was scheduled to live in the Cove this semester but will instead find herself in the residence halls for at least one more semester.

"I had already signed up for the dorms, and I wasn't going to withdraw from them until I knew it was definitely going to be done," she said.

Tharp said all signees were asked to have a back-up plan, which is something she said she didn't mind doing, especially since she was told far in advance of this school-year.

"They didn't know at the time of the application if they were going to be done yet so they didn't have us sign anything," Tharp said.

She also said she is not upset with the delays.

"It was kind of uncontrollable for them," she said.

If units are available in time for next semester, Tharp said she is still interested in moving right in.

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