



Photo by Krista Goodman/Index

The Newman Center's walls creep higher as phase one of rebuilding nears completion. Newman Center Director Bettie Lesczynski said they will need another \$300,000 to finish the first stage of the project.

Newman makes progress

Newman Center lays foundation for both stages of rebuilding

BY LISA HOLMES
Staff Reporter

Despite the dust and an impressive echo, students are gathering for Mass at The Newman Center once more.

Starting this October, Newman will be open and fully functional. This is due to the members of Newman and the community who pulled together to help rebuild the facility after it was struck by lightning in April 2007. Although the project is running behind schedule because of rain, students and staff are excited about the current progress of the building.

"I love it," said senior Katie Werkmeister, Newman Council President. "I seriously almost cried when I came in here last Sunday and there were walls."

Werkmeister has been in charge of coordinating Newman meetings, including educational programs, and she arranged locations for Mass while Newman still was no more than a concrete slab.

Newman Center Director Bettie Lesczynski said the Newman Center is in the final stages of phase one. She said this includes the construction of the entryway, a gathering space, a large multi-

purpose room, a kitchen, a music room, a storage room, a library, a lounge and a second lounge, which currently is acting as the chapel. The construction of phase one has cost \$1.25 million, she said.

Phase two — which includes the 100-seat permanent chapel, offices for Father Bill Kottenstette and the Newman Center Director and a large pantry for the kitchen — should total about \$450,000, bringing the projected total cost to \$1.7 million, Lesczynski said. She said \$800,000 of that sum came from the insurance money when the previous Newman Center burned down.

Another \$100,000 came from a grant from the Catholic Extension Society, \$30,000 from the local Serveck Trust and the Diocese of Jefferson City also donated. The rest of the building money came from a combination of donations from friends, families, parents, faculty, staff and alumni, Lesczynski said.

But Newman isn't finished yet, she said.

"[The Newman Center is] looking to raise about another \$300,000 just for phase one," Lesczynski said, add-

ing that she is optimistic about the construction.

"We have more than we had this time last year," she said. "We only had the slab."

The Newman Center in Columbia, Mo., raised \$6,000 for the rebuilding of the center, Father Bill Kottenstette said. He said he's hoping that the University can surpass that amount.

Students from the Columbia Newman Center will attend Mass at Truman's Newman Center on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at 9 p.m. to present the money they raised.

In addition to a larger chapel and meeting area, the new building will include two personal touches. The library will be named after the late Professor David Lesczynski who taught agriculture at Truman, and a statue symbolizing the students' support for the center will be named after Maureen Kottenstette, Father Kottenstette's mother.

The Newman Center will be open for Mass at 4 p.m. for Family Day this October as well as every Sunday leading up to that time at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

"I love it. I seriously almost cried when I came in here last Sunday and there were walls."

Katie Werkmeister
Newman Council President

Truman ranked number one in Master's Category

BY JESSICA RAPP
News Editor

Twelve years, and Truman is still on top

U.S. News and World Report has ranked Truman the number one public university in the Masters Level category in the Midwest for the 12th year in a row. Truman also placed number eight in the Master's category when both public and private schools in the Midwest were combined. Masters Level schools include any undergraduate school with a masters program, but they do not include schools with a doctoral program.

"I think when you've been ranked 11 years, if you weren't ranked the 12th

year, we'd be a little worried, and [we would have] wondered what had happened," University President Barbara Dixon said. "... We're very, very pleased to have this ranking."

Dixon said the University avoids making improvements to the school solely to raise a ranking.

"There was some controversy about it last year because some presidents are saying it's gotten to be too big of a game," she said. "Too many people are paying too much attention to [the ranking]."

Dixon said much of what Truman has to offer can't be found in surveys or lists. She said students can find an appealing study abroad program and a saturation of undergraduates involved in research by looking more thoroughly into Truman as their college choice.

"I think there's so much more to the depth of our institution," she said. "...The actual quality of the interaction between students and staff is really extraordinary. That doesn't come out."

The U.S. News and World Report uses data compiled from various university statistics and surveys from university presidents to come up with its rankings. It focuses on aspects of a

school like ACT scores and high school GPAs of incoming students, six-year graduation rates and class sizes. Dixon said prospective students usually consider these factors because they can greatly affect the appeal and the atmosphere of student life.

Regina Morin, associate vice president for enrollment management said she must complete a survey that asks her to rank a list of Midwest institutions based on her knowledge about them. She said she thinks this part of the process has received the most criticism because the results are based on the opinions of one university's staff in relation to another.

"You sort of have to couch any of the rankings with a grain of salt," she said. "Any time you try to measure something or rank something there's some subjectivity involved."

She said that although the rankings might not carry a full guarantee, she thinks they're helpful for a student starting his or her college search.

"I think it's one tool that students can use that will help them to sift through the 4,000 colleges and universities in the country," she said. "That's a tremendous task for students. ... Students are largely ... left on their own in some ways to make those decisions, so this is one tool in many."

Freshman Michelle Thornton said she didn't use the U.S. News and World Report ranking to make her decision to come to Truman. She said she was more concerned with the quality of the academics, the affordability and whether or not she could graduate in five years — with a master's degree.

"[The ranking] made a little bit of a difference," Thornton said. "I know it was ranked high in a lot of other magazines, such as the Princeton Review ... so that made it more alluring, I guess, just knowing it was a better school than other ones out there."

"The actual quality of the interaction between students and staff is really extraordinary."

Barbara Dixon
University President

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