

## New Residence Halls Blend Function, Design

**W**est Hall and East Hall, Webster University's new residence halls, beautifully combine a classic Tudor style exterior with the latest in cutting-edge academic interior design and technology. Located south of the University's Webster Village Apartments at 520 Garden Ave., the residence halls add an additional 343 students to Webster University's growing on-campus residential community, bringing the total residential student population to 623.

The architects, Mackey Mitchell Associates, designed the buildings in the Tudor style exterior to blend in with the community and campus, referencing the design of the Thompson Music House, the Carriage House used by the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, the Rockwood Court Apartments and many other Tudor residences found throughout Webster Groves. More than half of the public façade along Edgar Road is brick, with half-timber detailing on the upper floors and on projected bay windows. These design elements reduce the scale of the building, while the variety of materials and details add to the overall interest.

***"I don't feel like I'm living in a dorm, but in my own apartment where I can do my own laundry, make my own food or visit my friends when I want."***

The architects further minimized the overall mass of the West Building along Edgar Road by nestling it into the hillside to lower the apparent height of the structure to neighbors. The building entrance opens towards the campus, with each residential wing forming "welcoming arms" to receive students.



East Hall viewed from end of Hazel Road. Photo courtesy of Paric Corporation and Tom Paule Photography.

"The most difficult challenge from a technical standpoint was placing the residence halls between the Webster Village apartments to the north and Highway 44 and the Union Pacific Railroad tracks to the south, both busy transportation corridors in St. Louis," says Eric Neuner, senior associate with Mackey Mitchell Associates.

"The solution was to create as much mass on the exterior wall and floor structure to absorb both high and low frequency sounds that are created from speeding cars and heavy diesel locomotives. We designed the windows on the south side to be laminated glass. This is the same type of system that is used at airports, museums and sound studios to keep unwanted noise from entering the building."

The interior of the new residential halls incorporates the latest philosophies and concepts in on-campus housing. John Buck, associate dean of students and director of housing and residential life, says this is the trend nationally.

"In the 1960s and '70s," Buck says, "colleges built residence halls with two

criteria: to maximize density and for the buildings to last 70–80 years. Today, you build residence halls according to two very different criteria: to develop community and for the buildings to last 35 years."

With student needs and technology changing at such a fast pace, he says, universities need to be able to adapt to the future much more quickly than in the past.

The new residence halls were designed to give a strong sense of community and include much more than just dorm rooms. Room arrangements are suite-style, meaning residents share bathrooms among a few roommates, as opposed to having a community shower on each floor. Through the clever use of technology, students are able to access the Internet and watch television through their computer monitor. The four-floor buildings feature a classroom, multipurpose rooms and laundry facilities. Each floor contains kitchens, lounges and study rooms.

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# Greetings from President Richard S. Meyers



Richard S. Meyers

**H**ello and welcome to the winter issue of *Webster to Webster*. I hope you enjoy the article about new residence halls. We're very pleased with the look and design of the buildings. Part of my vision for the University, when I came here 13 years ago, was to offer more residential housing on campus. Increasing the number of students living on campus enhances the vitality and dynamics of the University and of Webster Groves.

With the new residence halls now open, another exciting academic year is underway. We welcomed 2,021 new students to the St. Louis-area campuses.

I'm also happy to report that Webster's student-athletes have excelled in fall sports. Webster teams compete against nine private higher education institutions in Illinois and Missouri in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC).

The men and women's soccer teams won the conference championship and the women's team also won the conference tournament. The women's volleyball team won the conference tournament. Both the women's volleyball and the women's soccer teams will advance to the National Collegiate Athletic Association's (NCAA) Division III tournaments.

In "off the field" news, the Webster University Book Club will be discussing *Mayflower: A Story of Courage, Community and War*, by Nathaniel Philbrick on Jan. 22 from noon to 1 P.M. in the Emerson Library Conference Room, 100 Edgar Road. Tom Cooper, director of the Webster Groves Public Library, will lead the discussion. All are welcome.

I hope the Webster Groves community will take advantage of the University's new computer workshops. The workshops will typically last one hour and highlight specific functions within an application, rather than teaching an application to immersion. Cost for the classes is \$25.

Some of the workshop topics include: "Creating a Web Page Using MS Front Page" and "Creating an Effective PowerPoint Presentation." To see the descriptions of the workshops go to [www.webster.edu/depts/acs/workshops](http://www.webster.edu/depts/acs/workshops) or call the Help Desk at 968-5995.

Thanks to the members of the Neighborhood Advisory Council for their time and efforts in strengthening our relationship with the community. Please contact any member of the Neighborhood Advisory Council or Barb Ehnes, director of community relations, with any concerns or suggestions you may have.

Have a wonderful holiday season. Webster Groves and Webster University have a common history and a shared future. Our students from the region, the country and the world are fortunate to live in this beautiful city.

Sincerely Yours,

Richard S. Meyers  
President, Webster University

## Resource Information



**Director of  
Community Relations**  
Barb McEwen Ehnes  
968-7174 or e-mail  
[ehnesba@webster.edu](mailto:ehnesba@webster.edu)

### Neighborhood Advisory Council

Mike Bohannon, John and Harriet Davidson, Ann and Ellen Fusz, Gary Heisel, Rich Lamar, Diane Lamboley, Wynn Miller, George Mishalow, Greg Mueller, Paula Pace, Ted Pepple, Anita Louise Poole and Dan Warner

### Emerson Library

Circulation Desk: 968-6952  
Reference Desk: 968-6950  
Web site: [library.webster.edu](http://library.webster.edu)

### Fine Arts Hotline

For ticket reservations and information about theatre, music and art offerings, call 968-7128

### Webster Film Series

968-7487  
Web site: [www.webster.edu/filmseries.html](http://www.webster.edu/filmseries.html)

### School of Business and Technology Speaker Series

To register online visit [www.webster.edu/depts/business/akande/speakerseries](http://www.webster.edu/depts/business/akande/speakerseries)  
For more information, call 968-5986

### Webster University Web site

[www.webster.edu](http://www.webster.edu)

### St. Louis Event Calendar

[www.webster.edu/calendar.html](http://www.webster.edu/calendar.html)

### Webster University Athletics

For a complete sports schedule, go to [www.webster.edu/athletics](http://www.webster.edu/athletics). For more information about the pool, call 961-2660 ext. 7755 or 7970

Webster University has meeting rooms, a gymnasium and audio-visual support for all your business needs. Available to rent year round, from \$40/hour. Equipment such as a TV/VCR, portable sound systems and laptop are also available for rent. For more information, please contact 314-968-7105 or email [violet@webster.edu](mailto:violet@webster.edu)

Webster University is an independent, multi-campus and international university, offering undergraduate and graduate degrees through the School of Business and Technology, College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Communications, the School of Education, and the Leigh Gerding College of Fine Arts. Founded in 1915, the University is dedicated to academic excellence and innovation in higher education.

Webster has a worldwide network of 106 campuses throughout the United States, England, Austria, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Thailand and China. With the opening of our campus in Shanghai in 1996, Webster became the first American university approved by the Chinese government to offer the MBA program in China. Webster has most recently expanded its reach to Mexico, Japan and Germany. The University currently serves more than 20,000 students worldwide.

Webster University is guided by a mission of meeting the needs of students in an ever-changing world and incorporating an international perspective to learning.

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“We know that connection to the university community is the most important factor in student retention,” says Buck. “Our new residence halls are intentionally designed with that in mind.”

“The new residence halls at Webster are, for many students, their first home away from home,” says Emily Gebben, a freshman from Hermann, Mo. “The building and decorating committees really took this to heart when they designed these buildings. I like the fact that last year’s residential housing association had a say in the choice of furnishings. I don’t feel like I’m living in a dorm, but in my own apartment where I can do my own laundry, make my own food or visit my friends when I want. I really feel at home here.”

Plans for the new residence halls were unveiled to faculty, staff and students at Webster University in November 2004 and were approved by the City of Webster Groves in February 2005. Due to unusual-

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ly warm winter weather throughout much of the construction, the residence halls were completed ahead of schedule. Three hundred pairs of scissors wielded by Webster staff, faculty, students, board members and guests simultaneously cut the yellow ribbon to officially open Webster’s new residence halls on Sept. 6, 2006.

President Richard Meyers said the new residence halls improve the quality of

campus life at the University in every way.

“With these new halls,” Meyers said, “the University can welcome more students who want to make a full-time commitment to study and live at Webster University. Making Webster their home will enrich both their academic and social experience and also make for a campus full of activities and energy.”

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Mayor Gerry Welch thanked the University for working with the city in a positive way regarding the location and features of the residence halls.

“The buildings are spectacular, both inside and outside, and they are a wonderful addition to the community and the University,” Welch said. “The success of the University positively impacts the city of Webster Groves, and—as Webster Groves grows and continues to be an attractive, viable and unique community—the city positively has an impact on the University. We truly are tied together.” ■

## Webster Student Interview with Erich Weimer

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Erich Weimer is enrolled in the master's program in management and leadership.

### Where are you from?

I was born in Ohio, but my father was in the military, so we moved around a lot. I actually graduated from Clayton High School and then attended Quincy College in Illinois, receiving a B.A. in criminal justice.

### Why did you choose Webster University?

I chose Webster because of the generous scholarship opportunity the university offers to city employees, providing tuition for three courses per year. (Ed. note: The Webster Groves City Employee Scholarship began in the 1999–2000 academic year. Since that time, 19 Webster Groves city employees have taken advantage of this benefit.)

I like the international scope of the university and the flexibility of the courses, such as evening classes that meet for nine weeks. Also, the Webster Groves Police Department values education and has allowed some flexibility with my work schedule to attend classes.

### What do you like about Webster University?

The university is progressive in its educational approach: For example, the online “Connections” portal, where you can access course syllabi, lesson plans and course work at any time. The professors post information about additional resources relating to their subject area. I also think the professors are very knowledgeable in their subject area.

### What do you like about Webster Groves?

Webster Groves is a community that values education. This is evident in the support the residents have shown for school funding issues. The community is also very supportive of the Webster Groves Police Department. Webster Groves has a small-town feel, but big-city benefits.

### What will you do when you graduate?

I don’t have any current plans, but I do know that gaining these skills by furthering my education will only help me in any endeavor.

## Calendar of Events

### Music

#### 12/3 Webster University Concert

**Choir and Choral Society**, Kathryn Bowers and Joel Christie, conductors, 2 p.m., Community Music School, 560 Trinity Ave., free

#### 12/4 Webster University Jazz Singers

Debby Lennon, director, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$3

#### 12/10 Webster University Chorale

"Holiday Reflections – The Annual University Celebration of the Season" Kathryn Bowers, conductor, 5 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., free

#### 1/26–27 Opera Studio, 7 p.m.

**1/28 Opera Studio**, 4 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$10

#### 2/5 "For The Sake of Art" –

**A tribute to Art Blakey**, Webster Faculty Jazz Ensemble, Black History Month Presentation, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

#### 2/12 "World on a String: 75 Years of American Song,"

Ashley Mason, Steve Schenkel and Carolbeth True, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

#### 2/18 Webster Symphony Orchestra,

7 p.m., Community Music School, 560 Trinity Ave., \$10

#### 2/19 "Crossing the Bridge" – Rollins

and Hall revisited, Paul DeMarinis, tenor sax; Steve Schenkel, guitar, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

#### 2/25 Duo Albireo, Donna Vince and

Patricia Weeks – Faculty Duo Piano Concert, 7 p.m., Community Music School, 560 Trinity Ave., \$5

#### 2/26 Webster Big Band

and Mini Big Band, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

#### 3/4 Webster Chorale, Concert Choir

and Choral Society, Music for Women's and Men's Choirs, Kathryn Bowers and Joel Christie, conductors, 4 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., free

#### 3/5 Webster Wind Ensembles, 7 p.m.,

New Community Music School Studio, 535 Garden Ave., \$3

#### 3/18 Webster Symphony Orchestra,

7 p.m., Community Music School, 560 Trinity Ave., \$10

### Theatre

#### 2/21–25, 2/28, 3/1–4,

"A Month in the Country," 7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m., Emerson Studio Theatre, 130 Edgar Road, \$10

#### 3/9–11, "Webster Dance Ensemble," 8

p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Browning Theatre, 130 Edgar Road, \$10

#### 3/28, 4–1, 4/11–15, "Capstones,"

7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m., Stage III, 470 E. Lockwood Ave.

#### 4/25–29, "No, No, Nanette," 8 p.m.,

Sunday, 2 p.m., Browning Theatre, 130 Edgar Road, \$10

### Webster Film Series

#### 12/14 Arty Movies by R. D. Zurick

"Inside Newmetropolis," "Manjani," "Blue Khmer," "Artpark 81," "Stop," "Spirits Of Sukhothai," "Canalbus High" and "Around Arun," 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$6

#### 12/15–17 "The Wonderfully Strange

Animation of Suzan Pitt" The four-film program of work by and about independent veteran animator Suzan Pitt features some of Pitt's finest work and a new documentary about her art and process.

Pitt will be present for questions on Saturday, Dec. 16. "El Doctor," "Joy Street," "Asparagus" and "Suzan Pitt: Persistence of Vision," 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$6

#### 1/7 Rob Voisey's "60x60" and Andre

Vida, Robert Voisey, founder of Vox Novus and vice president of programs, The Living Music Foundation, is a composer and impresario of new works primarily in New York City. Andre Vida, groundbreaking saxophonist from Berlin, accompanied by local musicians, will play from his projected video score in his Vidatone animated notation system. 7:30 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave. Special admission \$12, \$6 for students with valid ID.

#### 1/12–14 "Tideland" (Terry Gilliam,

2005, Jeliza-Rose (Jodelle Ferland) is a young girl in a very unusual situation—her parents are junkies and she is often left to her own devices for entertainment. When her mother dies, her father (Jeff Bridges), a rock 'n roll musician well past his prime, takes her to a remote farm in the country,

where she escapes vast loneliness by retreating into a world that exists only in her mind. 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$6

#### 1/19 and 20 "Iraq In Fragments,"

The film illuminates post-war Iraq in three acts, building a picture of a country pulled in different directions by religion and ethnicity. Filmed in verité style with no scripted narration, the film explores the lives of ordinary Iraqis to illustrate and give background to larger trends in Iraqi society. 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$6

### Photography

#### 12/1–12/15 Photo Imaging Education

Assoc. Intl. Competition,

May Gallery, 8300 Big Bend Blvd., free

#### 1/19–2/16 Annual Photography

Faculty Exhibit, May Gallery, 8300 Big Bend Blvd., free

#### 2/23–3/30 Martin Schweig

May Gallery, 8300 Big Bend Blvd., free

### Art

#### 1/19 – 2/16 Seattle Printmakers

Opening reception Friday, 1/19, 6–8 p.m. Hunt Gallery, Visual Arts Studio, 8342 Big Bend Blvd., free

#### 2/23 – 3/23 Ann Crone, Opening

reception Friday, 2/23, 6–8 p.m., Hunt Gallery, Visual Arts Studio, 8342 Big Bend Blvd., free