

'Green' Academic Building Will Reshape Campus

A new three-story, 95,000 square-foot new academic building will soon grace the Webster University campus. Addressing a need created by Webster's growing success, the building will house the George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology. According to the school's dean, Benjamin Akande, "The new building is a state of the art facility that will offer the most conducive, comfortable and technologically sophisticated environment for teaching and learning."

Designed by Robert A.M. Stern Architects, the building will be located across the street from the parking garage at 568 Garden Ave. Its architectural style will be a modern interpretation of collegiate gothic with a nod to the pure gothic style of the University's iconic building, Webster Hall.

With a tower visible from the entire campus, the building will create a quadrangle between the Community Music School Building, the Repertory Theatre administrative offices and the Loretto-Hilton Center. The quad will provide the southern entry into the campus.



An artist's rendering of the new academic building and quadrangle

The new building will meet the standards for LEED silver certification. LEED refers to Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, an internationally recognized green building certification system, providing third-party verification that a building was designed and built using strategies intended to improve performance through energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, improved indoor environmental quality and stewardship of resources.

In keeping with Webster University's reputation for small class sizes, the new classroom spaces can handle up to 30 students and will be flexible enough to support various models of teaching methods, but will emphasize collaborative learning. More than half of the new spaces will be "cluster" classrooms, with counters between tables and chairs facing the front of the classroom. These will easily swivel to form into groups for discussions and projects. Each table and chair cluster will feature access for recharging laptops and high-speed bandwidth.

A lecture-style classroom with the capacity for 100 students also will be available. This will provide additional space for the many speakers the University hosts, particularly the highly regarded Success to Significance Speaker Series presented by the Walker School of Business & Technology.

Since 1990, Webster's undergraduate population has increased from 2,700 to more than 3,500 students and the graduate population has grown from 2,000 to more than 4,600.

Several comfortable sitting areas outside the classrooms will accommodate student groups desiring to meet before or after class. In addition to classroom space, faculty office space will be located on the top floor.

The new academic building is scheduled to open for classes in January 2012. ■



Rendering of the second floor lobby

Greetings from President Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) J. Stroble



Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) J. Stroble

Hello and welcome to the summer issue of *Webster to Webster*. In the twelve months since I joined Webster University on July 1, 2009, I have thoroughly enjoyed learning about the University and the wonderful city of Webster Groves. Most importantly, getting to know the faculty, students, staff and community members has been particularly meaningful to me.

This past year has been exciting and dynamic. In April, we announced the naming the George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology, to honor the former U.S. Ambassador to Hungary, philanthropist, civic leader and longtime Webster supporter. In 2007, Ambassador Walker bestowed upon the University a gift of \$10 million—the largest in the University's history—and designated it to benefit the business school.

In March, Webster Groves resident and Webster University Professor of English David Clewell was appointed Missouri's second Poet Laureate. According to Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's office, Clewell was selected because of his work promoting literacy, including conducting numerous poetry workshops and discussions for K-12 students and teachers in the St. Louis

metropolitan area, as well as giving frequent poetry readings at schools, nursing homes and civic organizations throughout the state.

In this issue, I hope you find the article about the new academic building informative. During the summer we will begin construction on our first new classroom building since 1984. We are excited about the University's success that has made this initiative possible. With all of our construction efforts, we intend to add to the beauty that characterizes Webster Groves. We appreciate the trust and support the community has shown us.

On Sept. 25, I will be formally inaugurated as the 11th president of Webster University. As part of the inauguration festivities, we are planning a walk through Webster Groves. More information about the inaugural activities will be forthcoming.

During the upcoming academic year, I invite you to take advantage of the wonderful educational, cultural and athletic events on our campus. Most are very reasonably priced, and many are free. Please look for upcoming announcements about the fall schedule of these events.

In the meantime, my Webster Groves colleagues and I are exploring additional ways the community and the University can work together, learn together, partner and enrich our community. Please feel free to contact Barb Ehnes, the community relations director with your ideas. Her email is ehnesba@webster.edu and phone is (314) 968-7174.

Sincerely Yours,

Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) J. Stroble
President, Webster University

Resource Information



**Director of
Community Relations**
Barb McEwen Ehnes
968-7174 or e-mail
ehnesba@webster.edu

Neighborhood Advisory Council

Georgia Archibald, Mike Bohannon, John and Harriet Davidson, Larry Furrer, Ann and Ellen Fusz, Gary Heisel, Nancy Klepper, Rich Lamar, Wynn Miller, George Mishalow, Dan Warner and Rose Windmiller

Emerson Library

Circulation Desk: 968-6952
library.webster.edu

Community Music School of Webster University

968-5939
www.webster.edu/depts/finearts/cms

Fine Arts Hotline

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

Webster Film Series

968-7487
www.webster.edu/filmseries.html

School of Business & Technology Speaker Series

To register online visit
www.webster.edu/speakers

St. Louis Event Calendar

www.webster.edu/calendar.html

Webster University Athletics

For a complete sports schedule, go to www.websterathletics.com. For more information about the pool, call 246-7755 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/DVD, portable sound systems and laptop are also available for rent. For more information, please contact 314-968-7105 or email violett@webster.edu

Printed by Acme Printers-Lithographers
36 West Lockwood Avenue
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

Student Interview with Chris Brennan

What degree are you working on?

Master of Arts in Education and Innovation and an emphasis in Education for Global Sustainability (say that five times fast!)

Why did you choose Webster?

For years I have heard nothing but positive things about the teaching program at Webster. The University constantly popped up in response to the question, “Where would you suggest a teacher go for graduate school?” As a graduate of Washington University, I leaned heavily towards my alma mater when considering graduate education programs.

I researched both schools extensively and had many a conversation with other students; the deciding factor, really, was a last minute meeting with Education for Global Sustainability (EFGS) program director and educator Lori Diefenbacher. The enthusiasm she expressed for Webster’s program, and keen sense of knowing exactly how to tie my interests in with the University, sealed the deal. I’m sure she had more pressing engagements, but there was no doubt in my mind that these came second to serving as an ambassador for the school. I sincerely feel that Webster chose me as much as I selected the University.



Chris Brennan

What do you like about Webster University?

On a personal level, the relationships that develop between instructor and student are continuing and genuine—in a way, there is a feeling that you’ve been given a mentor in that subject for life.

On a professional level as a current educator, I find the Education for Global Sustainability program to be unique; indeed, it stands head-and-shoulders above the relatively few other programs offered in the United States for its commitment to equipping teachers with the confidence and knowledge to organically bring sustainability discussion into the classroom.

Simply put, there are programs across the nation which touch on Global Sustainability; what Webster exemplarily provides in its EFGS curriculum, however, is coursework that successfully and continuously addresses both current environmental challenges as well as the challenges that our students will face in the future. There’s a wonderful optimism that pervades both instructors and fellow classmates—an infectious feeling that what we’re teaching to our students will lead to an increased appreciation of both our community and the world-at-large.

Instructors in the EFGS program, apart from being engaging and knowledgeable, come from the “front line” of sustainability education: directors of sustainability at local schools; heads of local purchasing efforts at corporations; respected developers of curriculum.

What do you like about Webster Groves?

It is so very appropriate that the collaborative nature of Webster University exists in Webster Groves, with its community-minded, neighborly, all-welcoming vibe. There seems to be a harmony between residents that does not exist in many other communities nationwide, or at the very least in St. Louis. My three Scottish great-aunts lived on Tuxedo, and many formative Sundays of my life were spent listening to them sing in the choir at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church. As macabre as it may sound, Gerber Chapel was my family’s de facto choice for my grandfather and later my father, despite

living in West County. The community was always a “home” to us. On a more recent note, where else can you drop off an accordion to be refurbished, browse through a seriously eclectic collection of LPs, and then finish off the evening with a beer or an ice cream, all on one street? Not many places, I’ll wager.

“There seems to be a harmony between residents that does not exist in many other communities nationwide.”

What do you plan to do when you graduate, or how do you think this degree will help you in the future?

I’m currently a Pre-Kindergarten classroom associate at Mary Institute Country Day School (MICDS) in Ladue and will continue to teach early education for the foreseeable future, though I have designs for teaching at the University level at some point. Achieving a MAT from Webster is by no means the end of journey, but rather a beacon directing my course; wonderfully, the more classes I take and the more “answers” I discover the more questions arise in my mind. What the University continues to teach me is to constantly assess my teaching goals in order to remain as current and relevant as the subject matter. And perhaps above all, Webster fosters the desire to strive for knowledge in order, in the words of author Leo Rosten, “to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate...to matter, to count, to stand for something...to have it make some difference that you have lived at all.”

Does that not sound like a worthwhile preoccupation?

Calendar of Events

Theatre

\$12 general public, \$6 senior adults
For tickets, call 968-7128

"The Insect Play" Sept. 29–Oct. 3, Oct. 6–10,
7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Emerson Studio
Theatre, 130 Edgar Road

"The Threepenny Opera" Nov. 17–21,
8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Browning Mainstage,
130 Edgar Road

"25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee"
Dec. 1–5, Dec. 8–12, 7:30 p.m., Sunday,
2 p.m., Stage III, 470 E. Lockwood Ave.

"Almost, Maine" Feb. 16–20, Feb. 23–27,
7:30 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m., Emerson Studio
Theatre, 130 Edgar Road

"The Wonderful World of Disocia,"
March 18–20, **"A Year with Frog and Toad,"**
March 25–27, **"The Receptionist,"** April 1–3,
7:30 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m., Directing Capstone
Projects, Stage III, 470 E. Lockwood Ave.

"The Government Inspector"
April 20–24, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m.,
Browning Mainstage, 130 Edgar Road

Webster University Dance Ensemble
April 29–May 1, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m.,
Browning Mainstage, 130 Edgar Road

Art Exhibits

Cecille R. Hunt Gallery, Visual Arts Studio
8342 Big Bend Blvd, Gallery hours are
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon.–Fri., Free

Exhibit featuring work of Brooklyn artist
David Schild Sept. 24–Oct. 15, Opening
Reception Friday, Sept. 24, 6–8 p.m.

Photography

*May Photography Gallery, Sverdrup Business/
Technology Complex, 8300 Big Bend Blvd.,
2nd Floor, West Wing, Free, Gallery hours
are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. M–F*

Jorge Vera: urbanismo Aug. 27–Sept. 17,
Opening Reception Friday, Aug. 27, 5–7 p.m.

Murat Türemis: After the Tsunami
Oct. 29–Nov. 24, Opening Reception Friday,
Oct. 29, 5–7 p.m.

Photo Imaging Education Association
International Exhibition Dec. 3–17,
Opening Reception Friday, Dec. 3, 5–7 p.m.

Damaso Reyes: The Europeans
Feb. 25–March 25, Opening Reception Friday,
Feb. 25, 5–7 p.m.

Music

Jazz at Webster: Duke Ellington
Aug. 30, 7 p.m. Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Concert Series Daniel Schene, piano
Sept. 12, 4 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Concert Series Steve Schenkel and Ashley
Mason Sept. 13, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Concert Series Donna Vince
piano, Sept. 19, 4 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Jazz at Webster Paul DeMarinis and friends
Sept. 20, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Jazz at Webster Kim Portnoy Big Band
Sept. 27, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Webster Wind Ensemble
Oct. 4, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$5

Concert Series Daniel Schene, piano
Oct. 10, 4 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Webster University Symphony Orchestra
Oct. 10, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$10

Jazz at Webster Debby Lennon and friends
Oct. 11, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Concert Series Samuel Barber Centenary
Oct. 12, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$10

Christine Brewer vocal masterclass
Oct. 14, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$10

Jazz at Webster TKT Scholarship Concert
Oct. 25, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Webster University Choirs
Oct. 26, 7 p.m. Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$10

Webster Presents Chamber Orchestra
Oct. 31, 4 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$10

Webster Jazz Combos 1
Nov. 1, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$3

Concert Series Daniel Schene

Nov. 7, 4 p.m., piano, Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Webster Jazz Combos 2

Nov. 8, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$3

Webster University Symphony Orchestra

Nov. 21, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$10

Webster University Big Band Nov. 22, 7 p.m.,
Moore Auditorium, 470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Webster Wind Ensemble

Nov. 29, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$3

Concert Series New Music Ensemble

Dec. 3, 7 p.m., Community Music School,
535 Garden Ave., \$5

Webster University Jazz Singers

Dec. 6, 7 p.m., Moore Auditorium,
470 E. Lockwood Ave., \$5

Webster Choirs: A Gift to the City Dec. 12,
2 and 4 p.m., Christ Church Cathedral, Free

Webster Opera Studio

Jan. 21–23, Nerinx Hall, 7 and 4 p.m., \$10

Webster Book Club

Library Conference Room, 101 Edgar Road

"Lying Awake"
by Mark Salzman, Sept. 27, Noon

"Half-Broke Horses"
by Jeanette Walls, Nov. 16, Noon