The Move is Complete!

A milestone in the history of Catholic Theological Union was marked on July 31, 2006 as a steady stream of boxes, furniture and people crossed Cornell Avenue into the new academic and conference center. The staff and faculty began preparations for the 2006-2007 school year without delay. The Bechtold library was the first department to move, with its over 150,000 volumes, archives and art collection. Mary O'casek, director of the Bechtold library, told Logos, “Moving a library as significant as ours is a complex process. An in-depth plan was developed with the assistance and expertise of Hallett Brothers Moving and Storage Company and Kenneth O’Malley C.P., former director. We were the first department to move into the new facility. We literally moved non-stop for one week. Our measurement for a successful move came on September 5th when we were prepared to open our doors for the students.”

The brand new 95,000 square foot building is quite a change from 5401 S. Cornell, which was the former Aragon Hotel, a vintage 1924 apartment hotel that was transformed into an academic center and residence. The classrooms were carved out of lounges, hotel rooms were converted into staff and faculty offices, and an entire two floors of hotel rooms were dedicated to the library. The fresh modern facade of the new, five-story building, with a generous amount of windows, emphasizes an open approach. Its cream color matches that of the old main building that is now being renovated as a residence for students. A dramatic multi-story atrium brings sunlight into every part of the building’s interior. The new academic and conference center communicates a spirit of openness and transparency, a sense of welcome, and seeks to express the qualities of what CTU is about: community, celebration of diversity, and responding to contemporary issues.

Super Ed

Every project has an individual who goes above and beyond the call of duty. Logos approached CTU’s maintenance staff and asked who would this person be for the building project. Unanimously the response was “Super Ed”. For the past 30 years, Ed Rudman has worked for Super Electric Construction Inc. According to Ed, CTU’s building project was the perfect job, not too big, not too small. “This project offered me the opportunity to work in every area of electrical construction, from low voltage to high voltage, from data lines to lights.”

Ed began the CTU project in March of 2005 when it was just a parking lot. He was the first on the job site, disconnecting the light posts before the demolition began, and he was the last to leave ensuring everything electric was operational.

Dan Ryan, head of the maintenance department for CTU, said, “During the building process, Ed became a member of our staff. He was onsite everyday implementing the electrical plans. He had the insight to revise the plan when needed to fit our specific needs, and saved us money in the process. Ed was the “go-to guy”. I knew I could call him with any question or concern and he would immediately take care of the issue as if the building was his own. I recall when we were on deadline in January to finish the garage door and card key system for the parking garage. Ed was here on Saturdays alongside us to get the job done.”

Super Ed - from Super Electric Construction Inc.
In Celebration
This special issue of Logos celebrates the inauguration of our new Academic and Conference Center that opened its doors for the first time in late August.
This is a historic step for Catholic Theological Union that has been a long time in coming. In 1968, the three founding communities of CTU: the Franciscans, Passionists, and Servites, left behind seminary buildings located in the countryside to join forces and begin a new venture in the heart of the city. Rather than build a new facility for this bold experiment, they preferred to purchase the former Aragon Hotel, a ten story apartment hotel located in Hyde Park, near the University of Chicago campus and the neighboring Protestant theology schools. The combined resources of the founding communities were devoted to merging their respective libraries, building a cohesive student body and a first class faculty, and developing innovative academic programs.
The courageous investment of our founding communities was successful, even beyond their boldest dreams. Over the number of religious communities that formed the CTU Corporation expanded from three to twenty-five. The religious order seminars were later joined by increasing numbers of religious women and brothers. And beginning in 1972 with the acceptance of our first lay student, ever increasing number of men and women from around the globe have joined our student body, making CTU the largest Catholic school of theology in North America.
With the expansion of CTU's student body and academic and pastoral programs, space became an acute problem. For several years the school leased classroom space in Sinai Temple and, when that moved to a downtown location, in our neighboring Rodfei Zedek's new education center.
In 1990, CTU built an assembly area in what had been the old hotel's courtyard. The development of CTU's library into a first class educational resource required its expansion to two floors of the main building. To accommodate the needs of its lay students and residential programs, CTU purchased two nearby apartment buildings and two adjoining six flats. But this sprawl of nearby buildings, built for housing rather than for academic purposes, could not satisfy the needs of the school for more classroom, assembly worship and library space. Our maintenance staff was spending considerable time and money plugging holes in the leaking steam pipes and patching the frayed electrical systems of these aging facilities. The time had come for CTU to tackle its facilities needs as it moved into the 21st century. Surveys and studies were done. Alternate space was considered. And finally the Board of Trustees gave the go-ahead to construct a new, state-of-the-art building for CTU on property it owned across the street from its original building.
And here we are... We entitled our campaign for the building, “Making a Place for Faith.” We wanted to remind ourselves that the true mission of CTU would never be to accrue property and buildings but to prepare men and women who will bring the light of faith to our world. Our new building provides the gracious environment where that vital activity can take place safely and efficiently. For us this is truly an act of faith in God's grace, confident that our mission is vital for the church of the future, and an act of trust in our sponsoring religious communities and many good friends who have supported us over the years and have been extraordinarily generous to us now.
The contents of this edition of Logos can give you some idea of what our new facility looks like. Even better, come visit us and see first hand that CTU is fully alive and eager to welcome you.
Fr. Donald Senior, C.P. President

Art Show of Faith
Launches CTU Art Gallery
by Pattie Thompson, Curator CTU Art Gallery
As part of the week long celebration of the Catholic Theological Union's Academic and Conference Center, the graduate school will debut its elegant Art Gallery beginning at 5:30 p.m. on October 25th with an exhibit titled, Making a Place for Faith. The group exhibit will display over 55 paintings, drawings, reliefs, sculptures, and installations by a dozen renowned artists who are known locally, nationally and internationally and many of whom will be at the opening.
Making a Place for Faith will showcase a range of perspectives, mediums, and formats, including the paintings and drawings of architectural realist Roland Kula, Jesus 2000 winner, iconic figurist Janet McKenzie, psychological landscapist Janis Pozzi-Johnson, imagist Marya Veeck, the multi-dimensional work of "found object" sculptor and CTU graduate Jerry Bleem, O.F.M., the versatile work of sculptor years ago, painter/author Jean Morman Unsworth, the unaweings® of fiber artist Laurie Wohl and much more.
The inaugural reception for the CTU Art Gallery is from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and we welcome all to attend. The gallery is on the 4th floor of CTU's Academic and Conference Center located at 5416 S. Cornell Ave. Chicago. Free parking will be available in the building garage. Making a Place for Faith was also the theme of the project to renovate CTU's Hyde Park campus.

William Devers
Accepts Campaign Leadership Post
by Bill Booth, Director of Development
William J. Devers Jr., longtime CTU friend and supporter, has agreed to chair the Making a Place for Faith capital campaign until its completion, scheduled for the end of 2007. He is a resident of Winnetka and is President of the Devers Group, a major consulting and investment firm.
Mr. Devers will be spearheading the efforts of the campaign cabinet that also includes prominent Chicago leaders, Andrew McKenna Sr., Carole Segal and James Denny who have played and continue to provide much needed support and dedication. Since the beginning of the campaign three years ago, the cabinet has been largely responsible for the success of the campaign, which has generated nearly 16 million dollars in pledges and outright gifts.

Capital Campaign Recognizes Donors
by Bill Booth, Director of Development
The Making a Place for Faith Capital Campaign now includes nearly 300 donors who have helped support CTU's campus renewal project. Donors who give at least $1,000 will be recognized for their generosity on an Honorary Donors Wall in the new academic center. Friends of CTU who have not as yet made commitments are urged to join this special group and be recognized accordingly. Call Bill Booth at 773-371-5417 for more information.

William J. Devers, new chair of the Capital Campaign

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The staff and faculty are all moved in, classes have begun, and now the time is fast approaching for all to gather and celebrate this fine new building. CTU invites you to attend Inaugural Week, October 23rd through October 29th. The theme telling our story: from many places to our new place and for the world now, identifies the focus of this week long celebration. The week consists of events open to the public, and a week of alternative learning experiences containing reflective, scholarly, spiritual, and artistic dimensions for the students.

Inaugural week kicks off on Monday, October 23rd, with a presentation by Margaret and Peter Steinfels - The Church and Its Future. The Steinfels are one of the most distinguished Catholic lay couples in the United States. Margaret served as Editor of Commonweal magazine and is a nationally recognized lecturer and author. Peter served as Religion Correspondent for The New York Times and is a noted author on contemporary religion. Both now serve as co-directors of the Fordham Center on Religion and Culture. This event is preceded by the Inaugural Week Prayer Service at 5:00 p.m., open house reception at 6:00 p.m., and presentation at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday through Friday of this week, the students of CTU will take part in workshops and lectures. Some of the lectures and workshops will take the form of talk shows, dance presentations, sacred improvisation, and film. A couple of our presenters include Susan M. Pudelek and Bob Bossie, SC; Susan M. Pudelek, a graduate of CTU, will present In God We Live and Move and Have Our Being (Acts 17:28). She will assist students to deepen their awareness of the sacredness of the body using the dynamics of movement and stillness to explore scriptural texts, images and characters, enhancing personal and liturgical prayer. Bob Bossie, SC, 8th Day Center for Justice, will engage participants in reflection about the ministry of social justice and the work of the 8th Day Center, a Roman Catholic center involved in issues such as fair wages, homelessness, the anti-war movement and the School of the Americas Watch.

Wednesday, another public event is taking place, the opening of the new CTU Art Gallery, (see page 2) featuring various artists. The art show Making a Place for Faith will open on October 25th with an hors d'oeuvres and beverage reception from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The show closes on December 6th.

The conclusion and highlight of the week will be the Dedication Ceremony of our new academic and conference center on Sunday, October 29th with Cardinal Francis George O.M.I. celebrating the Inaugural Eucharistic Liturgy.
Calender of Events

October

6-8 Perelmuter Conference
9 Shapiro Lecture

Inaugural Week Celebration 23-29 (All are invited to attend)

23 5:00 pm Prayer Service
6:00 pm Reception
7:00 pm Inaugural Week Lecture: Margaret and Peter Steinfels

29 10:30 am Dedication of the new Academic and Conference Center (by invitation only)

November

9 Cardinal Bernardin Center 10th Anniversary Memorial Mass
10 Bernardin Center Seminar
"The Spirituality and Vision of Cardinal Bernardin"
Speakers include: Avis Clendenen, Sr. Mary Brian Costello, RSM, Sr. Agnes Cunningham, SSCM, Steve Kloehn, Fr. Michael Hace and Fr. Alphonse Spilly, CPPS
John White Photo Exhibit

TBA Perspective New Student Open House

We Believe in the world and in the human heart

Special Inaugural Week Issue