

Renovations

Renovations to Provide Much Needed Lift

The work on upgrading the School of Law's technology and facilities is in progress and should be completed by the time classes start in August 2002. This work is being funded by a \$3.2 million appropriation generously included in the state's fiscal year 2001 amended budget. It was specifically provided for much needed technology upgrades at the school.

Last summer, Dean David Shipley requested estimates on several projects which fell within the spending criteria for the \$3.2 million. The projects the school is proceeding with include: renovating the main reading room of the law library; installing an online circulation system and security system in the library; converting the school's auditorium into two high-tech classrooms; making classrooms F, J and K into state-of-the-art classrooms; adding and upgrading the teaching technology in all other classrooms; and installing wireless Internet technology which can be accessed throughout all of the law school's facilities.

Classroom Technology

Chair of the law school's Library, Facilities, Technology and Renovations Committee Professor Bob Brussack said these improvements will dramatically improve the technology of the law school. "We were behind. These improvements will bring us in line with our peer institutions," he said. "Although we still have more to do, since these schools are making improvements too. This is an important first step."

The access to this technology from a teaching standpoint will enable faculty to present materials (e.g., text, illustrations, video and PowerPoint presentations) to individual student laptops as well as to a large screen at the front of the room. "This will allow professors to take advantage of presenting class materials in an electronic format and will be more convenient for our students," Brussack said. "For example, students will be able to scan through cases on their laptops or take notes while viewing the materials on the screen. Each faculty member will incorporate this new technology into their classes differently," he said.

Wireless Internet Access

During the spring semester, law school students with laptops were already taking advantage of some of the new technology. In February, portions of the school went "wireless." According to the school's Systems Administrator Jason Pancake, the law school is one of the first units on campus to offer wireless Internet access to students on a wide-scale basis. The wireless access was first tested then offered to all law school faculty, staff and students. "Our rollout this spring went pretty smooth and, at present, we have had only positive feedback. Everyone seems to love it," Pancake said. "At the end of the semester, we estimate we will have over 100 people using the system. We anticipate this usage number being much higher in the fall when the entire law school is wireless."

Library Improvements

The Alexander Campbell King Law Library will be one of the first libraries in the nation, and the first law library, to install the state-of-the-art security system, Checkpoint, according to law library Director Ann Puckett. The system will use a radio frequency system to track the library's collection in a couple of ways. First, it will track library materials as they exit the building. "We will know exactly what unchecked out item is taken from the library when it leaves versus just knowing something left as is the case with most systems at other libraries," she said.

In addition, the new security system will enable library staff to "read" library shelves more efficiently, making the management of the library's 480,000 volume and volume equivalent collection much more effective. Puckett



*“Hopefully, these changes
are just the beginning.”*

—HENNEMAN, ARCHITECTURAL DESIGNER

This is an artist's rendition of the one of the new state-of-the-art classrooms to replace the law school's current auditorium.

said currently it would take one staff member eight hours a day, five days a week for one year to review and place materials in the proper location on the proper shelf one time through. “With this system, it will be a 10-day process. However, the biggest benefit of this part of the system is it will make locating a particular book or resource much easier.”

The online circulation module, which will be added to the library's current online catalog system (GAVEL), will also enable library staff and users to better track a particular resource. Currently, GAVEL will only tell users that the law library has the resource, not its status. With this new circulation module, users will know if a resource is available or checked out and, if so, for how long.

Facility Renovations

Perhaps the most visible changes to the School of Law afforded by the \$3.2 million are the planned renovations for the school's auditorium. The auditorium currently seats 300 and is not used regularly by the law school except for special occasions such as orientation, lectures and events. However, the renovation to this one room will make two more classrooms available to professors this fall. Essentially, the room will be divided into half, creating two 110-seat high-tech classrooms. Each classroom will contain the same state-of-the-art technology as the other classrooms, including smart podiums, large screens, and Internet and power access at every seat. The room will also be fitted with acoustical panels on the walls.

Office of University Architects for Facilities Planning's Architectural Designer Linda Henneman said the renovations will make better use of the law school's facilities. “The faculty will have an enhanced teaching space and the students will have a more comfortable setting for learning in addition to power and Internet access from their seats.” These same benefits will also be available in the renovated classrooms F, J and K. Plus, these rooms and the new classrooms (replacing the old auditorium) will be wheelchair accessible.

The law library will also see a facilities change with new carpet, circulation and reference desk configuration, and seating. In addition, new study tables in the library will have built-in lamps for better lighting. Henneman said these changes were necessary as it was hard to do the technology upgrade without upgrading the facilities.

In addressing future changes and renovations to the law school, Henneman said, “Hopefully, these changes are just the beginning.”

The School of Law owes a debt of gratitude to Governor Roy Barnes (J.D.'72) and its many friends in the state's legislature; the Georgia Office of Planning and Budget; Hank Huckaby and his staff in the university's finance and administration offices; Steve Wrigley and his staff in the university's external affairs offices; Linda Henneman, Paul Cassilly, Danny Sniff and Cameron Teeter of the Office of University Architects for Facilities Planning; Jim Wilson and Don Minton of Wilson & Dawson, Architects, Inc.; and Professor Robert Brussack and other members of the school's Library, Facilities, Technology and Renovations Committee for their hard work and numerous hours spent on bringing these renovations to fruition.

CORRECTION

The Advocate deeply regrets an error by omission made in the spring 2001 issue. A story on the bold plans being considered to renovate and refurbish the law school's facilities, as well as enhance the school's technology, failed to mention the deep involvement of the University of Georgia's own university architects. The UGA architects have worked closely with an outside architectural firm on every phase of the development of the feasibility study. The contributions of Danny Sniff, Linda Henneman, Paul Cassilly and Cameron Teeter are significant, appreciated and critical to the future success of the project. The Advocate apologizes for the omission.