Smith Hall dedicated and blessed

BY NICOLE ROYLANCE
CRUSADER NEWS STAFF

Standing before the new building in the glow of the fading sun, it was hard to remember a time when this space was simply a dingy alleyway or a steel frame with construction workers carefully perched on a beam as the wonders of Worcester weather threatened them. This large brick structure that reaches out from the back of Fenwick seems to have been a presence in the Holy Cross skyline for decades.

With the afternoon sun shining through on the new courtyard, students, faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, and honored guests stood to celebrate the blessing and dedication of the Carol and Park B. Smith Hall on Friday, Sept. 7. The opening of the Rehm Library, which is on the third and fourth floors of the new building, was also celebrated.

Remarks were made by President McFarland, Dean Ainlay, Graham Gund, architect of the new space, Jack Rehm, and Park B. Smith. The blessing was done by the Most Reverend Daniel P. Reilly, bishop of Worcester, and hymns were sung by members of the Holy Cross Chapel Choir led by Peter Ghiloni of the Chaplain’s Office.

Smith Hall will house the new Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture as well as the philosophy and religious studies departments, CISS, ITS, administrative offices, the registrar’s office and other academic student services. Park B. Smith ’54, donated $10 million for this building that now bears his name and also serves as a link between lower and upper campus.

“Toward one’s name on a building, to have one’s name on the architectural tradition of Fenwick and O’Kane with the brick facade and reaching towers. Rex Hung ’04, one of the many students present at the blessing and dedication, commented on the quality of the new learning spaces: “The new classrooms are amazing. I really enjoy having my philosophy class in Smith.”

The new Rehm library is among the assets Smith Hall has to offer. Built with the support of Jack D. Rehm, member of the class of ’54, this stunning new library will serve as a quiet space for reading and reflection, as well as the site for lectures and other events put on by the new Center for Religion, Ethics, and Culture. Rehm’s dream is that the building speaks “to the highest ideals of the past, the needs of the present, and hopes of the future.”

In design, the building speaks directly to the architectural tradition of Fenwick and O’Kane with the brick facade and reaching towers. Rex Hung ’04, one of the many students present at the blessing and dedication, commented on the quality of the new learning spaces: “The new classrooms are amazing. I really enjoy having my philosophy class in Smith.”

The weekend will also include panels on “The Genesis of Forgiveness,” “Christian Notions of Forgiveness in Light of the Holocaust,” and “Is America A Forgiving Place?”

Speakers on these panels will include professors from Holy Cross, Boston College, Wellesley College, University of Michigan, Haverford, Notre Dame, and Amherst. On Tuesday, September 11th, Helen Prejean will be speaking on her experience with capital punishment in her lecture entitled, “Dead Man Walking: The Life Story.”

Public Safety Blotter

Monday, September 3
Hanselman: Food thrown through an RA’s window. Public safety responds; apology is made.

Tuesday, September 4
Lehy: Suspicious-smelling skunk seen attempting to enter through a broken window.

Wednesday, September 5
Kimball: Jacket stolen from Dining Services.

Thursday, September 6
Mulledy: Suspicious person lurking in and around woods.

Healy: Complaint of loud music.

Off-Campus: Student harassed and followed by unknown man shouting obscenities.

Friday, September 7
Lehy: Trouble with smoke detectors reported. Detectors fixed.

Sunday, September 9
Kimball: Broken window reported.