

# A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

*Weyerhaeuser Hall will feature high-tech learning, community outreach*

**W**hitworth's first new academic building in half a century will occupy the last piece of prime real estate at the heart of the campus. But its influence won't be limited just to the Whitworth community. To live up to the standards of those for whom it will be named and to the ambitious goals of the programs under its roof, Weyerhaeuser Hall will punch a big hole in whatever's left of the Pinecone Curtain and put out the welcome mat for the Spokane community and beyond.

In addition to providing high-tech classrooms, faculty offices and a unique lecture hall to accommodate classes such as Core that have outgrown the college's current facilities, the new academic building will house outreach programs to link Whitworth with its regional neighbors.

"Dave Weyerhaeuser would be delighted with this building," says Whitworth President Bill Robinson. "He had a voracious intellect and loved Christian enterprises that engaged a culture in deep need with God's Good News. It's one of the principal reasons he was so fond of Whitworth. Weyerhaeuser Hall, with its state-of-the-art classrooms, faculty offices, center for faith and learning and resource center, will host exactly the kind of intellectual and spiritual exploration that Dave loved and supported."

The \$6.5-million project is the centerpiece of the college's Faith in the Future Campaign, and rightly so. The primary goal of the college's strategic plan is to proclaim and enhance Whitworth's academic excellence, yet it has been nearly 50 years since an academic classroom facility was built on campus; the last was Dixon Hall, in 1956.

"This facility will underscore the academic quality of the college and will be a visible expression of our commitment to the education of the mind and heart," says Vice President for Academic Affairs Tammy Reid.

Construction on Weyerhaeuser Hall will begin as soon as fund-raising is completed for the building (see sidebar). Current projections call for the new building to open its doors for classes in fall 2003 or spring 2004.

The project's architect, 3E Design Group of Spokane, has retained the nationally recognized design firm Sasaki & Associates, from Boston, Mass., to ensure that the three-floor, 33,000-square-foot building complements the college's existing architecture. Weyerhaeuser Hall will occupy the northeast corner of the campus Loop, where Leavitt Dining Hall stood from 1944 to 2000.

By Dianna Jackson, '92



"The building sites on the interior of the Loop are limited and are prime locations for academic facilities," says Vice President for Business Affairs Tom Johnson. "It is by design that the academic core of the college is located at the physical core of the campus."

Weyerhaeuser Hall will harmonize with Whitworth's existing brick buildings but will greet visitors with "a dynamic entrance featuring a tower and skylight unique to campus," says Physical Plant Director Steve Thompson. Hidden from the casual observer, the building's heating and cooling system will rely on groundwater to drive a geothermal heat-pump system. "This is very energy efficient and ecologically responsible," Thompson says.

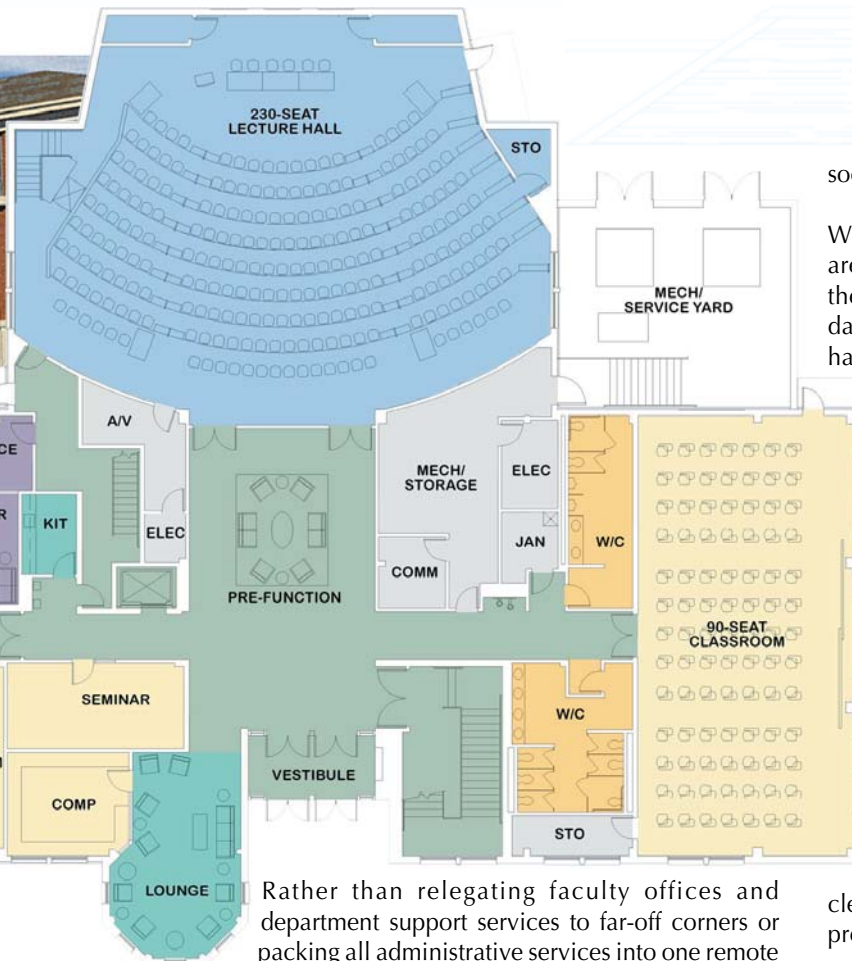
Besides having an impressive outer appearance and inner workings that are kind to the environment, Weyerhaeuser Hall will feature leading-edge teaching stations, addressing the college's need for more and better academic space. The chair of the building-design team, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs Gordon Jackson, puts Weyerhaeuser Hall's importance into perspective.

"The completion of this building will give us some urgently needed space," Jackson says. "The approximately 570 seats that we'll add are an extraordinary boost to our current classroom offerings. This means that in theory, fully one-third of our undergraduate student body can be in class at one time in this new building."

Central to Weyerhaeuser Hall will be a state-of-the-art teaching theatre that will accommodate 230 people and meet the pressing need for a mid-size lecture hall on campus. As the college's undergraduate enrollment has increased dramatically over the past 10 years (from 1,378 in 1991 to 1,749 in 2001), large lecture classes such as Core have outgrown regular classrooms and now meet anywhere that can accommodate their burgeoning enrollments.

The teaching theatre will feature integrated audiovisual/computer facilities, making it a draw for innovative teaching styles. With the help of an acoustics consultant, the space will be designed as an optimal speaking (and listening) venue. It will accommodate guest lecturers and panel discussions and is expected to be a popular venue for conference groups that desire a manageable space in which to meet. According to Jackson, "We're expecting this facility to have primarily a formal teaching role, but also to fill a number of other needs on campus."

Keeping students and faculty together in Weyerhaeuser Hall is of the utmost importance to the building-design committee.



sociology are especially well-equipped to address,” Jackson says.

The center will also coordinate and support research linking Whitworth students and faculty with Spokane agencies that are already working in the area of poverty. While many of these agencies have research needs – for gathering baseline data and measuring intervention strategies – they do not always have an adequate number of trained staff. Through the center, Whitworth students will develop career skills to match those research needs.

By locating the regional resource and research center at the academic core of the campus, Whitworth is making a physical, as well as a moral, commitment to involving its people and programs in the Spokane community. Says Politics & History Professor Julia Stronks, a leader in Whitworth’s efforts to fight regional poverty, “Whitworth’s mission emphasizes an education of the mind and heart in service to God. The resource center and the poverty initiative as a whole will help us to put the mission in motion to address the economic and social needs of our region.”

The new building will also be home to the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning, which promotes faith-learning integration through scholarship and training resources that include non-degree certificate programs for clergy and lay ministers, as well as through guest lectures and presentations.

It is fitting that a facility devoted to faith-learning integration and community service will bear the names of C. Davis and Annette Weyerhaeuser. The Weyerhaeusers tirelessly supported the college during C. Davis’ 50 years of service as a Whitworth trustee, but they never allowed a building to be named for them. With C. Davis’ passing two years ago, President Bill Robinson sought and received permission to recognize the Weyerhaeusers’ legacy of generosity and leadership by naming the college’s landmark academic building in their honor.

Robinson anticipates that what takes place in Weyerhaeuser Hall will reflect Dave Weyerhaeuser’s deepest values. “It is here that students will ask themselves how God’s magnificent revelation enlightens their world of learning,” Robinson says. “For thousands of students for years to come, Weyerhaeuser Hall will be regarded as a place where their lifelong journeys of integrating faith and learning began.” ■

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Rather than relegating faculty offices and department support services to far-off corners or packing all administrative services into one remote part of the structure, offices and classrooms will be interspersed to reinforce the sense of community and accessibility of professors to students.

The School of Global Commerce and Management, the departments of Politics & History and Sociology, and the Weyerhaeuser Center for Christian Faith and Learning are poised to move into the new academic building upon its completion. The recently created School of Global Commerce and Management combines the undergraduate Department of Business and Economics, the Organizational Management Program geared for working adults, and the Master of International Management Program.

In addition to housing existing programs, Weyerhaeuser Hall will be home to a new regional resource and research center that will play a leading role in Whitworth’s service-learning and economic justice initiatives in the Spokane region. The center “will initially focus on issues of poverty in the Spokane area, a topic which the disciplines of business, politics, history and

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Groundbreaking for Weyerhaeuser Hall will take place when all funding for the \$6.5 million building is secured. To date, nearly \$3.2 million has been committed by individuals, regional foundations and businesses. To close the funding gap, proposals have been submitted to several foundations and individual donors who have a keen interest in the project. But the ultimate success of the campaign “will depend on broad support from all of Whitworth’s constituents,” according to Vice President for Institutional Advancement Kristi Burns. ■ Just as Weyerhaeuser Hall will welcome faculty, students and the community, funding for the building will come from a broad spectrum of supporters. Early in 2002, all constituencies – alumni, friends, parents and organizations – will be given the opportunity to support the building effort. “There will be naming opportunities for gifts of \$1,000 or more, and participation at all levels is vital,” Burns says. ■ “Sometimes a project as visible and significant as Weyerhaeuser Hall attracts the attention of people who may not have been connected to the college in many years,” Burns says. “Our hope is that what may start as a modest financial investment in the college becomes a much broader and more enriching connection for the donor.” Anyone interested in knowing more about making a gift to support Weyerhaeuser Hall can contact the Whitworth Institutional Advancement Office at 800-532-4668 or visit the Faith in the Future Campaign website, [www.whitworthfuture.com](http://www.whitworthfuture.com).