

RIVIER CREATES A CAMPUS MASTER PLAN TO DEVELOP THE CAMPUS OVER THE NEXT SEVEN TO TEN YEARS

(Rivier Today, Spring 2013)

In February 2012, the Rivier University Board of Trustees charged the administration with developing a campus master plan. In the spring, the University commissioned nationally recognized development and campus planning firm Dober Lidsky Mathey of Belmont, Mass.

To ensure the viewpoints of the Rivier community were represented in the plan, the University formed a planning committee comprised of faculty, administration, and students. With the input of the campus community and the expertise of Dober Lidsky Mathey, the campus master plan identified projects that would have the greatest impact on the Rivier campus.

Combined with several projects the University had already completed, including the renovations of Madeleine Hall and Adrienne Hall, the campus master plan will provide a blueprint for the development of the Rivier campus over the next seven to ten years. “The implementation of the campus master plan will ensure that our facilities are designed to create and support a transformational learning experience,” says Sister Paula Marie Buley, IHM.

In December, the Board of Trustees approved the concepts in the campus master plan and charged Rivier’s administration with prioritization, implementation of a timeline, and integration of the plan within the University’s financial projections.

Sister Paula emphasizes that the University will exercise prudent financial management, with projects being funded through a variety of resources including operational funds, existing restricted donor funds, and new philanthropic contributions. “The genius of the campus master plan is that it is actionable and scalable,” says Sister Paula.

Upcoming initiatives planned for Phase One

Renovation of the dining facility: A refurbishment of the Dion Center Dining Hall will improve both the function and aesthetic quality of the facility. With an open kitchen design and ‘display cooking’ concept, a popular trend in many restaurants, students will be able to observe the preparation of food. Cooked-to-order meals and pizza baked in the new brick oven will add variety to the menu, while new overhead lighting and a redesign of the seating area will enhance the facility’s ambience.

Renovation of Resurrection Chapel: Supporting the strategic plan goal of enhancing sacred space, a contemporary restoration of Resurrection Chapel is planned. The University selected Washington, D.C.-based architect James McCrery and hosted him on campus in January for an initial consultation. In this concept-planning and schematic development stage, the goal is to enhance this sacred space and “create a noble sense of beauty, making invisible realities visible,” says Sister Paula.

Campus gateways and rotary signage: To improve the visibility of the University within its Greater Nashua neighborhood, the University will construct two campus gateways on South Main Street on each end of the Rivier campus. A University sign at the roundabout will provide a key focal point for traffic heading into Nashua’s downtown.

Creation of an outdoor amphitheater: To maximize Rivier’s campus ‘quad,’ the outdoor area between Guild Hall, Adrienne Hall, Trinity Hall, and the Dion Center, the University will construct an outdoor amphitheater. This outdoor gathering space will provide an ideal venue for both formal and informal gatherings of students and alumni.

Creation of vehicular and pedestrian pathways: The University will realign parking and increase the number and placement of pedestrian pathways throughout the campus.

Creation of a Student Success Center: Through an addition to the Dion Center, the creation of a Student Success Center will unite key student service areas—the Writing Center, Career Development Center, Counseling Center, Academic Advising, and Service Learning—into one convenient and centralized location.

Other potential areas of the campus to be included in phase two include a science building expansion, athletics field house, renovation of Memorial Hall, development of a Student Commons, and a residence hall. ■

The campus master plan is a key component of the University’s strategic plan

The Rivier University Strategic Plan, Delivering on the Promise to ‘transform hearts and minds to serve the world’, provides the guiding direction for the University and ensures that Rivier delivers its core mission. As articulated in one of the plan’s eight key themes, the University “will support organizational structures, allocation of resources, and commitment to continuous improvement necessary to ensure that facilities, technology, and the campus environment compare favorably with peer institutions and provide a competitive recruitment advantage.” With this vision and the objective of ensuring that campus facilities are well maintained and reflect aesthetic quality, the campus master plan is an essential component of the University’s strategic focus.

The strategic plan was developed by Rivier’s administration in support of Rivier’s core mission. It was presented to the Board of Trustees in May 2012 and includes eight key themes:

- 1) Mission – Catholic Intellectual, Social, and Spiritual Tradition
- 2) Create, Sustain and Enhance Programs of Academic Distinction in All Disciplines
- 3) Student Development Services and Student Leadership
- 4) Facility, Technological, and Environmental Competitiveness
- 5) Global Engagement
- 6) Branding, Marketing, Student Recruitment, and Retention
- 7) Culture of Philanthropy and Community Partnerships
- 8) Institutional Effectiveness and Financial Stewardship.

Meet the Architect of the Resurrection Chapel renovation

James McCrery of McCrery Architects, LLC is an expert architectural practitioner with more than 18 years of experience in classical and church architecture and successful projects throughout the United States.

Since its founding in 2007, the firm has completed a variety of projects including the U.S. Supreme Court Book Store, the statue pedestal for President Reagan now displayed in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol, a private residence in Alexandria, Va., and several church projects.

McCrery has been a registered architect since 1998 and is active in the American Institute of Architects, the Institute for Classical Architecture & Classical America, the National Civic Art Society, the Society for Catholic Liturgy, and the Supreme Court Historical Society.