Preface

In 2002 Dr. Kurt Schackmuth and Carol Wassberg published *Lewis University* in the Campus History Series with Arcadia Publishing. The work was a pictorial history of Lewis marking its 70th anniversary. The four chapters provided a visual glimpse of Lewis from its humble beginnings to its status as a comprehensive Midwest university with a clear Mission focus.

*Celebrating 75 Years: Lewis University 1932-2007* was produced in 2006 by faculty and staff members who shared a deep interest in history – Dr. Dennis Cremin, Dr. Maryellen Davis, Carol Wassberg and Dr. Kurt Schackmuth. In thirteen chapters the authors used photographs and primary source materials to tell the history of a small school created during the Great Depression that evolved into a contemporary, values centered university.

History is being made every year on the Lewis campus, so it is important to record the changes and transformations that occur for the benefit of Lewis students, faculty, staff and alumni. In recent years the campus has grown with several new buildings, and some older buildings have been completely renovated. As we welcome the new; we should not forget the old.

This booklet records a brief history of the many buildings and the special features on campus. It is not meant to be a comprehensive edition but simply a historical time capsule. This work may be used by potential students and their parents to learn about the growth of the university, and it might be helpful to visitors who would like to walk around campus and have some information about the various buildings and features. Ultimately, it will also serve as a valuable resource for those who are researching the history of this Catholic and Lasallian University. Research included primary sources from the Brother Ambrose Groble, FSC, University Archives. Many photos were provided by Brother Peter Hannon, FSC, Professor of History, Allison Rios, Director of Advancement Communications, and Sylvain Goyette, Director, Web Development.

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BUILDINGS
Fitzpatrick House

1848

Lewis University acquired the landmark Fitzpatrick House in 2001. The historic building was part of the 160 acre homestead of Patrick Fitzpatrick, a Canadian immigrant and one of Lockport’s first settlers. The limestone house is an important local landmark that expressed continuity with the transportation and economic heritage of the Lockport area. The house is an example of architecture using Illinois limestone and was built in two stages, the northern section in 1848 and the second perpendicular section was completed about 1860. The residence was constructed along one of Illinois’ earliest public highways: the stagecoach route from Chicago to Ottawa. Now Illinois Route 53, the highway was established in 1834 on the site of an early Native American trail and portage route of fur traders and later became part of U.S. Route 66.

In the late 1920s Michael, Frances and Kate Fitzpatrick, children of Patrick, donated most of their farmland to the Archdiocese of Chicago to establish a school for disadvantaged boys, while they continued to live in the family home. The house was bequeathed by Frances Fitzpatrick to Guardian Angel Home in 1950 and was then sold to Material Service Corporation in 1951. The Corporation donated it to the Landmarks Preservation Council of Illinois in 1983. The State of Illinois Historic Preservation Agency purchased the property in 1985 and then leased it to the I&M Canal National Heritage Corridor Commission in the same year. The Fitzpatrick House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and was designated a Will County Historic Landmark in 2002.

Today the Lewis University History Center is located in the house. It seeks to unite scholars, students, and the public in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of materials linked to the history of the Upper Midwest. The Center strives to preserve and promote the region’s heritage through the collection of historic documents and materials and promotion of research and activities involving core areas of public history.

Since 2011, Lewis has welcomed into the house the Visitor’s Center for the I&M Canal Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitor’s Bureau. Various interpretive exhibits are open to the public, and information is available about the Heritage Corridor and attractions and accommodations.
Sheil Hall was named for Bishop Bernard J. Sheil of the Chicago Archdiocese who founded Holy Name Technical School for boys, which later developed into Lewis University. He was the first administrator of the school and was an outspoken advocate of social justice for the underprivileged and marginalized sectors of the community. He also founded the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

The original Sheil Hall is the oldest building on campus and a well suited residence for freshman style community living. It offers double occupancy rooms for 140 freshmen residents, which is co-ed by floor. A lower level lounge features a large screen TV and pool table, while the second floor lounge provides a full-service kitchen and study area. Sheil Hall is in close proximity to the Student Recreation and Fitness Center, Charlie’s Place, Student Union and Sancta Alberta Chapel. The residence underwent major interior transformation in 2007, and in 2012 more renovations included an elevator and a new entrance and porch on the side facing the University Green.
The John A. and Angeline Oremus Fine Arts Center was one of the first buildings on the Lewis campus. Originally, it served as an aeronautical education center and airplane hangar. The large hangar doors were part of the building until 1990 when the center was remodeled and renamed the John A. and Angeline Oremus Fine Arts Center in October 1991.

Constructed in 1932, the Center focused primarily on aviation training until a new aviation building opened in 1976. The name “Lewis Holy Name School of Aeronautics” is engraved in stone on the west side of the building. Before a new roof was installed, pilots flying to the Lewis University Airport could see “Lewis Holy Name Aero School” in large letters on the roof.

A new aviation building was constructed in 1975 just west of the Oremus Center. The university then renovated this historic structure into a center for the fine arts. The Philip Lynch Theatre, which mimics some features of the Tyrone Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis, was built in the hangar area. Students, faculty and staff did the majority of the conversion work, constructing the backstage, lobby, shop and offices. The studios, rehearsal halls and classrooms were in constant use while the theater and music rooms were the sites for countless performances and concerts.

In 1988 the Board of Trustees authorized a campaign to raise funds for the renovation of the building. The later Trustee John A. Oremus, Chairman of the Prairie Material Sales and Mayor of the village of Bridgeview, pledged $500,000. Renovation work began in 1990 with the complete overhaul of the academic areas. The exterior improvements included new windows, tuck pointing, a new roof and enhancements. The hangar doors were bricked in and the theater was air conditioned.

In 2012 the Oremus Fine Arts Center saw extensive renovations which included the Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Gallery, the Studio Theater, a renovated lobby, an expanded set and costume area, a new percussion room for Music, and a new entrance to the building. On March 13, 2013 the newly expanded Center was rededicated.
Lewis Memorial Hall (Student Union)

1934

Lewis Memorial Hall was constructed in 1934 by Frank J. Lewis in memory of his son Joseph Lewis who was killed in an airplane accident. From 1934 to 1946 the central two-story structure was used as a gymnasium, and the one-story wings were used as traditional styled dormitories. The main floor and sub-level of the north wing housed the Library from 1946 to 1962. In the sub-level of the south wing there were bowling alleys until 1965, when the area was changed to accommodate the present Flyer’s Den and a large game room. Later the Library occupied a large part of the building except for the south wing sub-level.

In 1962 the JFK Sports Center was opened and the gymnasium in Memorial Hall was no longer needed. The central two-story space became a part of the Library, which remained there until the Learning Resource Center opened in 1971. Most of Lewis Memorial Hall was then converted to a Student Union with the bookstore located in the north wing and a commons area which became the center of student activities. The Office of Student Affairs relocated to an office area on the first floor. Today the building houses the Office of Student Affairs, Flyers Den, Game Room and the Lewis University Police Department.
Faculty Lane Houses

1946

Frank J. Lewis, Chicago businessman and philanthropist, and one of the founders of Lewis University, decided in 1946 to build five houses on campus for faculty members and their families. Each two story bungalow contained three bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, dining room, living room and additional space in the basement. Over time most faculty members decided to live off campus, and the houses were occupied by different campus offices. In 1995 two of the homes were razed to provide space for the building of La Salle House, the residence of the De La Salle Christian Brothers. The remaining three houses continued to be used by student organizations and university offices. In 2015 two of the houses were University Guest Houses and one provided offices for Alumni Relations.
After a fire destroyed the original chapel on campus, Frank J. Lewis donated funds to construct a new chapel. The building was named Sancta Alberta to honor the patron saint of his first wife, Alberta, who had died in 1928. Opened in 1954, the Chapel had a marble altar set in the style prior to Vatican II with a sanctuary and communion rail also made of marble, side altars with statues of Mary and Joseph, Stations of the Cross, and a choir loft. The bell tower quickly became a landmark on campus. Although the bell did not actually ring, some years later chimes were installed. The first mass was celebrated in the Chapel on April 4, 1954. In the first year of its construction a new tradition began of having weddings of students and alumni in the chapel. Commencement ceremonies were held there for many years until the John F. Kennedy Sports Center was built. In recent years lectures and concerts were held in the Chapel. In 2015 plans were announced for a comprehensive chapel transformation that will return Sancta Alberta to a permanent place of worship.
Completed in 1956 under the direction of the second president, General Paul X. English, (U.S. Army, Retired) Stritch Hall was used as a permanent residence for the president and his family. The structure was named in honor of Samuel Cardinal Stritch (1887-1958) of the Chicago Archdiocese. The house is based on a colonial design featuring large columns in the front and a sun room for entertaining guests. English and his family lived there for four years until 1960, when the De La Salle Christian Brothers assumed sponsorship of Lewis College. At that time Stritch became a residence for the Christian Brothers who lived and taught on campus.

Stritch Hall remained a Brothers’ residence with some offices on the first floor for many years. In 1996 it became the site of the President’s Office, and with the construction of La Salle House as a residence for the Brothers, the house became an office building. Its internal and external beauty has been maintained, and all of the original wood flooring remains. The second and third floors and the lower level contain the offices of University Advancement. In 2012 the Sun Room was reconstructed along with an expanded patio for outdoor events.
Fitzpatrick Hall

1962

This U-shaped residence hall was completed in 1962, and a dedication ceremony was held on 18 June 1964. The hall features single and double occupancy rooms in a sectional style setting. Six residents occupy one section and share a common bathroom with six residents of another section. A unique feature of Fitzpatrick Hall is that residents enter their sections through an outdoor balcony. The hall provides a full service kitchen and pool table, and an outdoor courtyard has stationary grills and picnic tables available for residents. In the summer of 2006 a campus coffee house, Common Grounds, opened on the lower level of this hall.

Fitzpatrick Hall was named in memory of the late Frances and Michael Fitzpatrick, members of a pioneer Lockport Township family that acquired several parcels of land west of the DesPlaines River. Later 160 acres of the property were donated to the Archdiocese of Chicago, and the site would become Holy Name Technical School, which over the years has become Lewis University.

In 1974 the moderator of the Lewis radio station, WLRA, requested to move to a new location that offered a larger space. The request was approved, and the station moved to the ground level of the east wing of Fitzpatrick Hall where Campus Security had offices until 2006. That year the radio station moved to St. De La Salle Hall, and a new student convenience store/coffee house was established in its space. Common Grounds is open 24/7 and was designed to be a quiet space for students to take a break, read or visit with friends. The store offers a variety of organic, healthy choice foods, as well as sodas, candy, chips, energy drinks and more.
Academic Building

1963

The Academic Building, now home to the College of Arts and Sciences, began in 1941 as the original Administration and Cafeteria building. In 1963 the cafeteria was enlarged to accommodate more students, and the Academic wing was added. The following year the Science Building was joined to the Academic Building. Lewis College President, Brother Leander Paul, decided to name the three unit complex Trinity Hall, but the name was not as popular as the building.

In 1967 the cafeteria was enlarged again, and in 1970 the Administration offices moved to the newly built Learning Resource Center. The College of Business occupied the former Administration offices for the next twenty-four years. The Leckrone Academic Resource Center moved into the offices until 2007 when it relocated to St. Benilde Hall. The College of Arts and Sciences then occupied the space for its administrative offices. In 2007 the CAS moved to the Academic Building, and part of the facility was renovated to accommodate the Math and Computer Science Department. In 2013 the classrooms and offices in the Academic Building were remodeled and refurnished giving an updated appearance to the entire interior of the building.
Groundbreaking for a new gymnasium on campus took place in December 1962. The building provided facilities for basketball, wrestling, volleyball, badminton, tumbling and gymnastics and could seat 2,400 spectators. The facility also included a lounge and snack bar and locker rooms and showers. The first basketball game was played on November 27, 1963, and the dedication ceremony took place on June 18, 1964.

The original building was called the John F. Kennedy Memorial Gymnasium, until 1987 when the Board of Trustees approved a change to the John F. Kennedy Sports Center. Then in October 1995 the gymnasium in the Sports Center was named the Neil P. Carey Arena. In 2011 renovations to the Neil Carey Arena included a new roof, a renovated system for heating and air conditioning, painting, installation of energy efficient lighting, and a new floor. The entire building then became part of what is now called the Student Recreation and Fitness Center.
South Hall

1964

Groundbreaking for South Hall took place in October 1964. The new residence hall was built by the De La Salle Christian Brothers as a novitiate for the training of young men from the Chicago and Joliet area who planned to become Brothers. They would live on campus for one year and during that time they would pursue courses with primary emphasis on religion and philosophy. At that time the novitiate was in Glencoe, Missouri, but it was too small for the number of young men interested in the Christian Brothers’ vocation in the new Chicago Province.

In 1973 the Brothers moved the novitiate program to a residence in Windsor, Ontario near the campus of Assumption College and the University of Windsor. The Christian Brothers at first leased South Hall, and later it was sold to Lewis University. The north section became a student residence, and the office and academic area on the south side became the College of Nursing. Interior renovations were completed in 1980 and in 2009. A new front entrance to the College of Nursing and Health Professions was dedicated in 2010, and a two story major addition was completed in 2014 which provided additional educational facilities and simulation laboratories.
In the summer of 1960 the De La Salle Christian Brothers arrived at Lewis College of Science and Technology to assume its administration and sponsorship. They had responded to the request of Most Reverend Martin D. McNamara, Bishop of Joliet, to sponsor the college. Seven Brothers arrived at Lewis in June of 1960, the first of more than one hundred to teach, administer and serve in other ministries in the years following.

At first the Brothers lived in Stritch Hall and other buildings on campus, wherever a room could be found. With the expansion of the campus and the increase in enrollment more Brothers were added to the local community. It soon became apparent that a residence would be needed for them. In 1966 McNamara Hall was constructed as the Christian Brothers residence and was named for Bishop McNamara.

A three story structure, the original building included fourteen bedrooms, a chapel, and an open basement. Over the years a kitchen, dining room, and living room were built in the lower level. In 1996 when a new Brothers’ residence was built, McNamara Hall became the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies and housed the departments of History, Social Work, Criminal/Social Justice and Political Science. In 2015 faculty offices for the History, Philosophy, Theology and Foreign Language departments occupied the hall.
West Hall
1966

This structure was originally called Sacred Heart Hall and served as the residence for the Lasalliana Sisters who provided housekeeping services for the Christian Brothers’ novices and scholastics until 1969. Then it became a residence for some of the retired Christian Brothers on campus. From 1972 to 1977 Lewis rented the building from the Christian Brothers of the Central States District, renamed it South Hall Annex, and used it for the Institute for Studies in Social Justice.

Lewis University purchased the facility in 1977, and it was converted to a residence for male students until the end of the 1992 spring semester. It was reconfigured inside and then used by Physical Plant for shops and offices. In 2004 it was once again remodeled to accommodate the Educational Data Center which maintained offices there until 2010 when it moved off campus.

The building was then renamed West Hall and was renovated to provide temporary offices for the College of Nursing and Health Professions while renovations were completed in its building. In 2015 the hall was used for the Department of Justice, Law and Public Safety and for ROTC.
Ryan Hall was built by a different community of Brothers, the Irish Christian Brothers who were founded by Edmund Ignatius Rice in Waterford, Ireland in 1802. They are also a teaching order but have a different history and different traditions than the De La Salle Christian Brothers of Lewis University. The Irish Christian Brothers built Ryan Hall on the south side of campus as a formation residence for young men who wanted to join their order. It was named for Brother Carthage Ryan, CFC, who was the novice master of the Irish Christian Brothers for twenty-seven years.

The three floor residence hall initially was divided into six sections which included student rooms, faculty rooms, and a living room and reading room. The building also housed a chapel, sacristy and visitors’ rooms. The lower floor featured a library, TV room, community room, dining room, kitchen and quarters for domestic help. The residence was dedicated on June 14, 1968 by Bishop Romeo Blanchette of the Joliet Diocese.

In the summer of 1986 Lewis purchased Ryan Hall from the Irish Christian Brothers to expand student housing. The interior of the building was remodeled and repainted in preparation for the female students who would live there. In later years some rooms were reconfigured, painted, carpeting was replaced, and kitchens were installed. The residence hall houses 78 students in single and double occupancy rooms.
The De La Salle Christian Brothers in the United States decided to build a national office on the campus of Lewis University. Construction of the building started in 1966 and was completed in 1967. Named St. Benilde Hall, it was located on the south side of campus. The building housed its national headquarters, Christian Brothers Retirement Plan, Christian Brothers Insurance, and the national public relations office. Dedication of the new building was held on October 13, 1968.

The new facility was named for Brother Benilde Romançon, the first teaching brother canonized by the Church. A French Brother, he taught and administered in schools in the central region of France for nearly forty years. Although he was small in stature, he was known as a strict but fair disciplinarian. In time his school at Saugues, an isolated village on a barren plateau in southern France, became the center of the social and intellectual life of the village, with evening classes for the adults and tutoring for the less gifted students. Brother Benilde’s extraordinary religious sense was evident to everyone. He was canonized in 1967.

St. Benilde Hall served the Christian Brothers Conference until 1994 when they decided to move to a larger site in Romeoville. Lewis University acquired the building in the summer that year, and it was completely renovated and ready for classes by the fall semester. Several departments moved into the new facility: College of Business, Graduate School of Management, Lewis University Career Education Program, Central Receiving, and the Copy Center. Dedication of the newly acquired building was conducted on October 24, 1994.

In 2014 the College of Business and the Graduate School of Management moved to St. Charles Borromeo Center. Following that move, the departments of Psychology, Social Work, Sociology and Political Science moved into St. Benilde Hall.
The ground was broken on October 10, 1966 for the construction of a new 175 bed residence hall which was completed for the fall 1967 semester. Designed by Barry & Kay Architects of Chicago, Founders Hall was part of the Campus Plan of 1970. The three story residence was built in response to the increased enrollment demands. In 1966 Lewis College had an enrollment of 1,450 students which was an increase of 35 per cent over the previous year, and some students could not be accepted because of the lack of facilities. Over the years the interior was remodeled. In 2016 the hall featured double occupancy rooms for first year students. The lower level lounge offered a full service kitchen, large screen TV and pool table.
St. De La Salle Hall

1968

St. De La Salle Hall was built in 1968 as a residence for young Christian Brothers who were completing their college degree programs. First named the Christian Brothers Scholasticate Building, it also contained the residence and offices for the Brothers who were administrators of the Central States Province. The building had two courtyards, two dining rooms, a gym and racquetball courts, two laundry rooms, twenty rooms for students Brothers, twelve rooms for Brothers in administration, and a large chapel. Later as the number of student Brothers declined, the Brothers set up a community living residence for some Lewis University students. At the same time some rooms were prepared as a residence for retired Brothers.

This situation continued until 2001 when Lewis University purchased the building from the Midwest District of the Christian Brothers. Major renovations followed to make the facility suitable for college students. The bedrooms were renovated, office spaces were redesigned to make classrooms, a new mail room was created, the bookstore moved to the first floor, and the large chapel was renovated into a lecture hall named Brother Damian Hall. A few years later the gymnasium was remodeled to accommodate the College of Education and the Andrew Center for Electronic Media. The original large dining room became the Courtyard Café, an extension of Sodexo food services.
Cody Hall was officially opened on August 31, 1969 by the Irish Christian Brothers as the residence for their novices. Situated adjacent to Ryan Hall, it was built as an identical structure. The construction was financed by a generous donation of three thousand dollars provided by John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, through the Project Renewal Fund of the Archdiocese and the fund drive of the Brothers. The residence was named for the Cardinal.

This three floor residence offers housing for 59 students and is co-ed by floor. It offers both single and double rooms, and has the largest single rooms on campus. It was purchased by Lewis University and dedicated in September 1986. Over a five year period from 2009 to 2014 all the bathrooms were renovated and new modular furniture was installed in all the rooms. Cody Hall is the primary residence for English as a Second Language students.
Brother Paul French, FSC
Learning Resource Center

1971

Groundbreaking for the Learning Resource Center took place on September 8, 1968, and the building was dedicated on May 15, 1971. It was a $3.5 million venture which produced a four-story structure on campus, which added 80,000 square feet of educational and administrative space. The Center became the visual focal center of the campus with brick curtain walls and forty white classical pillars each towering fifty feet high.

The main feature of the Learning Resource Center is the Library which occupies the second and third floors. It was built initially to house 136,000 volumes and to provide seating for 450 students. Today the building provides office space for Enrollment Management, Admissions, Provost Office, Business Office, Registrar’s Office, Mission and Identity, Human Resources and Graduate and Adult Admission. The lower level of the Center is the location of the Office of Technology which provides service and support for the University’s technology infrastructure and computer network. Over the years various rooms and offices were remodeled for new purposes.

In November 2003 Lewis University honored Brother Paul French, FSC, the fifth President of the University, by naming the Learning Resource Center in recognition of his many years of dedicated service as a faculty member and administrator. In 2008 the offices of the Lewis University Career and Educational Programs moved from St. Benilde Hall to the third floor of the building, and its name was changed to the School for Professional and Continuing Education. In 2011 a new elevator was added to the north side of the building to provide easier access to the top floors for students, faculty and guests. Brother Paul died on December 10, 2015.
Brother Neil Kieffe, FSC
Aviation Building

1975

Brother Neil Kieffe, FSC, chair of the Lewis Aviation Department in the 1970s, directed construction of a new Aviation building. Part of the funding for the new structure came from a state bond issue that was upheld by the Illinois Supreme Court. The groundbreaking took place on October 14, 1973 for the $1.2 million building.

The new facility allowed Lewis to double its enrollment and still meet the Federal Aviation Authority standards and requirements. The building contained a 14,290 square foot hangar with 8,000 square feet of shop area on two sides of the hangar. The front section of the structure accommodated five classrooms, five laboratories, a department library, and offices for instructors and administrators. Each classroom contained a 16mm sound-motion picture projector and a 35mm slide projector remotely controlled from the instructor’s desk. In recent years the equipment has been updated with computers and current technology.

In April 1975 the equipment, books, desks, and other materials of the Aviation Department were moved from St. Joseph Hall to the new facility. The Lewis University Aviation Department today educates pilots, mechanics, aviation and aerospace administrators, air traffic controllers and ground traffic controllers and also focused on aviation technology and security. The building was dedicated and named on March 30, 2016.
Construction on the Information Center was completed in 1990. Located between the Flag Plaza and the Crown Family Plaza, it replaced a smaller, temporary structure that was built in 1979. A facility to monitor traffic had been considered for many years, and a committee of the Board of Trustees planned the booth’s design and location. It was to be used as an information center for students, parents and guests.

Today the center is staffed by one or two Lewis University police officers or other security personnel including student workers, particularly those who are majoring in Justice, Law and Public Safety. A security gate is used at night to monitor traffic entering and leaving campus.
Harold E. White, editor emeritus and publisher of Sun Publications presented gifts of more than $2.5 million to Lewis University in the early 1990s for the expansion of the aviation educational facilities and the enhancement of the aviation academic equipment. His donation led to the construction of a state-of-the-art complex attached to the existing Aviation building. Lewis dedicated the Harold E. White Aviation Center in his memory on September 29, 1993. During the ceremony the Lima Lima Flight Team, led by Lou Drendel a founding member, flew the “Missing Man” formation over the Center in memory of Mr. White.

The new complex included classrooms, a simulator room, a dispatch center, flight planning room, resource center library, computer lab, faculty and administrative offices, as well as the Eva Anderson White Memorial Conference Room and the Eva Anderson White Resource Center Library named in honor his wife.

In addition to the gift of the new building and its furnishings, Mr. White also provided an endowed scholarship for aviation students, a faculty development fund, and an endowment for the ongoing maintenance and equipping of the aviation center. His association with Lewis began many years earlier because of his love of flying. He made his first cross country flight in the 1950s in a Stinson Voyager which was based at Lewis.
The Student Recreation and Fitness Center was constructed to provide wellness and fitness opportunities for students, faculty, staff and alumni. It was joined to the John F. Kennedy Sports Center resulting in an extensive complex for recreation, fitness and athletics. At the same time an expansion of the JFK Sports Center added offices for the athletic staff including coaches of the eighteen men’s and women’s sports programs.

Measuring more than 70,000 square feet, the Student Recreation and Fitness Center features a 200 meter indoor track with four lanes for running, jogging or walking; an eight lane collegiate size swimming pool; four multi-purpose courts for basketball, volleyball or tennis; a 1000 square foot aerobics studio with a wood suspended floor; plus a 2300 square foot fitness center offering a variety of resistance training and cardiovascular equipment; a classroom and a sauna. The track was replaced in 2012-2013 and a practice area for golf was added.
La Salle House

1996

In 1996 Lewis University built La Salle House as the residence for the De La Salle Christian Brothers who lived and worked on campus. The Brothers had been living in Stritch Hall and McNamara Hall, but the increase in the number of Brothers meant more rooms were necessary. Sixteen Brothers moved into the new residence on July 8.

The two-story La Salle House contains 18 bedrooms, living room with a fireplace, dining room, library, two laundry rooms, two parlors, kitchen, elevator, chapel and patio. A garage with a storage/work room and a parking lot were constructed behind the residence. Over the years the number of Brothers has varied, allowing for guest rooms in the house and for temporary rooms for international Brothers studying for advanced degrees.

One of the traditions started by the Brothers moved with them to their new residence. Since 1973, the Christian Brothers have sponsored a wine and cheese holiday party in early December, typically on the afternoon of the first Friday of the month. That tradition continues at La Salle House with 250 to 300 faculty and staff members visiting to celebrate both the holidays and the end of the fall semester.
Opened in the fall of 1997, North Hall was the eighth residence hall built on campus. Designated as a co-ed hall by section, the building has a capacity of 176 students. It features three levels of apartment style living where two double and two single rooms share a semi-private lounge and a kitchenette with a refrigerator and microwave. The building also includes a multipurpose room, conference room, full service kitchen, game room, fireside sitting room, vending machines and a laundry.
Dedicated on September 21, 2005 St. John Paul II Hall became the tenth residence hall on campus. The increasing enrollment over several years made a new residence necessary. The hall has four stories with three floors of apartment style living space. Each floor consists of single and double occupancy rooms, a study and conference area, lounge area, laundry facilities and a kitchen. The lower level was built for the office of The Flyer student newspaper, a media classroom, faculty offices and a general meeting space.

The St. John Paul II Hall is coed by section and can house 95 students in single and double rooms. The hall was named for the late Pope not only because he was head of the Catholic Church for three decades but also because of his strong connection with young people. Founder of World Youth Day, he was noted for his concern for youth and young adults, reaching out to them with high expectations and a call for service and evangelization.
The 11th student residence on the Lewis main campus, Mother Teresa Hall was dedicated on September 12, 2006. It was named in honor of the late missionary who spent most of her life helping the poor and the destitute of Calcutta, India. She was selected for recognition because of her deep faith, devotion to others, effective promotion of justice, and insistence on respect for every individual.

The mirror image of St. John Paul II Hall, Mother Teresa Hall houses 95 students. The residence hall includes three floors of apartment-style living space with each floor consisting of single and double occupancy rooms, two study/conference areas, a lounge area, laundry facilities, and a kitchen. The first floor has a game room and offers an expanded kitchen facility. The lower level houses the Center for Health and Counseling Services complete with three exam rooms and two classrooms.

Foundress of the Missionaries of Charity, Mother Teresa originally taught the wealthy children of Calcutta. Distressed by the extreme poverty and suffering outside of the convent school where she worked, she left her teaching position to care for those who had been all but forgotten. She devoted the rest of her life to helping the residents in the slums of Calcutta. Known as “The Saint of the Gutters” for her selfless ministry to the destitute and abandoned, Mother Teresa received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She died in 1997 and was beatified in 2003.
Dedicated on June 5, 2007 the James A. LaGrippe Pastoral Center adjoins the Sancta Alberta Chapel, providing an additional 4,000 square feet of space for University Ministry as well as other select campus activities. Lewis University honored the benefactors whose generosity played a significant role in the creation of the $1.7 million campus pastoral center. Lewis Trustee James A. LaGrippe and his wife Anne, John and Jeanette D’Arcy, and the Frank J. Lewis Foundation were recognized for their financial support.

Features of the James A. LaGrippe Pastoral Center include the John and Jeanette D’Arcy and Family Great Room, a comfortable meeting space for up to eighty people with a fireplace, wireless Internet, a sound system with three wireless microphones, and a projector and drop-down screen; the Lewis Family Room, a gathering area for up to twelve people complete with a fireplace, a flat-screen television and wireless Internet, and the Victoria LaGrippe Meditation Garden, a place for quiet reflection, meditation and prayer, including a statue of Mary and a basin of water from which a tranquil stream flows. The fountain is surrounded by the original limestone used in the creation of the University Grotto in the 1950s. The statue of Mary, Our Lady of Grace, was part of the original grotto. Other amenities of the expansion include University Ministry staff offices, a kitchen, and additional restroom facilities.
Dorothy Day Hall

2009

Dorothy Day Hall was the 12th residence hall constructed on the Lewis main campus to meet a burgeoning student population. The building has an additional level compared to the similar structures of Pope John Paul II Hall and Mother Teresa Hall. Dorothy Day Hall can accommodate approximately 130 residents. It includes four floors of apartment-style living space with each floor consisting of single and double occupancy rooms, two study/conference areas, a lounge area, laundry facilities, and a kitchen. The first floor also has a game room and offers an expanded kitchen facility. The lower level of the building is being utilized for additional classrooms, office space and meeting areas.

Dorothy Day dedicated herself completely to the poor despite a tumultuous early life. She co-founded the Catholic Worker newspaper in 1933 and developed the publication into a movement that built Catholic Worker houses across the country to provide sustenance and direction for thousands of needy and homeless people. A dedicated social activist, she was a pioneer in promoting civil rights and pacifism while opposing nuclear weapons. She persisted as a peace advocate throughout the Cold War and also protested against the war in Vietnam, being jailed for her peaceful demonstrations. In 1973, the 75-year-old was imprisoned after taking part in a banned picket line in support of the United Farm Workers in California.

Her work to promote peace was cited by the U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in their 1983 peace pastoral, The Challenge of Peace, which recognized pacifism and conscientious objection as a legitimate expression of the Christian faith. Cardinal John O’Connor, then Catholic Archbishop of New York, initiated the proposal for a declaration of sainthood for Dorothy Day. In 2000, the Vatican officially opened the cause of sainthood for this remarkable woman, now known as “Dorothy Day, Servant of God.”
Lewis University opened its new Science Center with a dedication ceremony on March 23, 2012. The 50,000 square-foot addition of the new Science Center features twelve labs, six prep labs, eight research facilities, three conference rooms, classrooms with Smart Boards, faculty/staff offices and gathering spaces with terrazzo floors. The top level of the three-story $18 million structure features biology labs, the second floor focuses on chemistry areas, and the lower level is dedicated to physics. Students and faculty have access to additional new equipment, such as a fluorescent microscope and a 96-well plate reader, but also better storage areas for the equipment. Every research lab and preparatory room has a refrigerator and fume hood.

The new Science Center provides enhanced facilities and an atmosphere for many research projects funded by the Colonel Stephen S. and Lyla Doherty Center for Aviation and Health Research Center at Lewis University. The center promotes scholarship among faculty, students and community partners in aviation and health. Projects include various areas such as nanotechnology, laser optics, computer and environmental science research.

The Science Center has been designated a LEED-certified building at the Silver level. More than 31 environmentally-friendly features of the structure include its innovative design, indoor environmental quality, materials and resources, energy and atmosphere, water efficiency and sustainable site.

On April 16, 2015 the University dedicated the new Advanced Physics Laboratory to the late Sister Noel Dreska, OSF, and the Organic Chemistry Laboratory to the late Dr. Philip Hogan. Sister Noel, a Professor Emerita, served as Professor of Physics as well as Chair of the Department from 1972 to 2002. A Professor Emeritus, Dr. Hogan was the head of the Department for thirty-four years. Both have endowed scholarships named after them.
St. Charles Borromeo Center

2012

It was a dream of Bishop Martin D. McNamara for the Joliet Diocese to have its own minor seminary to help provide priests to serve the ever-growing Catholic population, and on February 5, 1963, he announced the founding of the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary. After a very successful fundraising campaign, ground was broken for the building in March of 1964 and Bishop McNamara laid the cornerstone in October of that year. The high school and college seminary opened in the fall of 1965.

The seminary facility was dedicated on May 15, 1966, by Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago, just eight days before the death of Bishop McNamara, who was too ill to be present. The college seminary program closed in 1972, and the high school program ceased operation in 1980. Then the seminary building served the Joliet Diocese as a Pastoral Center, housing many offices and agencies.

In 2012 Lewis University purchased the Center and the accompanying 40 acres of land adjacent to campus. Lewis had been leasing some classrooms and offices at a time when the Joliet Diocese was planning to build a new pastoral center and consolidate all of its offices at one location. The Blanchette Catholic Center opened on Weber Road in Crest Hill in 2013.

The St. Charles Borromeo Center underwent extensive renovations to fit the university’s needs. The building houses multiple classrooms and meeting rooms, faculty offices, the Flight Deck Dining Room, a chapel/conference center that accommodates up to seven hundred and fifty people, and residential living space for 143 students. In 2014 the College of Business and the Graduate School of Management moved into the building. In 2015 the School for Professional and Continuing Education relocated to the complex.
A dedication ceremony and open house were held on September 25, 2015 for the Powerhouse Flex and Fitness Center. The building was constructed on a two and a half month fast track so that it would be available to students for the fall semester. The center houses weight training and fitness equipment to provide space for all students interested, including student-athletes. It supplements the current space and equipment in use in the Student Recreation and Fitness Center, meets the increasing demand for fitness equipment, and alleviates overcrowding in the JFK facilities. The building includes free weights, cardio equipment for interval training, some cross-fit options, and comprehensive weight machines. The design of the center was based on feedback from the President’s Student Advisory Council and the Student Athlete Advisory Council.
FEATURES
Our Lady of Grace Statue

1956

In the spring of 1956 the Lewis College Letterman’s Club built a grotto for Our Lady of Grace. One of the members, Chester S. Moskal ’56, helped design and construct the grotto by hand. The group members completed construction including a fountain, but never finished the roof. The Grotto underwent many changes over the years and had a few different roofs. Different statues have replaced the original.

In early 2006 the Grotto was dismantled in order to make space for Time Plaza. The statue of Our Lady of Grace was relocated to the Victoria LaGrippe Meditation Garden in the courtyard of the LaGrippe Pastoral Center.
The Carrara marble statue of the Immaculate Conception stands next to the College of Nursing and Health Professions. It originally stood above the entrance of Old St. Mary’s Church in Chicago. In 1971 the church was scheduled to be razed for new construction. This statue was among the religious art works that were set for public auction. The starting price was $300, but the auctioneer was obliged to let it go for $30.00. The buyers were Willi and Genevieve Wagner of Chicago.

They had it at their home in Wisconsin for a number of years. When they decided to move, they wanted to donate the statue to a church or cemetery. At one time they offered the statue to La Salle Manor in Plano, but the Brothers there suggested that it would be better placed in front of the Christian Brothers Provincial Office on the south campus of Lewis University. It was moved there in 1981 and placed in front of St. De La Salle Hall. After a new southwest entrance was built on the College of Nursing and Health Professions in 2010, the statue was placed in a garden setting on the north side of the building.
Ludwig von Beethoven Bust

1984

The northeast corner of the Oremus Fine Arts Center is the home of a large bust of Ludwig von Beethoven. It was donated to Lewis University about 1984. The late Brother Owen Meegan, FSC, Chicago Attorney at Law, assisted in its acquisition for Lewis. Dr. Mace Gazda, M.D., a 1925 graduate of De La Salle Institute in Chicago, traveled to Italy where he lived in Milan and studied grand opera. He commissioned a bust of Beethoven sculpted from a block of Carrara marble during his stay and brought it back with him after the stock market crash of 1929. The artist is unknown.

Mace’s father founded the Medicine and Surgery Clinic at 52nd and Damen in Chicago, which helped to fund his son’s adventure. The bust was originally housed at the Clinic until Mace’s death in 1984. Brother Owen made arrangements for the bust to be placed on the Lewis campus on public display. It was first located in the north courtyard of De La Salle Hall. About 1989 it was moved to its current location.
Irving Crown Plaza

1992

The Irving Crown Plaza was dedicated in a ceremony on October 12, 1992 in memory of Mr. Crown whose family made a donation to Lewis from the Arie and Ida Crown Memorial Fund. Family members and university administrators participated in the event. The plaque reads: *In appreciation to the Arie and Ida Crown Memorial Foundation and Material Service Corporation Lewis University, Fall 1992.*

Irving Crown and two of his brothers founded Material Service Corporation in 1919. They were instrumental in the growth of the Chicago area, manufacturing concrete for highways, subways and buildings. Mr. Crown received an honorary doctoral degree in 1964 and was named an Honorary Founder of Lewis University in recognition of his donations and support. A leader in philanthropy for more than 40 years, he received the David Ben-Gurion Award from the Israel Bonds drive in 1971.
Pierre Romançon was born in the village of Thuret in south central France in 1805. He was so far ahead of his classmates in elementary school that when he was only fourteen years old the De La Salle Christian Brothers engaged him as a substitute teacher. He joined the Brothers in 1820 and took the name Brother Benilde, and from 1821 to 1841 he taught successfully in the network of elementary schools conducted by the Brothers.

In 1841 he was appointed Director of a school that was opening in Saugues, an isolated village on a barren plateau in southern France. For the next twenty years he worked quietly and effectively as a teacher and principal to educate the boys in the village. In time the little school became the center of the social and intellectual life of the village with evening classes for the adults and tutoring for the less gifted students. At the time of his death in 1862 more than 200 Brothers and an impressive number of priests had been his students. At Benilde’s beatification in 1948 Pope Pius XII said that his sanctification was attained by enduring “the terrible grind” and by “doing common things in an uncommon way.” He was canonized on October 29, 1967, the first Christian Brother to be declared a saint of the Catholic Church.

In 1967 the Christian Brothers opened their national headquarters at Benilde Hall on the Lewis campus. Two years later Brother Joel Damian Wilhelm, FSC, was appointed Executive Secretary with an office in the new building. After the building was completed his mother, Mrs. Charles Wilhelm of Minneapolis, MN, donated the statue of Brother Benilde which was placed at the front of the building. Later the statue was relocated near La Salle House, the residence of the Christian Brothers on campus.
Saint Miguel Febres Cordero Statue

1999

Located on the north side of the San Miguel Ministry Center, the bronze statue of Saint Miguel Febres Cordero was created by Brother Jerome Cox, FSC, a sculptor with studios in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Vicchio, Italy. He is the director of the Lasallian International Art/Culture Center where he works with students who have received grants to study art. He was commissioned to create the Saint Miguel statue, and it was dedicated on April 7, 1999 during Founder’s Week. The statue was dedicated to Brother Thomas Clark, FSC, the founder of the Lewis University Koinonia Retreat program.

Baptized Francisco, Saint Miguel was born in 1854 in Ecuador, son of a distinguished family. As a child he had difficulty walking, and at age five he described seeing a beautiful woman dressed in blue and white telling him to walk towards her. From that moment his health and ability to walk improved.

In 1863 his parents enrolled him in a school in Cuenca that was sponsored by the Brothers of the Christian Schools. He admired the simplicity and discipline of the Brothers and began to see himself as a Brother. At age 14 he began his formation as the first Ecuadorian Brother and chose the name Miguel. He became a dynamic teacher, and over time he translated books from other languages and wrote new books for his students. Later he became a member of the French Academy and the national academies of Spain and Venezuela. Finally, his health declined once again and he contracted pneumonia and died at Premià, Spain in the winter of 1910.
On October 16, 2012 three graduates represented St. Mel High School alumni for a dedication of the 1917 St. Mel cornerstone and the statue of the Sacred Heart that stood in the East Building for decades. Some fifty St. Mel alumni, Christian Brothers and others attended the ceremony.

The statue had been placed on the grounds of La Salle House, the residence of the Christian Brothers who live on campus. It was originally somewhat blocked from view in the woods, until it was identified by the Class of 1959 as a St. Mel relic. It sits on top of the St. Mel cornerstone in a peaceful garden.

Two plaques mark the location. One reads: “This statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus stood at the top of the main stairs in the East Building of St. Mel High School.” The second has this: “This cornerstone from the East Building of St. Mel High School commemorates 52 years of Lasallian education. We remember the Christian Brothers who continued the ministry of St. John Baptist de La Salle and the alumni of St. Mel whose lives they touched.”

Donated to the University about 1999, the statue was first placed in the courtyard of De La Salle Hall, which was a residence for the Christian Brothers at that time. In 2001 Lewis University purchased the building from the Midwest District of Christian Brothers. The following year the statue was relocated to the wooded area behind La Salle House.
After more than 30 years of service for United Airlines that included about 65,000 takeoff and landings, a Boeing 737-200 took its final flight from Amarillo, Texas, to the Lewis University Airport on July 21, 1999. The donation was arranged by United Airlines chairman and CEO James Goodwin, who was also a member of the Lewis Board of Trustees at that time. A blessing and dedication ceremony took place on September 1st with faculty, staff and students attending.

The jetliner is parked on campus directly behind the Aviation Center, and it received a new coat of paint in 2014. Anne Koleff (Marketing and Communications) created the design, and the painting was arranged by Professor R. Eric Jones (Aviation and Transportation Studies). The jet is used by both Flight and Aviation Maintenance students. It is a permanently grounded aircraft and remains fully operational to serve as an educational tool for a variety of courses in the Lewis Aviation department curriculum. The roar of its engines is heard periodically on campus as it is started to keep it in working condition.
Pavilion on the Green

2001

Built across from the Flyers Den, the Pavilion on the Green provides a shelter for meetings and events where tables, benches and electrical capabilities are available. The Pavilion was completed by the Lewis Facilities Department in time for the return of students for the fall semester. The Pavilion has been the site of concerts, picnics, welcome socials and entertainment events.
On February 22, 2002 the Memorial Flag Plaza was dedicated in memory of the victims of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Congresswoman Judy Biggert joined Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President, members of the Student Governing Board, Lewis students, faculty and staff for the ceremony. Major William Geasa, U.S. Army, and an ROTC honor guard assisted with the flag raising. The plaza features three flagpoles which fly the flags of the United States, the state of Illinois, and Lewis University.

Construction of the Flag Plaza was partially funded through a drive by the Student Governing Board which raised more than $6,000 through the efforts of student organizations. A plaque was placed on the site with a special dedication to the September 11th victims. It reads: “In memory of those who perished in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The students of Lewis University dedicate this flag plaza as a sign of honor and in prayer remembering the victims and their families. We pledge to work for peace and justice in the Catholic and Lasallian tradition of the Lewis University community.”
A six-foot bronze statue of St. Francis of Assisi was dedicated on April 10th near Stritch Hall in an area that was then called St. Francis Circle. The event honored the early Franciscan Brothers of the Holy Cross from Springfield, Illinois, who moved to the Lockport area in 1932 to help launch Holy Name Technical School, an academic institution for disadvantaged young men looking for training in vocational careers. The Brothers worked as teachers, a baker, a farmer and a blacksmith at Lewis Holy Name Technical School which evolved to Lewis University. The Brothers stayed until 1938 as administrators and counselors.

Father Francis Tebbe, OFM, Special Assistant for Mission and Planning, arranged for the donation of the statue by his order, the Franciscan Friars of the St. John the Baptist Province of Cincinnati, Ohio. He was able to secure the funds to commission the sculpture and have it delivered to the campus. Four Franciscan Brothers from Springfield were on hand to accept the recognition. The statue was created by artists from the Demetz Studio in northern Italy.

Born in Italy in 1182, Saint Francis spent his youth in excess and revelry, but he abandoned that lifestyle after a call from God. Francis then lived a life of humility, dressed in ragged clothing, and lived among the poor and the animals. In 1209 he founded the Franciscan order, and today he is recognized as the Patron Saint of animals, ecology and peace.

In 2011 the statue was moved in preparation for the building of the Science Center. In 2013 it was placed in the newly created Glen next to La Salle House.
Founder’s Garden

2005

As part of the annual Founders Week Celebration, Lewis University dedicated Founder’s Garden in 2005. It includes a statue of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, patron saint of educators and founder of the Christian Brothers. The garden, which contains a raised backdrop, a landscaped tree screen, benches and lighting is located in front of Sancta Alberta Chapel.

The life size bronze statue of De La Salle rests on a solid granite base between the Chapel and the Academic Building. The creation of sculptor Alan Cottrill of Zanesville, Ohio, the statue depicts De La Salle with his arms outstretched with palms open and facing upward. His left hand holds an open book, while his right hand is directed toward the Chapel emphasizing the integration of the intellectual with the spiritual.

Born in Rheims, France in 1651, De La Salle opened his first school to educate poor children shortly after his ordination to the priesthood in 1679. The education was practical and directed toward being able to bring Christian values into the workplace. He eventually opened other schools, and brought his companions and co-workers together as a religious congregation, known as the Brothers of the Christian Schools (De La Salle Christian Brothers). The work of the Christian Schools flourished under his guidance and continues today in more than 80 countries through the educational efforts of the Christian Brothers and their dedicated colleagues in Lasallian schools and universities.
Dedicated on April 16, 2004, the Heritage Circle Fountain was made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor in honor of the late Brother Ambrose Groble, FSC, founder of the Lewis University Archives. The fountain was partly funded by the purchase of bricks by alumni, students, faculty and staff which were used to create the circle which surrounds the fountain.

The following year Donald L. Cordano, Professor emeritus of Lewis’ College of Business, made a donation that funded two named gifts. The Heritage Circle was named for him and his wife, Suellen, and an endowed scholarship was created in his name. The gift also allowed for the creation of Founder’s Garden which is nearby. The naming of the Heritage Circle and the blessing of Founder’s Garden took place on April 12, 2005. Professor Cordano served as a faculty member for more than 30 years and taught more than 6,000 students.
On June 26, 2006 Lewis University dedicated a new campus landmark as part of the kick-off festivities for the celebration of its 75th anniversary. A four-sided, aluminum frame post clock was donated by Brent Wadsworth and his family. The clock, which stands more than 16 feet tall, features the name of Lewis University on each of its clock faces. In addition to the clock, Time Plaza includes brick paving, landscaping, seating walls, benches and a raised center platform. At the southwest end of the Plaza, a cedar pergola for sun shelter further complements the space.

Brent Wadsworth is the founder and chairman of Wadsworth Golf Construction Company in Plainfield, Illinois. He earned his pilot’s license in the 1950s from what was then Lewis College. He intended Time Plaza as an honor to Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President, for his many years of service and dedication to Lewis University.
The Glen

2011

Built across the street from La Salle House, the residence of the De La Salle Christian Brothers on campus, The Glen is an environmentally sound area that provides substantial storm water detention for the campus. The area includes a waterfall feature and a landscaped section with benches for students, faculty, staff and guests. Not only does The Glen assist in dealing with control of storm water, but the infiltration trenches and landscaping improvements promote a better habitat for the endangered Hine’s Emerald Dragonfly which is native to the area. The waterfall feature conceals a pipe that channels storm water into the ponds. Landscaping includes grass, native plants, wild flowers, and river rock. The detention pond has the capability of storing 5,000 to 7,000 gallons of water. In 2012 Lewis received the Green Star Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society which recognizes grounds managements programs for excellence. The award was presented in recognition of the creation of The Glen.
Lewis Stadium

2011

On September 23, 2011 Lewis University dedicated a multiple-purpose athletic and recreation complex and track named Lewis Stadium. It features a NCAA certified, nine lane competition track, which is the second of its kind in Illinois, plus soccer/lacrosse fields, and the most advanced field turf available at the time. The stadium is located on the south side of campus west of the Dorothy Day Residence Hall. It includes stadium bleacher seating for 500 and eventually up to 2,500 fans and a state of the art scoreboard. The complex provides a press box for media members and game operations personnel.
Lewis University officially opened the Brent and Jean Wadsworth Family Plaza on October 14, 2103 with a blessing and dedication in the landscaped fountain area between the Academic Building and the Oremus Fine Arts Center. Students, faculty, staff, and administrators attended the very brief and informal ceremony to start water flowing in the magnificent three-tiered fountain donated by Brent and Jean Wadsworth.

Designed as a place for those on campus to relax outdoors in a lovely setting, the Wadsworth Family Plaza also features paver paths for those going to and from the Oremus Fine Arts Center, a covered arbor walkway, a seat wall, ornamental plants, a rose garden and environmentally friendly landscaping.
Flyers Pavilion

2014

Construction of the Flyers Pavilion started in 2013 and was completed the fall of 2014. The building was built to provide a concession stand next to the Lewis Stadium where many athletic events are held. At the same time the new pavilion provided restrooms and also a safe shelter for athletes, coaches and visitors in the event of inclement weather.
Christian Brother Statue

2015

A life size bronze statue of a De La Salle Christian Brother was dedicated on June 26, 2015 as a tribute to the more than one hundred and ten Brothers who have served on campus since 1960. The statue, limestone bench, and bronze plaque were funded entirely through the generosity of the late James ’60 and Mary Clare Szepaniak. The bench features an inscribed quotation from John Baptist de La Salle: “To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle you can perform.

The statue was executed by free-lance artist Alec M. Smith of St. Paul, Minnesota. He wrote this about the work: “This sculpture is a delicate combination of the depiction of a seated Christian Brother with a visually engaging sculptural aesthetic. The facial expression is extremely subtle. From certain angles, he looks focused and attentive. From other angles, there is a very subtle smile added to the mix. The book in his left hand is being held so the back cover is facing up. It has an embossed leather cover that is personalized with the star of the De La Salle Christian Brothers.”

The dedication marked the 55th anniversary of the Christian Brothers serving at Lewis and sustaining and promoting the Lasallian Mission which embodies the vision and innovative spirit of the founder Saint John Baptist de La Salle, the patron saint of teachers, and centers on Catholic values, personal relationships and academic excellence. Since De La Salle founded the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools more than three centuries ago, the mission has thrived on providing a human and Christian education to young people, especially the poor.
Veterans Plaza

2015

Veterans Plaza features seven flags that fly at its location on De La Salle Drive South, between St. John Paul II Hall and Mother Teresa Hall. Flags include the U.S. flag, Illinois State flag and flags from each branch of the military including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corp and Coast Guard. Constructed of paver bricks, the plaza was designed by Dwight DeVries, Superintendent of Grounds, and installed by Lewis University Grounds Staff and members of the Facilities Department directed by Don Castello, Associate Vice President for Facilities. Veterans Plaza features a plaque honoring Lewis alumni veterans who died while serving during World War II. This plaque was found in the Lewis Archives years ago, but no records confirmed its previous placement. In 2003 the plaque was installed near Benilde Hall, but it now has a prominent place in Veterans Plaza. The plaza was dedicated on March 29, 2016.
Brother David Delahanty, FSC, was named the seventh President of Lewis University in 1982, having served as dean of the school of education and human services at Manhattan College. A personal advocate of physical fitness, he encouraged Lewis students to achieve excellence not only in academics but also in athletics. He was a leader who cared about everyone at the university, but most especially about the students. He made special efforts to get to know the students personally, maintained an open door policy in his office, helped students in personal matters, and encouraged them to use their talents for the betterment of others. Brother David guided the university through substantial growth during his presidency and is most remembered for establishing and maintaining high faculty morale, for stabilizing finances and for his strong sense of organization. He died on October 12, 1987 in Lincroft, NJ. This Memorial Plaza was dedicated in his name on April 11, 2016.
A visible sign of Lewis University’s pledge to peace is the Peace Garden at the southwestern end of the greenway path to the St. Charles Borromeo Center. The Garden was dedicated on April 19, 2016 after the Peace Pole was installed. The Peace Pole Project was first introduced to the United States with the opening of the World Peace Prayer Society offices in San Francisco and New York in 1986, The International Year of Peace. Peace Poles are the most recognized international peace symbol and monument the world over with more than 200,000 Peace Poles standing in almost every country throughout the world.

The Peace Pole on campus has several symbols engraved on its four sides. The dove represents the dove that brought the good news of dry land to Noah and the dove which descended on Jesus at his baptism. The Om symbol from the Hindu tradition and also used in some Buddhist communities is a reminder of peace and mindfulness. Each of the points on the nine point star represents one of the nine prophets of Baha’i, and the star and moon on the fourth side are symbols of the Muslim religion. The Peace Pole was designed and created by students over many hours and under the guidance of Professor Leslie Colonna of the Art Department.

The Lewis University Peace Garden demonstrates a commitment to grow in understanding, compassion and peace within and beyond the campus.
Bedcheck Charlie is the official mascot of the University and a registered trademark with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. In the 1960s several students wrote to cartoonist Milton Caniff, since they felt that his cartoon character would make a good mascot for a school that had an Aviation Department and an airport. Not only did he give permission to use the image, he also sent a full color enlargement of the flyer.

The Rainbow Council of the Boy Scouts of America presented it 2015 Distinguished Citizen Award to Brother James Gaffney, FSC, President, on June 17, 2015. He was honored as a remarkable leader who is recognized for his zeal, abundant energy and commitment to Lewis University. During the program and dinner the scouts also presented a large wood carved statue of Bedcheck Charlie to place on campus. A brass plaque attached to the statue has this inscription: Boy Scouts of America, Rainbow Council, 2015 Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award. Br. James Gaffney, FSC, President Lewis University, June 17, 2015. The statue was installed near the bleachers in the Lewis Stadium in April 2016.
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Grace Statue</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavilion on the Green</td>
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<td>Peace Garden</td>
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<td>Powerhouse Flex and Fitness Center</td>
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<td>Professor Donald L. and Suellen K. Cordano Heritage Circle</td>
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<td>Ryan Hall</td>
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<td>Sacred Heart Statue</td>
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<td>St. Benilde Romançon Statue</td>
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