

Roj Student Center Renovation

Architect: Marshall Craft Associates of Baltimore

Contractor: Whiting-Turner Contracting Company of Baltimore

Purpose: The renovation modernizes the college's student center located in the middle of campus and includes brand-new student spaces, as well as offices for the Center for Experience and Opportunity, Student Engagement and Office of Diversity and Inclusion. Other highlights are an updated fast-casual restaurant concept creating additional take-out menu items on campus, a green rooftop terrace and a new College Store

Renovation Cost: \$11 million

New name of Student Center: Roj Student Center in honor of Mary Lynn Durham and her husband, Bill Roj, whose \$5 million leadership gift made the renovation possible. Both are 1970 alumni of the college.

Mary Lynn Durham is an attorney and currently serves as vice chair of the McDaniel College Board of Trustees, while Bill Roj served as chairman, president and CEO of ERICO, a leading global manufacturer and marketer of superior engineered electrical and fastening products for electrical, mechanical and civil applications.

Additional donations: Other six- and seven-figure gifts for the project came from several current and emeritus trustees, including George Benson; James Francis, a 1984 alumnus, and his wife, Dianne; Board Chair Otto Guenther, a 1963 alumnus, and his wife, Jan; former Board Chair Martin K.P. Hill; Dr. Chitrachedu Naganna and his wife, Vimala; Donald Mosby Rembert, Sr., a 1961 alumnus, and his wife, Judith, a 1960 alumna; Robert "Robin" Salomon, III, and his wife, Sarah; Carroll Yingling, a 1968 alumnus, and his wife, Susan Morales Yingling, a 1970 alumna who also earned a master's degree in 2000; and William Westervelt, a 1971 alumnus, and his wife, Laura.

Square Footage: An additional 2,328 square feet was added for a total of 40,014 square feet.

Project Components and Features include:

Exterior:

- Green rooftop terrace
- Outdoor terrace
- Renovated patio

Middle-level:

- Fast-casual restaurant concept with modern conveniences, such as iPad ordering and updated furniture
- Reception desk and new offices for the Center for Experience and Opportunity, Student Engagement and the First Year Experience
- Student work space, including an innovation lab and meeting rooms for student organizations
- Student lounge and recreation area
- Performance area

Lower-level:

- College Store relocated to the lower-level offering convenient access
- New Diversity, Equity and Inclusion office
- New Rec Room
- Replace Englar Dining Hall sunporch window system

History of Decker College Center:

The student center was built in 1978 as a contemporary, three-tiered “nonbuilding” to link to the surrounding architecture and connect Elderdice Hall and Rouzer Hall in the center of campus.

It was formerly named as the result of a gift from the family of Alonzo Decker, the son of the co-founder of Black & Decker who served as the company’s president and chief executive officer.

With the exception of the 2011 renovation of Englar Dining Hall, this is the first overall renovation of the structure.

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