

Donations are 'win-win' for students, faculty

■ The more than \$2 million will fund learning centers with lounges, computers and conference centers

By Andrew Adams
Oregon Daily Emerald

Alumni donated more than \$2 million to the Lundquist College of Business during the winter break to help fund technology upgrades and construction of the new Lillis Business Center.

The donations came from Matthew Katzer and Barbara Dawson, who donated \$1.25 million for technology improvements, and Gerry and Marilyn Cameron, who donated \$1 million for the new Lillis Center.

Part of the donation by Katzer and Dawson will establish an endowment for future technological upgrades in the business school.

Business school Dean Philip Romero said the donations are worth far more than their monetary value because they will enable the

school to better serve students and to stay competitive with other top schools in the nation.

"The current building is far too small for the number of students by a factor of three," he said.

All the recent donors are traveling out of the state and could not be reached for comment. According to information from the business school, Katzer earned an executive master of business administration degree from the University in 1998. Both Katzer and Dawson held management positions in the Intel Corporation and currently live in the Portland area.

Gerry and Marilyn Cameron live in the Vancouver area. Gerry Cameron attended the University for two years while working at U.S. Bank. He retired from the banking corporation in 1998 after serving as its CEO for four years. The Camerons' donation will fund a finance learning center within the new business building.

Learning centers will be a key feature of the new building, and Romero said they will foster better relations between students and faculty. Each center will be reserved for a specific department of the business school and will consist of a lounge, conference center and computer terminals.

"Faculty and students will work together and relax together in close quarters," he said.

Romero said the value of learning

centers has already been proved by the success of two existing centers in the business school, which he believes have enabled students to connect with their professors.

Chris Murray, the associate dean of external affairs, said the donations have helped put the business school's fundraising drive back on schedule after a short lull during spring term of last year. He said roughly \$28 million has been raised of the \$40 million that is needed to build the new center, and he added that construction is expected to begin by the end of the year.

Murray also stressed the importance of the new building and the learning centers that will attempt to bond students and faculty in a new fashion.

"We are trying to have our faculty interact with students, and we're doing that architecturally," he said.

Named after chief benefactors Charles and Gwen Lillis, the new center will open up 145,000 square feet of new space for the business school and will include a 300-seat auditorium, a 120-seat lecture hall and a new 3,000-square-foot Career Services Center.

Finance professor Larry Dann said any donation toward the Lillis Center helps the business school as a whole, and the technology donation is good news for both faculty and students.

"It will help both students and

A \$1 million donation moves the Lundquist School of Business one step closer to reaching its \$40 million goal for its new Lillis Business Center. About \$28 million has already been raised for the new building, which will offer a variety of new features:

The new center will add as much as 145,000 square feet to the business school, and 55,000 square feet of Gilbert Hall will be renovated using funds for the new center.

A 300-seat auditorium and 120-seat lecture hall will be added.

Internet access will be added to every classroom.

A 3,000-square-foot Career Services Center will provide resources for students to find employment opportunities.

faculty be at and maintain technology at the cutting edge," he said. "That's a tremendous gift."

Professor Rick Mowday, head of the management department, called the donations a "win-win" situation for both students and faculty. He said the current business school building's antiquated design offers no place for students to study and relax, but the new center will fill that need. Mowday said the technology donation is also key because most of the computers found in the business school are out of date.



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Fire

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tenants in Eugene the week of the occurrence. Both of them had first-story bedrooms, which suffered only minor damages.

"Luckily, I was able to save most of my stuff," Smith said.

But the four University students, who lived in the second-story bedrooms and were on vacation at the time of the incident, weren't as fortunate and will need insurance to cover their losses. Of the total estimate for damages, \$25,000 came from destroyed items in the house.

The students could not be reached for comment.

Although most homeowners have their own insurance to cover a structure's damages, renters are responsible for insuring their belongings. Students can either be insured under their parents, depending on their ages and insurance companies, or obtain renter's insurance, which covers personal losses and liability.

Paul Brown, office manager at the River Road Insurance Agency Inc., said renter's insurance coverage at most companies starts at about \$20,000. In the case of a fire, renters would need to produce a list of their losses to their insurance company to be reimbursed accordingly.

Brown added that the procedures and details aren't the same in every situation.

"Every company can be different," he said. "It depends on its policies and the circumstance."

Brown said it is common for people to stand at every corner of their houses and take pictures to use in instances such as a fire or robbery.

"This way they can remember what they had," he said.

The building's owner, Leif Brockman, said that in the three years he's been a landlord, he's

Fire prevention tips:

- Test smoke detectors** on every level of your home before leaving for vacations.
- Keep combustibles away** from heaters, corridors and stairways.
- Never leave home** with the clothes dryer running.
- Make sure you're insured** under your parents' home policy plan or have renter's insurance.
- Take pictures** from different corners of your home to help you remember what you have.
- Keep evidence of large losses**, such as expensive jewelry, to claim later.

Source: The Senior Corner

never had to deal with a fire. "My insurance doesn't even cover everything, and I'm still trying to figure it all out," he said. "This has never happened before ... It's still a shock to me."



A collapsed roof, black walls and the smell of burnt wood are all that remain of the student-leased house that was ravaged by a fire in South Eugene during winter break.



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