THE LIBRARY OUR STUDENTS DESERVE

Libraries are the heart of a college campus. They are places for solitary study and group debate, quiet contemplation and social gathering. They are an extension of the intellectual and social life of the college.

Wilson College is working toward the completion of fundraising for a reimagined John Stewart Memorial Library. This critical project will see the redesigned library evolve into a hub for learning at the College. With modern academic amenities, varied study spaces, a learning commons and your help, the Stewart Library will truly become the heart of campus.

THE CHANGING LIBRARY

The original John Stewart Memorial Library held 42,000 volumes, with the collection growing to nearly 200,000 volumes after the addition of the 1960s annex. The growth of the collection constrained the space for students to gather and study, limiting the effectiveness of the library over time. Advances in technology and the needs and expectations of today’s students have changed the shape of the modern library.

Electronic collections are now the norm for libraries—stacks of volumes have gone by the wayside. Textbooks are delivered to iPads and open access to computer terminals and e-readers for all collections and periodicals are now a standard part of the library experience. The “learning commons” model—which provides a center for teaching and learning support, information technology services, tutoring and group study space alongside flexible areas for more casual gatherings and coffee bars—has become prevalent on college campuses across the nation. Wilson is adapting to these changing expectations.

Architects renderings of the new learning commons addition.
THE NEED

The need is clear and both Wilson alumnas and the College are responding. Our students have told us that bringing the library back online is imperative to enhancing the student experience. Leveraging the original John Stewart Memorial Library structure and the footprint of the addition, the College will create a library to serve the expectations of students for years to come.

In pursuing a learning commons model for the library, Wilson creates a hub for academic and campus life. In doing so, the library’s ability to meet student needs is greatly expanded and we provide a home for adult and commuting students to call their own while on campus. New technology will more fully integrate the library into the academic experience, enabling online tutoring, counseling and group discussions, as well as improved collaboration with other colleges.

While fundraising has made significant strides toward seeing this project through, we need your support to complete the reimagined John Stewart Memorial Library.

WILSON ALUMNAE STEP UP

In February 2013, Marguerite Brooks Lenfest ’55 provided a significant momentum boost to the library project with a $3.6 million matching gift. The gift—made as three $1.2 million gift phases—served as an impetus for donors and stressed the significance of the library project. The first phase of the match was met in December 2013. Then in early 2014, Wilson received two gifts from Sue Davison Cooley ’44 totaling $2.3 million, which completed the Lenfest match a full year ahead of schedule. This brings the overall fundraising total to $10.2 million in cash and pledges, with more than 652 donors stepping up to the challenge.

FINISHING STRONG

This spring the College moved the remaining library collections off-site and began preparations for a summer groundbreaking on the library project and in May, the Board of Trustees voted to approve a maximum cost for the project. But we’re not done yet. The fundraising goal for the project is $12M and we need your help to finish raising the funds needed to complete the John Stewart Memorial Library renovations and give our students the library they deserve. Gifts of all sizes will help us reach our goal and make the new library a reality at Wilson.

For information or to make a gift, contact:
Camilla B. Rawleigh
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
camilla.rawleigh@wilson.edu
717-262-2010

NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Smart Classroom (1) .............................. $100,000
Conference Room ................................ $50,000
Workroom ........................................... $50,000
Study Room (6) .................................... $25,000

Additional naming opportunities are available. Please speak with a Wilson College advancement representative for more information.

RESERVED OPPORTUNITIES

Learning Commons .............................. $3,000,000
Art Gallery ........................................ $100,000
Smart Classroom (1) .............................. $100,000
College Bookstore ............................... $100,000
Commuter Lounge ............................... $75,000
Café ......................................................... $50,000
Children’s Area ..................................... $50,000
Rare Book/Study Room (2) .................... $50,000
Archive Display .................................... $25,000
Staff Office (1 of 2 available) ....................... $25,000

John Stewart Memorial Library
Fundraising Advisory Committee
Marie Lanser Beck ’76
Elizabeth Beckhusen ’73
Patricia Bennett ’68
Nancy Adams Besch ’48
Susan Smith DiMattia ’64
Marie Behler Schleicher ’64
Betty Lou Leedom Thompson ’60