Augenstein Alumni Center Preview

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After three years of planning and fundraising, and eighteen months of construction, the Augenstein Alumni Center will officially open tomorrow at WKU.

Amy Bingham gives us a glimpse inside in this week’s View from the Hill.

The wait is almost over. Finishing touches are still being added to the long awaited Augenstein Alumni Center. When you visit, you will see for yourself, not a single detail has been left out.

WKU Alum Dale Augenstein, for whom the alumni center is named, can hardly believe opening day has almost arrived.

 “The rewarding part is really getting ready to come. Seeing the building come to life.”

The Augenstein Alumni Center located adjacent to campus is being called a wonderful doorway to the university.

 “Their first vision of Western Kentucky University is going to be developed right here in this building.”

Indeed, prospective students and incoming freshmen will begin their tour in the Hays T. and Betty J. Watkins Auditorium.

Right next to the Hall of Inspiration.

 “In that building you see both the history and the future. You see what it would be like to be an alumnus and have a place to come back to that allows you to participate in all these things, then you go through the building and see the past. You see what a rich history the university has.”

Countless hours were spent planning architectural elements throughout the building that tie in the historical nature of WKU.

 “Whether it’s the mosaic with more than 200,000 pieces in the tile or the newel post that has the cupula of Cherry Hall or the WKU seals on the Rosettes.”

The building also features a donor wall showing the names of more than one thousand donors who contributed to the project.

 “We raised over 5.6 million dollars on the goal of five million dollars. We’ve now got the building both structurally and financially sound for the future.”

A future to be shared by more than 100-thousand alumni at Western Kentucky University.

 “That’s the way we designed it. We want this to be a place for alumni to call home.”

A dedication of the Augenstein Alumni Center will be held at two o’clock tomorrow afternoon followed by an open house.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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