

# UT campus combination of 'beauty and the beast'

by Mary Beins  
Staff Writer

"We live in an 'optical junkyard' and although the students may not be aware of this, they are subliminally affected by it," Thomas H. Durnford, director of Publications and Graphics said.

The campus is a beautiful sight from Bancroft Street, but look at University Hall from the rear and there is a dilapidated, pink-colored East Hall strewn with papers and tape, garbage cans and bins with "University of Toledo" printed on them and an unhitched truck in a empty muddy area embedded with tire marks, Durnford said.

The words "University Hall" are carved in stone on the building but since it is overgrown with ivy, I doubt if any one sees it anymore, he said.

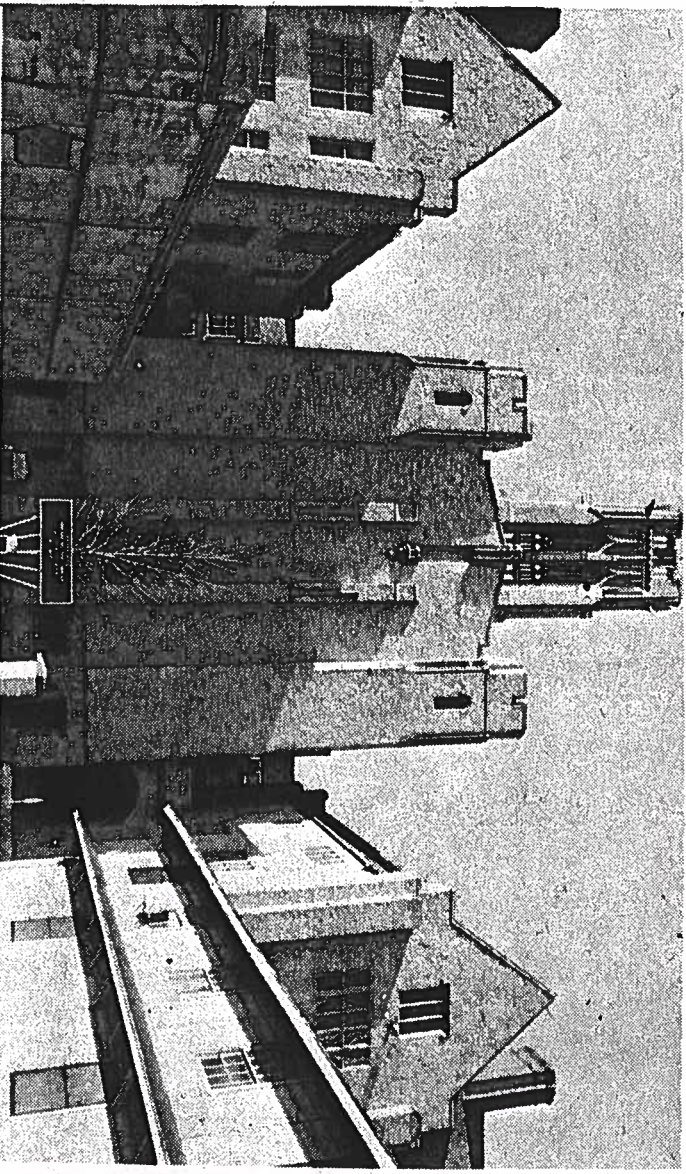
In November, 1971, William S. Carlson, then University President, appointed Robert Trotter, University architect, Boris Nelson, director of fine arts and director of University Convocations, and Durnford to establish the Graphics Programming Committee.

This committee was organized to help alleviate the communication, environmental and identity problems of the campus. A graphics manual exposing both the beauty and the eyesores on the campus was prepared by the committee and after such overtime and hard work was presented

ter. There is a campus directory service, however, but how many people would ask for such a place, he added. We need exterior and interior signage placed in strategic positions, he said. "This would be one small area of the publications aspect in the program, he said.

Many people think of the Graphics Programming Committee as only concerned with signage, but this is false, Trotter said. It includes the architectural aspect involving landscaping, buildings, lighting, campus furniture and many other areas, he said. Trotter said he would like the campus appearance unified and coordinated. There could be an aesthetic atmosphere on the campus if there is order and beauty, he said. "We learn not only from textbooks but from our environment; we live here, and where you live is important," he said. "We need places to sit outside and could have a kiosk announcing daily events, but we just do not have complete knowledge of all areas and we need outside consultants," he said.

There is also an identity crisis which the Graphics Programming Committee could help resolve, Durnford said. In the publications area, coordinated efforts would result in a unified image of the University he said. In the first place, it is The University of Toledo, not Toledo University or TTI or Toledo State University.



The beauty of University Hall surrounded by East Hall, mud and garbage cans. Contrasting scenes such as this are often seen at UT. (Photo by Gary Klefer)

The Graphics Programming Committee was notified that funds had not been found and the program would have to wait, Durnford said. When Durnford was told this, he resigned from the committee and Dr. Nelson resigned shortly after.

This firm would have done the planning and also could foresee how to plan for the future changes, Durnford said. "This expertise is needed since we do not have complete knowledge of all areas."

he added. The firm would have done the work at a very inexpensive rate compared to what it would charge another institution of this size, he said. Also, men such as Gene Riser, Toledo traffic controller, offered their services free merely because they care about the University, he added.

Dr. Robert Sullivant, executive vice president, is skeptical about funding for the committee this spring, although he sees its im-


portance, he said. Part of the Centennial Campaign's designated for campus beautification, he added. Increased energy costs and other priorities have made it impossible to fund this program and perhaps the program can be developed in segments, he said.

After the committee members' time had been spent already in organizing the committee and its work, apparently to no avail, Durnford merely had this to say in his resignation, "You can't win all..."


funds and more important backing by the administration, Durnford said. A format was developed involving three major areas: architectural, publication and auxiliary graphics. This program was not one of priority, however at least not as far as the Fiscal Resources Board was concerned, Durnford said.

There is concern about the communication problem on the campus, Durnford said. When a visitor comes to the campus, many times he enters the Publication Office at the east end of University Hall seeking an information center, he said. There is no information cen-

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Everything from beer mugs and rings to handbooks and letterheads should be unified and used properly, he said. "We don't like to see the University seal used disrespectfully or misrepresented as a symbol of the University," he added.

A Detroit firm was contacted and a contract drawn, and the project was about to begin when

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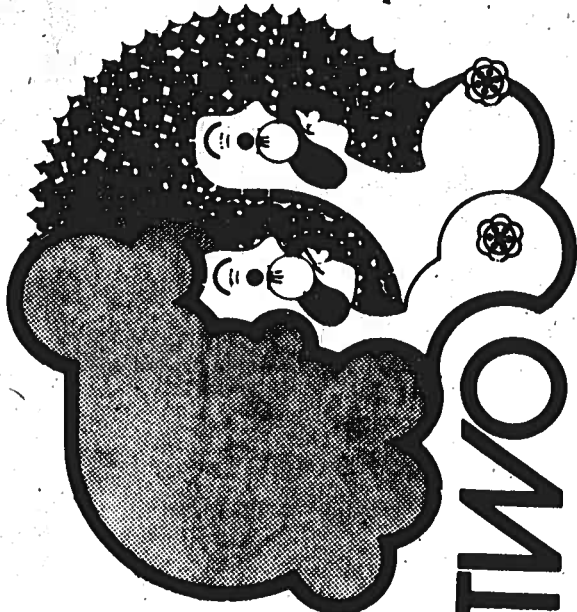


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# It was a dark and stormy ni-... er, tunnel

By Mike Christie  
Staff Spelunker

I was in the middle of the Paleozoic when it began. I dismissed the low whine as the ventilating system at first. After all, an old building like University Hall is bound to have many strange sounds, but as I progressed to the Cenozoic the sound was practically deafening. I tried to put my mind on the matter at hand. Wrzesinski sent me over to report on some new fossils the Geology department had on display. "Go ahead, Mike," he said. "That's right up your alley. You took Geology 101, didn't you?" So I went, but I couldn't imagine the possibility of a new fossil.

The sound began to overtake my mind, drawing me toward the back of the hall. Trilobites, fern fronds, quartz, South Dakota. I tried to divert my attention with the sound to anything I saw in the display. It was no use. The sound was coming from a grey door to my left; it was open a crack as if inviting me to enter. My hand went for the doorknob. I couldn't stop it, I couldn't call for help; there was a young

grad student rearranging a display not ten feet away but I couldn't make him aware of my plight.

With my hand on the door it opened as if it were alive. I stared into the blackness.

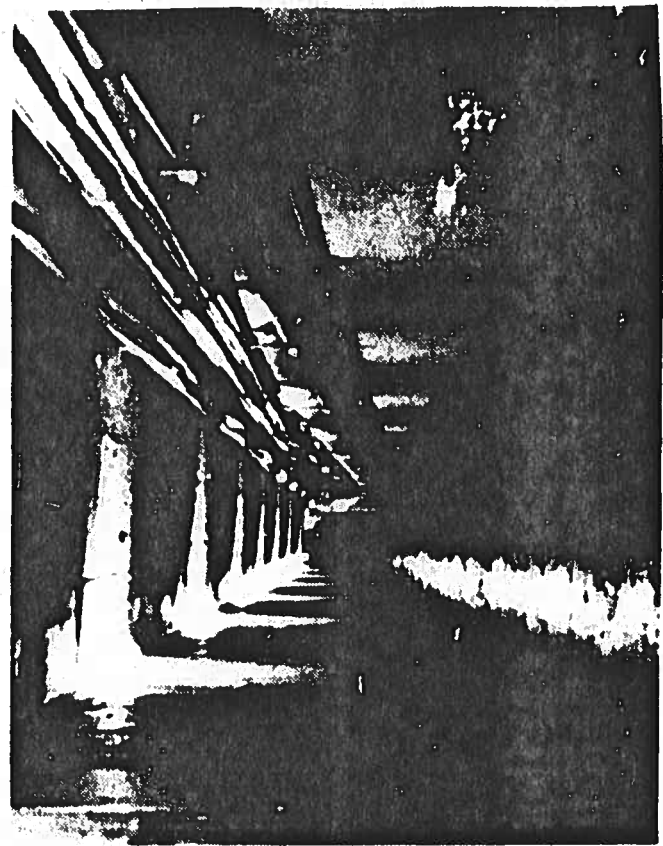
A tunnel.

There was a tunnel under University Hall.

A tunnel that no one knew about, yet someone or something wanted me to go into it.

I took a few steps forward, then the door slammed behind me. I was trapped in total darkness and was too afraid to try to find the door I felt along the wall and found a light switch. It didn't work.

I was panicking and stopped to compose myself. Why was I drawn into this hellish place? Someone wanted me for some reason. The Psychology department. They need some more subjects. No, I did that when I took 101. Biology? They use rats. President Carlson. That's it. They took President Carlson and hid him under University Hall and he found some way to contact with others. That poor man is probably chained to a wall somewhere. I've got to save him.



we'll all come down with knives and crowbars and torches and we'll save you. Don't worry. I don't worry.

The sound of my breathing drowned out the whine as I came close to the door. My luck was with me. A stick had stopped the door from closing all the way. I breathed a sigh of relief as I entered into the fresh air, and saw the Geology display.

I ran out of U hall, and was nearly run over by a car as I crossed campus. I ran up the steps of the Union and dashed into the newspaper office. I grabbed Mike by the arm and told him what happened to me, between sobs and gasps. Mike and Duane sat me down in Gary's office and told me to rest. They didn't believe me, the fools, they didn't believe me.

**EDITORS NOTE:**  
Mr. Christie inadvertently stumbled upon the tunnel that connects University Hall and the Fieldhouse. The entrance he found is located near the Geology department display on the first floor of University Hall. He is currently resting and will be writing for us as soon as he feels up to it.

and could see no doorknob. I pushed it, pounded on it, kicked it, swore at it, but it would not open. I was so close but I was halted. I sunk down against the door and tried to assess my predicament.

Suddenly I heard noises from behind the door. I heard only scattered phrases: "You guys gotta hit em harder...smash em...kill em."

I heard a scuffle toward the door, and began to run back the way I came. I'm sorry, Dr. Carlson, but I'll have to go back and get some help. I'll get Gary and Steve and Frank and Tom and Duane and

unusually stuffy, and my asthma began to act up. Of all the people to call Dr. Carlson, why did you pick an asthmatic? My breathing became more and more labored, and I tried to turn back but found no will to move my body, so I plodded on.

When I thought I could go on no further, I saw a faint light ahead. Hope entered my heart, and I found new strength. I doubled my pace, and suddenly was hit from above. In the faint light I was what looked to be a gas meter. A clever disguise, I thought. Then I saw the door. It looked like blue steel,

Fury raised up in my heart, the picture of the president suffering so much inspired my to push into the darkness. Who knows how long he's been down there? No sunlight, no food; I only hoped I was not too late.

I put one hand along the wall and began down the tunnel. I felt it level off after a little while, although it seemed like I had been in there for hours. The sound of my own footsteps were almost deafening. The walls could no longer be seen, and my only contacts with the real world were my feet and right hand. The air became

## Speech By H. Doerflinger

Now that our new university buildings are nearing completion and their final forms are easily recognizable you must be extremely gratified, as I am, with the almost unanimous approval and high praise given to the whole undertaking. From time to time there are voices which are out of tune with this chorus of acclaim. You may meet these critics as often as I. If you do, I want you to have a few facts with which to make an effective reply.

Within the last twenty years the University has been associated with such structures as the Meredith Building, the Illinois, and Cherry Street buildings and recently with these Nebraska Avenue buildings. I cannot imagine anyone singling out any one of these buildings as an example of good architecture of any sort, least of all of university architecture. I mention this fact because so far as I could gather there was no general expectation, when the bond issue of \$2,850,000 was voted for land, buildings and equipment, that the University Board would with this sum make an outstanding contribution to the architecture of Toledo. Indeed there was no reason why there should have been any high expectations, for many a university has had even more money to spend and has duplicated on a somewhat larger scale the factory type building which we are occupying now.

Are the new buildings on Bancroft street too handsome, too ornamental for your university? No, of course not, you will say. But let us seek an answer to those who honestly believe they are too elegant. Naturally I am not bothering to reply to chronic and irresponsible faultfinders. The honest doubter may offer a number of reasons for his opinion. He may say 1) the ornamentation has cost too much money, or 2) the expense was not justified because the people who use it cannot appreciate the refinements provided, or 3) there will be a false sense of values because the beautiful buildings will be the main attraction rather than the standards of work which should be going on on the inside.

Now if all or any one of these reasons have validity then I submit it was a mistake to depart from the utterly uninteresting type of architecture which has hitherto housed this university. In answer to the last objection permit me to quote from a recent address which is entirely in time with sentiments I have expressed as long as I have been in Toledo. "We at the University of Toledo have been getting students faster than we could adequately take care of them. Not one of these students has been attracted by the record of our athletic teams. Something far better has been the attraction - and may I remind you that we had one thousand students before even the attraction of a prospective new building played any part. These students came to this municipally supported institution because there was something genuine about it. That genuineness was not in prestige, in buildings, nor as I have said, in winning athletic teams, that genuineness was in the most fundamental aspect of a university without which all else is sham, viz. teaching and learning."

I wish to emphasize those sentiments again at this time. Search for the first objection. How about the second one? Is money expended on beautiful surroundings for you just tax-payers money thrown out of the window? Let us make the query intensely practical: are you going to transfer into the new building some of the less admirable traits which a stroll through our basement during the noon hour makes so glaringly evident, or are you going to be challenged to a new sense of respect both for yourself and the property of the university? In the final analysis your conduct will be the answer to this second objection. I know I am speaking for all who have had any responsibility in connection with this new enterprise when I say that we believe you are going to respond to the challenge of a beautiful environment.

that the traditions which have grown up about this noble architecture will stimulate you to greater efforts in learning, to finer decorum, and to a deeper resolve to use your education to further truth, justice and beauty. This is our faith in you. I do not believe you will disappoint us.

I suspect that the most serious argument advanced against University Hall as it will appear when completed is that it will have cost too much. I wish first of all to make a few general but pertinent observations. There is a mistaken notion widely held that the cost of buildings is in some way proportional to their beauty. There is no such ratio. You can get excellence in the design of a building at a very low cost if you employ a designer who knows his business. The second observation I wish to make is this. When we announced two years ago that we would spend two million dollars for buildings to house 2000 day students did any one charge that we were extravagant? They did not. There were plenty of persons who expressed grave doubts as to our ability to accomplish any such result. During these past two years we have interviewed college officials who have carried through university building operations and have the recital of our construction costs invariably evokes amazement and the most favorable comment.

We do not wish to deny that our planning has achieved a beautiful result because we so sedulously worked for it. But we didn't for one moment sacrifice usefulness for beauty. We believed that we could have usefulness with beauty. Let me cite one of many examples of the manner in which the use of the building received primary consideration. Mr. Northhoff, our architect and designer, and I went down to Philadelphia to confer with our consultant, Charles R. Klauder, who was an acknowledged authority on Tudor Gothic. Mr. Klauder told us at some length the principles on which he would base his criticisms of the design. He was enthusiastic about the Bancroft street elevation and the tower. The moment we turned the blue prints to the south elevation he exclaimed "There! what do I tell you! You can't have good Gothic four stories high. That's bad, very bad". After he had indicated how he would solve the difficulty one thing was quite evident; there were no wide rooms left for laboratories. I can repeat the exact words which Mr. Klauder heard; "Mr. Klauder, we are erecting a university not an architectural monument. In our engineering and science buildings we must have larger rooms than are necessary in other departments. We have cut the size of those rooms to the minimum. Your job now is to do the best you can architecturally with our space requirements". Our architects proceeded on that basis. One of the greatest satisfactions and one of the most frequent sources of comment from people who know is that our buildings grew from the inside out and not from the outside in. It has been a rare privilege to work with Mr. Northhoff because he has so wholeheartedly devoted his great skill to the functional demands of a university.

Now I come to grips with this question of cost. The ornamentation is concentrated at the tower in the center of the building. The criticism is at that point, and that is the only place it could be, for no extra ornamentation was planned for any other spot. What did the tower cost? I quote you the general contractor's careful estimate of the cost of the tower above the roof line. It is \$75,000 - less than 1/4% of the amount expended on the whole building. Is that an excessive cost for beautification? I feel confident that a majority of taxpayers will say "that was \$75,000 well spent".

I am not through with this tower yet. I don't know how many of you know that two years ago we hoped to be in those new buildings in September. We could have avoided this congestion out here this fall by letting the contract after the first bids were taken in November, 1929. But this would have been the result. You can judge for yourself whether the Board acted wisely and in a business-like manner in rejecting those bids, and delaying for one semester the opening of the new buildings. The difference between the low bid on University Hall in brick, mind you, in November, 1929,

and the low bid in stone in February 1930 was \$187,046.00. The Board could have gone ahead in November and built of brick, omitted the tower, and still have more than \$100,000 less to apply on the Physical Education Building and Heating Plant. In other words, you are getting today the whole project in stone, and beautiful stone too, tower and all, for \$100,000 less than a brick building without the tower would have cost. And may I add, parenthetically, that that low bid in November was by an outside contractor.

If these facts do not argue for a scrupulous trusteeship of public funds on the part of the University Board, I confess I do not know what would.

The mention of the use of public funds brings me to another point. Very few people have any conception of the differences which prevail between private business and public business which must be administered according to legal provisions established by state law or local ordinance.

Some of the criticisms of this new university project would be valid enough if the University Board were a private corporation. Being a public body its acts must be judged by the rules which govern them and not by standards which the law definitely excludes. The people of Toledo voted \$2,850,000 for the university. We have been compelled by law to pay to the Sinking Fund \$113,750.00. Which means that we have just that much less for land, buildings, and equipment. Now the legal provision which was responsible for that loss of funds is one which does not at all apply to a private individual or corporation. Before a public body in Ohio can execute a legal contract involving the expenditure of public funds, those funds must be on hand and the written contract must have ~~been~~ attached to it a certificate from the proper financial official stating that the amount covered by the contract is on hand and has been set aside for that specific purpose and for that purpose only. That is why the University Board had to sell bonds at the time it did. And while the bonds were sold at a high rate of interest, it is not true that the city is paying an exorbitant interest on bonds of this character. The Board had no choice whatever in the matter, except to abandon its building program. If a contract was to be awarded after bids were called for the money had to be on hand.

I said the University lost \$113,750.00 to the Sinking Fund. What does that mean? Does it mean that the taxpayer is going to pay \$113,750.00 for which he gets nothing in return? It does not. Every penny of that \$113,750.00 went right back to the taxpayer in the form of a receipt for paid taxes because that \$113,750.00 in the Sinking Fund means \$113,750.00 paid off on the interest of the \$2,850,000.00 Bond Issue, which the taxpayer will never have to pay.

Any person who peddles the information that the university's loss, and it is a real loss to us, to the sinking fund is taxpayers money wasted or tossed out of the window simply convicts himself as an ignoramus.

I think perhaps you would be interested somewhat in the financing of the new university and the way in which the \$2,850,000 were budgeted. This phase of our work has likewise been under fire from persons who took no trouble to find out facts.

I must first give you a few dates. Remember that the bond issue was approved by vote of the people on November 6, 1926. Remember also that at that time, we had no site, not even a penny to take an option on a site, we had no building plans, we knew nothing about the kind of buildings we were to build. The site was selected on February 31, 1928 and on February 3, 1928 the Board ~~selected~~ selected its architects. It was on May 12, 1928, eight months before the architects were selected, with absolutely nothing but a hope that the Board had to set up its financial program. Before the City Council could entertain a request to place the bond issue on the ballot the Board had to indicate how it proposed to divide up the \$2,850,000 between land, buildings, ~~and~~ and retiring of bonds is made up on this basis.

Now the law permits the transfer of equipment bonds for the purchase of land and for the construction of buildings, but it does not permit the transfer of land fund for the purchase of equipment. The theory is that the use of a purchased item shall not expire before the public pays for it in full. That is why you cannot take land money which will not be paid for in less than 30 years and buy, let us say, an electric motor which may have to be junked long before the 30 year repayment period has run its course.

Now go back for a moment to these dates. Could anybody six months before he knew whether he would have any money to spend and eight months before specific planning could begin make an accurate estimate of probable costs. Obviously not. As a matter of fact our estimates were not absolutely correct. The fact is that instead of \$350,000 we spent \$379,000 for land. There was a seven percent error in that estimate, but we have something to show for it. We have 114 acres of land in the new campus.

Our buildings are going to cost us (I give you the status of the contracts as of this date) \$2,029,514.77. That is \$39,514.77 more than our estimate (or a 1.5% error) Remember again that the two million figure was established before we knew whether we would have any money at all, before we knew where we were to build, and before we knew how many and what kinds of buildings we would erect. Have we anything to show for this extra amount? We most certainly have. We asked the architects to prepare a building with 40 class rooms in addition to all laboratories. University Hall today contains no less than 63 class rooms in addition to the class rooms. There are other extras which we could enumerate. Why. You couldn't build  $\frac{1}{2}$  of these extra class rooms alone for the 1.5% extra which we put into buildings.

Let me again emphasize that there was no legal obligation to remain within these figures so long as we did not exceed the total of \$2,850,000. Suppose we had made the mistake of putting too much money in the land fund, and too much in the building fund. We should have tied up money which could be used only for land or building. Remember it was the equipment fund which was by law the flexible fund. It was simply common sense to keep that fund large in the beginning. Those who are criticizing the withdrawal of funds from the equipment budget are again exhibiting their ignorance of the legal provisions governing public building operations. The height of absurdity is reached when this reduction of equipment funds is called a disregard of the taxpayers interest. Recall once more that equipment bonds must be repaid in 15 years whereas building bonds must be retired in 25 years. Every time we transfer money out of the equipment budget to land or buildings, we automatically reduce the tax levy for the next year by a fraction.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO  
CAMPUS MASTER PLAN  
1986

PART I: PLANNING BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS

Campus master plans are basically decision making tools. Their fundamental purpose is to guide campus growth and development for a period of years by assisting in the making of critical decisions about land use, building locations, campus environmental improvements and other related issues. The University of Toledo commissioned the development of a new campus master plan to aid both long-range and immediate-action decision making.

Brief History of Campus Physical Development

The University of Toledo has a successful history of planning and constructing necessary campus facilities. Selection of the initial 80 acre tract along Bancroft Street was undoubtedly an exciting milestone for the developing University. With tree-lined road frontage and a meandering river valley to the rear, the new campus began its development on an environmentally unique site. Early buildings that were constructed further enhanced the quality of the setting and established a design character and a standard of excellence that is still a source of pride and guidance more than 70 years later. Due to its design, materials and use of vertical focus as well as its siting, University Hall has been a source of great pride for the college and the primary identifying symbol at Bancroft Street, the "front door" of the University.

The University of Toledo campus is relatively young compared with the campuses of many major universities. Although it was founded 115 years ago, the University was not at its present location until the early 1930's. Some of the high points in the development of the University campus follow.

- o The University of Toledo was organized in 1872.
- o Present campus development started in 1929 with the construction of University Hall and the Field House.

- o Additional facilities were added in the 1930's to provide student housing.
- o Considerable growth in campus facilities occurred in the decades of the 1950's and 1960's when approximately 30% of current building space was completed.
- o The University of Toledo achieved state university status in 1967 by action of the Ohio General Assembly.
- o Major growth of facilities took place in the decade of the 1970's when nearly half the current campus building space was added.
- o Continued development of the University campus has come about thus far in the 1980's, although at a slower pace.
- o From its beginnings with a few students more than 100 years ago, the University has grown to serve the needs of about 18,000 students on its main campus.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO  
MAIN CAMPUS MASTER PLAN**

Site Planning Parameters (See Plan Map 6A-4)

The properties east of Douglas Road were originally constructed for a combination of research, administrative, manufacturing and light distribution activities. Although adaptable in many ways to instructional use, the original design and purposes of these structures create conditions which must be altered to provide for a successful reuse of the property for University purposes. For example, as originally designed, very little outdoor pedestrian space has been provided, such pedestrian space not often being found in an older industrial-research setting. Conversely, a University campus (and certainly The University of Toledo campus) is often noted for its outdoor pedestrian spaces.

A second important site condition creates a need for additional site improvements. Douglas Road is a principal traffic artery that divides the main part of the University campus from the subject properties. It will be essential to link these properties to the main campus both functionally and aesthetically.

Specific site planning parameters include:

- Upgrade overall site image: the industrial look of the existing building facades should be selectively modified and brought into compatibility with the established University of Toledo architectural ethic. Specifically for the Westwood Research Center, prior to the construction of Douglas Road, the west facade of that building was in fact its rear elevation. This facade should be selectively upgraded to both reinforce the University architectural ethic and approximately demark the main entry from Douglas Road into the complex. The use of stone accents and landscaping treatment along both the west and north faces of the building could help achieve this goal.
- Improving circulation ties between the properties east of Douglas Road and campus areas to the west is critical to achieve functional linkage between the two areas. A chief planning parameter is to create a safe pedestrian crossing via a grade-separated pedestrian overpass that will link into the established on-campus pedestrian system. For vehicular access, a northern link between the two areas should be established while also maintaining the present Oakwood Avenue access point.

- The creation of major pedestrian yard spaces is an important site objective. Such spaces should be developed both to create warm-weather pedestrian spaces and to help soften the industrial image in favor of a "campus" image. Additional landscaping should also be planned as an appropriate buffer between existing and any new newly constructed buildings.

**Floyd, Barbara L.**

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**From:** Floyd, Barbara L.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 04, 2012 8:37 AM  
**To:**  
**Subject:** RE: Scavenger Hunt

The fountain in front of the Student Union was dedicated along with Centennial Mall during Homecoming in 1980 (Nov. 1, 1980). The sculpture in the middle is called "Perceptor," and was designed by Phyllis Nordin. The sculpture was a gift of Toledo Edison. It was planned as a recognition of the centennial of electricity. The artist described the sculpture as "the dynamic thrust of energy soaring from the rounded base, symbolic of the sun, to the asymmetric shapes representing the blocks of knowledge that contribute to mankind's search for a higher vision of wisdom and humanity."

The fountain had major structural flaws almost from the beginning, and was often not operational. At one time, it was turned into a flower garden for 3 1/2 years because of leaks. In 1997, it was restored and the fountain turned back on during a rededication ceremony on Sept. 15, 1997.

The fountain was often the subject of pranks, including dyeing the water and adding detergent.

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**From:**  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 03, 2012 3:11 PM  
**To:** Floyd, Barbara L.  
**Subject:** Scavenger Hunt

Hi Barbara!

The scavenger hunt for the Admissions Office is coming along but I have one question that I hope you'll be able to help me with...

Do you know how long the fountain in front of the SU has been there? Or do you know of any really interesting facts having to do with the fountain?

Thank you for all of your help! You've just been outstanding to work with :)

Emily Hickey