



As the Evans Building Marks the 100th Anniversary of its Dedication in 2015, Plans are Set for a Major Transformation

# RESPECTING THE PAST, REFLECTING THE FUTURE

## THE EVANS BUILDING CENTENNIAL RENAISSANCE

ON A CHILLY DAY in February 1915, the University community gathered with anticipation for a momentous event, heralded as the “greatest in dental history” by the local press: the dedication of the new Thomas W. Evans Museum and Dental Institute, built with funds from the estate of the prominent Philadelphia (and later Parisian) dentist for whom it was named. The building at 40th and Spruce Streets was beautifully appointed and stately, with a dramatic, sweeping staircase and the most advanced and spacious facilities of its time. While the dental school’s history traces back to the 1850s and the Pennsylvania College of Dental Surgery (its Dean was tapped by Penn to establish the School of Dental Medicine as the

Dental Department of the University in 1878), it was the construction of the well-outfitted Evans Building in 1915 that catapulted Penn into a leadership position in the field of dental education. The opening of the Evans Building marked the beginning of Penn Dental Medicine as we know it today. The impressive Gothic structure, designed by architect John T. Windram and built in conjunction with the University, has provided a functional and elegant home for the dental school ever since.

Although many parts of this respected landmark have been refurbished more than once over its history, the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project will mark its largest transformation ever. Over the past year, earlier plans for changes in parts of the building were reevaluated in favor of pursuing this more comprehensive plan that will transform the space throughout. Celebrating the building’s 100-year birthday with style, it will bring this grand dame of dentistry fully into the 21st century, while preparing it to meet the needs of patients, students, faculty, and staff well into the future.





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## PRESERVING CHARACTER AND DETAILS

The Centennial Renaissance project will impact every floor of the Evans Building, changing and updating the use and flow of most areas, while fundamentally respecting its historic character (only the specialty clinics, renovated in recent years, will go untouched, along with the Main Clinic and a few administrative offices). The plan calls for preserving beloved architectural details, such as its grand staircase, original windows, and impressive façade adorned with its legendary gargoyles. The project's primary components are the creation of a new preclinical lab and continuing education (CE) training center and a new, modern clinic, while a reimagined library space and abundant student use and faculty and staff areas will vastly improve the facilities as well.

Making these much-needed improvements to the Evans Building has been a top priority for Morton Amsterdam Dean Denis Kinane. Since joining Penn Dental Medicine, he has been focused on determining the best approach for making them a reality, culminating in the plans that are moving forward through the Centennial Renaissance project. "Our mission is to update this historic building so that it will support the highest-quality dental education for which Penn Dental has always been known and respected," says Dean Kinane.

In addition to providing a state-of-the-art learning and teaching environment, the changes also will make a powerful impression on prospective students touring the dental school, a critical link in continuing to draw and retain the top admissions candidates.

Currently, the \$34 million project is in the detail design phase, explains Jeff Fahnoe, Senior Director of Planning and Operations. Fahnoe is overseeing the many complex facets of the Centennial project, working closely with the Philadelphia-based architectural firm Ballinger, the project architects. A feasibility study and a schematic design have already been approved by the University's Capital Advisory Group. If the detail design phase (expected to take nine months) continues on schedule, work on the project could start as early as fall 2015. "The project will be completed in multiple phases to ensure the School remains fully operational throughout the project," says Fahnoe.



## LOWER CONCOURSE: STUDENT SPACES, HIGH-TECH LABS

Through the Centennial Renaissance project, the lower concourse of the Evans Building will be completely transformed with the key space being a new, cutting-edge preclinical lab and CE training center. This new lab will be positioned in the northeast portion of the concourse, the location of the current Paletz Clinic. The facility will feature fixed benches with ample room for table-top projects and up to 90 high-tech student workstations. Each workstation will have a retractable simulation unit, fully outfitted with dental equipment and designed to replicate the spatial dynamics of a clinical setting to reinforce correct positioning and posture. Each space will also have a computer monitor for instructional videos and streaming of live demonstrations. The plan for the lab focuses on pleasant lighting, ergonomic furnishings, high-tech equipment, and optimal flow. This space and its technology will also be used for hands-on continuing education programs.

The lower concourse will also include a new home for the Advanced Simulation Lab (now temporarily located in the Schattner Center), which contains the School's brand new Simodont virtual reality units, which employ haptic technology. Twelve units were acquired this past spring and offer students a highly realistic experience for developing their manual dexterity and preclinical skills. The units simulate dental procedures and

allow students to work on a virtual tooth and "feel" what makes each layer unique using virtual dental instruments.

"With a new preclinical lab, complemented by our state-of-the-art advanced simulation lab, we will truly be moving our preclinical education into the 21st century, which is vital," says Dr. Margrit Maggio, Director of Preclinical Dentistry and Director of Advanced Simulation. "Our students are technically savvy, and they expect a high-tech learning environment."

Completing the lower concourse will be a new student lounge, study and meeting rooms, a lecture hall, the offices of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs, and other administrative offices, creating a floor fully devoted to student activities and student support.

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**DEAN DENIS KINANE**

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## FIRST FLOOR: A NEW MODERN CLINIC

The centerpiece of the first floor will be a new modern clinic, situated to facilitate a direct, convenient path for patients from the registration area by the School's entrance in the Robert Schattner Center. The 65- to 70-chair clinic will replace the much smaller Myers and Paletz general restorative clinics, and occupy the large southwest side of the first floor, which now includes administrative offices and the library.

The building's original windows along Spruce Street and the west side of the building will bathe the clinic with natural light. Just as the changes to the lower concourse will create a floor for student activities, the first floor transformation will provide patients with an easily accessible, self-contained area of the building designed to bring them the best care experience possible. A new Dean's/executive administration office wing will replace the old Myers Clinic, and a café for patients and the Penn Dental Medicine community will round out the floor plan.

"From the new clinic and preclinical lab to the new study and teaching spaces, the Centennial Renaissance project will create an entirely modern environment that recognizes the pedagogic and infrastructure needs of today's technology-savvy students as well as state-of-the-art teaching



and patient care technologies," says Dr. Markus Blatz, Chairman of Preventive & Restorative Sciences. "It will bring our teaching environment, laboratories, and clinics to the most advanced level to prepare our students for the demands of an ever-changing profession, while giving our patients access to the highest-level patient care in a modern state-of-the-art clinical setting."

## SECOND & THIRD FLOORS: A REIMAGINED LIBRARY

Plans for the second and third floors create a dramatic two-story library space that will return the library to its original location on the second floor (currently the Sig Seigel Conference Room). An original, architecturally stunning two-story window will be the centerpiece of this new space. The reading and study areas on the third floor will overlook the library space below on three sides and the main staircase on the other.

In keeping with library trends, this reimagined library will contain far fewer books and many more digital resources, and will be open 24 hours a day to accommodate student schedules. This airy and welcoming library space will be supplemented with small, private study areas for groups of four to six students on the west wing of the third floor, which will also house a classroom and faculty and staff offices. A faculty office suite will occupy the previously renovated east wing of this floor, which will undergo minor changes as part of this project.

## CLIMATE CONTROL

One significant part of this renovation project (accounting for approximately \$10 million of the project budget) will not be seen, but it will be felt. The building's antiquated HVAC system will receive a complete overhaul through the renovation, ensuring the maintenance of comfortable climate and temperature controls throughout all



OPPOSITE: A new preclinical lab and CE training center will be created in the lower concourse, featuring fixed benches and up to 90 high-tech work stations.

ABOVE: The centerpiece of the first floor will be a new, modern 65- to 70-chair clinic for general restorative care; the building's original windows along Spruce Street will flood the space with natural light.

TOP: Plans for a new library feature a dramatic two-story space that will return the library to its original location on the building's second floor.



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four levels of the building. Funding this part of the project is being provided through the University's Century Bond initiative — an interest-free loan program that is available for projects that reduce energy usage by introducing more efficient systems, which the new HVAC system will do.

The majority of the HVAC work will be completed in the first phase of the project, which also includes the new preclinical lab and CE training center and the advanced simulation lab in the lower concourse and all of the second and third floor renovations.

### USHERING IN A NEW ERA

As the School prepares to begin the largest transformation in the history of its storied Evans Building, the Dean and administration look forward to ushering the building, and indeed the entire School, into a new era. With the support of the School's alumni and friends, it is a time to celebrate not only the Building's centennial, but also its infinite future potential.

"The Evans Building is a fantastic, historic structure," says Dean Kinane. "As it celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2015, we are taking the steps needed to get it ready for the next 100 years." ■

—By Juliana Delany

## NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Through the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project, alumni and friends can invest in the future of Penn Dental Medicine and make a lasting tribute through the following naming opportunities. Leadership gifts totaling \$8 million are already pledged toward this project's \$12 million fundraising goal.

### PRECLINICAL LAB & CE TRAINING CENTER

Preclinical Lab/CE Training Center Naming (1)	\$2,000,000
Evaluation Room (1)	\$100,000
Wet Lab (1)	\$100,000
Preclinical Benches (14)	\$75,000
Teaching Station (1)	\$50,000
Dental Mobile Units (75)	\$10,000

### ADVANCED DENTAL SIMULATION LAB

Advanced Dental Simulation Lab Naming (1)	\$750,000
Simulation Units (12, 2 reserved)	\$25,000

### LOWER CONCOURSE STUDENT FACILITIES

Student Lounge (1)	\$200,000
Seminar Classrooms (4)	\$150,000
Small Study Pods (7, 1 reserved)	\$25,000

### FIRST FLOOR CLINIC

Clinic Naming (1)	\$4,000,000
Reception (reserved)	\$500,000
Café/Patient Area	\$250,000
Operatories (70)	\$50,000
X-Ray Rooms (4)	\$25,000

### DEAN'S EXECUTIVE WING

Executive Wing Naming	\$3,000,000
Dean's Office	\$1,000,000
Executive Conference Room	\$250,000

### LIBRARY

Knowledge Center	\$750,000
Mezzanine Reading Lounge	\$500,000
Small Seminar Room	\$75,000
Small Study Pods (4)	\$25,000
Study Carrels (10)	\$5,000

### OTHER

Faculty Suite	\$500,000
Walkway from Robert Schattner Center (2)	\$250,000

For more information on these naming opportunities and on support of the Evans Building Centennial Renaissance project at all gift levels, contact: Maren Gaughan, Associate Dean for Leadership Giving at 215-898-8952 or [gaughan@dental.upenn.edu](mailto:gaughan@dental.upenn.edu).