



New Media Center at University of Detroit Mercy Named After Alumnus Neal Shine

DETROIT, April 17 /PRNewswire/ -- On Wednesday, April 18 at 5:30 p.m., University of Detroit Mercy's student newspaper, The Varsity News will be getting a new home. The 90-year old newspaper will soon be produced in the Neal Shine Media Center, named after the Detroit journalism legend and one of the paper's former editors.

The Varsity News (VN) has been longing for a new dedicated production facility to put out the paper, and their new home will be housed in the Neal Shine Media Center on the third floor of the Jane and Walter O. Briggs Building, College of Liberal Arts and Education.

The center is being named for Neal Shine '52, longtime publisher of The Detroit Free Press and former adjunct Communication Studies faculty member who will be honored posthumously on Wednesday, April 18 at the dedication on the McNichols Campus. A Liturgy will also be held at the St. Ignatius Chapel in the Commerce and Finance Building (next door) at 4:30 p.m. Shine had been working with his alma mater on this for the past several months and looked forward to the dedication.

The VN's new home is becoming a reality thanks to departmental efforts and a campaign spearheaded by devoted VN alumni. UDM graduates Dale Jablonski '65, Suzanne Rabideau '66, Andy Acho '63, and Ron Thayer '62 hope to raise \$40,000 for the center.

According to the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Education Charles Marske, "a working laboratory will replace the old space. Updates include 12 new computers, software, fax machines and a large new layout area. Other facility improvements include a new ceiling, lighting, painting and electrical wiring. An office, archive and conference room has been relocated to accommodate the new VN space, and one wall was removed to open the space up for the newsroom. A door was cut into another wall to create a combination reception area and business office, directly connecting to the newsroom.

The campaign funds are intended to provide a first class journalism lab for the VN, and it is anticipated that this will help increase the size of the staff as well. The fund-raising efforts are as emotional as they are practical. All committee members speak fondly of their Varsity News days. More than creating a cohesive production environment, the group says, they want to share their VN experience with current and future students. "It was more than a newspaper," says Thayer. "It was camaraderie and late hours, and memories we'll have forever."

If you would like to make a donation to help fund the new center, please contact Jennifer Dafoe, director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts & Education at 313-993-1429 or e-mail dafoejm@udmercy.edu.

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