Welcome to the new EMU

After a decade of planning and nearly three years of construction, we proudly opened the doors to the new EMU last month. Literally thousands of people, from the student voters who approved project funding in 2012, to dozens of stakeholders involved in every step of development, have helped make our dream of a new student union a reality. Together, we’ve worked hard to create a building that meets the needs of our diverse campus and melds prominent building features with state of the art design. Now that early feedback is in, we think it’s safe to say that we’ve succeeded in creating a beautiful gathering place and a home for exceptional student experiences that will serve the University of Oregon for years to come.

We’ve only been open for a short time, but it didn’t take long for students to discover a terrific new dining option, settle in to an out-of-the-way study nook, or find their way back to a favorite program. I’ve had the pleasure of watching many first-time visitors explore our beautiful new spaces, and I am thrilled, humbled, and inspired to hear such great pride and enthusiasm in their comments.

Although work on the 210,000 sq. ft. building will continue through next fall, we are delighted to be back in the Erb Memorial Union serving the UO campus and community as we have for the past 65 years. I want to sincerely thank our UO students and stakeholders for your vision, support, and patience, and to invite you to visit and help celebrate our beautiful new EMU. I am so very proud of what we’ve accomplished, and I think you’ll agree that it was definitely worth the wait!

Laurie Woodward
Director, Erb Memorial Union
Green: More than a school color

Building Sustainability

The EMU is walkable (or bikeable) from any corner of campus. It has meeting spaces, dining options, performance spaces, and more lounges than you can count (actually we did count—there are 13). We’re open for business every day and are ready to welcome, unite, and inspire University of Oregon students and our guests.

Green in its construction, energy efficiency, and in the programs it supports, the 210,000 square foot renovated and expanded EMU is constructed, operated, and maintained with some of the most environmentally responsible materials and practices available. As a result, the New EMU uses less water and energy, releases fewer greenhouse emissions, and saves money. The new building also features advanced technology including high-speed internet, lots of outlets, and the capacity to keep up as technology evolves.

Once construction is completed in late 2016, the EMU will apply for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)® Platinum certification, the highest green building certification attainable. If approved, the student union will be one of only three UO buildings to achieve this status.

“...I am so impressed. It looks so modern and bigger than I expected. I love the expansion and love that ASUO and all the student clubs get a nice new space.”

Alannah Feeney
Student: Human Physiology

New Facilities have much to offer

- 250 seat movie and multipurpose performance theater
- 8 water bottle filling stations
- 15 redesigned recycling stations
- 80K square feet of new space
- Over 200 bike parking spaces

emu.uoregon.edu
New EMU Sustainability Features

- Original EMU wood products were recycled and used in new window frames and decorative food court walls.
- Original building brick was reused in wall repairs.
- Individual window cooling units and radiators have been replaced with controllable ductless heat pump systems.
- Light colored roll roofing reflects more sunlight and absorbs less heat.
- Compact linear fluorescent and LED lighting use less electricity.
- Low maintenance terrazzo and concrete flooring has been installed in public space throughout the building.

The New EMU Wood Structure resulted in a 50% reduction in CO2 emissions compared to an equivalent concrete structure.

New Native Vegetation will use 50% less water than a typical landscape.

On-site renewables are expected to provide 8% of the building’s total energy requirements.

The EMU is expected to use 40% less potable water than required by Oregon Code.

During the lifetime of the new solar panels the system will offset 280 tons of CO2.

Erb Memorial Union Renovation Facts

Student Involvement

- In November 2012 the UO student body approved an ASUO-sponsored special election referendum to support the renovation of the EMU with a new student fee.
- Over the next two years, students were involved in every step of project decision making and, together with project architects and stakeholders, served on 22 committees to design new program spaces, offices, multipurpose rooms, exterior spaces, and specialized service areas.

How it’s Funded

- Total Project Cost: $98 million
- We are actively raising $5 million in private project support. Remaining costs will be covered by student fees, including existing Student Building Fees and a new EMU Facility Fee.
- UO students began paying a $67 per term EMU renovation facility fee in 2014 to pay bond debt incurred to cover design and construction costs.
- In November 2012 the UO student body approved an ASUO-sponsored special election referendum to support the renovation of the EMU with a new student fee.

Project Timeline

- Fall 2012: UO student body approves project funding referendum
- Winter 2014: Expansion and renovation planning completed
- Spring 2014: Construction begins
- Fall 2016: Construction completed and celebrated with an October 2016 grand opening

“I’m especially appreciative of the steps taken to maintain the history and charm of the existing building while bringing it into a new era. The buzz and energy in the building has always been amazing, and that can only increase with the new gathering spaces and amenities that are coming!”

Mike Duncan
Community Member/Non-Student

emu.uoregon.edu/renovation
“The best part of Club Sports is the sense of community and family. The Club Baseball team is the closest team I have ever been a part of, and I have made friends that will last a lifetime.”

Mikey Finneranan
CLUB SPORTS: BASEBALL

“Getting involved at the Erb Memorial Union is one of the best ways University of Oregon students can meet new people, feel part of the bigger picture, and gain the experience and skills they need to succeed in school and beyond. Our programs and jobs attract thousands of students of all interests and abilities, from those trying something for the very first time to some who return year after year to hone their talents and skills. Although you may think that working or participating in extracurricular activities might pull students away from academics, studies confirm that students who work 15 hours or less per week make better grades, on average, and are more likely to persist toward a degree, compared to their non-working peers (Horn & Maw, 1994), and students who engage in educationally purposeful curricular and extracurricular activities tend to achieve and persist at higher levels than do students who do not engage in such activities (Kuh, Kinzie, Buckley, Bridges, & Hayek, 2006).

“I have always been interested in sustainable living and environmental issues, but working with the Student Sustainability Center has expanded that interest while providing me with opportunities to apply my writing, research, and technical skills to projects outside my normal field of study.”

Shannon Moffett
STUDENT SUSTAINABILITY CENTER

“When I compare who I was when I arrived and who I am now, I can see significant growth in myself, and I believe I used that growth to further the mission of KWVA and make a positive impact on the station and the university.”

Ryan Rouillard
STUDENT EMPLOYEE: KWVA

emu.uoregon.edu/involvement
Learning to Lead

Students serve in leadership roles in all EMU programs and, through their work as coaches, instructors, board members, event organizers and project managers, learn to work in teams, influence others, manage conflict, and communicate effectively.

Student Employees

Over 300 students spend up to 20 hours a week in one or more student union jobs. Often the first—and sometimes the only—EMU staff representative working directly with the public, student employees greet visitors, maintain facilities, and help run programs, events, and offices.

EMU Board of Directors

The 16-member EMU Board of Directors allocates the EMU’s annual budget and advises EMU staff in general student union management, administration, and long range planning. The board is comprised of five appointed and seven elected students, three faculty representatives appointed by the university president, and one EMU staff representative elected by their peers.

Involvement

The EMU offers hundreds of outstanding out-of-classroom opportunities to any student interested in stepping out of the box, learning a new skill, igniting a passion, leading fellow students, or just having fun. Whether hosting a radio show, building a budget, riding a rapid, planning an event, competing on a team, working with young children, firing a kiln, or attending a concert, every UO student has a chance to participate, contribute, and connect.

“Helping people utilize the resources on campus is fulfilling and I love that no one day has consisted of me doing the exact same thing... I feel more like a leader on campus because through my work I am able to stay up to date on campus events, club activities and what the future of this school is going to look like in terms of student life.”

Lauren Bauer
STUDENT EMPLOYEE: EMU ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
Students Weigh In

We’re working with the Oregon Business Consulting Group, a professionally managed, student-run UO Lundquist College of Business consulting group to review, plan and promote EMU retail services. Founded in 2014 the OBCG helps students master classroom studies through experiential learning and, over the past two years has helped us reach over 250 students who’ve told us what brings them to the EMU, what keeps them away, and what they’d like to see in the new building. The group also helped us design our new EMU Business Association, a collaborative group of business owners who work together to represent and promote EMU-based businesses.

Rob Cohen
CO-OWNER
FALLING SKY BREWING COMPANY

“"We were so excited to have the opportunity to open in the EMU to bring a unique kind of meeting place for the whole university campus with a focus on quality artisanally made offerings. Focusing on local, seasonal ingredients, Falling Sky brings offerings that are all about our place - and unique to our community. Of course, included in this is pizza and beer. We hope that a Public House will enhance people’s experiences in all facets of the university.”

Vendors
FALLING SKY PIZZERIA & PUBLIC HOUSE™
RED WAGON CREAMERY™
TOWNSHEND’S TEA™
FRESH CORNER MARKET™
CHEPOTLE®
STARBUCKS®
PANDA EXPRESS®
SUBWAY®
JOE’S BURGERS™
THE DUCK STORE™
US BANK®
Meeting and Conference Services

The EMU schedules more than 16,000 events per year, each accommodating anywhere from two to 2000 people. When it’s complete, the new EMU will have 24 distinct conference rooms (some of them combinable), that include current audio, video, and technical amenities. In addition, we offer dozens of public spaces including lounges, dining areas, the Amphitheater and the new outdoor EMU Green.

We believe that our central location, our state-of-the-art technology, and our commitment to customer service makes the EMU the most desirable campus location for meetings and events and will continue to attract conference business from around the state, the region, and country.

Food and Retail

Business is booming at the EMU, and based on initial reports, it looks like we’ve found the right combination of food and retail for campus community. Our updated food court features dining options to suit all tastes, from popular national brands to well-loved local vendors who bring a distinctly Eugene flavor. Student union visitors also have access to centrally-located, year-round banking, printing, event ticketing, campus information, and UO retail services. We’ve made it easy for students and guests to stop in and enjoy a double espresso, grab a slice of pizza, stock up on Duck Gear, or buy a concert ticket, and, in turn, their business is helping us keep our building and operations in top shape.

“We are a tasty reminder to students of the power of local, thoughtful business. We work to educate consumers on the sourcing of ingredients, and the seasonality of produce, and instill in them a sense of place. UO is a great place to do that, as the students understand the values that we are exemplifying. Hopefully, it will inspire them in their purchasing habits, and even as they go out and start their own businesses.”

Stuart Phillips
DIRECTOR OF SALES & MARKETING
RED WAGON CREAMERY

“It was a no-brainer for us to bring our teahouse concept, which was conceived at the UO School of Business, back to its birthplace! We have now been serving tea, chai, bubble tea, and kombucha for over 10 years, and a large constituency of our customers are students. Our drinks are the perfect accompaniment to a day (or night) of studying, and we’re thrilled to be able to serve them right here on campus.”

Jake Gano
VP OF OPERATIONS
TOWNSHEND’S TEA COMPANY

“We are enthused and excited to grow with the campus community in this new space for all.”

Lily Olsen
SUPERVISOR
EMU DUCK STORE

“To serve Ducks young and old we offer a full, convenient compliment of study aids and snacks, academic supplies, and collegiate sportswear right on campus. We are enthused and excited to grow with the campus community in this new space for all.”

Lily Olsen
SUPERVISOR
EMU DUCK STORE