

HOLY CROSS

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spent two years at the old campus before Katrina hit in his seventh-grade year.

"This campus is like nothing else – nothing compares to what we have today," Scanlan said. "I like how it combines the traditions of the old Holy Cross with all the new technology, like the wireless Internet that stretches all the way across campus. It's really fantastic. It's just a beautiful campus to be in. It makes you happy to be here."

Homey feel

To add warmth and interest to the hallways, the cinder-block walls were broken up into horizontal bands of brown and beige. Similarly, lockers – an amenity Holy Cross students have not enjoyed since Katrina – were painted in three alternating shades of blue.

Fluorescent lights, softened by pierced metal sleeves,

illuminate extra-wide hallways, while terrazzo floors, pendant lighting and light sconces bearing the initials "HC" lend a home-like feel. SMART Board technology and hallway clocks scream modernity, the latter featuring digital read-outs in red.

Building has older 'twin'

But alums and students say it is the Administration Building, unveiled on Dec. 31, that makes the "homecoming" complete. The three-story campus centerpiece is a virtual replica – down to its square footage – of its 1895 predecessor.

"When the alums come and look at it, they're almost overwhelmed. It's like you took the old building and put it over here," said DiGange, singing the praises of project architects Ron Blich and Dean Duplantier, both Holy Cross graduates.

Copied elements from the original building include arched doorways, fanned first-floor windows, cast-iron pillars and railings, and the

banding of exterior brick. The bell tower, which houses a small chapel, is visible from blocks away.

The beloved gazebo from the old campus sits behind the Administration Building, just steps away from another Holy Cross icon: the "Victory Bell," which is rung after every athletic win.

Inside the Administration Building, a grand lobby bordered by cast-iron columns and overlooked by a second-floor gallery provides seating near the offices of the headmaster, development, alumni affairs, finance and the guidance department. While the second floor, with its five eighth-grade classrooms and two art studios, will not be ready until after the Carnival break, a 6,000 square-foot library, the technology department and a 100-seat "black-box" theater are up and running on the third floor.

An outdoor lab

"For us it's been Christmas all the time because we've



Photo by Frank J. Methe | CLARION HERALD

The newly opened Administration Building was designed to be a near facsimile of Holy Cross' iconic 1895 building on the Dauphine Street campus. Among its modern amenities are a 6,000-square-foot library, art studios and classrooms for Holy Cross' eighth grade. A plaque at the base of the courtyard's fountain recalls the Paris Avenue site's former life as St. Frances Cabrini Parish. The cross from the demolished church sits atop the new bell tower.

constantly had something new to unwrap or something that has been unveiled for us," said Sue Ellen Lyons, an earth science teacher at Holy Cross for 32 years.

Besides being beautiful, the new campus plant is "practical, functional and so high-tech," Lyons said.

"We've got the best of everything," Lyons said. "I've got the biggest classroom lab in the history of classroom labs. Each science teacher now has his or her own lab to use, whereas before we had to share lab space."

Another unofficial "lab"

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