In the crisp morning air of a Saturday this September, a standing-room-only crowd of Ohio University supporters, officials, alumni, friends, faculty, and students broke ground on the next addition to campus—a center designed to provide a natural fusion of modern medicine and engineering.

The scene clearly conveyed “historic moment” as the guests heard about the history and intent of the building and watched as the curtain dropped on its new name: the Academic & Research Center. They also stepped inside the building’s 100,000-square-foot footprint, outlined on the West Green where the building will stand. Guests then applauded as Section 8 of the Singing Men of Ohio sang the University fight song.

The building, an academic complex for the Russ College and the College of Osteopathic Medicine, will unite two colleges in a one-of-a-kind facility that will enhance classroom and laboratory experiences. It will advance research, enhance learning, and promote active collaboration among researchers, physicians, engineers, students, faculty, and staff.

Groundbreaking News:
The Academic & Research Center

By Jennifer Krisch and Alison Wayner

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The concept and construction of the ARC, now under construction on the West Green and slated to open in fall 2009, would not have become reality without the generosity of private benefactors—in particular Russ College alumnus Charles Stuckey, B.S.M.E. ’66, HON ’05, and his wife, Marilyn.

Stuckey’s commitment to the new facility was motivated by a desire to advance the University’s prominence, recognize the institution’s contributions to his own life, and help current and future students.

“This building will help to break down the communication and collaboration barriers that exist in higher education. It will break down the discipline silos,” he said. “Hopefully this facility will just be one step in enhancing collaboration across the entire University.”

Civil engineering major and Cutler Scholar Ben Jewell, just one of the attendees, agreed. “This is an exciting opportunity to see how far Ohio University students can take biomedical engineering,” he said.

Contributions from the Stuckeys and more than 75 other private benefactors make the $30 million ARC the first building on campus constructed primarily with private funding since Cutler Hall opened in 1819.

“When I first heard that Cutler Hall was the only building to have been built primarily with private dollars, I couldn’t believe it,” Stuckey said.

For more information, visit www ohio.edu development ilrf/