



LEARNING COMMONS

REIMAGINING WHAT BUSINESS
EDUCATION CAN BE



DONORS

This momentous undertaking would not have been possible without the support of our generous donors. Thank you for helping the Learning Commons come to life.

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RICKY SANDLER

Ricky Sandler (BBA '91) was inspired to make the lead gift to this space because of his desire to support an engaging and technology-rich learning environment to attract the best and brightest students to the Wisconsin School of Business. Among WSB's most successful and engaged alumni,

Sandler has helped prepare students for career success by bringing his finance and Wall Street expertise into the classroom as an instructor and mentor.

He was instrumental in creating the Sophomore Wall Street Intern Program and the Badgers in Finance Initiative—a network for students, alumni, and employers. Sandler is CEO and chief investment officer at Eminence Capital.



LEARNING COMMONS

The Learning Commons was inspired by a student trip to New York City. Through discussions with alumni working on Wall Street, Mark Fedenia (BBA '77, M.S. '79, Ph.D. '87), the Patrick A. Thiele Distinguished Chair in Finance, director of the Wealth Management and Financial Planning Program, and an associate finance professor, saw a need for a finance-focused computer lab within a new space that would broadly serve the entire WSB community.

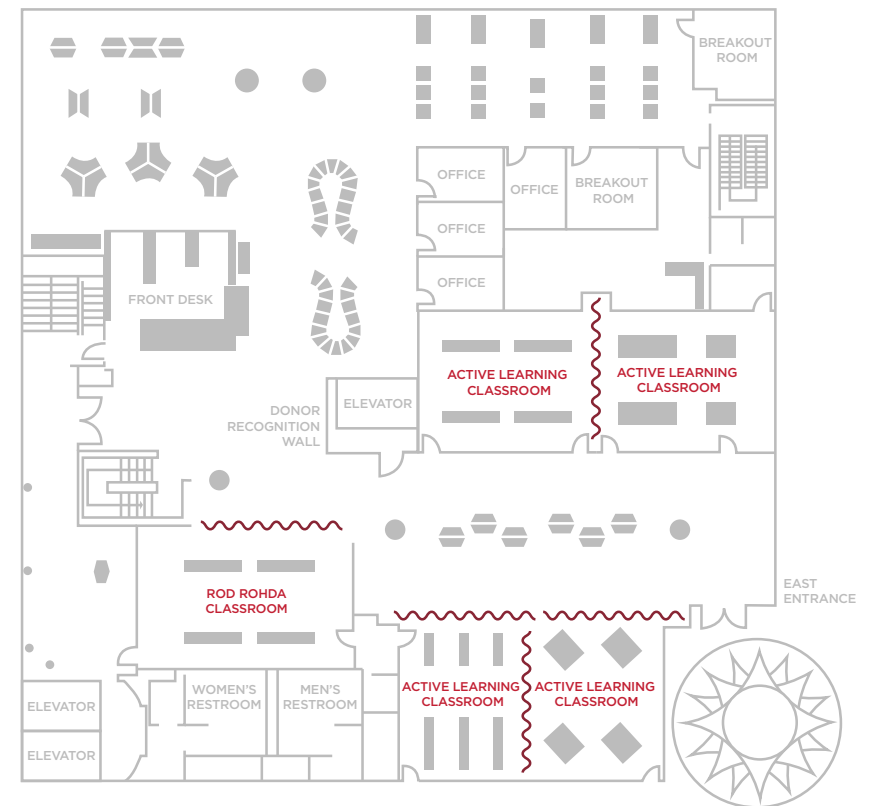
Continued conversations with WSB alumnus Ricky Sandler (BBA '91), former Dean François Ortalo-Magné, Michael Enyart, director of the Business Library, and Gwen Eudey, director of the Business Learning Center, sparked the initial idea for the Learning Commons as a collaborative learning space where the entire WSB community could come together to reimagine what business education can be. A partnership between the Wisconsin School of Business and the UW-Madison General Library System grew, and the Learning Commons idea became reality.

“The Learning Commons will bring many critical student services and needs together in one place. Students will have better access to current technologies and datasets, library resources, tutoring, and a variety of spaces to study, connect, and collaborate. We’re building the support our students require now to be competitive and successful in their future.”

—RICKY SANDLER (BBA '91)
Founder and CEO
Eminence Capital

ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOMS

Five active learning classrooms provide flexible configurations for different modes of instruction. During the day, these rooms can be used for course instruction. In the evening, they can be utilized for tutoring. The rooms can be reserved and are available for study and collaborative work.



DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

The School explored a number of educational innovation trends that influenced the use of spaces and the design of classrooms.



Writable surfaces including whiteboards and opaque glass



New stairwell with enclosed glass on third floor to reduce noise spill for quiet study



Table dividers and lighting to maximize seating while giving students a sense of privacy



Greater access to daylight for positive impact on student well-being

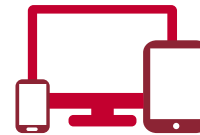


FURNITURE FAIR

Feedback from many WSB stakeholders was involved in the Learning Commons design. A furniture fair gave students, faculty, and staff the opportunity to test different furniture and give anonymous feedback on what they wanted in the space.

THE FINANCE AND ANALYTICS LAB

The Finance and Analytics Lab houses state-of-the-art hardware and software, including dataset access. With 45 seats, the lab is conducive to small group work and active teaching methodologies. Users can reserve the lab for classes, workshops, and events.



Wireless display connectivity allowing students to connect their own laptops and other mobile tech to wall-mounted monitors



High-end web conferencing and audio equipment to allow instructors to bring outside experts into the learning environment



Access to databases and toolsets such as Bloomberg, FactSet, and S&P Capital IQ



Large display technologies for instruction, collaborative group work, and viewing real-time business activities and news

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS



In the Huber Undergraduate Computing Lab, WSB researchers have the ability to partition off stations to conduct studies that require computer access.



Five active learning classrooms offer environments conducive to student-to-student learning, group problem solving, and direct interaction with course instructors.



The Learning Commons was designed with the future in mind. Strategic placement of data jacks and power sources creates flexibility for changes.

ARTWORK HIGHLIGHTS

WSB aims to create an environment that reflects its history of incorporating art into business. The Learning Commons features artwork by Wisconsin artists, including UW-Madison alumni.

JAMES WATROUS

Celebrated artist and UW-Madison Professor James Watrous created two mosaic murals for the lobby of the Commerce Building, WSB's first headquarters. An original, full-color study for Watrous's *Ancient Commerce* mural was recently discovered in storage at WSB. This small piece of our past hangs prominently on the first floor.



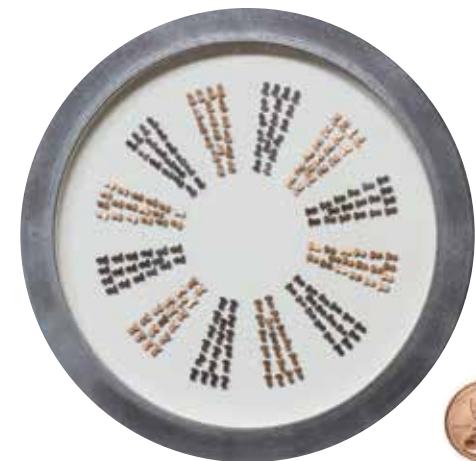
THIRD FLOOR ARTWORK

Artwork featured on the third floor was chosen to reflect iconic state, city, and university themes. Many of the pieces, which speak to the student experience, were created by Wisconsin artists, UW-Madison students and alumni. Featured artwork also includes pieces from our BBA students' Go Big Read projects.



STACEY LEE WEBBER

Stacey Lee Webber received her MFA from the UW-Madison Art Department in 2008. As a metalsmith, Webber utilizes found materials such as currency. In the pieces acquired for our collection, her clever use of coins to create elaborate visual patterns ties together the worlds of business and art.



\$2.16 worth of handcut pennies put to creative use in Stacey Lee Webber's *Abe Rays* art piece

LEARNING COMMONS BY THE NUMBERS

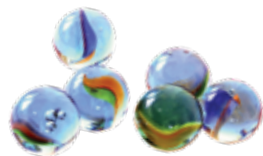
Some of the facts and figures
that bring the new space to life

"Collaboration and innovation
are core values here at the
Wisconsin School of Business.
The Learning Commons will
provide our students with the
tools and space they need to
explore these values as they
grow into the future leaders of
the business world."

—BARRY GERHART (PH.D. '85)
INTERIM ALBERT O. NICHOLAS
DEAN OF THE WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

582

seats



75,000

glass marbles in Ed Carpenter's
Library Window, which were
sandwiched together into 56
sealed window panels



1,038 outlets



10 small-group
breakout rooms



3rd most utilized
library on campus



107 student
computers



212

U.S. coins in Stacey
Lee Webber's *America*
M.I.A. art piece

255

days from groundbreaking
to grand opening



35,000

square-foot renovation

3, 4, 5

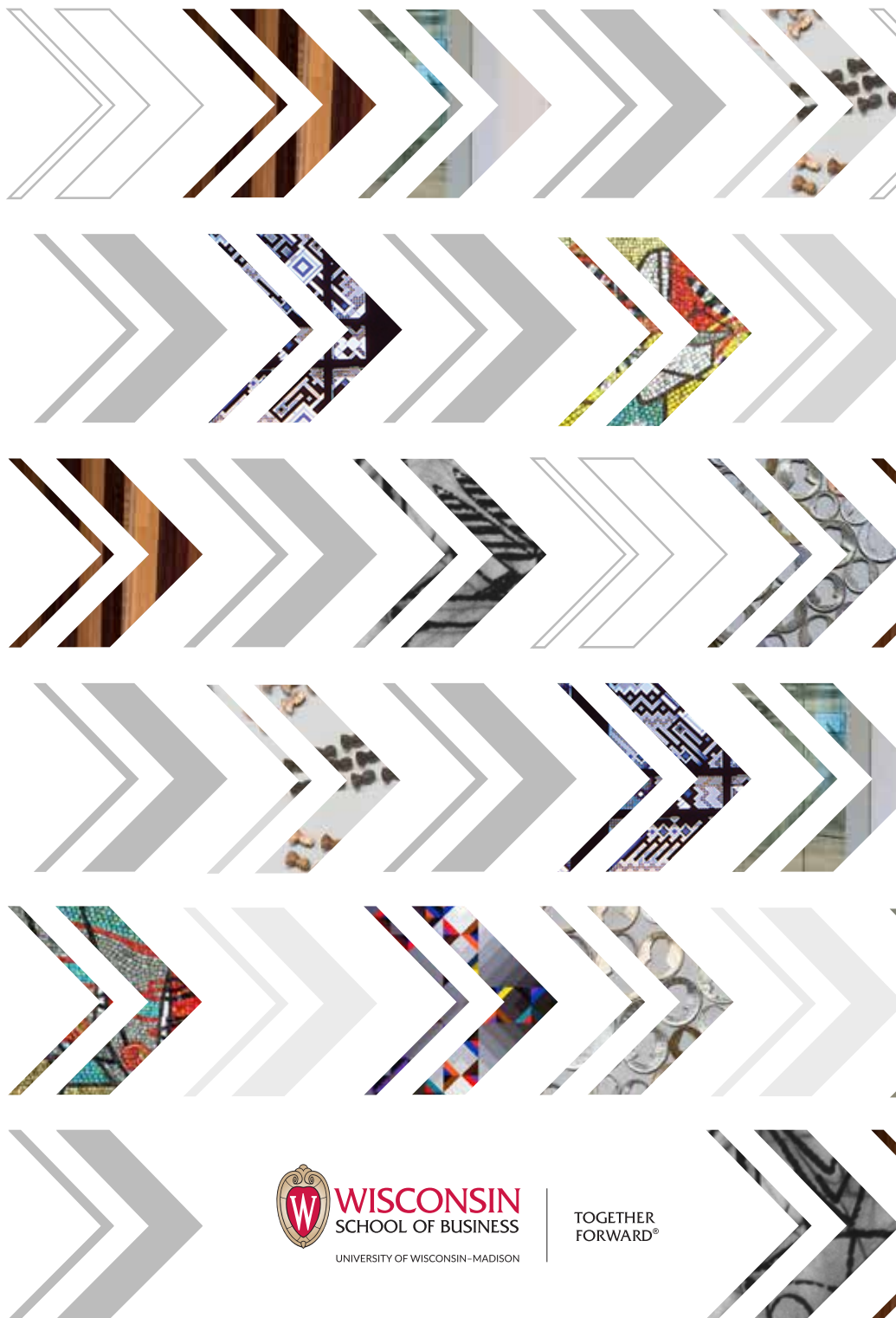
active learning classrooms,
depending on the setup of
moveable walls

277

panels of glass

56+

WSB faculty and
staff contributed
significantly to the
project



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TOGETHER
FORWARD®