June 20, 2017

The end of an era brings a new beginning

Edmonton – At the end of April, more than 400 faculty, staff, students and alumni gathered at MacEwan’s west-end campus to bid adieu to the iconic building. Known in its early days as the Jasper Place Campus, the building was home to academic programs in fine art, design, music, theatre and arts management.

For more than 30 years, thousands of students honed their artistic talents in the orange-coloured building. Now, with the new Centre for Arts and Culture set to open on the City Centre Campus in September, all academic programming from the west-end campus will move downtown to the impressive facility designed by legendary architect, Bing Thom.

But, there’s one last thing that needs to happen before the students move downtown – the last graduating classes must walk across the stage in cap and gown to claim their academic credentials.

Former dean Denise Roy said every day at the west-end campus was like a new day. “You never knew what you might encounter,” says Roy. “The artwork on the walls changed, the student’s installations changed and the instruments being played in the stairwells and hallways changed, but that was all normal for us.”

Joel Payne, a fourth-year Bachelor of Music in Jazz and Contemporary Popular Music has fond memories of the sun-lit spaces. “I spent a lot of time there, from open to close almost every single day in the practice rooms, even post season there was always a group of students grinding it out in the summer.”

That same level of activity will continue in the new building – after all, it’s not the building that makes the memories – but the people who work, learn and play in it.

The last graduating classes from the west-end campus will celebrate during the spring convocation ceremonies at the Francis Winspear Centre.

When: Thursday, June 22
Time: 9:30 a.m.

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 65 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.

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