September 25, 2017

Allard Hall’s grand opening will showcase student talent

Edmonton – It’s going be a celebration of the visual and performing arts when MacEwan University officially opens its newest building, Allard Hall during a grand opening celebration.

“It’s a special time in our university’s history,” says Deborah Saucier, MacEwan University’s president. “We’ve relocated all our visual and performing arts programming—more than 900 students, faculty and staff—to our City Centre Campus. Allard Hall, their new home, is simply spectacular—the open, airy spaces are designed to inspire the creative talents of our students.”

During the grand opening, music and theater students will perform from spaces known as “nests,” seating areas located on the landings of Allard Hall’s staircases, which seem to float magically in the air. The setup will create a multi-tiered stage, taking full advantage of the building’s five-floor main atrium.

“A key part of the vision for Allard Hall was that its spaces encourage formal and informal collaboration between students in the same program—and between students in different programs,” said Allan Gilliland, dean of the university’s Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications. “The “nests” are a perfect example of that design philosophy in action. We imagine impromptu concerts breaking out from them, students spreading out to work on group projects, or just relaxing.”

Students and faculty are already learning and teaching in Allard Hall’s spaces—which are like few others in Canada. Light-filled studios and rehearsal spaces. Stunning performance spaces. And the latest in technology, which is exemplified by a state-of-the-art recording studio large enough to accommodate a big band performance.

The event begins with a smudging ceremony conducted by an Indigenous Elder. Guest speakers include Minister of Advanced Education Marlin Schmidt, Mayor Don Iveson and President Emeritus, David Atkinson, who championed the new building. Student ambassadors will provide guided tours which will give guests a look at the impressive building and its many spaces, including front-of-house and backstage in the theatres and performance venues, art gallery, recording studios and design studios.

“Moving our visual and performing arts programming downtown lets our students connect with the arts community downtown,” said Gilliland. “Many of our faculty are practicing professionals, and the Allard’s proximity will open up even more opportunities for them to integrate their experience into their teaching.”

The building is named in honour of the Allard family, who have been generous supporters of MacEwan for 30 years.

When: 1-2 p.m., Wednesday, September 27
Where: Allard Hall (11110-104 avenue)

Pre-event Media Tours: 12:15 – 1 p.m.

For further information, please contact:
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The opening of Allard Hall in September 2017 marks the beginning of a year of celebration for MacEwan University. With the relocation of the Faculty of Fine Arts and Communications to City Centre Campus, our university community has come together in downtown Edmonton. Allard Hall features exciting new purpose-built learning spaces for students and dynamic performance and exhibition spaces for the community, including a 419-seat theatre, theatre lab, recital hall, art gallery and recording studio. MacEwan University is moving the arts downtown. MacEwan.ca/ComeTogether.

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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