

# Mathias Hall Gets a Facelift

Posted by [Leslie](#) on Friday, June 18, 2010

**By John Lauer, Director of Residential Life and Housing**

Mathias Hall, one of Colorado College's largest residence halls, is undergoing a long-anticipated and much-needed renovation during the summer break. The improvements will enhance the quality of life for all Mathias Hall residents. The renovation will increase the flexibility of common spaces; enhance community with more inviting gathering spots; demonstrate a commitment to sustainability by utilizing low-flow water fixtures, recycled content materials, Energy Star appliances, and energy efficient lighting; and integrate technology upgrades to improve opportunities for students to collaborate on projects and assignments. Specific improvements include: replacement of the fire sprinkler system, new flooring for common areas and bathrooms, the creation of private dressing spaces in the shower areas, the creation of open lounges that bring natural light into the building's core, and upgraded lighting fixtures for all residence hall rooms and corridors.

An exciting aspect of the project is the expansion of the college's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) from one to four. The program is a collaboration between multiple offices within both student life and academics. The purpose of an LLC is to provide an intentional housing community, including a dedicated kitchen and lounge area, for a group of students who would like to develop their knowledge around a shared interest. Although each community must abide by Colorado College guidelines and policies, each community also develops its own standards of living and program plans with the assistance of a staff advisor. Students who applied to participate in next year's communities had the option of choosing among four different themes: Grassroots Organizing, The Spirit of Non-Violence, Gender and Sexuality, and Global.

Planning and design for the renovations began in October, and construction commenced on May 14. The project is scheduled to be completed no later than August 16, as residence halls open on August 28 for the 2010-11 academic year.

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**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – August 20, 2010** – Colorado College's largest student residence, Mathias Hall, is reopening after having undergone a long-anticipated and much-needed renovation during the summer break.

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**COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. – August 20, 2010** – Colorado College's largest student residence, Mathias Hall, is reopening after having undergone a long-anticipated and much-needed renovation during the summer break.

CC's department of residential life and housing is hosting a renovation celebration in the Mathias Hall South Courtyard at 3:30 p.m., Aug. 24. Tours will be offered from 4-5 p.m. Mathias Hall, which houses 296 students, is located at 1130 N. Nevada Ave., on the southwest corner of Uintah Street and Nevada Avenue.

The \$3.5 million renovation began the day the students moved out in May and was completed in advance of the residence halls' opening on August 28. The project was funded completely through the housing fees paid by students and did not require the college to expend money from its general fund. Colorado College partnered with local companies as much as possible (GHPhipps, Keys and Associates, Jean Sebben Associates, M-E Engineers, MGA Structural Engineers) to help bolster the local economy while benefiting from the current lower costs of construction.

The renovation project increases the flexibility of the building's common spaces and enhances community with more inviting gathering spots; demonstrates a commitment to sustainability by utilizing low-flow water fixtures, recycled content materials, Energy Star appliances and energy efficient lighting; and integrates technology upgrades to improve opportunities for students to collaborate on projects and assignments.

The project also includes the expansion of the college's Living Learning Communities (LLCs) from one to four. This program is a collaboration between multiple offices within student life and academics. The purpose of an LLC is to provide an intentional housing community, including a dedicated kitchen and lounge area, for a group of students who would like to develop their knowledge around a shared interest. Although each community must abide by Colorado College guidelines and policies, each community also develops its own standards of living and program plans with the assistance of a staff advisor. Students who applied to participate in next year's communities had the option of choosing among four different themes: Grassroots Organizing, The Spirit of Non-Violence, Gender and Sexuality and Global.

Mathias Hall, built in 1966, was named after Henry Edwin Mathias, a professor of geology and an administrator who served the college in many different offices from 1927 to 1966. It has undergone a long-anticipated and much-needed renovation during the summer break.

## Walking Worldwide



Photo by Leslie Weidell.

CC students Lauren Paley '11, Kasi Carter '11, and Andrew Baird '12 sort and box shoes to send to Soles4Souls.

The Colorado College community donated enough shoes at the end of the 2009-10 academic year to fill 22 boxes for Soles4Souls.

The campus-wide project was launched in conjunction with a children's book, "New Old Shoes," published by Charlotte Blessing, CC's director of international programs (see *On the Bookshelf*, p.13). The shoe drive was a resounding success, as many faculty, staff, and students stepped up and donated their old shoes. Blessing read her book at the CC Children's Center, and the children, parents, and staff there donated shoes as well.

Lauren Paley '11, Kasi Carter '11, and Andrew Baird '12, Center for Service and Learning interns, sorted and boxed the piles of shoes, which ranged from flip-flops and pumps to running shoes and boots. The shoes were shipped to Soles4Souls headquarters, where they will be sorted and distributed around the world.

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All current and past residential life and housing students and staff (desk coordinators, RAs, etc.) are invited to attend a reunion at Mathias during Homecoming and Parent's Weekend from 1 to 2 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 9, to connect with past friends, staff, and colleagues. The current residential life coordinator, Bethany Grubbs, will discuss the changes at Mathias, including the new courtyard. Attending will be current residential life and housing students and staff, along with past desk personnel Martha Cranston and Roberta Watson. Current RAs will give tours from 2 to 3 p.m. highlighting recent improvements to Mathias, Arthur, Jackson, Lennox, and McGregor living areas.