Augenstein Alumni Center Groundbreaking

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Go ahead and mark your calendar for WKU’s Homecoming in October of 2012, that’s when the grand opening is scheduled for the Augenstein Alumni Center.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham has more on the ground breaking for the long awaited building.

Last Friday was a historic day for WKU alumni as ground was officially broken on a five million dollar building dedicated to more than 90-thousand graduates of Western Kentucky University.

 “The fact that its actually here is a little bit numbing.”

Dale Augenstein, a 1981 WKU graduate for whom the alumni center is named, is beyond excited about construction finally beginning on a building he says is desperately needed for alumni.

“When you come back as an alumnus to campus, where do you go? There’s no place to go, you go to Dero Downing University Center, you get to DUC and go now what do I do?”

In fifteen months, the answer will be here at the Augenstein Alumni Center, a three story building which will feature a museum and two grand ballrooms, one named for Lee Robertson and one for Jimmy Feix.

 “Two former alumni directors who are really the epitome of the WKU spirit. Anwhere we travel across the country people ask about these two gentlemen.”

Alumni Director Donald Smith has worked tirelessly with Augenstein and others to design a building that will be much more than just a place to gather.

 “It has been a labor of love, not just working for a university that we all love but seeing the center become a reality and knowing that its building the bridge to the future.”

Augenstein was a WKU cheerleader and SAE during his time on the hill. His restaurant on Hilton Head Island is like a mini-museum of WKU memorabilia. But still, he’s humbled by the thought of his name being part of the center.

“It’s certainly not my building. I may have made a financial donation to help us get over the top and chaired the committee to raise the money but this is WKU’s building. This is an alumni center for all alumni.”

Augenstein provided the lead gift of one million dollars. A total of 250 donors have contributed so far and one point five million still needs to be raised over the next year. If you would like to contribute, call 888-WKU-ALUM.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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