Recognition for Michael and Mary Sue Shannon gift

Performance Space Inside Wisconsin Union Theater
Named “Shannon Hall”

As Memorial Union’s west wing is set to reopen later this year, the Wisconsin Union proudly announces that the performance space of the Wisconsin Union Theater is now named “Shannon Hall.” This recognizes Michael and Mary Sue Shannon for their contribution to the Memorial Union Reinvestment (MUR) and includes the new student lounge next to the north entrance to the west wing, now called the “Shannon Sunset Lounge,” which faces Lake Mendota.

Memorial Union’s west wing will continue to be known as the Wisconsin Union Theater, which now houses three performance spaces: Shannon Hall, the Fredric March Play Circle and The Studio, a new rehearsal space added as part of MUR.

“We wanted to show our appreciation to the Shannons for their generous gift,” said Wisconsin Union Director Mark Guthier. “Mike and Mary Sue have a lot of wonderful memories of the Union. Their contribution ensures that future students will continue to have the same opportunities to enjoy the welcoming spaces and myriad events and programs at the Union that they did as students, and still do as alumni. The Union Theater is one of the Union’s signature venues that means a great deal to students as well as the university community; so it’s a perfect location to show our gratitude to the Shannons.”

Such support will help complete MUR as well as Alumni Park which will provide a welcoming destination as the anchor of the East Campus Mall when the project is completed.

“In addition to helping fund the building project and Alumni Park, the gift supports the Union’s mission and values,” added Guthier. “It’s particularly gratifying that alumni like the Shannons are stepping up and supporting the project. We’re proud to recognize them in this manner.”

Other spaces at the Wisconsin Union honor key donors and influential figures -- including the Winkler Lounge, the Fredric March Play Circle, the Fan Taylor Lobby, the Bradley Lounge, the Porter Butts Gallery and Tripp Commons.
While the Shannon gift is a key contribution, donations are still being accepted for the building project.

The Wisconsin Union is funded wholly by operating revenue, student segregated fees and donations like those from the Shannons, among many others. The building project is no exception. Like the Union, MUR receives no funds from the UW or taxpayers.

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