

Residential Commons Steering Committee Update

October 2005

M. Lee Pelton, President

Construction of Kaneko Commons has begun. If you wish to view the construction online, we have developed a web site, <http://www.willamette.edu/go/kaneko>, that includes project web cameras (only visible during the day), a gallery of design renderings and general project and program information.

The project is currently on budget and on schedule to open in the fall of 2006. Kaneko Commons will feature eight different student housing options, such as singles, doubles, suites and apartments. All newly constructed units will include air-conditioning, private bathrooms and spacious, fully furnished floor plans.

We are also pleased to have sought and obtained Silver LEED certification and may possibly qualify for Gold, a strong statement to the campus commitment towards sustainability. The project's sustainability initiatives include:

- photo voltaic panels
- heat recovery systems
- rainwater reclamation
- low flow water fixtures
- electric sub metering
- energy conservation measures
- solar hot water heating

The process of selecting the faculty resident for Kaneko Commons is currently underway. Dean Carol Long opened nominations on October 10 and applications from interested nominees are due October 28. The applications will then be reviewed by a committee consisting of the Dean of the CLA, the Dean of Campus Life, the Chair of Academic Council, the Chair of Faculty Council and two students appointed by ASWU. Interviews may be conducted, then the group will forward its recommendations to the President, who will make the appointment.

The following elements will be considerations in assessing applications:

1. Demonstrated academic leadership in departmental, committee or other roles. Evidence of effective organizational skills, programmatic initiative and successful teamwork.
2. A strong teaching record. Especially valuable is experience in pedagogical innovation and collaborative work with students.
3. A strong record as an academic advisor.

4. Experience in working with groups of students on programs and presentations in class venues, as advisor to student organizations, etc.

The hope is to review and select the faculty resident in early November. The University is also exploring the possibility of purchasing land in the near vicinity of Kaneko for the placement of the faculty resident house.

Additionally, the University is also in the process of creating the Kaneko Commons Leadership Implementation Committee. This student committee will assist in the development of programming, governance and leadership opportunities for the new Kaneko community.

The Residential Commons Steering Committee will continue to provide information updates as the construction and programming of Kaneko Commons progresses, and as the plans for the next residential commons unfold. You may contact the Committee via email at residential-com@willamette.edu, or by calling the Office of the Dean of Campus Life at (503) 370-6447.