Celebrating the Grand Re-Opening of The ARCH: The Heart of Penn's Campus

Photographs by Marguerite F. Miller

The reopening celebration last Thursday at the ARCH (Arts, Research and Culture House) showcased many student performing arts groups in the carefully restored spaces throughout the building which is home to three of Penn's cultural resource centers: La Casa Latina, Makuu and PAACH, in addition to CURF and a new eatery, Tortas Frontera café, featuring cuisine from Chef Rick Bayless. The cornerstone of this historic late-Gothic Revival building was laid in 1927, and the building—which was designed by three Penn alumni—originally opened in March 1928 as the Christian Association. It was purchased by Penn in 1999 and in 2011, an anonymous donor gave Penn $15 million toward its restoration and renovation (Almanac May 3, 2011). A core achievement of the Making History campaign, this $24.5 million project (Almanac March 18, 2008) is a focal point, “the heart of Penn,” said President Amy Gutmann. It provides a variety of interactive digital and multi-media capabilities with flexible seating arrangements while retaining carefully preserved and restored wood paneling, ornamental plasterwork, leaded windows, a slate roof and four terracotta chimneys.

The DiLorenzo Lounge, on the first floor, named in memory of John F. DiLorenzo, C’34, by his grandson David and his wife, Melissa Raso.

African Rhythms

La Casa Latina

African Rhythms

CURF’s main office on the second floor, overlooking Locust Walk

The auditorium on the second floor.

Penn DuRe performed traditional Korean folk music during the celebration.

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