

FLUEGEL FAMILY'S LEGACY GIFT HELPS NEW ALUMNI CENTER BECOME A REALITY

When Naval Academy alumni, family and friends gather for reunions or receptions at the new 65,000-square-foot facility alongside College Creek this fall, they will be able to call the Fluegel Alumni Center “home.” A dedication event is planned for September.

Construction of the modern alumni center was made possible in large part by the generosity of the Fluegel family. An anchor gift from Donna and Rick Fluegel '61, helped ensure the success of this legacy for the Naval Academy alumni community and a world-class home in Annapolis. The Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation will begin moving into the Fluegel Alumni Center later this year.

“Thanks to the generosity of all our lead donors, the United States Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation will be better equipped to uphold our mission of supporting the Naval Academy, the Brigade of Midshipmen and the entire alumni community,” said U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association & Foundation President and CEO Jeff Webb '95. “The Fluegel Alumni Center is a first-class facility, and we are eager to welcome alumni to their new home this fall.”

The center is designed to provide a premium venue for a wide range of alumni events, streamline and enhance Alumni Association & Foundation operations and provide an ideal space to celebrate alumni achievements—all of which help support the Naval Academy mission and strengthen the global alumni network. This facility will allow the Alumni Association & Foundation to better serve alumni and provide a centralized home when they return to Annapolis for reunions, governing board and volunteer leader events, activities on the Yard and sporting events.

Construction on the Fluegel Alumni Center is expected to be completed by June. In addition to reunions, it will host alumni gatherings and special events. Reservations for fall events will open later this year. The finished facility will include 4,000 square feet of exterior deck space, 2,000 square feet of lower-level bar/event space, two banquet facilities and on-site parking.

Thanks to the generosity of the alumni community, most of the project's construction costs were contributed prior to the razing of the site in November 2021. More than 3,500 alumni contributed to the new facility, including more than 1,200 plankowners and 37 classes also supported the alumni center to raise more than \$36 million in contributions to build, equip and operate the facility. Construction of the center was fully funded by philanthropic gifts.

The concept for the project dates back more than a decade. The initiative was codified in the *Naval Academy Strategic Plan 2020* and the Alumni Association & Foundation's strategic plan.

“The naming of this center is an exciting next step in the realization of more than a decade of effort,” said Admiral Robert J. Natter '67, USN (Ret.), who directed the project. “This is a shining example of our alumni community's shared vision to invest in itself and in our alma mater, that influenced us so greatly in what it means to serve and to lead.”

The Naval Academy Alumni Association, the Naval Academy Foundation and the Athletic and Scholarship Programs will consolidate from five buildings—on and off the Yard—into one location. The facility is designed to allow for multiple events concurrently, capable of supporting the

In November 2021, demolition of the greenhouse keepers quarters began alongside College Creek. Construction of the Fluegel Alumni Center began in early 2022. The new facility is scheduled to be complete by June.



Construction of the Fluegel Alumni Center continued during February. The 65,000-square-foot facility is scheduled to be complete in June. A legacy gift from Donna and Rick Fluegel '61 helped ensure the Naval Academy alumni community has a first-class home in Annapolis.



distinct missions and functions of the three organizations that comprise the Enterprise.

“Thanks to the generosity of Rick and Donna, the Alumni Association & Foundation will be able to host and support our alumni in a center worthy of their service to the nation,” said Admiral Mark Ferguson III ’78, USN (Ret.), chairman of the Board of Trustees for the Naval Academy Alumni Association. “We are very grateful our alumni community will have a home they can be proud of when they return to Annapolis.”

The Fluegel Alumni Center will allow staff to serve a larger number of alumni and other Association members as well as host a greater number of events throughout the year. A single, dedicated space for serving alumni will also produce clearer lines of communication between the Yard and alumni groups supporting midshipmen.

The Associations of Graduates at West Point and Air Force have found that an investment in facilities enhanced their programs and service to alumni with the James K. Herbert Alumni Center in June 1995 and Doolittle Hall in 1992, respectively. “The Fluegel Alumni Center will provide the Alumni Association & Foundation with modern amenities to support a growing alumni base inside an unparalleled venue,” said J. Ronald Terwilliger ’63, chairman of the Board of Directors for the Naval Academy Foundation.

Academy leaders, volunteer leaders and alumni groups will be able to access all Alumni Association & Foundation resources and staff at the Fluegel Alumni Center instead of coordinating meetings, agendas and staff among multiple locations. With a new facility, the Alumni Association & Foundation expects to double the capacity for visitors to the building and provide improved engagement and opportunities as an event venue.

For more updates on the Fluegel Alumni Center, visit www.usna.com where there are links to the project’s details and to a webcam that captures photos every 30 minutes to document construction progress. ⚓



This stairway in the Fluegel Alumni Center is modeled after the one in Bancroft Hall leading to Memorial Hall.



The entrance of the Fluegel Alumni Center.

PHOTOS BY SPENCER JONES