



The Jerry Van Voorhis Lecture Hall

Small School. Big Experience.



Named for Chatham Hall's distinguished former Rector, Jerry "Dutch" Van Voorhis, who led the School from 1981 to 1997, the new lecture hall now makes it possible for the entire Chatham Hall community and guests to gather on campus to hear lectures by some of the world's greatest leaders, thinkers and artists. The new \$3+ million, 3,788 square-foot lecture hall opened in march 2009 and was formally dedicated on April 18, 2009.

The school community and guests enter the building either through Yardley Hall or through an external terraced entrance from the academic courtyard. The lecture hall fits within an overall campus design that links buildings along a spine from the dining hall to the Well to classrooms and dormitories to the library. It also has features setting it apart from other structures on campus: a slanted roof and a wall of glass that infuses the room with natural light and affords guests views of the academic courtyard, the Whitner Fine Arts building, and, from an angle, the field that slopes towards the riding ring.

The light, airy interior shares a brick wall with Yardley, adding warmth to the room and a sense of connectedness to the rest of the campus. The hall has an attractive wood floor, a high-beamed ceiling, and a convertible stage approximately 24 feet wide and 9-13 feet deep that retracts for lectures and expand for larger purposes, such as choir performances.

The lecture hall has attractive stackable chairs for an audience of up to 320 people that can be removed or reduced in number for small theater productions or dance performances in the round, art openings and exhibitions, student dances, banquets, receptions and other special purposes. It has special lighting for the stage/lecture area, technology for presentations that require a movie screen, audio equipment, and movable panels for student, faculty, and guest exhibitions. The facility also has special window treatments will darken the room as needed.

