



Small School. Big Experience.

Capital Campaign Project: Renovation Yardley Dining Hall Completed September 2008



Built in 1963 and named for the Rev. Dr. William W. Yardley, Rector of Chatham Hall from 1949-71, Yardley Hall contains the dining room, kitchen, and serving areas on the first floor and dormitory space on the second. Over time, the dining room became notoriously noisy, preventing polite conversation—even during the formal “seated meals.” Simply put, Chatham Hall has, for several years, needed appropriate space to build a sense of community and enjoyment while dining. We have also needed a modern kitchen and a serving area that meets the needs and expectations of today’s students.

VMDO Architects in Charlottesville, Virginia created a \$2,115,000 plan to update and endow the dining room, kitchen and serving area. The serving and kitchen areas, which occupy 3,470 square feet, have been designed to bring together the functions of cooking and serving. The new serving area incorporates space previously occupied by a portion of the kitchen and houses beverage and yogurt machines, a salad bar, dessert table, deli and soup bar, and more. The kitchen has modern cooking equipment and is now air conditioned—a much needed improvement for Chatham Hall’s dedicated kitchen staff

The project included major electrical, plumbing and other infrastructure work, and the construction of a new 185-square-foot dish room with drop-off window access from the dining room. The new dish room provides one of several solutions to the problem of poor acoustics in the dining room.

The 2,800-square-foot dining room has received new window treatments (curtains will be added), carpeting, ceiling tiles, lighting, 24 tables and 220 chairs. Although all the choices in the dining room were made with the thought of improving communication, the new ceiling tiles have had the greatest impact upon the room’s acoustics.

Chatham Hall is grateful to the donors who funded this project. A plaque recognizing the project’s lead donors is on the wall near the entrance to the serving area. In addition, donors have placed honorary plaques on tables.

Donors may still contribute to the endowment portion of the Dining Hall Project by naming tables for themselves or loved ones. For gifts of \$10,000 or more, Chatham Hall will place a round, engraved brass plaque in the center of one of the 24 dining hall tables. As of fall 2009, approximately half the tables have received plaques.