Catholic University tradition meets modern design as Maloney Hall reopens as the new home for the Busch School of Business.

By Katie Bahr
When it came time to transform Maloney Hall into a new home for the Busch School of Business, a team of school administrators and stakeholders approached the work as they would any business project. They did their research — by visiting companies and business schools around the country — and they set a vision for what their finished product would achieve.

One of the main goals for the project, according to Bill Bowman, professor of entrepreneurship and emeritus dean, was to create an environment similar to the future business workplaces where students will find themselves.

“We took groups of people out to look at different corporations to see what their offices look like,” Bowman said.

The team — which included Brian Pilot, M.Arch. ’97, principal architect at Studios Architecture — also drew inspiration from Harvard Business School, where faculty members shared designs for tiered case study classrooms, in which professors can teach from the center of the room or walk around the room mirrors the curriculum of the Busch School, which examines modern country — and they set a vision for what their finished product would achieve.

The school needed a home, and we were excited to said Steve Means, a member of the Busch School’s Board of Visitors. “The school wasn’t going to flourish until it had its own space.”

DONORS STEVE AND MARYANNE MEANS

THE CHALLENGE OF RENOVATING

One of the challenges of renovating Maloney Hall, said Pilot, was making the most of the building’s long, narrow shape — in most places, only 42 feet wide. Thanks to glass walls, raised attic ceilings, and careful space-saving designs, the team managed to carve out nine light-filled classrooms, nearly 40 rooms where teams can meet for discussions or class projects.

School namesakes Tim and Steph Busch were the larger supporters of the renovation. “We especially liked the building,” Steph said. “To take something that has had a great history, enhance it, and use it for things that are needed today — that’s an important thing.”

“This renovation could invigorate a total renaissance for The Catholic University of America, which is such a great and important institution within the American Church,” said Tim, a member of the school’s Board of Visitors.

Michael Pakulik, acting dean and professor of ethics and social philosophy, said he was pleased with how Maloney Hall combines the traditions of Catholic University with modern technology and design. In this way, he says, the building mirrors the curriculum of the Busch School, which examines modern business ideas through the lens of Catholic intellectual tradition.

“Maloney Hall is distinctive because it is state-of-the-art, well designed, while combining the old and the new,” Pakulik said. “Our hope is that this building is going to contribute as much as a building can to our sense of community within the business school.”

Just days after the building opened to students in February, that sense of community was already apparent to senior finance major Michael Corado.

“It’s exciting to see all of my professors and classmates working together in one area,” Corado said. “This gives us an actual space in the business school to brainstorm and think.”

Junior marketing major Katie O’Neil was also excited to have Maloney Hall as her new study space.

“I just feel like in here, I can be with all of my friends,” she said. “There’s finally going to be a space where all of us studying business can work and focus in the same spaces instead of being spread out across campus.”

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This is reflected throughout the chapel’s design, which features original artwork commissioned by artists in Spain. Ten stained glass windows depict saints and holy people who serve as patrons for students and businessmen and women, including Catherine of Alexandria, Enrique Shaw, Pier Giorgio Frassati, Margaret Clitherow, Gregory the Great, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Thomas Aquinas, Katharine Drexel, and Maximilian Kolbe.

Other art features include an altar panel of Christ in Heaven surrounded by Pope Leo XIII, founder of Catholic University, and saints representing the four pillars of Catholic Social Doctrine: Matthew the Evangelist for the common good; John Paul II for solidarity; Teresa of Calcutta for human dignity; and Louis and Zélie Martin for subsidiarity. Just below the panel sits the chapel’s tabernacle: a one-of-a-kind scale model of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Pakaluk said he hopes the chapel will become an active place for prayer on campus. Already, members of the University community can attend daily Mass or spend time in quiet reflection. At the back of the chapel is a confessional and an office space for Father Maximilian, who can offer Confession and spiritual direction.

“We want our students and faculty to have that kind of unity of life where we don’t check our faith at the door when we go into a classroom, a laboratory, or an executive suite,” said Pakaluk. “Our faith should always be a reality.”

“I hope we will have a lot of people being in that space for prayer and meditation and quiet reflection,” said Father Louis Maximilian, O.F.M. Conv., associate chaplain for University faculty and staff, who processes out of the chapel every day before Mass.

“We want the students to start with an understanding of Christ and make sure they are keeping Christ in their life. Then we educate them on the science and practice of business,” said Larry Blanford, a member of the University Board of Trustees and the school’s Board of Visitors. The Blanfords made a lead gift toward the St. Michael Chapel. They said their investment was informed by their commitment to Catholic education.

DONORS LARRY AND LYNN BLANFORD
BUILT BY CARDINALS

Chris Saxton, B.S. 2009, has clear memories of what Maloney Hall used to look like. As a civil engineering major, he made a regular practice of cursing through the “dungeon-like” basement to avoid the rain while walking back and forth to Pangborn Hall. During his first year, Saxton took an Introduction to Chemistry course in the building’s auditorium.

“It was a massive room with no acoustics, so you couldn’t really hear anything well if you sat more than a few rows back,” he said.

As a student, Saxton could never have predicted the role he would one day play in modernizing and repurposing the now 101-year-old building. As a project manager for Whiting-Turner Construction, Saxton began working on Maloney Hall renovations in February 2017.

“It was important to have alumni helping to renovate this building prior to construction. Since then, he’s been leading the project to build a new pedestrian walkway outside of Pangborn Hall. Looking into the future, Saxton said he is proud of the work he has done to help transform the Catholic University campus.

“I can imagine what I’ll say to my future kids when I eventually take them to visit this area,” he said. “I can say I went here and also that I built that walkway. It’s kind of neat.”

Like Saxton, Hutton remembers the “dingy and dark” former life of Maloney Hall. She took chemistry and theology classes in the auditorium before the building closed in 2015.

“It was really old and a lot of the seats were broken,” she said. “I used to look up at the ceiling in the auditorium and think, ‘What a shame, this could be so beautiful’.”

Hutton said she felt especially grateful to work on the building’s chapel.

“Building a church has been a dream of hers since she first began her engineering studies.

“I’m definitely planning on coming back to go to Mass in the chapel,” she said.

Like Saxton, Hutton remembers the “dingy and dark” former life of Maloney Hall, the new home of the Busch School of Business.

It was a particularly moving night for Abela, first dean of the school when it was founded in 2013, who called the sleek new space a physical manifestation of everything Catholic University represents: “All that is good, all that is true, all that is beautiful, we celebrate and uphold here, and pass on to the next generation.”

In total, more than $30 million in philanthropic gifts were made toward the project.

The generous lead donors — many of whom serve on the school’s Board of Visitors — included Steve and Maryanne Meuse Dunn, B.S. 1990, and Kathleen McFarlane; Chris, B.A. 1986, and Meg Veno; Greg Patrick, Elias Patrick, M.S. 2016, and Maria Choppa; Peter and Ellen Eifelzine, both B.A. 1984; Larry and Lynn Blanford; Joe Della Ratta, B.A. 1953, and family, and Tim and Stéph Busch. They were each recognized by Carlini and presented with framed sketches of either the building or the spaces their gifts helped realize.

Carlini joked that he “crossed his way through a difficult chemistry class in 1982, sitting in the back of what is now the Della Ratta Auditorium, when the space looked nothing like it does now.

Members of the Catholic University family gathered on March 18 to honor donors who made a grand vision possible — the renovation of Maloney Hall, the new home of the Busch School of Business. The event took place hours after the Mass of Consecration for the St. Michael Chapel altar, which was celebrated by Arlington Bishop Michael Burbidge.
"It’s amazing to me that, within six years of the school’s founding, we secured more than $20 million in commitments to renovate this building," he said. "Now we’re here tonight, celebrating the opening of Maloney Hall as the school’s home. This is the first of what we hope will be many transformations of our academic spaces."

University President John Garvey also spoke about the importance of the project to the University and how committed the donors were to the building’s renovation.

"They shared our vision," Garvey said. "A vision of leading Catholic businessmen and businesswomen partnering with alumni to make this project—a business school that connects faith and finance—a reality."

Abela is grateful for the support of these successful entrepreneurs. "They came to us and said, ‘We really like what you’re doing, and want to support it,'" he said. "It wasn’t just a vote of confidence in terms of ‘We’re on the right direction,’ but a vote that came with real power to drive the school forward." Abela introduced the first of two videos shown during the evening, which explained the renovation of Maloney Hall into a modern business school. "All the pillars were covered in drywall," Abela recalled of touring the building when it was being considered for the home of the business school. "I tried to talk Andrew Abela out of it," Larry Blanford joked. "They shared our vision for the future and how philanthropy made all the difference in the renovation," Abela (far left) and Lynn (second from right) Blanford with staff member Beatriz Lopez and faculty members Mary M. Njai and Mario Enzler. Many members of the school’s faculty and staff also made gifts to support the project.

Taryn Watford, a senior finance major in the Busch School, also narrated a light-hearted slideshow featuring student reactions to the building. "[Students] are going to have some of the same tools that finance professionals working on Wall Street, or in London, or in Tokyo are using, in real time, and that’s invaluable," said Pete Forlenza, a member of the school’s Board of Visitors. The Forlenzas funded the Finance Lab providing Bloomberg terminals so students have a live connection to worldwide financial markets.

"Even before the renovation of Maloney Hall, we had a very strong connection with the University and with the school of business," said Greg Patrick. "Our son, Elias, had such a positive experience during his time at the Busch School, through his coursework, his academic accomplishments, and in his strong connection with that faculty. This is why we chose to name Team Room 311 in honor of Elias’ Master of Science in Accounting, Class of 2016."

DONORS GREG PATRICK, ELIAS PATRICK, M.S. 2016, AND MARLA CHEPPA

University Provost Andrew Abela addresses a crowd of University faculty, benefactors, and friends in the newly renovated Della Ratta Auditorium during a night of appreciation on March 18.