Commons: Where Bates Connects
Why Your Gifts Matter

A New Commons
An extraordinary project is under way at Bates. Beginning in the fall of 2006, we will break ground for a new dining Commons. This centrally located, welcoming facility will represent the best of the Commons we now love — conversation, dining, friendship and connection — but it will no longer be hamstrung by limited space, outmoded equipment, and costly inefficiencies. We are excited to embark on this venture, and we need your help to make the dream a reality.

The Context
Having completed the first facilities Master Plan in the College’s history, Bates now has a road map for future renewal and development. We know our priorities and have a vision for how all campus facilities will work together to create a vital 21st century Bates. Dining and residence life emerged in the planning process as our must-do-now projects.

Top Priority
The dining facilities in Chase Hall are outdated, inefficient and undersized to serve the Bates community today and in the future. The present Commons does not have enough seating, our staff works in cramped and badly designed space and food storage and freezer space is so small that we can order food for only one day at a time. Built in 1920, Chase has been added to numerous times, creating an untamed structure of eight different levels that is too difficult to renovate and maintain as a suitable Commons for Bates going forward.

We must be bold. Building our new Commons will be prudent and cost-effective. Completing it successfully as soon as possible will allow us to move on to other needs.

Location and Features
Sited next to Alumni Gym, across from Pettengill Hall and bordering Central Avenue, the new Commons will be a vibrant gathering place. Here are some of the building’s highlights:

- a dining area to accommodate 1,000 seats. Our first objective is to preserve the distinctive Bates experience of a single, central dining hall where students, faculty and staff can dine together;

- kitchen facilities designed for efficient preparation of the 4,800 meals Bates staff serves every day;

- larger cold and dry storage spaces to achieve increased savings by buying food in bulk;

- additional meeting space for student groups, faculty and staff — space that is in high demand but currently at a premium on campus;

- a market that opens early and closes late to provide snacks and supplies for students as they live and study;

- a spacious lobby and outdoor terrace that will provide opportunities for dining, informal exchanges among students, faculty and staff, and space for casual programming and receptions;

- a new Bates Walk that will strengthen the east-west connection on campus, linking Commons to the rest of our campus.
**Fund-raising Goals**

- Gifts from individuals: $20 million. The facility will cost approximately $35 million; the balance will be financed by borrowing through the state of Maine.

- Timeline: Fund raising completed by June 30, 2006; groundbreaking scheduled for fall 2006.

- Donors needed: An extraordinary gift of $12 million will name the building. Approximately 75 gifts ranging from $50,000, which will receive special recognition within the space, to $5 million, which will name the dining room.

- Representative naming opportunities:
  - The Building: $12 million
  - The Dining Room: $5 million
  - The Bates Walk: $2 million
  - The Terrace (outdoor dining and mingling space): $1.5 million
  - The Lobby: $1 million
  - Market: $750,000
  - Meeting Rooms (4): from $250,000 to $750,000

**Where You Come In**

Community is essential to Bates. We are at our best when we are learning, sharing ideas, creating friendships, debating, planning, training leaders, discovering shared interests and having fun. Throughout our history, those exchanges have often happened in Commons — a facility at the heart of so many good things Bates represents.

If you believe that a residential college needs a modern, well-functioning, comfortable place where students can connect, then our new Commons will inspire you. If you are a fan of Bates College and want to help us realize the promise of this pivotal project, then you, in return, will inspire Bates.

To learn more about *The Campaign for Bates*, go to [www.bates.edu/campaign](http://www.bates.edu/campaign) or contact:

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