The Old Crescent

Prepared for President Michael McRobbie by the Board of Aeons

April 16th, 2010
The Old Crescent as defined within our research

- Bryan Hall
- Franklin Hall
- Student Building
- Maxwell Hall
- Owen Hall
- Wylie Hall
- Kirkwood Hall
- Lindley Hall
- Dunn Woods
## Executive Summary

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This information is confidential and was prepared by the Board of Aeons solely for the use of President Michael McRobbie; it is not to be relied upon by any 3rd party without the Aeons prior consent.
The Old Crescent is the historic and academic core of the Bloomington campus. Because of its rich heritage and historical significance, the Old Crescent seeks to promote an atmosphere where students, faculty and administrators come together to engage in lively academic discussion and debate both inside and outside of the classroom. Traditionally the heart of the campus' vibrant intellectual culture, the Old Crescent strives to provide accessible outlets for students and student groups to pursue academic engagement not only during the school day but also after classes have ended. The Old Crescent serves as the nexus that links the past to the present, connects students to IU faculty, administrators and staff and serves as a place of convergence for intellectual engagement throughout the day and evening.
Disconnect between the current usage of the OC and its potential to serve as a nexus of intellectual engagement and campus activity...
The Old Crescent

Maxwell Hall
Owen Hall

Scope
Findings
Recommendations
Our findings reflect the administrations’ sentiment

1. Overview
2. Buildings & Facilities
3. Evening Hours
4. Outdoors
5. Dunn Woods
6. Food Services
Students do spend time on campus, however they are generally not in the Old Crescent.

How many hours do spend on campus on an average weekday?

- Less than 1 hour: 1%
- 1-4 hours: 15%
- 5-8 hours: 30%
- 9-12 hours: 16%
- 12+ hours: 38%

83% of students spend fewer than 2 hours in the Old Crescent weekly.

In an average week, how much time do you spend in the Old Crescent?

- 0 hours: 51%
- 1-2 hours: 12%
- 3-4 hours: 4%
- 5-6 hours: 2%
- 6+ hours: 12%

68% of students spend at least 5 hours on campus daily.
After 5 p.m., student engagement in the Old Crescent drastically reduces

Activities in the Old Crescent by Time

- Daytime (before 5 pm)
- Nighttime (after 5 pm)

68% overall decline in activity

124 responses
Student’s neutral satisfaction stems from their lack of interaction with the OC... It is in tarlies document.
Space in the Old Crescent does not reflect the universities’ mission of academics...potential?

% Of Old Crescent by Square Feet
(Excludes General Building Space)

- Academic: 45%
- Administration: 32%
- Student Support: 17%
- Student Oriented: 1%
- Construction: 5%

55% of usable space in the Old Crescent is not used for academics.
While it seems as if it supports students, students not really there......

Frequently Visited Buildings by Students

60% of students surveyed never visit the Old Crescent buildings

178 responses

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Computer labs in the Old Crescent are underutilized as compared to popular labs.

0.38 logins per computer per hour vs. 1.05 in popular computer labs.
At night, the state of student engagement in the Old Crescent

Only 21% of class space is being utilized for night course offerings

Students have a general perception that the Old Crescent is unsafe during the night.

Students feel they have no reason to be in the Old Crescent at night

• Possible quote from focus group
Furthermore, Old Crescent computer labs are nearly empty after 9 p.m.

**Number of Logins per Computer per Hour**

- **Old Crescent Average**: .08 logins per computer per hour vs.
- **Popular Labs Average**: .63 in popular computer labs

**Scope**

**3- Evening Hours**

**Recommendations**

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Transition from Nighttime/building to outdoors as a thoroughfare

I think that because a lot of the stuff is administrative, people walk through to get to classes but they don’t necessarily hang out there because they don’t have a reason to be there.

I only walk to class through here, I have no classes in these buildings, does anybody?

I’ve never had a club meeting in the Old Crescent
Students see the outdoors as a thoroughfare instead of an inviting space

VS.

Notice the past aeons!
Students find walking through Dunn Woods an extremely pleasant experience during the day...

Is walking through Dunn Woods a Pleasant Experience?

- Highly Pleasant: 51%
- Pleasant: 39%
- Neutral: 9%
- Not Pleasant: 2%
- Highly Unpleasant: -1%

90% of students believe Dunn Woods to be a pleasant experience.

I have no classes in those buildings. I sometimes walk through Dunn Woods and its very pretty.

100% of students indicated they feel safe during the day.
However, student sentiment is very different at night.

42% of students feel unsafe in Dunn Woods at night.

How safe do you feel walking through Dunn Woods at Night?

- Unsafe: 30%
- Very Unsafe: 12%
- Neutral: 24%
- Safe: 23%
- Very Safe: 11%
IU students prefer flexible, familiar spaces with food and technology

While Wells Library’s practicality makes it conducive to study...

“The library is just a good place to study and print off documents.”

...Spaces with a variety of functions and atmospheres have the greatest student appeal.

“The IMU has everything in it: food, shopping, couches and studying areas.

“Both of these places have quiet areas and areas with more people. This allows for study areas and areas to talk with friends.”
### Adaptability, comfort, and student engagement are most important for study spaces

#### Characteristics of an Evening Study Space, as Preferred by Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General</th>
<th>Practical Facilities</th>
<th>Atmosphere</th>
<th>Atmosphere-Cultivating Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indoor</td>
<td>Tables—some smaller for individual study, and others larger for group work</td>
<td>Quiet, but whisper-friendly; not as silent as the Law Library.</td>
<td>Comfortable Seating—e.g. overstuffed armchairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convenient distance from home</td>
<td>Technology—computers, printers, outlets</td>
<td>Informal, welcoming</td>
<td>Warm colors (e.g. taupe vs. white walls); less of a clean-cut, modern feel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Late</td>
<td>Snacks—full food options significantly less important</td>
<td>Active, but not noisy or overcrowded</td>
<td>Windows—providing natural light and rooting within the campus environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parking Availability</td>
<td>Safe, both within and in traveling to get there</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
Current Food Options in the Old Crescent do not fill students’ desires

![Bar chart showing student satisfaction with food options in the Old Crescent.](chart_image)

Student Satisfaction with Old Crescent Food Options

- **Quality of Food Options**
  - Extremely Satisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Neutral
  - Dissatisfied
  - Extremely Dissatisfied

- **Number of Food Options**
  - Extremely Satisfied
  - Satisfied
  - Neutral
  - Dissatisfied
  - Extremely Dissatisfied

### Scope
- **6- Food Services**

### Recommendations

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Student-faculty interaction is beneficial to student growth

• Studies show that successful student-faculty interactions can:
  • Boost students’ self-confidence in their academic skills
  • Stimulate intellectual curiosity
  • Deepen commitment to a university
• However, office hours are under-visited, in part due to student discomfort and intimidation
  • Interactions may be more successful on “neutral territory”
  • Oftentimes informal interactions are more impactful than formal, academic ones
IU Students appreciate informal student-faculty interaction

• 43% of students indicated they interact with faculty in their offices only

• However, students were enthusiastic about office hours in an informal setting

• Excluding the IMU Starbucks, many think the campus lacks this setting

“I hate going to their offices, because I feel like I’m interrupting their work.”

“If you get to know your professor on a more personal level, it can make classes more enjoyable and it can make learning easier, and it’s easier to contact them if you need extra resources.”
Faculty had mixed opinions on out-of-office interactions

• Potential Advantages
  • Central, convenient for both student and instructor
  • Sense of openness and informality
  • Proximity to food and drink

• Common Concerns
  • Issues of privacy if student wanted to discuss something sensitive
  • Non-productivity during travel and if students didn’t show up
  • Lack of access to appropriate technology, books, and other tools

“COULD MAYBE DO ONE HOUR THERE IF THERE WAS STUDENT DEMAND, BUT OTHER HOUR I’D LIKE IN SPACE THAT OFFERS MORE PRIVACY.”

“I HAVE OFTEN WANTED A DIFFERENT ENVIRONMENT FOR HAVING HELP AVAILABLE BEFORE EXAMS OR MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS... I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A COMBINATION OF TABLES AND COMFORTABLE SOFAS/CHAIRS. I WOULD LIKE A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE WHERE STUDENTS COULD ‘HANG OUT.’”
Wrapping up findings...

1. Overview
2. Buildings & Facilities
3. Evening Hours
4. Outdoors
5. Dunn Woods
6. Food Services
Students indicated that these would attract them to the Old Crescent

Which of these would attract you to the Old Crescent?
(Students could select more than one)

- An ampitheater: 20%
- A computer lab: 34%
- A food kiosk: 37%
- A small entertainment venue: 37%
- Outdoor seating: 42%
- A quiet study space: 49%
- A coffee shop: 56%
- Better lighting at night: 57%
- A restaurant: 58%

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Taking these suggestions, we seek to...

Promote both academic and social engagement during the day which in turn will cultivate a vibrant intellectual nightlife in the heart of campus....
#1: Expand upon the Master Plan

**Supporting Evidence**

- The historic core of the campus—does not properly reflect the university’s core missions of education and research. Conclusion drawn from Master Plan
- McRobbie’s University Address - The Old Crescent should be among the main academic centers on campus and a vibrant hub of student and academic life and activity, day and night
- Overall general findings suggest that current OC space is not being utilized the way students, faculty or administrators envision it could be

**Actionable Solutions**

- Utilize proposed Aeons mission statement as foundation moving forward
- Bring in more academic spaces
- Implement multipurpose use of current administrative buildings
#2: Implement a Hub in the Old Crescent for formal study spaces and student faculty interaction

**Supporting Evidence**

- 49% of respondents said that a quiet study place would attract them to the Old Crescent.
- Students value and benefit from out-of-office interaction with faculty, but feel there are few spaces for this on campus.
- Outside research supports development of “flexible spaces that encourage student engagement”

**Actionable Solutions**

- Look for a space where a Hub could be constructed while keeping in mind student space preferences highlighted in the report.
- Include a Starbucks type food service to counteract strong student dissatisfaction with food offerings in the Old Crescent.
- Encourage faculty to use this hub as a place for office hours.
“If you open that up...to some sort of a library atmosphere, where half of it’s group study, half of it’s individual study, you’ve got a computer lab, you’ve got a lounge area, and you’ve got a small coffee shop or something.” (Focus group)
#3: Construct informal gathering spaces inside and outside

**Supporting Evidence**

- “Improvisational experiences” between students and faculty, administrators, and other students enrich the learning experience
- “A Gradual familiarity with [a] place evolves into a sense of home territory”
- The Old Crescent is currently more a thoroughfare than a place to stay
- There is potential for “extending the lives” of areas of the Old Crescent that shut down at 5 p.m.
- 42% of students said outdoor seating would draw them to the Old Crescent

**Actionable Solutions**

- Create impromptu “eddies” in every building in the Old Crescent
- Create at least one intentional “eddy” in each building; potentially an extended-use facility
- Improve outdoor seating to facilitate interactions and individual use while pausing in the space
- Consider usage of Maxwell Courtyard as an outdoor satellite

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Satellites: “Something that makes it not just a place to go past on the way to Kirkwood.”

Slide 26

Tree bench

Pictures of eddys
#4: Evaluate current conditions of Dunn Woods & better management

Supporting Evidence

- The general population would like the woods to be more accessible and passable during the day
- Poor lighting and uneven pathways were consistently mentioned as areas of concern by both administrators, faculty and students
- 42% of these same students revealed concerns and felt unsafe at night with females comprising the majority of the group *
- Students would like to preserve the ‘natural’ elements
- HPS lamps, which are stationed in the Woods, impair peripheral vision

Actionable Solutions

- Encourage Old Crescent task force to reevaluate Trustee Policy on Dunn Woods
- Establish a central walkway with improved lighting.
- Improve maintenance of cobblestone paths
#5: Increase instruction of evening courses in the Old Crescent

**Supporting Evidence**

- Activity in the Old Crescent declines considerably after 5 p.m.
- There is an excess capacity of classrooms that are can be used to stimulate nighttime engagement
- A sizeable percentage of the student population is willing to take night classes (36%)

**Actionable Solutions**

- Work with the registrar to schedule evening courses in the Old Crescent.
- Encourage faculty to teach after 5 p.m.
#6: Market the Old Crescent

**Supporting Evidence**

- Many people not interacting with space/currently unaware of OC potential
- Currently hardly any scheduled events taking place in OC (see calendar data)
- Students are not as inclined to using the current computer labs aside from mandatory academic purposes *
- Spill over potential (General OC)

**Actionable Solutions**

- Work with Summer Orientation programs to have an event in the Old Crescent
- UITS should further promote underutilized computer labs in the Old Crescent
- Student Activities Office should promote the use of Old Crescent space for Student o
#7: Other

- Partner with Jacobs School of Music to showcase student talent
# Recommendations summary

<table>
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<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Ease of Implement</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Time Horizon</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Expand</strong> upon the Master Plan</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Implement a <strong>Hub &amp; Satellites</strong> strategy for student gathering spaces</td>
<td>○ (Medium)</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>● (Medium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Encourage &amp; Develop infrastructure/foundation supporting <strong>academic nightlife</strong></td>
<td>○ (Medium)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>● (Medium)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Evaluate current conditions of Dunn Woods &amp; better management</td>
<td>● (Medium)</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>● (Medium)</td>
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<td>5. Market the Old Crescent</td>
<td>○</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>○</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Other Recommendations</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

- ○ Easy, low cost, short term
- ● Medium
- ● Difficult, high cost, long term
Recommendations summary