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## **News Release**

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### **Student Union Renovation**

STILLWATER, Okla. – In the heart of campus is a prime location for students to enhance their academic knowledge by studying on the fourth floor or enjoying a cup of coffee from the newly-added Caribou Coffee. The Student Union is open at all times and plays a vital role within a college student's life by providing programs and services. For the past 60 years, the union has estimated about 1 million people walking through its doors, ranging from prospectors to retired faculty, and is proud to say it's the largest in the world covering 543,411 square feet.

The renovation cost the school about \$50 million. It is said to be completed by Dec. 20, 2011. The original Student Union was constructed in 1951 by then-President Henry Bennett. It initially cost about \$4.3 million and was funded by self-imposed tax and students of the university. Upon the grand opening, the director of the Student Union will be hosting a dedication ceremony at 5 p.m. for the creation of the building. The ceremony will emphasize the appreciation for Bennett. Tickets can be purchased at the Alumni Center or online for \$15 and all proceeds will go to a scholarship fund in Henry

Bennett's name. It's open to the media and any individual who wishes to attend. To stay involved with the renovation process, follow the Student Union on Twitter and Facebook.

The vision of the project is to revolutionize a historic building so it can meet the student's needs while upholding tradition and commitment to student achievement. The areas the Student Union renovation wishes to focus on are its aging infrastructure, enhancing student space, improving dining options and becoming a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, LEED. By focusing on LEED the building becomes certified and uses environmentally responsible materials by promoting the going green campaign.

"The renovation is a historic event for Oklahoma State University and is something that will be talked about for a long time. Students should feel excited to be witnessing it," said Burns Hargis, president at Oklahoma State University.

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