

**THE PROJECT**

DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY (DLM) was retained to develop a comprehensive campus plan for the University that addresses facility needs, both building and site, for the next fifteen years. Stetson University is a private, comprehensive, non-sectarian university consisting of individually strong undergraduate programs in various schools and colleges as well as graduate, professional, and continuing education programs located on four campuses in Florida. For over fifteen years, Stetson University has been ranked among the South's top four regional universities according to U.S. News & World Report. The DeLand campus, where Stetson established its first campus, is the focus of this campus plan.

**CHALLENGE**

The University needs to increase student attraction and retention and create a more vibrant campus. Academic and student life resources need to be improved in order to transform this campus into an exciting learning environment of the 21st century. Stetson University's original campus consists of 140 acres, much of which lacks cohesiveness in its organization. Once inside the main gate, pedestrian and vehicular circulation becomes unclear. Campus accesses and pedestrian walkways, along with parking availability, are lacking.

**SOLUTION**

The campus planning process was designed to be participatory and to gain consensus from the many University constituents. To improve Stetson's public image, the gateways to campus will be enhanced with new signage and landscaping. To support a pedestrian campus, major north-south and east-west walkways will be developed with improved circulation along with comprehensive landscaping of open space across campus. Two parking decks will be located on the perimeter of campus as well. The main entrance will be anchored with a new building for Admissions, Financial Aid, Registrar, and a Welcome Center to create a one-stop-shop for student services. The student center will be redesigned to enhance student life activities and a Student Success Center will be added. Athletic fields will be expanded. As the enrollment increases to 3,000 students, there will be improvements to academic and residential facilities. Sites have been identified for two academic buildings and two additional student residences. Several historic buildings, including the iconic Elizabeth Hall, will be renovated and restored. A performance hall will be constructed.

**RESULTS**

Three years after completing the Campus Plan, we were asked back to revise the plan since so much had been accomplished. We were asked again to update in 2017 and in 2020. The target of 3,000 students was reached and 30 new faculty members were hired. Stetson University has implemented the various initiatives of the Campus Plan: construction of an improved main entrance,



STETSON ILLUSTRATIVE CAMPUS PLAN



HOLLIS CENTER



ELIZABETH HALL

new pedestrian walkways with improved circulation, and comprehensive landscaping across campus. Additional housing was developed through property acquisition and renovation. The student center has been renovated and expanded. Two buildings were demolished one to make room for a new Welcome Center, the other for parking. A new Health Sciences building is being designed and integrated with the renovation of Sage Hall for the sciences. The Academic Success Center was relocated to an area in the renovated library.

**AWARD**

American School & University 2011 "Architectural Portfolio" award for Stetson University Comprehensive Campus Plan 2011 for out-

**PRINCIPAL IN-CHARGE**

Arthur J. Lidsky, AICP, FAAAS  
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**DOBER LIDSKY MATHEY**  
CREATING CAMPUS SOLUTIONS