Barbara and Darrell Piersol are no strangers to Texas State University. Darrell served on the faculty in the McCoy College of Business Administration and both he and Barbara are founding members of the Friends of Fine Arts and Communication. Barbara and Darrell are avid lovers of the arts and it shows through their financial support as well as their participation in university activities. Over the last 20 years, the Piersols have set up several scholarships in the College of Fine Arts and Communication to honor family members, including the Barbara L. Piersol Presidential Excellence Endowment in Dance and the John and Mona Piersol Presidential Scholarship for Band. According to Darrell and Barbara, “making a gift to the Performing Arts Center was the natural progression for us.” The College of Fine Arts & Communication is honored to have the Piersols as “Distinguished Benefactors” for the Performing Arts Center.
Topping Off Ceremony

On Tuesday, July 24th Hunt & Hunt construction company hosted the official Topping-Off Ceremony for the new Performing Arts Center. This event brought together for the first time the university administration, benefactor Patti Harrison, and the entire construction crew to participate in an age-old Scandinavian tradition. Part of the ceremony was to have everyone in attendance personally sign the steel beam before it was placed at the very top of the building. At the end of the ceremony, the steel beam was hoisted into place by the construction crane as workers and invited guests cheered.

Construction Update

• The Performing Arts Center is half-way completed. The project continues to be under budget and on schedule. Keeping the project under budget has allowed funding for enhancements in other areas of the building, such as upgrades to interior finishes.

• The new Performing Arts Center will be the University’s third building to seek the certification of L.E.E.D. Silver (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), which consists of a rating systems for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings, homes, and neighborhoods.

New MFA Degree Program in Theatre Approved

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently approved a new Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre and Dance. The new Performing Arts Center will support this much needed degree program by giving graduate students in theatre a state-of-the-art facility to create and showcase their work. The MFA degree is the highest degree awarded to a professional theatre artist.

To follow the construction, visit us online at performingartscenter.finearts.txstate.edu/

To make a donation to the Performing Arts Center, please visit ua.txstate.edu/uapillars/papillar.html