Yes, Teresa Hall and the Sacred Heart Chapel turned 100 this year, but they aren’t the only buildings on campus celebrating a milestone:

Happy 50th Birthday to the BAC!

Undated photo in the CSB Archives
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5
Auditorium in Teresa Hall (Main Building), second floor, 1913
A tally of the usual number of performances at St. Ben's in a year

- Two choral concerts each year with 130-voice chorus and 25-piece orchestra.
- Four choral concerts a year with piano, organ, and 60-voice chorus.
- Three orchestra concerts a year with 75-instrument orchestra.
- Two chamber orchestra concerts a year with 20 to 30 instruments.
- Six major organ recitals a year.
- Forty organ rehearsal sessions a year.
- Fifty assemblies a year: 10 motion picture, 5 music programs, 22 lectures, 5 panels, 5 miscellaneous.
- Three public performances of opera using stagehouse.
- Five public performances by touring Shakespearean company.
- Five religious services each year.
- Five recitals a year: piano, voice, cello, violin.
- One string quartet a year.
- One pageant with costumes and minimum scenery on "forestage" stage.

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/CSBArchives/id/5 Auditorium in Teresa Hall (Main Building), second floor, 1913
Mother Henrita Osendorf - “After 50 years...” Fundraising brochure in AC16.01.F05 Box 1
It's not that we think 50 years is old for a college building and we'd better have a new one! For Benedictines 50 years is young.

The point is that accommodations that were vast for the dozen students and three teachers who made up the college community in 1913-14 won't begin to hold the 1963-64 college community.

Thus, for the first time in our 105-year history we are organizing an appeal for funds. We know that our friends and the friends of Christian higher education will help us in this project which we cannot undertake alone.

Yours in Christ,

Mother Henrita, O.S.B.
Mother Henrita, O.S.B.
Prioress

Mother Henrita Osendorf - Fundraising brochure in AC16.01.F05 Box 1
October 8, 1960

Sister H. Sothe,
President
Dulcinea College
Mentor, Ohio

Dear Sister Sothe:

The College of Saint Benedict is planning a Fine Arts Center which will include an auditorium, music and speech, art and media. Have your college done something similar? Are you planning to make our trip between October 25 and November 1st? Would you recommend visiting any other campus in your area?

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten note:]

[Handwritten note:]

From AC16.01.F03 Box 1
Sister M. Rosita
President
Dominican College
Racine, Wisconsin

Dear Sister Rosita:

The College of Saint Benedict is planning a Fine Arts Center which will include an auditorium, drama and speech, art and music. Does your college have a Fine Arts building which would give our building committee some ideas for planning such a unit? Or perhaps you have developed one area which is very satisfactory. If you have one or more buildings, recently erected, would you permit our building committee to include your campus in a tour? We are planning to make our trip between October 28 and November 1.

Would you recommend visiting any other campus in your area? We shall be grateful for any help you can give us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sister M. Firmin, O.S.B.
Chairman of the Fine Arts Building Committee

From AC16.01.F03 Box 1
Sister M. Rosita  
President  
Dominican College  
Racine, Wisconsin  

Dear Sister Rosita:  

The College of Saint Benedict is planning a Fine Arts Center which will include an auditorium, drama and speech, art and music. Does your college have a Fine Arts building which would give our building committee some ideas for planning such a unit? Or perhaps you have developed one area which is very satisfactory. If you have one or more buildings, recently erected, would you permit our building committee to include your campus in a tour? We are planning to make our trip between October 28 and November 1.  

Would you recommend visiting any other campus in your area? We shall be grateful for any help you can give us.  

Thank you.  

Sincerely,  

Sister M. Firmin, O.S.B.  
Chairman of the Fine Arts Building Committee
There are many letters of regret in the file from colleges with *no* fine arts building in 1960:

Carleton  
Concordia Moorhead  
Macalester  
Mankato  
St. Kate’s  
St. Olaf  
St. Teresa’s, Winona  
St. Thomas

From AC16.01.F03 Box 1
From AC16.01.F03 Box 1; photos from the 1955 (Mary Pat’s) and 1960 *Facula*
From AC16.01.F03 Box 1; photos from the 1955 (Mary Pat’s) and 1960 *Facula*
BAC fundraising brochure in the CSB Archives
Russ Johnson letter to architect Green about acoustics

The auditorium design shown on your preliminary drawings is quite good in respect to acoustical requirements, although the roof is too low and the hall is a bit too wide. However, there is a danger that the acoustical "needs" will overshadow the other aspects of the hall design. We have found that building owners tend to forget they have good acoustics if other basic aspects of the hall are unsatisfactory.

It is very important to place most of the audience members so that they are "high" enough to see the activity on stage without body strain. Graphic analysis of sight lines (paper architecture) can be very misleading.
Early floor plan (on left) - AC 16.01.F05
Final floor plan (on right) from the Program for the blessing of the BAC, July 19, 1964.
Early floor plan (on left) - AC 16.01.F05
Final floor plan (on right) from the Program for the blessing of the BAC, July 19, 1964.
March 17, 1963 – Mother Henrita lays the cornerstone

http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/505
SBM.20a01 Mother Henrita Osendorf laying the cornerstone of the Fine Arts Building
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>General &amp; Special Cond.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ex. Grade - Site</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blacktopping</td>
<td>1,558</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sodding</td>
<td>800</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sodding</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Concrete - Reinforcing</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sodding</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Zinatle 8820”</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Paint window header</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Masonry</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Demolishing</td>
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<td>L.S.</td>
<td>729</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Toilet Part - U Screen Shower</td>
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<td>Louvers - Grills</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Hollow Metal</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Metal Winderi Entries Chased</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Roofing - Sheet Metal</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Carpentry</td>
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<td>Millwork</td>
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<td>Item Description</td>
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<tr>
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Note: The costs are from AC16.01.F03 (bid?).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical Construction</td>
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<td>Electrical Construction</td>
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<td>Stage Equipment &amp; Paint Frame</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,456,106</strong></td>
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<td>Miscellaneous Expenses</td>
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<td>Utilities to Buildings (for future buildings also)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Road Around Building (Seal Coat)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Architect's Fee</td>
<td>154,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$271,146</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Does not include moveable equipment other than some electronic units for music department.*
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/507
SBM.20a03 View of the exterior of the Benedicta Arts Center from the southeast
1972 photo from the CSB Archives
Photo from the CSB Archives
Late 1970s photo from the CSB Archives; the Loft/Academic Services Building on the left was built in 1974.
1970s (?) photo from the CSB Archives
Undated photo from the CSB Archives
Photo from a postcard in the CSB Archives
College Aims at Bid for ‘First’ In 51st Year

ST. JOSEPH, Minn. — The stage house and is also new $3 million dollar Benedicta, equipped with flexible riser Arts Center at the College of stage and electronic sound and St. Benedict will be blessed lighting controls. With three-Sunday by the Most Rev. Peter quarter round seating, the W. Bartholome, Bishop of St. Forum is designed for intimate Cloud. Combining facilities for staging of dramatic produc-art, music, speech and drama, tions and will be used for large the center has been in partial group meetings, lectures and use since last September, when symposia. The Forum will get the art section of the three-its first test on July 24, 25 and building complex was opened 26, when the college will pre-

The college has just com-sent the world premiere of a pleted its 50th academic year new play by Emmet Lavery.
The college has just completed its 50th academic year and in commenting on the new building Sister Mary Grell, O.S.B., president, said “St. Benedict’s is making a bold bid to become the finest women’s college in the state. Our new dormitories, which now house more than 400 women on campus, were the first step in a long range expansion and improvement program. In the near future plans will be completed and announced for additional academic facilities and related service accommodations.”

Right: Dedication Series Program, p. 2.
Left: Photo August 2011 by the archivist
Right: Dedication Series Program, p. 2.
"College Aims at Bid for ‘First’ in 51st Year."

Right photo from CSB Archives
Drawing from “After 50 years...” Fundraising brochure in AC16.01.F05 Box 1
http://cdm.csbsju.edu/cdm/ref/collection/SBM/id/510
SBM.20a04a Interior BAC: lobby at the forum entrance of BAC
Photos from the CSB Archives
“The completion of the Benedicta Arts Center in 1964 was to be a game changer for CSB. It represented the audacity with which the sisters saw their future.”

“Most importantly, it put onto the CSB campus a building that was better than any arts facility at SJU. Music and art students, especially, could feel enormous excitement about taking classes there.”

The skylight-covered courtyard later served as the workshop of Artist in Residence Joe O'Connell as he created his sculptures—here carving his final work, *Christ in the Desert*.

(See [http://www.csbsju.edu/csb-archives/joecollection](http://www.csbsju.edu/csb-archives/joecollection) for more about Joe.)

Photo in the Joe O'Connell Collection, CSB Archives
August 1970 photo from the CSB Archives
Photo from the CSB Archives
Photo from the CSB Archives
CSB graduation photo in the CSB Archives
A classroom in the BAC

Photo from the CSB Archives
The BAC Music Library’s listening stations, 1981

1981 photos from the CSB Archives
Program from the blessing of the BAC - July 19, 1964

BLESSING OF THE BENEDICTA ARTS CENTER

COLLEGE OF SAINT BENEDICT

SAINT JOSEPH, MINNESOTA

by The Most Reverend Peter W. Bartholome, D.D., Bishop of Saint Cloud

Sunday Afternoon, July 19, 1964

Two o’clock

PROGRAM

Procession from foyer of Saint Benedict’s High School starting at two o’clock.

Blessing of exterior and interior of Benedicta Arts Center in accordance with traditional Roman rite.

Address by His Excellency, Bishop Bartholome, in auditorium of Benedicta Arts Center, with introduction and welcome by Mother Henrika Osendorf, O.S.B., Prioress of Saint Benedict’s.

Reception, light refreshments and tours of The Center following the program. Refreshments will be served in lobby of the Forum.
ASSISTING PRIESTS

Right Reverend Monsignor Leo Keaveny, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools
Reverend Robert Schulzenberg, Assistant Diocesan Superintendent of Schools
Reverend Paul Zylla of St. Cloud, Master of Ceremonies
Reverend Walter Reger, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey, Deacon
Reverend Patrick Riley of St. Cloud, Subdeacon
Very Reverend John Eidenschink, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey
Reverend Colman J. Barry, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey
Reverend Vernon Miller, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey
Reverend Victor Kinzer of Pierz
Reverend David Rieder of St. Cloud
Reverend Gunther Rolfson, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey
Reverend Reinold Theisen, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey
Reverend Olaf Skjolsvik, O.S.B., St. John’s Abbey

IN ATTENDANCE: Right Reverend Abbot Baldwin Dworschak, O.S.B.
St. John’s Abbey

MUSIC

Choir under the direction of Sister Nathan Super, O.S.B.
Organ prelude and postlude by Sister Nathan Super, O.S.B.

Program from the blessing of the BAC, July 19, 1964
Dedication Series Program, p. 3
(In 1968, the orchestra changed its name to the Minnesota Orchestra.)
CSB Fine Arts Faculty listed in the 1962-64 *Bulletin/Catalog*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Department</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colman O’Connell OSB</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cecile Gertken OSB</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Cotone OSB</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firmin Escher OSB</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary K. Hendrickson</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacuelyn Dubay OSB</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johanna Becker OSB</td>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
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</table>
CSB Fine Arts Faculty listed in the 1964-66 Bulletin/Catalog

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<td>Johanna Becker OSB</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<td>Jocelyn Dubay OSB</td>
<td>Art and Education</td>
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<td>Clementine Ernst OSB</td>
<td>Art and Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>George Herman</td>
<td>Speech and Drama</td>
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<tr>
<td>Louise Lupien Jenkins</td>
<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maranatha Renner OSB</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Helen Juettnner OSB</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nathan Super OSB (Delores)</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Petters gives to BAC

By Kristen Nowak
Staff writer

A $3 million gift will allow CSB to renovate the Benedeschi Arts Center. The gift, the 50-year-old building will be renamed after a donation from Tim Petters.

Petters is chairman and CEO of The Petters Companies, Inc. and BoonEdam, Inc. He is president of BoonEdam, Inc. Petters was also recently appointed as a member of the CSB Board of Trustees.

Petters has always had an interest in the arts and is a tie to the college. It makes the gift very special," said Anna Thompson, the exec-

The first phase of the project will be to bring the BAC up to fire and accessibility codes. Elevators would then be available at either end of the facility, said Jen Friedrichs, who is the chief physical plans manager.

Because of the growing fine arts department, the BAC no longer provides adequate space. See GIFT, Page 2

Trustee donates $3 million to CSB

FROM GIFT PG. 1

Renovation plans include adding areas for rehearsals and storage.

The renovations will help. "The academic departments will really have the room to teach without being hindered by space limitations," Thompson said. "Being in a cramped environment or having to move equipment that takes away from instructional time (are) ... all things that impede teaching, so we hope it makes it easier and also help us attract more students."

Currently, the acting and dancing classes share what was built to be a dance studio. Part of the $3 million will be used to build a black box theater, which will be expensive and alleviate many of the space concerns. With more space, there would be more opportunity for students to be involved in things, said Kaarin Johnston, theater pro-

The academic departments will really have room to teach."

Anna Thompson
Director of fine arts

"I think it's a wonderful statement by Tim Petters and a wonderful way to honor his parents and ... to acknowledge the BAC and what we've given to the community," Thompson said.

"With the current state of the economy, it's real exciting to see a corporate leader like this step up to the plate and say we need to support St. Ben's and we need to support the arts, and to make a gift like this is really exciting."
After the Petters donation fell through, the auditorium was re-named to honor S. Firmin Escher, so instrumental in the BAC’s design and construction.

2011 photo by the archivist
What’s In a Name?  

Building photo by the archivist, 2011
Plans to renovate and expand the BAC began in 2003.

Planning materials in the CSB Archives, AC16.01.F05 Box 1
Planning materials in the CSB Archives, AC16.01.F05 Box 1
Groundbreaking – 2005 – CSB Archives photo
"Not only were the sisters taking care of us in the hospitals, they were feeding our souls, as well."

—Br. Robin Pierzina, OSB

Undated photo in the CSB Archives
Undated photo in the CSB Archives