

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well

Campus News Archive

Campus News, Newsletters, and Events

10-20-2006

David C. Johnson Independence Hall celebration

University Relations

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news

Recommended Citation

University Relations, "David C. Johnson Independence Hall celebration" (2006). *Campus News Archive*. 861.

https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/urel_news/861

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus News, Newsletters, and Events at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Campus News Archive by an authorized administrator of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
MORRIS

Contact

Melissa Weber, Director of Communications
Phone: 320-589-6414, weberm@morris.umn.edu

Jenna Ray, Editor/Writer
Phone: 320-589-6068, jrray@morris.umn.edu

David C. Johnson Independence Hall celebration

Summary: When David C. Johnson became the third chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris in 1990, his first home in Morris was a room in Independence Hall, traditionally a student residence hall on the campus. To honor the bond with students that was forged during Johnson's quarter-long stay at this first residence, UMM will rename the hall in Johnson's honor as David C. Johnson Independence Hall.

(October 20, 2006)-When David C. Johnson became the third chancellor of the University of Minnesota, Morris in 1990, his first home in Morris was a room in Independence Hall, traditionally a student residence hall on the campus. To honor the bond with students that was forged during Johnson's quarter-long stay at this first residence, UMM will rename the hall in Johnson's honor as David C. Johnson Independence Hall.

The public is invited to attend a renaming ceremony, which will be held at 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, in the Indy/Gay Lake area behind the hall. In the event of inclement weather, the event will be held in the Independence Hall main lounge.

Students who resided in the hall when Johnson did first proposed that the hall be named in his honor.

"My connection with Chancellor Dave goes back to my first year as a student on the UMM campus, 1996," recalled Gary Hedin. "I remember very clearly being approached by Dave while eating in the on-campus dining hall. He introduced himself and said that we shared something in common, as both of us hail from the northeastern portion of Minnesota."

Hedin, who was active in UMM's student government said that Johnson "was always willing to make time to meet with us to hear our concerns and helps us the best that he could or at least get us pointed in the right direction. Even if Dave disagreed about an issue he always showed respect for the students and sought fair compromise."

After spending four years at UMM and four at the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, Hedin said, "I have had the opportunity to interact with a number of University administrators but never felt quite the same connection as I did with Chancellor Dave."

Claude Sigmund, who worked as a Resident Assistant in Independence Hall during Johnson's stay, remembered being at first nervous, "kind of like being a teacher and having the superintendent watching you teach every day...then I met Dave."

Sigmund recalled Johnson sitting in the lounge in his pajamas and bathrobe with the students, standing in the lunch line at the resident dining service and sitting at a random table to talk with whatever students happened to be sitting there.

In addition to his legendary advocacy for students, Johnson was instrumental in securing legislative funding for UMM's state-of-the-art science facility and the Regional Fitness Center, a campus/community partnership. His ability to tell

UMM's story, to articulate its vision and mission, and to share his pride in the accomplishments of students, faculty, staff and alumni are his enduring and endearing legacies. He served UMM until his retirement in 1998.

"Those 12 or so weeks in Indy Hall impressed upon me the enormous impact which students' living arrangements have upon them -- the potluck roommate assignments and section mates likely become their dominant peer group for a year and perhaps throughout the Morris years. Some become lifelong friends," said Dave Johnson. "Successful residence halls are integrated with classrooms, not isolated from them. I hope that David C. Johnson Independence Hall will always be a place where intellectually curious students will thrive, that the sparkle of the freshmen I came to know in the fall of 1990 will repeat itself forever."

"Dave knew that to make the University successful he had to understand the University not only from the administrative point of view, but also from the point of view of the 19-year-old," added Sigmund. "And that he did."

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.