

Waterloo Region Record

New math building opens at UW; Math 3 facility full of windows, open space

Sat Oct 22 2011

Page: B1

Section: LOCAL

Byline: Jeff Hicks, Record staff

Illustrations: The University of Waterloo officially opened its Math 3 building - a \$23-million, 90,000-square-foot facility - on Friday. Lisa Malleck, Special to the Record

What would the late Ralph Stanton say about this sparkling four-storey fountainhead?

The curmudgeonly father of the mathematics faculty at the University of Waterloo would probably glance up at the shining stairwells of the new \$23-million Math 3 building, grab the lapels of his jacket on either side of his trademark pink necktie and pretend to scowl.

"Hmmpmph," said Ian Goulden, Waterloo's dean of math, doing his best Stanton impression after Friday's official opening ceremonies for the 90,000-square-foot facility.

"A waste of a lot of space in that atrium!"

Of course, Goulden prefers to call it a fantastic new space for Waterloo's 6,370 math students, 200 full-time professors and more than 500 courses in math, statistics and computer science.

The building, funded by the federal and provincial governments, is full of windows and open space for open minds. That's what Goulden, wearing the pink tie that has become the Stantonian symbol of the math department at Waterloo, finds cool.

"It's the light," Goulden said. "Every hallway ends in a light panel."

There is also a 392-seat lecture hall on the main floor.

"It's beautiful. It's wide but steep. Every seat feels close to the front," he said. "There'll be 5,000 students a day walking through this lobby using that classroom."

Tony Tang, 21, is one of them.

The fourth-year math student has a particular fondness for the finance lab on the second floor.

That's where six Bloomberg training terminals give students an inside edge in a competitive job market.

"That is cool," Tang said. "It's almost like a trading floor."

The first math building dates to 1967. The second, the Davis Centre, goes back to the 1980s and has what Goulden calls an "Eaton Centre look."

Two other new buildings, Engineering 6 and Environment 3, will soon open at the University of

Waterloo in the wake of Math 3.

Back in June, a giant pink tie hung from the new Math 3 building to celebrate convocation. Friday's official opening, with local politicians on hand, was a pink-tie affair. Only one problem. Tang wore a yellow-green tie. "I forgot about it," he said sheepishly.

"I got up at 8 a.m. this morning and I had to run to class!"

jhicks@therecord.com

© 2011 Torstar Corporation