The October dedication of UWM’s new Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex – known as the KIRC – officially christened a building that has been welcoming students in a number of disciplines since the start of the school year.

The building, located just off of Maryland Ave. north of Kenwood Blvd., is home to laboratories, classrooms, offices and meeting spaces for three academic disciplines: physics, chemistry and the Environmental Health Sciences doctoral program within the Zilber School of Public Health.

The KIRC is UWM’s first Eastside Campus academic construction project in 20 years, and the first interdisciplinary building. It was built with vibration controls that allow researchers to use hypersensitive instrumentation for the most accurate data.

“This is a landmark project for UWM,” said Chancellor Mark A. Mone. “It significantly advances our abilities in the areas of scientific creative collaboration, ingenious partnership and critical thinking through research and innovation.

The building will address advanced research and academics in science, technology, engineering, public health, and mathematics. It is also home to a number of research centers and collaborations, including the Milwaukee Institute for Drug Discovery and the Leonard Parker Center for Gravitation, Cosmology and Astrophysics.

Mark A. Mone, Ph.D., was officially installed as the ninth chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Oct. 2 during inauguration ceremonies at the Helene A. Zelazo Center on the UWM campus.

“The ritual of this Inauguration ceremony with all of its formality and pomp and circumstance might lead you to believe that it is about an individual. It is not. It is about the will of the people to induce positive change,” Mone said. “None of the life-changing examples showcased during the ceremony would have been possible without the energy and power of our people: Our students, faculty, staff, alumni, friends and partners. You comprise everything we do.”

After seven months as interim chancellor, Mone was named to the position permanently in late 2014 by the UW System Board of Regents. Prior to becoming interim chancellor, he had served as the Chancellor’s Designee for Strategic Planning and Campus Climate. In that role, he worked with senior campus leadership, governance groups and all stakeholders to develop UWM’s 2020 strategic plan and campus-level programs to improve the organizational climate.

A professor of business focused on executive education, organizational behavior and theory, he has been a member of the UWM faculty since 1989 and served more than 15 years as associate dean for executive education and business engagement. From that background, colleagues say, Mone brings a strong dedication to the UWM mission and community as well as a collaborative leadership style.

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Joe LeMire is UWM’s new Chief of University Police.

Before officially taking his UWM post in July, LeMire served as police chief at UW-Oshkosh since 2010. In that role, he helped develop one of the largest student security programs in the University of Wisconsin System and worked with the district attorney’s office to create a UW-Oshkosh Safety Zone to protect students in areas adjacent to campus.

LeMire also worked with UW-Oshkosh’s Student Affairs department to develop policing strategy and initiatives to benefit students, with his department adopting the theme “Building Relationships, Protecting Community.”

UWM’s police chief manages and oversees University Police, ensuring that essential law enforcement, security and emergency services operate effectively and efficiently. The chief also advises the campus on strategies to prevent crime and enhance safety and security.

The chief is responsible for establishing positive working relationships with members of the university community, visitors and neighbors and other law enforcement agencies throughout the region and UW System.

UWM and the Milwaukee Police Department used a collaborative approach to mitigating noise, nuisance and safety issues during the start of the fall semester.

Knowing the first part of the fall is often the busiest time of the year, UWM agreed to shift a larger portion of its $50,000 of grant money to the fall. MPD was given $35,000 by UWM to supplement overtime costs for addressing issues and concerns on the eastside in September and October, allowing MPD to put a greater focus on the first weeks of school.

But the efforts and collaborations actually began over the summer during all 16 New Student Orientation sessions. UWM’s 3500 incoming students and their families were a part of presentations by Dean of Students Dr. Tim Gordon and also viewed a video that included comments from an eastside neighbor and a representative from MPD.

The efforts to communicate with new students continued during Fall Welcome. All residence hall students were given information about off-campus behavior and safety during meetings with their resident assistant, and were invited to a number of programs and activities that address respect and responsibility.

Students living off-campus received information during the UNITE program in late August, which dropped off bags at 1,500 student residences. Off-campus students also receive a newsletter from the Neighborhood Housing Office and follow-up and assistance as needed from the NHO’s COAST leaders.

UWM also developed additional signage displayed throughout the residence halls and on-campus during the busiest times of the fall in an effort to find students of safety, security and respect messages. The signage encourages students to respect the neighborhoods and stresses the need to be aware and alert.

UWM also worked with MPD to develop information cards both MPD and UW-MPD could pass out when interacting with students off-campus. Magnets listing key phone numbers were also created and distributed during UNITE and other campus events.

The follow-up by UWM and MPD includes weekly meetings to discuss information in the neighborhood, sharing of citation and contact information between MPD and UWM and the collection of student IDs and/or filling out of incident cards by MPD as necessary. Those last two measures are in addition to any citations issued and allows UWM to quickly begin its own discipline process.
Mark A. Mone Inauguration

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In speaking to the regents at a June 2015 meeting at UWM, Mone spoke passionately about the university’s impact on southeastern Wisconsin. “UWM is the only public urban research university in Wisconsin, with a strong reputation for community engagement, economic revitalization and entrepreneurship. It is an economic driver in the Midwest, with an annual $1.5 billion impact in Wisconsin alone since 2012.”

In addition, he proudly noted that UWM continues to serve a unique mission in Wisconsin’s largest urban area – making a college education accessible for many first-generation and economically disadvantaged students. “We continue to offer incredible value for the dollar.”

“No one is better positioned to handle the challenges the university faces than Chancellor Mone,” said David Misky, president of the UWM Alumni Association Board of Trustees and assistant executive director of the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee. “He has incredible support within the university, but he also has a wonderful relationship with business. Both of these relationships will be incredibly useful.”

To emphasize the university’s continued strength in top-tier interdisciplinary research, UWM’s new Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex (KIRC) was also dedicated as part of inauguration day ceremonies.

“The new Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex is just one symbol of our progress and strength going forward,” Mone said. “We will continue to face challenges, but with the help of our faculty, staff, alumni and friends in the community, we will continue to meet them.”

Bublr Bikes Now At UWM

Bublr Bikes have officially arrived at UWM and on the eastside.

Six new Bublr bike stations opened on campus in October. Three of the stations are on the Kenwood campus, with additional stations at the Riverview, Cambridge Commons and Kenilworth residence halls.

Thanks to an investment of $300,000 by the UWM Student Association, all students are eligible to ride the bikes free for one year. Over the next five years, UWM students will receive a discounted yearly membership for $20.

The Bublr stations are also beneficial to UWM faculty and staff as well as those living on the eastside. Bublr now has 20 stations in Milwaukee, with single rides costing $3 for 30 minutes while a $15 monthly pass gets you unlimited 60-minute rides. All of the UWM stations are open to the public and memberships are good at all Milwaukee stations.

“We encourage UWM students to make good environmental choices every day, whether it’s by participating in community gardens, recycling or conserving energy,” UWM Sustainability Chief Kate Nelson said. “Their commitment to bringing Bublr to campus shows their willingness to invest in the Milwaukee community and demonstrates a great personal choice for a healthier, more sustainable lifestyle.”

For the first time in years, UWM played host to a Homecoming celebration Oct. 2-10. Events included the Panther Prowl and Family Weekend, which brought over 3,000 visitors to campus Oct. 10. The week also included the Alumni Association Awards, the inauguration of Chancellor Mark A. Mone and TedxUWMilwaukee.
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