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## Aiken Hall Gets a New Look!

By Corrado Paramithiotti



A. BLAKE GARDNER

### AIKEN HALL FACTS

- Designed by Edward Durrell Stone
- Originally opened in the fall of 1962 and accommodated 76 students in 38 double rooms
- Original cost of construction: \$357,862

### The 2009 Renovation:

- Includes the addition of a third floor
- Expands accommodations to 80 students
- Features expanded recreational, study and social gathering spaces
- Designed and built utilizing the five categories of the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™ established by the Green Building Council

When I joined the College in 1999, Frost Hall had just been renovated and there were plans to renovate Aiken Hall in the near future. I used to climb up into the cavernous attic space on top of each large residence hall and wonder if it was possible to transform them (from either an archery range or a model car raceway as in the old Windham College days) into modern living spaces.

It took nine years, but I wonder no more. In late November 2008, the Board of Trustees and the College administration boldly decided to tackle the long awaited Aiken renovation project. Architects and builders were mobilized with plans to launch the project during the spring break - at which time the existing roof would be removed and salvaged and the construction for the third floor living space would begin.

The criteria for the fast track project: transform the 1960's era residence hall into a modern and functional building with suite style living spaces and private or semi-private bathrooms; install new and efficient heating and conditioned air systems; install an elevator serving all floors, and create an up-to-date fitness room and lounge space for students. One small additional item: the building must be ready for occupancy by the end of the summer! Most projects of this scope require a minimum of one full year to complete.

Besides the daunting time challenge, we wanted to minimize disruption to the students who continued to live in Aiken Hall for the remainder of the 2009 academic year. There was disruption, noise, dust and all kinds of acts of Mother Nature. The students and their families were extremely understanding. The College attempted to address issues or concerns promptly, and kept all students and their families well informed of the progress, decisions and options to alleviate the disruption.

As the semester ended the true demolition and reconstruction work started. A recent carbon footprint study on campus provided impetus to integrate environmental building principles into the design and to implement energy savings measures within the building,

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Ribbon cutting participants (left to right) Frederick Lanctot-Leroy, President, Student Government Association, Maynard McLaughlin, President, Bread Loaf Corporation, Dr. Lynda J. Katz, President, Landmark College, Mr. Robert Munley, Member, Landmark College Board of Trustees



Aiken Hall continued from page 1


including the addition of solar hot water heating, addition of thermal insulation to all exterior walls, insulated windows, low v.o.c. carpets and paints, and low water consumption fixtures throughout. To address the needs of contemporary college students and create a distinctive living environment on campus, we integrated sound attenuation measures in all the interior walls, provided wireless access throughout the building, installed card-entry systems on the entrances, and chose very attractive carpet and paints. A large lounge area with HD screen monitor suitable for television viewing or digital presentations, a small catering /programming room, a laundry facility and a study room, complete the building amenities. A few rooms on the top floor will also have individual balconies providing views of the Connecticut River Valley.

The Aiken Hall renovation represents the cohesive efforts of architects, builders, and many stake holders from the College community, all working to produce a superior student residence that sets new standards for the residential experience and provides a possible model for the future renovation of other buildings on campus.

We are confident that this newly-renovated building will serve generations of students extraordinarily well as they work “to exceed their aspirations and to achieve their greatest potential.” We encourage you to visit our campus and see the results of our latest major capital project.



**SENATOR GEORGE DAVID AIKEN  
(1892-1984)**



Born in Dummerston, VT

Graduated from Brattleboro High School in 1909 while living in Putney

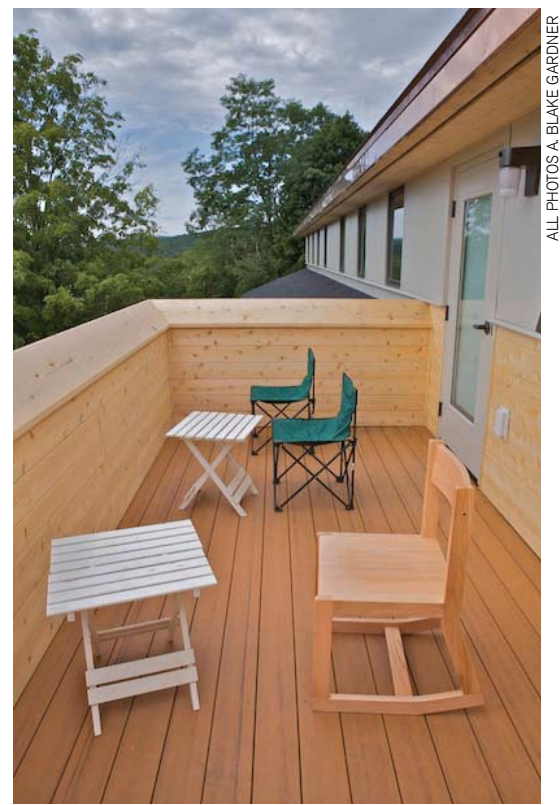
A Republican, he was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 1931 and served as Speaker of the House from 1933 to 1935

Served as Lieutenant Governor from 1935-1937

Elected Governor in 1936 and re-elected in 1938

Elected to the United States Senate in 1940 and served five terms, retiring in 1975

At the time of his retirement he was the most senior member of the Senate



ALL PHOTOS A. BLAKE GARDNER

“At a time when many colleges and businesses were forced to delay or even cancel building projects, Landmark took a bold step, a step that the Board of Trustees and I felt was vital for the future of the College.

I venture to say that of all the renovation projects undertaken in the fifteen years of my presidency, the renovation of Aiken Hall has been the most challenging. Not simply because of the time constraints we faced but also because our goal was to transform the building from one of a “dormitory style” environment to a building encompassing modern living suites to include private and semi-private baths, an elevator, solar hot water and energy efficient lighting, and amenities that are comparable to major colleges and universities nationwide.

But the real challenge was indeed the very brief period of time we had to make the transformation.

A project that normally might have taken over a year was completed in a mere three months. Not only was the renovation completed on time, but under budget as well...a true testament to coordinated team work.”

President Lynda J. Katz, Ph.D.  
Aiken Hall Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, September 1, 2009

