

Campanile

Restoration Underway

Work began last month to return the Coughlin Campanile to the glory it held when first built in 1929.

Advanced Masonary Restoration of St. Paul, Minnesota, was the successful bidder at \$502,407. The work is to be completed by mid-October with all but the brickwork on the base of the 167-foot structure to be completed by the September 22-23 Alumni Weekend and Beef Bowl.

Les Olive, senior architect at the SDSU physical plant, says care will be taken to ensure that the renovation matches the original work. The stone will be Indiana limestone, the color of the original mortar and lamp posts will be matched, and necessary replacements will be made to the glass in the brass lantern.

Olive estimates it has been twenty years since the Campanile was the target of a major maintenance project.

The harshness of South Dakota's weather left the monument in need of repair. "During the past decade, the deterioration of the structure has accelerated at an alarming rate," Alumni Association Director V.J. Smith wrote in a fundraising appeal. "Engineering studies have shown that the damage has tripled in the last eight years."

The fund drive, conducted from September 27, 1997, to December 31, 1998, was marked by its broad appeal, notes Amy Nelson, development officer at the SDSU Foundation.

Funding of more than \$560,000 was obtained from private donations by nearly 1,610 individuals and businesses.

"With this, lots and lots of alumni got involved. It's still the beacon home," Nelson says of the Campanile. "We had everyone from graduates from the 1920s to students still in school sponsor Campanile bricks."

Connie Goodwillie, whose father was one of the original builders, provided the lead gift of \$50,000. The most popular gift toward the 54,137 brick structure was the sponsorship of each individual brick for \$100 each.

"Fundraising efforts emphasized direct mail with some phone work, and a number of ads and stories, including a major story in *STATE magazine*," says Nelson.

Construction was initially expected to begin in 1999. "Costs for doing all the stonework was more than our project budget. To fit the project to the budget, plans were changed so there would be less stone replacement and more stone repair," Olive says.

While the work is going on, the Campanile chimes are silent and the structure is fenced off for safety reasons.

Olive says the project includes:

- Replacing the damaged limestone around the base of the building.
- Patching stones that have a small amount of damage.
- Recaulking and sealing all the joints between all the stones.
- Tuck-pointing brick near the top of the structure. This involves removing the soft mortar to a depth of 1 1/2 to two inches and replacing it with new mortar.
- Removing and restoring all the doors.
- Repairing and making all windows operable.
- Restoring to operation all the light fixtures around the perimeter of the building.
- Reroofing.
- Repairing the glass lantern at the top of the Campanile.
- Removing vegetation around the Campanile and sealing the foundation at a depth of three to four feet below the surface.
- Replacing the sidewalk that rings the structure.
- Repairing damaged plaster inside the Campanile.
- Repainting plaster wall, handrails, windows, railings, doors, door frames, and lamp posts.

