2017 may seem far away, but people across campus are already making plans for the celebration of the University’s 150th birthday! Have you thought about what you and your unit might want to do?

The Sesquicentennial Planning Committee met in the spring to discuss initial ideas, including the following:

- History of the University of Illinois Project
- History of Illinois Athletics Project
- Design Building
- Military Axis
- Distributed Museum
- Unit Participation
- Visual Elements
- In the Future

In the following issue of the Sesquicentennial newsletter, you will find updates on all of these initiatives.

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PROJECT

Did you know that whipped cream in a can was invented at the University of Illinois? This is just one of the many contributions to products that we use every day. In order to capture many of these inventions and ideas, we will produce a history of selected events and milestones for the University to be released in 2017.

The History Department has started work on the project, which will include stories behind a number of significant events throughout the history of our campus. Several faculty members in History will contribute chapters. Funding was provided for this project by the campus.

HISTORY OF ILLINOIS ATHLETICS PROJECT

The Department for Intercollegiate Athletics (DIA) is working on updating the history of Illinois athletics which will also be released during 2017. This volume will complement the University history project.

DESIGN BUILDING

We have amazing students from around the world, and they have lots of ideas that could change lives... but they don’t really have a place to get together and work on innovative projects and ideas. Many people across campus have talked about the value of a space that is dedicated to innovation and collaboration.

In August, former Chancellor Wise and Provost Adesida formed a planning committee to develop a concept and vision for a multidisciplinary design building in honor of the University’s Sesquicentennial. This committee met several times and delivered a report last fall with ideas on the goals and vision for the building.

Architects visited campus in the spring and have identified several potential locations for the building and are currently working on some design concepts. A funder who is excited...
to support innovation and design on campus has agreed to contribute significantly to the cost of the building. The building should be completed at some point during 2017.

**MILITARY AXIS**

We are fortunate to enjoy such a beautiful campus, but in 2017 it will be even prettier. A small group was convened to identify potential options for development of various areas across the campus. The group envisions landscaping that demonstrates the beauty of plant life indigenous to the area and an inviting space that everyone can enjoy.

**DISTRIBUTED MUSEUM**

A group of alumni and friends is working to create a distributed online museum that will feature several collections and other artifacts from across the campus. When complete, the distributed museum will serve as a resource for the campus and also demonstrate the significant breadth and depth of knowledge, expertise, and resources that exist on the campus.

**UNIT PARTICIPATION**

How could your unit celebrate 150 years of the University of Illinois? We want as many units to plan activities or events as possible... here are some ideas from units who have already agreed to participate.

The Alumni Association History and Traditions Committee has agreed to participate in the Sesquicentennial celebration. They will help us to ensure that important milestones are highlighted in various aspects of events and activities.

What would a celebration be without music and dancing? In honor of the University’s Sesquicentennial, the College of Fine and Applied Arts will develop a special performance integrating the talent from several departments.

**VISUAL ELEMENTS**

Yes, we will have visual elements to commemorate 150 years!

The Office of Public Engagement is currently working with Public Affairs to develop visual elements for the Sesquicentennial. These elements will be made available soon so that units can incorporate them in all letterhead, materials, and other items in preparation for and during the Sesquicentennial in 2017. Watch for more information coming soon!

**IN THE FUTURE...**

Everyone on campus will have an opportunity to participate in the Sesquicentennial, and we welcome your ideas and suggestions to commemorate this important milestone in our history!

Please watch for quarterly updates on the progress of plans for the Sesquicentennial. If you have ideas or suggestions, contact Pradeep Khanna at pkhanna@illinois.edu.