The weekend of Oct. 5-7 was a flurry of activity, and according to one guest, “a whirlwind of excellence.”

Following nearly 10 years of fundraising and planning, the George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service was dedicated in style with thousands of guests on hand for the celebration. In attendance were alumni, McGovern family members, students, faculty, staff, lawmakers, community members, trustees and 1972 McGovern supporters.

This edition of Wesleyan Today is your keepsake from the dedication. The next few pages include photos of the event as we saw it – from the nostalgic, stirring concert by the legendary Peter, Paul & Mary, to the reminiscent documentary, “One Bright Shining Moment: The Lost Summer of George McGovern.”

It was a historic weekend at DWU, one that will not be forgotten anytime soon by those who attended.

Keynote speaker former President Bill Clinton brought with him the need for heightened security on campus. (Inset, right) A police officer watches over the crowd from the roof of the library.

Photos by Kaleidoscope Photography
All of these words have been used to describe Peter, Paul & Mary, the folk singing trio who have been performing together for nearly 50 years. They came to the Corn Palace in Mitchell to perform for their friend George McGovern. Their concert for a crowd of about 2,800 was the first event of the weekend of festivities surrounding the dedication of the George and Eleanor McGovern Library and Center for Leadership and Public Service.

Singers Peter Yarrow, Noel “Paul” Stookey and Mary Travers proved that, while their appearance has changed a bit, their voices are still powerful. Audience members, ranging from 60-year-old former hippies to their teenaged grandchildren, were visibly moved as the group launched into classics like “Puff the Magic Dragon,” “Five Hundred Miles” and “Where Have All the Flowers Gone.”
McGovern Conference celebrates Leadership and service

Much like McGovern conferences of past years, the dedication celebration included a day of inspiring speakers and panelists. “Celebrating a Legacy of Leadership and Service” featured speeches by Catherine Bertini, former executive director of the World Food Programme, and Jeffrey D. Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and the UN Millennium Project.

There were several panel discussions, including “Leadership and Service: A Choice for a New Generation,” which featured three people under age 40 who have chosen to be involved in public service. The conference also included book discussions and book signings, and two of the sessions were broadcast live on South Dakota Public Radio.

Public Servants

Leadership and Service: A Choice for a New Generation panelists include Dusty Johnson, S.D. Public Utilities Commissioner; Paula Larson ’02, environmental specialist; Cooper Garnos ’91, S.D. state legislator; and Donald Simmons, director of the McGovern Center for Leadership and Public Service.

More dedication photos?

www.mcgoverncenter.org

Photos by University Relations
McGovern Library Dedication

FRIDAY

Special guests and donors to the McGovern Library project gathered in the library for a gala reception and the grand opening of the McGovern Legacy Museum.

This beautiful interactive museum brings to life the legacy of George and Eleanor McGovern, from their humble upbringing in rural South Dakota through the challenges of World War II and their work to revitalize South Dakota’s Democratic Party. Other exhibits feature George McGovern’s 1972 presidential campaign and his tireless work to eradicate world hunger. Throughout the museum there are video displays that tell the McGovers’ story through short films narrated by George McGovern.

The museum was designed by Splitrock Studios, St. Paul, Minn.

Contributors’ Dinner recognizes donors

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Mary and Wayne Puetz with Sen. Tom Daschle

Puetz Corporation served as the general contractor for the McGovern Library project.

Faculty members Dr. Jeanie O’Laughlin and Dr. Rocky Von Eye pause for a photo before their volunteer duty as dinner servers.

George McGovern; Al Neuharth, founder of USA Today; and Sander Vanocur, veteran of television news

DWU Board of Trustees Chairman Roger Musick

Photos by University Relations

Photo by Kaleidoscope Photography
Following the reception, guests moved to the Sherman Center for a banquet featuring former Sen. Bob Dole. Dole received the first McGovern Award for Leadership and Service and gave the evening’s keynote address. He received a bust of McGovern created by South Dakota sculptor Dale Lamphere.

Members of the McGovern Library National Steering Committee were recognized, as were members of the DWU Preparing the Way Campaign. Volunteers received prints of the official painting of the library by South Dakota artist Jon Crane.

Photos by University Relations
McGovern Library Dedication

SATURDAY

With an enormous American flag whipping in the South Dakota wind as a backdrop, the official dedication ceremony for the McGovern Library began.

At no other time in the university's history has such a distinguished group gathered on the campus lawn. In addition to George McGovern and former President Bill Clinton, speakers included Bishop Deborah Lieder Kiesey; DWU Board Chairman Roger Musick; Preparing the Way Campaign Chairman Jack Billion; DWU President Bob Duffett; USA Today founder Al Neuharth; former Sen. Tom Daschle; South Dakota's current congressional delegation, Rep. Stephanie Herseth, Sen. John Thune and Sen. Tim Johnson; and South Dakota Governor Mike Rounds. The master of ceremonies was longtime friend of the McGovers, TV news personality Sander Vanocur.

Oct. 7 • 11 a.m. • DWU Campus

The Dedication

Former President Bill Clinton addresses the crowd of more than 4,000 people.

Kory VanSickle of Kory and the Fireflies performs a free concert following the ceremony.

Photos by Kaleidoscope Photography and Inertia

If you would like to order souvenirs from the McGovern Library Dedication, go to www.mcgoverncenter.org and click on “McGovern Merchandise” to view the selection.
Due to failing health, Eleanor McGovern was unable to attend any of the weekend’s festivities, which made Vanocur's introduction of a flyover by a B-1 Bomber from Ellsworth Air Force Base, all the more poignant.

“In 2004 Ellsworth named this B-1 ‘Dakota Queen,’” he said, “to memorialize the first Dakota Queen, flown in combat by Sen. McGovern in World War II. Sen. McGovern called his B-24 ‘Dakota Queen’ in honor of his young wife, Eleanor.”

The day’s comments by all the speakers were decidedly apolitical, focusing not on what divides the aisles, but what the left and the right have in common. Several speakers talked about and quoted John Wesley, in addition to sharing memories of George and Eleanor McGovern, and honoring them for their lives of service and leadership.
Dear Greg,

I hope now you can breathe a sigh of relief. By all accounts, the McGovern Library Inaugural Weekend was a huge success and you did a tremendous job putting it all together.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of Senator McGovern and Eleanor’s special night on Friday. It meant a great deal to me.

God Bless America,

Bob Dole

Mr. Greg Christy
VP for Institutional Advancement
Dakota Wesleyan University
Mitchell, SD 57301

Lori: Thank you so much for your work and energy. You did a superb job. Everything went so smooth and because of your logistical planning and countless hours of work the McGovern Library was such a success. It was an honor. Thank you so much for all your work.

James P. McGovern

FEB. 10, 2006