STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—ONEONTA

CHARLES W. HUNT COLLEGE UNION
ONEONTA, N.Y.

SUBMITTED BY: Robb Ryan Q. Thibault, Director, Charles W. Hunt College Union
FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT ENROLLMENT: 5,500
FOUR-YEAR, PUBLIC INSTITUTION
OPENED: Sept. 2, 1972
REOPENED: Oct. 17, 2003
TOTAL AREA: 71,799 sq. ft.
AREA RENOVATED: 21,400 sq. ft.
ASSIGNABLE SPACE: 71 percent
COST OF PROJECT: $1,109,964
SOURCE OF FUNDING: 65 percent from government; 35 percent from auxiliary service revenue
ARCHITECT: David Smotrich & Partners LLP — New York City
FACILITIES ADDED: A theater, six office spaces, and a medium-sized event space

Despite infrastructure improvements made in the Hunt Union in its 30 years, as well as changes in the services provided, there was interest in a renovation. A committee of students, faculty, and staff was formed, and a consultant was hired to study the union. A phone survey of students was conducted to assess interest in services, and input from student groups and other organizations was sought throughout the project.

The addition of a 125-seat theater—which shows current films and offers an alternative space for classes and mid-sized events—and the scaling down of a small stage venue has created two spaces, where one space existed. Renovation of the historic "rathskeller," increased room capacity by 28 percent and added a fireplace, sound system, and lighting, transforming it to serve as a performance space. The relocation of student office space, commingled with the activity areas, has also raised awareness of Student Association functions.

Two of the most dramatic new features are the entrance on the lower level, which now includes a metal curvilinear ceiling and new lighting, and an expanded stairwell that creates an attractive, visual connection between levels.