

Preserving

T H E
P A S T

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL.

REGARDING ADMITTANCE.



1875

Enhancing

T H E
F U T U R E

W A Y N E
S T A T E
U N I V E R S I T Y

A N N U A L
R E P O R T
1 9 9 5 - 9 6



Wayne State University

Old Main Exterior

In 1994 Wayne State University temporarily closed Old Main – the building that for many symbolizes WSU – to perform extensive renovations. Almost every student at the university until that time had taken at least one class there and still has vivid memories of the impressive building. Now, in the same year as its 100th anniversary, Old Main holds its official reopening with a flurry of activities in April 1997. Throughout this annual report, we will feature the grand building that stands as a reminder of the history and of the promise of the city of Detroit.

"The history of Old Main is one of walls going up, walls going down, repairs here, repairs there, repairs everywhere. It is the story of people affected by renovations and relocations, people who studied, taught, dreamed, worked, ate and played in the building. It reflects the university's growth, development, struggles, triumphs and frustrations."

- from "Old Main Retrospective"

by Patricia Bartkowski, University Archives

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Many Wayne State University employees supplied information and data for this report.

1894

The Detroit Board of Education chooses the present site for Central High School (now called Old Main); groundbreaking begins on Dec. 13

1895



Cornerstone-laying ceremony for Central High School (Old Main) is held on May 13

1908

A large back wing is added to the high school for gymnasium, laboratories and shops



1917

The Detroit Junior College, Wayne State University's forerunner, holds its first classes at Central High School in the fall



1921

Construction work begins in March to add new biology labs and nearly double the size of the library



1925

Detroit Board of Education votes to transfer Central High School to a new building; the College of the City of Detroit (formerly the Detroit Junior College) holds first commencement



1934

The Colleges (now plural) of the City of Detroit becomes Wayne University; Old Main's obsolete tower clock is replaced by a No. 4 Telechron synchronous electrically driven clock; two 22-foot by 28-foot additions are added to the building

Regina Zibuck, chemistry, stands against a column in the newly renovated Old Main. She and six other faculty members received 1996 President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching.



1937

Workmen chip away the Central High School sign from the stone at Old Main's front entrance; a Wayne University sign is installed; a Warren Avenue wing is completed, creating an inner courtyard

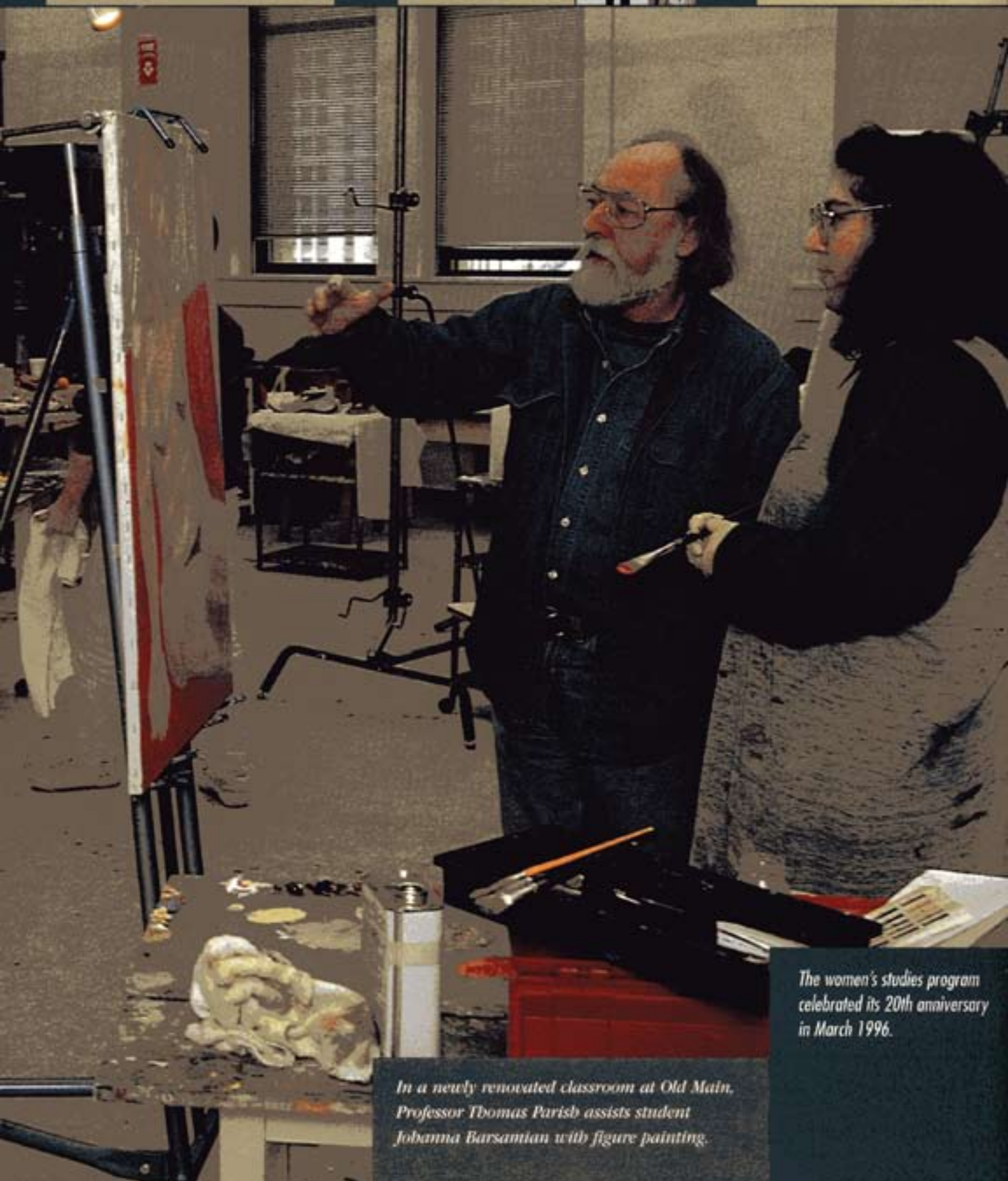
1961

A one-story structure is added to Old Main's southwest corner to house the College of Engineering



1972

Despite additions, Old Main cannot hold the growing number of students; the university begins buying more land north of the building



The women's studies program celebrated its 20th anniversary in March 1996.

In a newly renovated classroom at Old Main, Professor Thomas Parisb assists student Jobanna Barsantian with figure painting.



Howard Matthew, chemical engineering and materials science, received a 1996 NSF Faculty Early Career Development Award in July 1996. He and three students fabricated prototype blood vessels out of a substance derived from crab shells. He hopes to help develop replacements for damaged blood vessels found in patients with heart disease and arteriosclerosis.

1957

The Council of Deans officially rename the former high school, which had come to be known as the "main building," Old Main

1952

The College of Pharmacy returns to Old Main, after leaving in 1935, where it will be housed until 1965

1961



Old Main reverts to use as a classroom building after \$389,000 in renovations

Students in the Metropolitan Detroit Alliance for Minority Participation (MDAMP) program gather on an Old Main stairway. WSU is one of six universities taking part in MDAMP, which hopes to increase the number of minority students earning baccalaureate degrees in science, engineering and mathematics. MDAMP is a National Science Foundation-funded initiative.

1961
Further renovations provide Old Main with fire doors at each staircase and two automatic elevators



1973

Old Main's powerhouse, obsolete since the 1930s, is demolished



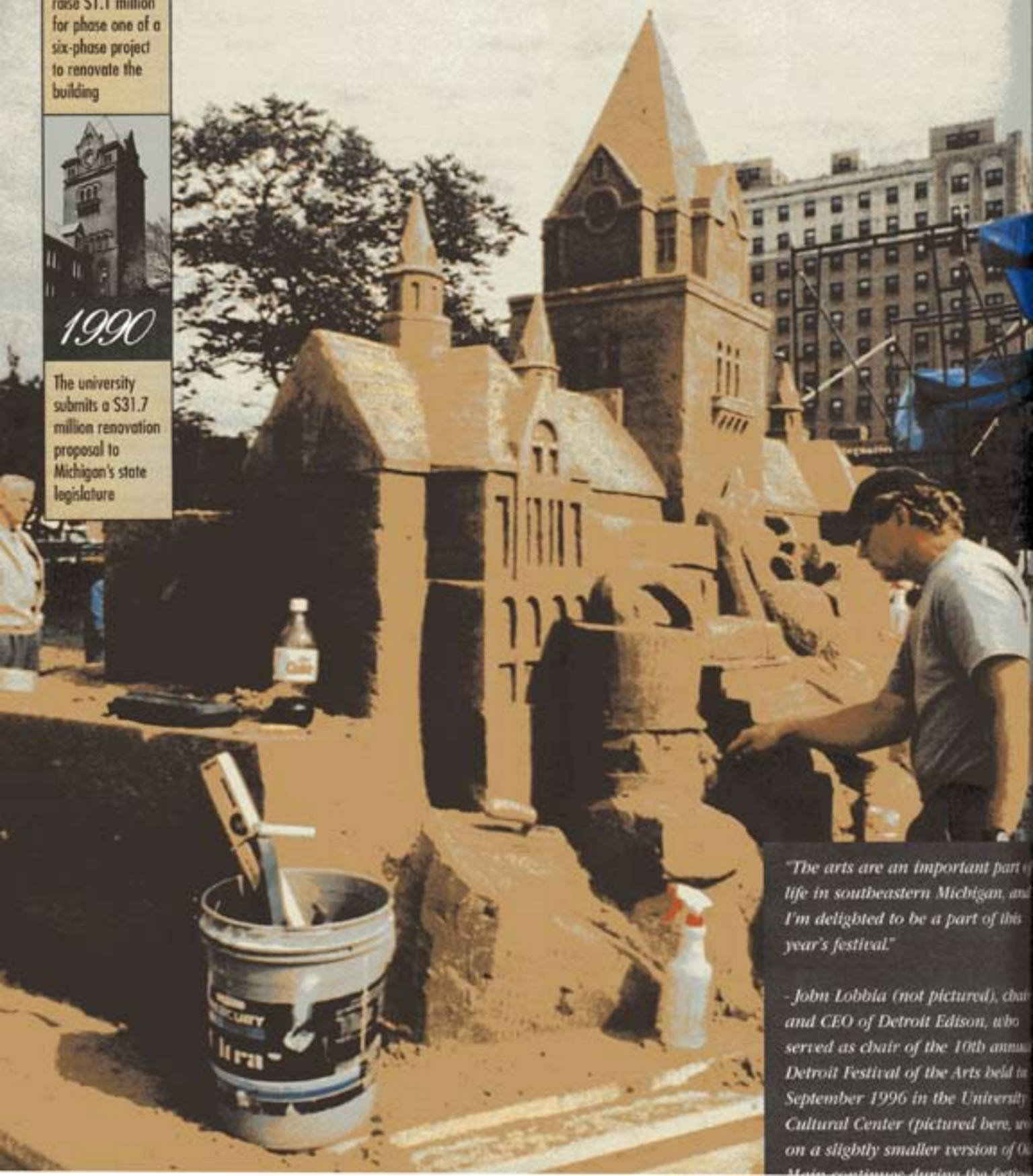
1985

The "Campaign for Old Main" is launched to help raise \$1.1 million for phase one of a six-phase project to renovate the building



1990

The university submits a \$31.7 million renovation proposal to Michigan's state legislature



"The arts are an important part of life in southeastern Michigan, and I'm delighted to be a part of this year's festival."

- John Lobbia (not pictured), chair and CEO of Detroit Edison, who served as chair of the 10th annual Detroit Festival of the Arts held in September 1996 in the University Cultural Center (pictured here, on a slightly smaller version of Old Main) during the festival.



1961



The state's 1994 capital outlay budget provides \$41.8 million for renovations; work begins with completion scheduled for 1997

1997



A 100-year old, completely renovated Old Main is unveiled

"Education is the key to happiness - I just wanted to help kids who needed a little boost and weren't going to get it anywhere else."

- Mary Kebri (liberal arts 1944; social work 1951) who with her husband and fellow alumnus Howard, created the Howard and Mary Kebri Endowed Scholarship for students in engineering and science at Wayne State (as quoted in the Aug. 28, 1996 Detroit News)