Key Features

Student Union Memorial Center

The preservation of the U.S.S. Arizona Bell is dedicated to the memory of the men who lost their lives on the battleship "Arizona" in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. It is one of the two original bells salvaged from the U.S.S. Arizona. In 1944, Wilbur L. "Bill" Bowers, UA alum, saved the bell from destruction and was instrumental in the University of Arizona's acquisition of the bell in 1946. The bell is rung on special occasions and seven times on the third Wednesday of every month at 12:07 pm to honor the achievements of the University of Arizona and its community.

In the SUMC Canyon there is a multi-story cylindrical drum, which represents the U.S.S. Arizona’s main gun turret. A water feature animates this grand space with the sound of falling water. Designed to be ecologically sensitive to its desert environment, the fountain’s pools will be subtly reminiscent of the waters covering the U.S.S. Arizona. Battleship anchor chains and rusting steel plates that abstract the pieces of the ship’s hull are incorporated in the design.

Water Feature

The U.S.S. Arizona Collection was started in 1950 with two photographs and has since grown to over 1,200 photographs, 900 documents and almost 100 three-dimensional objects. Photographs range in age and subject from the launching and christening of the U.S.S. Arizona in 1915, to the Memorial built astride the sunken battleship in 1962. The Student Union Memorial Center displays duplicates of many of the original photographs and several of the original objects in the U.S.S. Arizona Lounge.

The Alumni Heritage Lounge is the new home for the display of traditions and artifacts created by alumni. The lounge features treasured photographs of people who have been honored for outstanding service over the years. The lounge also showcases the University of Arizona’s traditions.

WWII Bas Reliefs

Located in the Rotunda are the four original bas-relief sculptures (representing each branch of the Armed Services) as first installed in the 1951 Memorial Student Union Building. The four reliefs are the seals of the Army, Navy, Marines and Army Air Corp (which is now known as the Air Force). The reliefs are a tribute to the UA Alumni who gave their lives for their country during World War II. There are also cast bronze memorial plaques listing the names of those who gave their lives in World War I and II, as well as in the Korean and Vietnam wars on the lower level of the Rotunda.

Art Collection

The Arizona Student Unions showcase a permanent art collection of over 500 unique pieces, on display throughout the SUMC.