



Dan Donnet

Lobby Now Valuable Study Space

Comfortable furnishings, new flooring, improved connectivity, and a wall of living plants transformed the Throckmorton Hall lobby into a popular study and meeting space.

“When I met with the department’s student advisory board about how to use fee resources, they suggested renovating the lobby,” said Candice Shoemaker, head of the Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources.

Shoemaker asked Cathie Lavis, associate professor of landscape management, to chair the lobby renovation committee; Jeff Skibins, assistant professor of recreation resources, to coordinate the electrical needs; and Kim Williams, professor of greenhouse management, to investigate putting in a green wall.

The committee worked closely with the university’s Division of Facilities,

especially Mark Taussig, associate director for campus planning and project management, and Tim Brunner, plant manager for the power plant and utilities.

“The new design of the lobby, as well as the installation of the green wall, have truly brought life to Throckmorton,” said Pallace Schnittker, Horticulture Club vice president. “As a horticulture student, I am excited to learn more about how the green wall operates and discover more about interior landscaping.”

Williams and Greg Davis, associate professor of landscape design, teach a new Interior Plantscaping course.

“We can now incorporate hands-on green wall design, installation, and maintenance into the class, Williams said. “This brings an important new dimension to the knowledge and experiences that we can impart to our

students as they prepare for careers in horticulture. Interior plantscaping is an exciting career avenue in horticulture with expanding opportunities.”

Ag Student Council representative Caitlynn McVey added, “I use the lobby more now that we have the green wall, just because it gives me the feel of being outdoors even when it is cold outside.”

Shoemaker said she is pleased with how the students are using and caring for the space.

“Before the renovation, the lobby was very dull and not of much use to the students,” said Tyler Lutz, Horticulture Club president. “Now, the space provides a better one-on-one situation for students to communicate and study. The Horticulture Club appreciates the change for our officer, advisor, and planning meetings. We try to keep this area in great shape so it will last for a very long time.”