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## Lawson, welcome to Purdue

By **Joey Marburger**

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Features Editor [Print View](#)

The computer science department is out of the cubicle and into the open.

With the opening of the new Richard and Patricia Lawson Computer Science building, the department decided to implement a new philosophy to encourage interaction. And of course, new high-end technology.

Tim Korb, assistant department head of computer science, said the building has much to offer.

"The building offers a lot more opportunities for education, interaction with faculty and other students, and research activities," said Korb. "As you notice when you walk through the building, there are a lot of open spaces for people to interact and meet and talk with one another with research activities."

The Lawson building offers four classrooms and five instructional labs along with a cafe called the Port and showers in a few bathrooms. The interaction-encouraged environment offers whiteboards and comfortable seating for students to get together and work on problems.

"We wanted to provide what the architects call magnet spaces that draw people out of their offices to communal spaces," said Korb.

But computer science, as a major, has taken a hit. After a dip in jobs, some students left the major. Now, however, Korb said the program is starting to "ramp up" and attract more students.

The program had about 1,000 students and then dropped to 500, but the program is on the rise and the demand for computer scientists is high, he said. With a new building, the computer science department hopes to attract more researchers and students.

One student, Jonathan Micklos, a junior in the College of Science, has been following the building's progress since day one. And on Sunday, the Association for Computing Machinery had its first meeting there, which thrilled Micklos, president of the association.

"My first impression of the Lawson building was that it was very, very centric around the study the building is for," said Micklos. "It screams out computer science."

Micklos said the design is contemporary without being too over the top, so he likes the look of it. And the magnet spaces are definitely working, he said.

"There is a lot of common area with very comfortable seating," said Micklos. "The main problem with the major up until recently was that many of our classes were spread between multiple different buildings and resources, but now we finally have a place we can all go to."

The Lawson building will be formally dedicated at 11 a.m. on Sept. 15. People can register for the event by visiting [www.cs.purdue.edu](http://www.cs.purdue.edu).



Pattie Quackenbush | Photo Editor

Students sit in the first floor common area at the new computer science building

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