

# New tower turns back clock

By Adam R. Bosch  
Times Herald-Record

A ceremony celebrating the installation of a new clock tower on the van den Berg Learning Center at SUNY New Paltz takes place at noon today as a crane lifts the new tower into place.

The installation of the \$495,000 tower is the culmination of the first phase of a two-phase, \$11 million restoration project.

The original clock tower, built in 1932, was destroyed by fire in 1990.

The modern replica, which stands 47 feet tall and weighs more than 13 tons, includes many features of the original, such as pilasters, columns, cornices and urns. There are five-foot diameter clock faces on all four sides of the tower.

"This tower is one of a kind," said Barry Autle, a representative of Campbellsville Industries Inc. in Kentucky, which built the tower. "There's not another one like this in the United States."

The re-emergence of the tower is also important to the college, said Eric Gullickson, spokesman for the college, because it will provide a face to The Tower Society. Created in 1993, The Society is a group of New Paltz alumni and friends who have included SUNY New Paltz in their estate plans through a bequest or



For the Times Herald-Record/JED EGAN

**Barry Autle of Campbellsville Industries attaches hands to a clock tower to be erected today at the van den Berg Learning Center at SUNY New Paltz.**

other planned gifts.

The van den Berg Learning Center is the second-oldest building on the campus and is home to the business school and nursing program. It's named after Lawrence H. van den Berg, the first president of the State Teacher's College at New Paltz.

The second phase of construction on the 75-year-old building will double the amount of classroom and lab space.

The college hopes that revamping the van den Berg Learning Center and crowning it with a new clock tower will revive a bit of history while laying groundwork for the future.

"We want to make people more aware and proud of our campus," Gullickson said. "We want to show them how committed we are to restoring the school and the community."