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The fall semester is under way with a record 3,650 resident students on campus this fall at Lindenwood University. The students returned to several campus improvements and new services, and much more on the horizon.

Most notably, the first classes are being held today in the Lindenwood Center, which is the palatial home of Lindenwood's School of Fine and Performing Arts and the studios of LUTV. The new building will be the performance venue for Lindenwood's theatre, music and dance programs in addition to a destination for a full range of touring professional performers, including the opening act, Liza Minnelli, who will perform two shows on Sept. 11 and 12.

Students will also notice redesigned, reconfigured and refurbished parking lots and drives around Roemer and Harmon halls, which allow for greater safety and ease of passage, as well as a 25 percent increase in the number of spaces in the Roemer lot and improved aesthetics.

Two new dorm buildings are also welcoming their first students this fall. Pfremmer Hall and an as yet unnamed residence hall were completed over the summer and are the seventh and eighth new residence halls constructed on campus since 2000.

Also starting this semester, students will have access to an on-campus health center, which is located in the Connection room of the Spellmann Center. The health center, which is open to students only, is operated in cooperation with SSM Healthcare and will be available for students with minor injuries and ailments.

In the coming weeks, students will see the beginning of a construction project at Harmon Hall, which will be refurbished and expanded in three phases and will become the new home of the Lindenwood School of Business and Entrepreneurship.

"We have looked forward all summer to the start of the fall semester," said Dr. James Evans, Lindenwood's president. "This semester is particularly exciting because of the new Lindenwood Center and the various other campus improvements. We are expecting another great year at Lindenwood."