Hathaway Brown School

"Ahuja Auditorium"

Hathaway Brown School was the recipient of a $1 million gift from two alumnae, Ritu Ahuja (HB '97) and Manisha Ahuja Sethi (HB '94). The sisters decided to direct the funds toward the renovation of the auditorium. They felt that it was the heart of the school, serving as the central spot for the entire HB family to gather.

Renamed, Ahuja Auditorium, the space underwent numerous design changes. In addition to lighting, electrical and sound upgrades, a new curtain was installed and all 400 seats were refurbished. A catwalk was added within the ceiling over the stage and audience sections.

The auditorium was officially dedicated in March at an intimate celebration with guests of honor, Manisha and Ritu. Joining them were their parents, Usha and Monte Ahuja, and Manisha's husband, Neil Sethi. Other invitees included members of the faculty, board of trustees and former classmates and friends of the young women.

Music was provided by senior Kaelyn Quinn playing the violin, and sophomore Serena Chang on piano. Dinner was catered by Giovanni's and was ceremoniously served on the stage of the rejuvenated auditorium. Head of School, Bill Christ, made opening remarks followed by a commemorative video tribute to Manisha and Ritu. The next day, the public dedication of Ahuja Auditorium featured a performing arts showcase by HB students of all ages.

Ritu Ahuja and Manisha Ahuja Sethi are the youngest major donors in the school’s history. Hathaway Brown School was founded in 1876. STORY BY CAROLINE R. MERK/PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT MULLER

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