CAISSON WORK COMPLETED

Atlantic Caisson has completed the installation of the designed caissons (photo 1). The last caisson was installed March 19, bringing the operations to a highly successful end. Thanks to the thorough geotechnical investigations, speedy work of the caisson contractor, and detailed management by the project team, there were no surprises during this process, and it was completed ahead of schedule!

Now that the caissons are installed, foundation work continues with the construction of the proposed grade beams (photo 2). A grade beam footing is a continuous reinforced-concrete member used to support loads with minimal bending. Grade beams are capable of spanning across non-load-bearing areas, and are commonly supported by soil or pilings. In this project, they are supported by caissons. The contractor will begin grade beam construction in the back corner of the site, and will then work toward the front.

H.T. Sweeney was busy during the first week of March installing the new waterproofing system for the 1928 building (photo 3). The upgraded waterproofing and the new rain collector system will prevent leaks through the foundation of the 1928 building and carry water away from Science Hall.

As exterior caisson work was winding down, Alliance Contractors was inside Science Hall getting started on demolition and abatement work. This

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Caisson Work Completed
- Demolition & Abatement Activity
- Electrical Infrastructure
- Central Plant Update

PROJECT CONTACTS

William W. Wood  
Vice President of  
Finance & Administration  
wwood@alb.edu  
610-921-7749

Kevin Gaffney  
Director of Facilities  
kgaffney@alb.edu  
484-955-5964

Ed Kappenstein  
Facilities Manager  
eekappenstein@alb.edu  
484-256-5902

Michael Huber  
Project Manager  
Huber@stonehousegroup.net  
484-951-9283

Photo 1: Atlantic Caisson installs caissons along Science Hall.  
Photo 2: The forming of grade beams on the west side of Science Hall.  
Photo 3: H.T. Sweeney exposing the 1928 building foundation to continue water-proofing operations.
work is limited to the previously vacated rooms of the Horn Wing. Demolition work began on the third floor and then progressed downward to the basement. Minor abatement work preceded this, and was concentrated on the existing fume hoods and lab benches. EA Engineering was on site during the abatement phase to monitor air quality and analyze dust and debris for contaminants (photo 4). Abatement activities for the first phase of the project were completed in March; however, demolition work and cleanup is ongoing.

Infrastructure work continues...

MBR spent the greater part of March installing raceways through the Bollman Center and pulling cable as part of the electric infrastructure upgrade (photo 5). The contractor pulled the cable through Bollman to Gene Shirk Stadium, and from the stadium to its destination adjacent to Food Services, including the associated electrical equipment, via the conduit system that was installed during the summer months. A meeting was held involving Albright, The Stone House Group, MBR, Met-Ed and the design engineers to discuss coordination for the electric changeover that will occur May 29 through May 31. It appears that the infrastructure will be fully in place and the gear energized by mid-April, thus optimizing the outage time to concentrate on the changeover.

Final central plant construction documents have been presented to Albright College. A meeting was held between Albright College, The Stone House Group, IMC and the design engineers to review the documents and discuss strategy. The documents will be issued to bid during the first week of April, with initial construction beginning as early as mid-to-late April.

Looking Ahead...

Grade beam construction will continue throughout the month of April, while demolition work and cleanup will still be progressing inside Science Hall. Infrastructure installation supporting the new addition, including underground sanitary utilities, will start up again by mid-April. MBR will complete the cable pull and then test and energize their equipment.

Looking Way Ahead...

As part of the electrical infrastructure phase of the project, there will be a campus-wide electrical outage beginning in the evening hours of Friday, May 29, and continuing through Sunday, May 31, to connect and power up the new service. Details will be made available as the plans are finalized.