Since our last update, the team has been hard at work constructing Sequence 2 of the structure, which is the eastern half of the new addition. Approximately two weeks ago, we reached a major milestone when we poured the last section of concrete to complete the concrete superstructure of the new building. A few days after the concrete was placed, the results of strength tests allowed the steel contractor to begin placing the steel roof structure for Sequence 2 (Photo 1 and 2). As you may have observed, the steel roof structure for Sequence 1 is just about complete. The roof system is expected to be completed in early May, creating a watertight building that will allow for the laboratory casework to be installed.

Mother Nature has been a bit kinder to the project by bringing warmer and dryer weather, so the waterproofing of the exterior of the building has been taking place (Photo 3). Not too far behind the waterproofing contractor is the stone mason, who is installing the stone veneer on the Science Center’s lower walls (Photo 4). Both trades need dry conditions and temperatures of at least 40 degrees for them to do their work.
Staying Outside…

Work on the east retaining wall began recently after the area was cleared of the concrete forms used to construct the building. Excavation of the keyway for the foundation of the retaining wall will be followed by construction of the entire foundation footing (Photo 5). Once the foundation is in place, the construction of the retaining wall, which will ultimately receive stone veneer matching that of the new Science Center, will begin. Of course, none of this would be possible without the underpinning operations that occurred leading up to the excavation for the footing. Because the retaining wall ties into the east foundation of the Science Center, this location had to be underpinned to provide the strength needed to support the added load of the 14-foot-high retaining wall.

Inside the Science Center, the trades continue to install the infrastructure that will support the building’s mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. The trunks of the HVAC system are being installed throughout the shaft space, and other duct work is being installed in the building. The electrician is finishing up the placement of the required raceways, while the plumbing contractor is installing pipe throughout the lower level of the building (Photo 6).

Central Plant Work Continues…

Work in the Campus Center continues as part of the Central Energy Plant project. The basement of the Campus Center has been the site of most of the work, which includes the installation of electric raceways, the removal/relocation of stored material, and the placing of housekeeping pads. A temporary wall was constructed in Jake’s Place to separate the construction side from the occupied side so that part of the ceiling can be removed. (The ceiling tile in this area needs to be removed temporarily so that piping may be run through this space and ultimately to the cooling towers that will be located adjacent to the loading dock.) The work inside Jake’s is expected to take approximately four weeks.

Looking Ahead…

Outside the building, construction of the roof system will continue. Waterproofing will be completed in a few weeks, and the mason will continue placing stone veneer around the building. Placement of the brick will follow. The east retaining wall will begin to take shape as the foundation is constructed. Work on the Central Plant will move quickly in an effort to keep the new Science Center on schedule for summer completion.