The final week of May was a busy one at Albright College. A major milestone in the works for more than a year was reached in the early morning hours of Sunday, May 31, when the upgraded electric service was activated on campus. The last three issues of this newsletter informed the community about this work due to the necessary electrical outages. The purpose of the outages, and the Campus Electric Service Upgrade project as a whole, was to eliminate the existing 4.8kV Met-Ed service to the campus and replace it with a new 13.2kV service. Thanks to the careful planning of Albright’s Facilities Department, MBR and the Project Team, and the coordinated efforts of Albright’s IT Department, College Relations and the Project Team, the mini-outages on May 27 and 29 and the campus-wide outage on May 30 were a great success!
As mentioned in Issue 8, the completion of caisson installation allowed for Donofrio Concrete to begin grade beam construction. The contractor completed the grade beam work early in May. That was followed by the site contractor’s backfilling operations around the grade beams. Soon after, Donofrio began forming the walls of the concrete superstructure atop the grade beams, beginning in the elevator corridor to the west shear walls and working toward the north side of the new addition. With the construction of the grade beams and walls, the new addition is really beginning to take shape!

Site work continues with H.T. Sweeney setting the sanitary structure in Palm Street. The contractor will then run the utility back to Science Hall. H.T. Sweeney has also been busy installing water lines and excavating the proposed service yard to grade.

Frazer Electric relocated major electrical equipment from the roof and penthouse of Science Hall on May 27, requiring the first of the three electric outages during the last week of May. Most of the equipment, including the emergency generator, was relocated outside the construction zone to a temporary electric yard south of Science Hall. The contractor also installed a series of conduit to bring the future electric service into the new building under the existing foundation.

Demolition work has been ongoing inside Science Hall. The contractors have been removing walls, floor slabs and stairs as part of the renovations to the 1965 building. IMC expects demolition activity for this phase to be completed by the end of June.

The project billboards have been installed! If you have not yet had an opportunity to do so, check them out at both locations—one adjacent to Sylvan Pond, the other at the intersection of Palm and Bern Streets.

The walls of the new addition will continue to be constructed. Floor slabs will begin to take shape with the stabilization of the sub-base and the pouring of concrete slabs. The installation of utilities will also continue around the construction site and out to Palm Street.

As a requirement of the electric service coordination, Met-Ed will upgrade the relays at their Spring Valley substation. This will be coordinated with the connection of service to Gene Shirk Stadium and the expanded basketball park. A small outage may be required to complete the coordinated efforts; however, it would affect only those buildings mentioned. Notification will be provided once the details are finalized.