WELCOME BACK!

It’s hard to believe that fall is here, but we are already into October, and Albright’s students have been back for more than a month. The construction team took advantage of the summer months when campus was relatively quiet to concentrate on infrastructure work, remaining demolition activities and, of course, constructing the actual building.

The Reading Area Water Authority completed the domestic water tap and two fire line taps along Palm Street. Once this was done, the project site contractor was able to install the three meter pits associated with the taps. The water lines leading up to the meter pits from the construction area had been installed earlier in anticipation of the completion of the meter pits and the Palm Street water taps.

To prepare for the service yard work, the temporary neutralization tank was relocated. H.T. Sweeney excavated the tank and installed the temporary system in the northeast corner of the 1965 addition to the building. The service yard is that area east of the new Science Center that will contain large underground infrastructure equipment such as a new 20,000-gallon oil tank and a new state-of-the-art neutralization tank. Above-ground equipment in the service yard will include the new emergency generator, two transformers supporting the new Science Center and Central Plant, and other required items.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Infrastructure
- Demolition
- Building Construction

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
ekappenstein@alb.edu
484-256-5902

Michael Huber
Project Manager
Huber@stonehousegroup.net
484-951-9283
The service yard will be bordered on the east and south by a retaining wall with a stone veneer that matches the new building. With the temporary neutralization tank out of the way, the contractor can excavate the service yard area to a workable grade and prepare to install the necessary infrastructure.

Over the past few weeks, the plumbing contractor installed a number of underground utilities before the west basement slabs were poured. The contractor first installed the plumbing, storm and sanitary utilities under the west basement floor. That was followed by the extension of the utilities on the north side of the building (photo 2).

Some major pieces of the electrical infrastructure were recently delivered to the site. The switchgear was received and set in the basement in mid-August. That was followed by smaller transformers and the setting of electric boxes throughout the building (photo 3).

The interior demolition work for this phase was completed when the interior basement walls and the second-floor walls were removed. The demolition contractor then removed the remaining pieces of equipment on the roof and the roof aggregate. A temporary roof membrane was then installed on the 1965 addition.

With Fall Here …

...the walls of the new Science Center continue to rise and rise. Construction of the walls began in June, starting on the west side of Science Hall. Once the walls of the basement level were formed and constructed, the new western basement-level slab on grade was poured, along with associated basement slabs in the renovated areas of the 1965 building (photo 4). Since then, exterior wall and floor deck construction has steadily progressed, and crews are set to finish constructing the western third floor in early October (photo 5). It is important to note the hard work that goes into each floor and wall pour on this project. As you can see from the pictures, there is an abundance of reinforcing steel and utility raceways within each slab and at several locations within the walls (photo 6). This work is extremely time-consuming, but the contractors have become quite efficient at installing these unseen pieces of the puzzle.

Thanks for Your Patience!

Since last November, our neighbors along Palm Street have been exposed to loud excavators, jack hammering, the beeping of backing construction equipment, dust, and a number of other inconveniences. As a small token of appreciation for their patience, the project team recently delivered car wash gift certificates to our neighbors at “ground zero.” We truly appreciate their patience and understanding during this exciting project.

Looking Ahead…

We are planning to install the large service yard items (the 20,000-gallon oil tank and the neutralization tank) within the next two months. Soon after, construction of the service yard retaining wall will begin.

Beginning in October, we are planning to construct the western half of the new building’s roof. We anticipate installing the last piece of structural steel in this section on Friday, November 20. A topping-off ceremony will mark this important milestone!