



East Elevation



North Elevation



West Elevation

# THE NEW ALBRIGHT COLLEGE SCIENCE CENTER

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE

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## CEREMONY MARKS MILESTONE

On Friday, Nov. 20, 2009, students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors of Albright College joined the Science Center construction team to celebrate the installation of the last piece of structural steel in the roof of the new building.

The ceremony began with remarks by Albright College President Lex O. McMillan III, Ph.D.; P. Sue Perrotty, who co-chaired the capital campaign for the Science Center; and other representatives of Albright College and the construction team (photo 1).

Everyone present was invited to sign the beam before it was hoisted to the top of the building in a traditional steel topping-off ceremony. The beam has been positioned so that visitors to the building will be able to see the signatures for years to come.

In keeping with tradition in the construction industry, an evergreen tree was positioned on the roof of the new addition to mark the topping-off milestone. The tree was adorned with lights throughout the Christmas season (photo 2).

## Outside work continues...

Work continues in the service yard, the area east of the new Science Center that will contain large underground infrastructure equipment, including a 20,000-gallon oil tank and a state-of-

the-art neutralization tank. Above-ground equipment will include the new emergency generator and two transformers supporting the new Science Center and Central Plant.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Steel Topping-off Ceremony
- Service Yard
- Building Construction
- Amphitheater
- RACP Grant

### PROJECT CONTACTS

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Photo 2



Photo 1: President Lex O. McMillan addresses the crowd at the topping-off ceremony.

Photo 2: An evergreen tree signifies a construction milestone.

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The transformer vaults that will house the Science Center and Central Plant transformers were installed late last year. Later, the neutralization tank was installed just north of the transformer vaults (photo 3). Once these pieces were in place, the oil tank was installed with the aid of significant shoring, which the deep excavation required (photo 4).

On Friday, Nov. 27, 2009, the boiler was temporarily shut down so that the steam lines feeding the building could be cut and

capped. Rainy weather before the outage made the work more difficult, but the crew was able to complete the task successfully and without incident. To help keep the temperature of the occupied sections of the Science Center at comfortable levels, a number of portable heaters and window units were placed throughout the building. The units, which help control individual room temperatures, are adjusted at the end of each work day to conserve energy.

## Looking Ahead...

Work on Sequence 2 will proceed quickly in an effort to make up for time lost during a recent cold spell and rainy weather. In conjunction with the work associated with the Science Center project, the Central Plant will be under construction. Initially, this will involve work inside the basement of the Campus Center, followed by the installation of exterior infrastructure.

## Sequence 2 begins...

The concrete walls and floors of the western half of the new building (Sequence 1) have been constructed, and the contractor has begun work on the eastern half of the addition, or Sequence 2. The basement walls are being formed, and the pouring of the basement slab on grade is imminent. Because the scope of Sequence 2 is much smaller than that of Sequence 1, this phase of the construction will take much less

time. Therefore, the shell of the building will really start to take shape!

Inside the building, the various trades have been busy installing integral pieces of infrastructure and equipment, including electric panels, duct work and bathroom plumbing. The western stair tower, just weeks from completion, will provide a cleaner separation between the occupied and under-construction sections of the building.

## Last but certainly not least...

The long-awaited design of the amphitheater, a late addition to the Science Center project, has been completed. The proposed amphitheater will be nestled along the bank between the new greenhouse and Sylvan Pond. More on this exciting part of the project to follow!

In fall 2008, the Science Center project was chosen to receive a \$5 million grant

under Pennsylvania's Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP). Recent contributions have increased that amount to \$6 million in RACP funds. Albright received the first RACP payment late last year. This was an important milestone, as that first payment usually takes the longest to receive.



Photo 3: The neutralization tank and transformer vaults have been installed.

Photo 4: Significant shoring allowed for the installation of the oil tank.