

## **J. Major capital projects underway in FY 2007**

Located on 370 acres on three sites, the University has 38 buildings that house television studios; science facilities and laboratories; computer graphics laboratories and art galleries; fine arts studios; a 900-seat theater; classrooms; an academic/administrative computer center; a gymnasium with a competition-size swimming pool; a library; an alumni house; an electronic financial trading room for academic instruction; and the Russ Berrie Institute for Professional Sales. Other facilities include a student center, multipurpose recreation center, newly renovated athletic fields with artificial turf, and campus residences for approximately 2,700 students.

Two new student residential buildings, High Mountain East and High Mountain West, housing an additional 372 students, opened in Fall 2006. They offer a community living environment focused on education, the individual and involvement in the community. These residences have suite-style rooms that give students more personal space and open to lounges for building community. The new residences have two state-of-the-art classrooms that bridge the academic and residential experiences. The learning communities featured in High Mountain West include an Honors Learning Community and a Health and Wellness Learning Community. The communities consist of groups of students who have an academic connection and who choose to live together in a specific area of a residence hall to expand their co-curricular experiences. It is the intention of the University to bring students together into a community where academic efforts are supported through the residential experience, and where experiences will be enhanced through shared engagements with peers, as well as staff.

The addition of the new residences is part of an overall housing master plan. The Residential Zone Master Plan proposes more pedestrian pathways, outdoor seating and centralized facilities serving residents in a pedestrian-friendly environment. The next phase will include refurbishment of rooms in the 1,000-bed Towers Complex, and the renovation of space for a student wellness center.

The new University Commons Complex was completed this past summer and opened for business in the Fall of 2007. The complex includes a renovation and 30,350 square-foot expansion of the John Victor Machuga Student Center, a 25,200 square-foot, 500-seat ballroom and meeting room addition to Wayne Hall and additional dining, offices and lounge space in Wayne Hall. The complex surrounds a newly landscaped central open space, and connects to a new principal entrance plaza to the campus. The plaza is part of an overall effort to “pedestrianize” the campus academic and residential areas creating vehicle-free zones.

A Nursing Patient Simulation Laboratory is under construction to be opened in early 2008. Funded by a generous donation from the Bolger Foundation, the lab will include patient examination rooms, a hematology lab and a patient simulation lab complete with a computer controlled robotic patient with programmable symptoms. The lab will be named the Nel Bolger R.N. Nursing Laboratory. William Paterson’s lab will be unique in that it will include a specialized communication infrastructure that monitors and records simulated clinical procedures for later analysis by students and faculty.