

J. Major capital projects underway in FY 2008

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 new student center, multipurpose recreation center, newly renovated athletic fields with artificial turf, and campus residences for approximately 2,700 students.

With great excitement the new University Commons Complex opened in the fall of 2007. The complex includes the renovation and 30,350-square-foot expansion of the Student Center; a 25,200-square-foot Ballroom that seats 500; and meeting room addition to Wayne Hall, and additional dining, offices and lounge space in Wayne Hall. The complex surrounds a newly renovated campus 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's academic and residential areas creating vehicle-free zones.

The state-of-the art Nel Bolger, R.N. Nursing Laboratory opened in early 2008. Funded entirely with donor support, the lab includes patient examination rooms, a hematology lab and a patient simulation lab complete with a computer-controlled robotic patient with programmable symptoms. The sessions with the simulation robot can be recorded and played back for students to review their work with their instructors.

The next step of the University's Master Plan Housing Zone development was completed during the past year with the refurbishment of the rooms in the 1,000-bed Overlook South and North residence halls (formerly the Towers Complex). The project includes space for the expanding services of the Counseling, Health and Wellness Center. In addition we have found that the newest student residential buildings, High Mountain East and High Mountain West, which opened two years ago, are quite popular among the 372 students who reside there. 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 from peers, as well as staff.

Implementation of the Master Plan also moved forward with the completion this summer of an additional landscaped pedestrian way including outdoor seating in the Raubinger Hunziker Plaza. Other completed projects include the upgrade of the fire alarm system in White Hall residence hall and the Valley Road intrusion alarm system connection to Public Safety. Paving repairs of campus parking lots and roads were completed over the summer, and a prototype window replacement project for historic Hobart Manor was also done over the summer.

Projects that were recently initiated include renovations for the upgrade of the Computer Server area in College Hall, and renovations for the Global Financial Resources Institute in the College of Business. The final phase of the Heating Decentralization project, which will take the remaining lower campus buildings off the central steam plant and heat them with energy efficient boilers, was also initiated over the summer.

The University's current major project is the renovation and expansion of the 155,000-square-foot Science Building. The Science Hall Addition and Renovation project will provide new and renovated instructional and research laboratories for the natural and social science departments with state-of-the-art technology for instruction and research. The project will be constructed in two phases; construction began on the new 74,000-square-foot science building addition in August 2008.