Welcome to BUILDING matters, a periodic publication of the Facilities Management Division (FMD) intended to provide construction activity updates on the changing face of the University of Saskatchewan Campus.

As stewards of the Campus, FMD’s mission is to provide world-class sustainable facilities in support of teaching, learning and research. We are continually striving to improve the infrastructure, operating procedures and services that keep things humming along. And while many might not notice what’s going on in the background, let me assure you, this is one busy place! Please take a moment to review BUILDING matters. We think it will provide some valuable insights into the knowledge, skills, hard work and vision that make this one of the greatest campuses in North America.

Looking about the Campus with the hustle and bustle of planning and construction activity I am reminded of a quotation from one of University of Saskatchewan President Peter MacKinnon’s Convocation addresses: “Dream noble dreams, and build well.”

As you’ll see from the photos and vignettes on the following pages, we’re transforming dreams into reality. We’re building futures.

– Paul Becker
Associate Vice-President, Facilities Management Division, University of Saskatchewan.

SPINKS ADDITION TO THORVALDSON • Thorvaldson Building, 110 Science Place

Moving through the plus-15 walkways between the Agriculture and Biology Buildings, gives one an elevated view of some of the construction activity on the new Spinks Addition to the Thorvaldson Building.

This is currently one of the larger expansion projects occurring on campus. It is a four storey building with 3,005 square metres (32,345 square feet) of new space being created. To maintain the prestigious look of the buildings on campus the exterior of the addition will be built to complement the Collegiate Gothic architecture of the 80-year-old Thorvaldson Building.

Named to honor the former University of Saskatchewan President (1959-74), Dr. John William Tranter Spinks, the addition will be the new home for Computer Science and Chemistry.

The project is currently in the foundation stage. This encompasses the concrete work that will eventually support the rest of the structure. This winter’s reduced snowfall and relatively milder conditions have benefited construction crews and target dates are being met for various components within the construction timeline.

The expansion project is scheduled for completion and occupancy by mid 2003.
This is another example of growth in the research areas driving expansion of campus buildings. This project will involve 1,569 square metres (16,900 square feet) on three floors. The expanded facility will mainly offer new laboratory space, but it will also include a new lecture theatre to allow VIDO the opportunity to hold conferences on various projects it is undertaking.

To facilitate the project proceeding in an efficient and team-based manner, a project management process is being used for the expansion. The construction is started with a general footprint of the building and progresses as contracts for the different materials and services are awarded. The architect, project manager and construction manager work with the client on all aspects of the expansion project. Construction began in March, 2002, and should be complete by May, 2003.
Veterinary Medicine Building, 52 Campus Drive

A Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) machine and cobalt radiation therapy unit for animals will play critical roles in the future of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM).

The College is being expanded to accommodate the high-tech equipment that will assist the faculty and students to better diagnose and treat sick animals brought to the clinical facility. The new addition will be 380 square metres (4,090 square feet), with the construction specifications being relatively unique. The solid concrete walls surrounding most of the oncology area are more than 1.8 metres (71 inches) thick. The roof is a similar thickness. When complete, this structure will house the new MRI equipment and cancer treatment unit and be able to contain the radiation produced.

The new equipment will greatly enhance WCVM’s focus on small animal care.

Construction on this vault is currently taking place and scheduled for completion in the Summer, 2002.

Chemical Engineering Addition
Engineering Building, 57 Campus Drive

Expansion of the Engineering Building is being undertaken to consolidate the engineering disciplines under the same roof. The chemical engineering discipline will be moved from its current location in the Thorvaldson Building to this new expansion on the east side of the Engineering Building.

The expansion is three floors and is adding 2,435 square metres (26,200 square feet) of office and laboratory space. Many of the lab spaces being created will be state of the art and provide specific facilities for many industry related research projects.

Construction on this facility has been phased to allow for a quicker project completion time. One contract was awarded in July, 2000, to allow construction of the exterior and floor spaces while the design was completed for the interior work. Last year a second contract was awarded to complete the construction on the building’s interior.

Work within the second contract is still under way and in the finishing work phase.

The new addition is scheduled to be ready for its new tenants in July, 2002.
Ground was broken in February of this year for the construction phase of the new College of Kinesiology Physical Activity Complex.

The construction site can be seen from College Drive. It’s one of the latest and largest of the new expansions taking place at the university.
As the Canadian Light Source Synchrotron continues to take shape on campus, so too does the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre, a renovation project within the Thorvaldson Building. The renovation of the lab space at the bottom of the stairs in the main entrance of Thorvaldson has begun. This project took a number of old chemistry labs and is converting the area into a modern lab area that will improve 1,270 square metres (13,700 square feet) of space for high end research.

The project is another phased contract in order to speed the delivery of the facility to the end user. The first contract was for the demolition of the labs and excavation of the area to allow for the new infrastructure required. This work has been completed. Work within the scope of the second phase is progressing. The space being renovated is in the basement of the 1966 wing in the northeast tower. It involves the construction of new labs geared to users’ criteria.

The 80-year-old Thorvaldson Building is one of the distinctive “signature” buildings on campus. Great care is being taken to ensure that all renovation work is taking place without damaging the exterior of the building. It is important that the heritage of the building can be maintained for future generations.

Word of warning! If you plan to visit the new labs when they are in operation be sure to leave your wallet at home. Some of the new equipment in this area will erase all the magnetic information from your credit cards and ATM cards if you get close enough.

This is the project that many on campus have been waiting for since the old building was condemned and demolished several years ago. The new building will be three floors and will add approximately 7,435 square metres (80,050 square feet) of new office, lab and exercise area for Physical Education and all of campus to use. Also included as part of this project is a renovation of the portion of the Phys Ed Building that is still currently being used.

The contract for building construction has just been awarded and work has begun.

The project is scheduled to be completed for the 2003 Fall Term.
Expansion of the Natural Sciences Library in the Geology Building has resulted in increased study and research space in a fully modern facility.

The main thrust of this project was to add two new floors into the interior of the existing library in order to expand the floor space by 700 square metres. The additional space has been used to increase the holdings of the library and also absorb some holdings from the Thorvaldson Library. The new library houses collections of Geological Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, and Pharmacy and Nutrition. The renovation also opened up the appearance of the area.

Construction of this additional floor space was a challenge as the access to the work areas was quite limited and the work was taking place in a functioning building. To avoid any damage to books and other research materials it was necessary to move everything to a new location for the duration of the construction project.

The project began in April, 2001, with most of the work taking place over the summer months. Key deadlines included renovation work to the Geology Diner to ensure it was open for the Fall Term. As well, it was important to ensure there was enough time immediately following the project for all of the holdings to be moved in before the start of the January 2002, semester.

The project was completed in November, 2001, with the Geology Library now operating in its new digs.

This project is still in the planning phase but has been generating a lot of interest in the community. The plan centres on a 400 bed apartment - like complex to provide spaces for senior students and researchers associated with the Canadian Light Source’s (CLS) Synchrotron. The completed project might also provide additional space for another department on campus to relocate.

Even though the project is still in the preliminary planning stages, it’s yet another potential spin-off project from the CLS. It will also be a welcome addition to the campus in order to release some of the pressure for office and residence spaces on campus.

The next level of review will examine the capital required, long term operating expenses, program approval and selection of a consultant to continue the design.

One of the most notable buildings on campus will be undergoing a major renovation in the near future. The College Building is one of the original buildings on campus and has been designated a Heritage Site by the Province of Saskatchewan and a National Historic Site.

Unfortunately the building has not been in use for several years as the main structure of the building has deteriorated and is in need of repair. Currently, some preliminary design is being done for the structural repairs, cleanup of the interior and selective demolition that will hopefully begin in the near future.

The project is still seeking funding in order to complete the work on the building’s interior once structural repairs have been completed.

When the building’s space has been renovated several cultural functions could be served by the space.
CHEMISTRY RENOVATIONS
Engineering Building, 57 Campus drive

This is an associated project from the addition of the Chemical Engineering Wing to the Engineering Building. After the Chemical Engineering Department moves to occupy its new space the facilities being vacated will be reworked to allow the Chemistry Department to occupy the space.

The design of this area has only just begun. Renovation work is scheduled to begin in Spring 2003, and the work should be completed in Summer 2004.

COMPUTER SCIENCE PROJECT
Thorvaldson Building, 110 Science Place

In a plan to more centralize the Computer Science Department, a large renovation to the interior of the Thorvaldson Building has been undertaken. When complete the renovations will create 1,855 square metres (20,000 square feet) of newly renovated space to accommodate new computer labs being added to the department.

There will be several projects taking place during the next two years in order to complete all of these renovations. The projects will be of various sizes and will be sequenced so that the users will be able to consolidate their space as the newly renovated rooms are completed. All of this work will be taking place in a functioning building as classes and research will continue without interruption.
A Core Area Master Plan is currently being prepared for the University of Saskatchewan to respond to the need for a coordinated, cohesive approach to development on campus. The plan, being put together by the Toronto firm of Brook McIlroy Planning and Urban Design, is set to be formally presented to the University in June, 2002.

It will establish the physical planning framework for growth of new areas and enhancement of existing areas of the University of Saskatchewan Campus guided by the University’s strategic goals and mission and based on an evaluation of issues including, but not restricted to:

• Space needs
• Sustainable development
• Way-finding
• Facilities operations and maintenance
• Funding

• Building and landscape design
• Traffic and parking
• Utilities
• Phasing
• The management of campus projects.

The need for the plan is a reflection of present needs and the evolving strategic goals of the University as defined by various strategic policy initiatives contained in the University Mission Statement, the University of Saskatchewan Objectives, Framework for Planning document and the current initiatives of the Enrolment Plan. Additional campus opportunities will be identified through an extensive University and Saskatoon-wide consultation process.

This Master Plan process is referred to as the Core Area Master Plan at University of Saskatchewan and the CAMP@US acronym. This process will establish a planning framework and design principles for both existing and expansion areas of the core area of the campus. These initiatives build upon the high standards of quality evident in the existing campus.

The vision for the campus will place equal weight on the quality of outdoor spaces as it does on its buildings, creating a safe and active campus that reflects an image befitting the University.

The Master Plan Interim Report by Brook McIlroy was presented to a number of university groups during March. A public presentation of the Interim Master Plan Report was also completed.

Presentations of the Final Master Plan Report to university groups are set for June.

Further information on the Master Plan can be obtained on the web:
www.usask.ca/masterplan

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