

# Building the Campus

## **Miller Hall renovation nearly complete**

The first phase of a \$51.5 renovation of Miller Hall was completed in 2010-11 and the whole project was slated for completion in fall 2011. The renovation, funded by the Washington State Legislature, overhauled the entire 134,000 square-foot building that serves as home for Woodring College of Education and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. All building

systems, including electrical, mechanical, data and air, along with elevators, roofing, windows and exterior elements were replaced. New elements include a “green roof” atop a new, glass-walled Student Collaboration Space. The whole project is designed to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating of Silver or higher. A rededication of Miller Hall is planned for September.

## **New voice system improves emergency notifications**

A new voice annunciation system improved emergency notification across campus. Emergency voice messages are now carried through existing fire

alarm speakers, with amber strobes in select locations to alert people with hearing impairments. The amber strobes flash when an emergency message is broadcast. Future projects will provide amber strobes at more locations.

## **University Residences are going wireless**

Telecommunications Services and Facilities Management collaboratively completed Phase I of a project to replace existing and aging network equipment in university residences with a state-of-the-art, high-speed wireless network system. Roughly half of the residence halls are now upgraded.

## **Work continues on Buchanan Towers addition**

A 100-bed, five-story addition on the east side of the Buchanan Towers residence hall is scheduled for completion in fall 2011. The 37,000 square-foot space includes five double-occupancy suites featuring a lounge/living room, study area, bathrooms and shared spaces for laundry and a kitchenette. The top-floor suites include five beds and two-story mezzanine lofts. The project also includes a renovation of the first floor of Buchanan Towers to include a retail cafe, large public lounge with south-facing windows, study spaces, a computer room, indoor bike storage, offices and public



*An extensive renovation of Miller Hall overhauled the entire building and added a “green roof” atop a new, glass-walled Student Collaboration Space. Miller Hall houses Woodring College of Education and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages.*

restrooms. The project incorporates principles of day lighting and natural ventilation to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating. The addition was financed through bonds. The area surrounding Buchanan Towers also got a facelift, with aesthetic improvements to make the southeast approach to campus more appealing and welcoming.

**Western students checking out bagels from library**

Zoe's Bookside Bagels (named in honor of Mabel Zoe Wilson, who also lent her name to Wilson Library) opened on September 2010, just in time for the beginning of fall quarter, on the second floor of Wilson Library. The space is designed to be a combination eatery, study area, hangout space and even a small entertainment venue.

**Grant funds disaster planning and training**

Western received a two-year, \$512,000 U.S. Department of Education grant supporting emergency preparedness within the Resilient Bellingham Consortium, a group consisting of the city's three institutions of higher education – Western, Bellingham Technical College and Whatcom Community College. At Western, the grant will support the development of a new Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to capture ideas for preparedness, response and recovery. The grant also funds training for disaster responders at Western along with Whatcom Community College, and Bellingham Technical College.



*A 37,000 square-foot addition to Buchanan Towers residence hall includes room for about 100 students in suites with living areas, study spaces and kitchenettes. The project is designed to achieve a LEED Silver rating.*