

Building the Campus

Projects boost capacity, sustainability

The year included the opening of the new Academic Instructional Center on the south end of campus, and the beginning of a major renovation of Miller Hall on Red Square.

Meanwhile, millions of dollars of renovations and upgrades continue throughout the campus to maintain WWU as a premiere place of learning and scholarship in the Pacific Northwest.

WWU's newest building showcases green techniques

The new Academic Instructional Center, designed to meet Western's growing need for classroom, laboratory and office space, opened January 6 at the start of winter quarter. The 120,000-square-foot facility includes a number of "green building" concepts such as solar shading, natural ventilation and heat recovery, energy and water efficiency, onsite use of excavated materials and the recycling of construction waste. The university also applied for LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) designation for the building. Funded by the Washington State Legislature, the \$50 million building consists of two wings joined by a skywalk on the fourth floor. The east wing houses departmental clinics, labs and faculty offices; the west wing includes classrooms, lecture halls and open collaborative spaces to encourage faculty-student interaction. The new building also accommodates the consolidation and growth of the departments of Psychology and Communication Sciences and Disorders and provides much-needed general university classrooms, lecture halls and computer labs.

American Institute of Architects honors new building

Western's Academic Instructional Center (AIC) received the Honor Award for excellence in public architecture at the Civic Design Awards sponsored by the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Washington Council on May 14. NAC Architecture of Seattle was the Executive Architect in association with Opsis Architecture of Portland, which served as the Design Architect for the AIC. The \$50 million building, funded by the Washington State Legislature, is approximately 120,000 square feet and includes two wings, a departmental building wing and an academic wing, connected by a skybridge. The university has applied for LEED (Leadership

in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the AIC. The building opened for classes on January 6.

Miller Hall generates much-needed stimulus

A major renovation of Western Washington University's Miller Hall has begun and will revitalize the aging building. The \$60.4 million project, funded by the Washington State Legislature, will provide a boost to the local economy with at least 50 construction workers with well-paying jobs for the next two years. Additional employment will be created among suppliers of equipment and materials. Work on Miller Hall began in April. The building is due for a major renovation because of its historical significance,



Photo by Matthew Anderson

WWU's Academic Instructional Center opened in January to house classrooms, labs and offices in a building that showcases green building practices.

its prominent location in the heart of campus and its need for building system upgrades. The renovation will provide general university classrooms, computer labs, instructional space, offices and support facilities for Woodring College of Education and the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. The Legislature previously had appropriated funds to design the Miller Hall renovation in the 2007-2009 capital budget.

Work begins on Buchanan Towers addition

Construction began in June on a five-story, 100-bed addition to the east side of Buchanan Towers. The estimated cost of the project is \$11.6 million. The addition will include a one-story café on the south side of the building. The project was designed to meet environmental standards and qualify for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design's (LEED) silver standard.

Strong bond rating boosts critical projects

While a number of colleges and universities across the country saw their bond ratings downgraded during the recession, Western retained its strong A2/A+ bond rating. In July, Western issued \$14.28 million in bonds to finance construction of a new addition to the Buchanan Towers residence hall on South Campus. The net blended cost of capital, based on the A2 bond rating from Moody's Investors Service and the A+ bond rating from Standard and Poor's, was a 4.68 percent interest rate. Western was also the second issuer of Build America Bonds in the state, with a size of \$12.835 million, with the remainder – \$1.445 million – sold as regular tax exempt bonds. Build America Bonds were introduced by the federal government as part of their economic



Miller Hall will get a much needed renovation with state support in the 2009-2011 Capital Budget. Miller Hall houses Woodring College of Education.

stimulus package earlier this year, to offer increased financing alternatives to public agencies. Build America Bonds are currently authorized for issuance during 2009 and 2010 only. Money to repay the bonds will come from Western's residence hall system.

Parks Hall renovation brings CBE together

The Parks Hall ground floor renovation project, which began in late April, will provide additional space for growth in the College of Business and Economics and allow all of the college's operations to be in one location on campus. The renovation includes a computer lab, three seminar rooms, faculty offices, staff work spaces, graduate offices and a graduate lounge.

Library's Special Collections gets a new home

Construction work began in July on the sixth floor of Wilson Library to provide a new consolidated home for Special Collections, where staff collect, organize, preserve and maintain unique historical and cultural material. The project includes air tempering and humidity control in selected rooms, improved security systems

and a research room that is secure, attractive, visible to staff and located adjacent to the collections storage room, which will be secured and environmentally controlled. The vacated area on the second floor will become a student collaborative learning space. The project is scheduled for completion in December.

Chemistry Building gets more research, instructional space

Construction work began in June on a 4,300-square-foot addition to the west side of the Chemistry Building to provide more research and instructional space for chemistry and biology. It's the first major remodel to the Chemistry Building since it was built in 1993.

Anthropology gets new biology lab

The third floor of Arntzen Hall was remodeled to provide the Anthropology Department a new centralized classroom laboratory dedicated to the biological study of anthropology. Two classrooms were combined into one large teaching lab, and part of a storage area and unused darkroom were converted into a faculty laboratory.

Summer is construction season

Summer is a busy time for new construction, renovation and maintenance projects on campus. Even minor projects provide much-needed improvement.

Projects in summer 2008:

- Fine Arts roof was replaced in June.
- Several classrooms received new media equipment, podiums and some finishes.
- The Ridgeway Gamma and Fairhaven residence halls received fire suppression systems and up-to-date fire detection systems.
- The all-weather field got a new “field turf” all-purpose recreation and practice surface, which should be usable for the next ten to fifteen years.

Projects in summer 2009:

- A complete overhaul of the mechanical system brought the Humanities building into fire and safety and code compliance and improved indoor air quality, fire safety and comfort.
- Some of Academic Technology & User Services moved from Miller Hall into remodeled spaces in Haggard Hall to make room for the Miller Hall renovation.
- Renovating pathways east of the Wade King Student Recreation Center and south of the Academic Instructional Center in September improved south campus circulation and safety. Workers removed asphalt surfaces and concrete curbs, moved lights and emergency phones, removed signs and a minimal number of trees. The basketball court behind Fairhaven was demolished to reroute a safer path in that area.
- Fairhaven fire sprinklers and alarm systems were upgraded. For added security, the system is designed for the future provision of speakers in every sleeping room.

New boiler saves money and energy

The installation of a new boiler and economizer at the Steam Plant will save money and energy, bringing the campus closer to sustainability and carbon-reduction goals. The project, which should be complete in October, will result in an estimated savings of 24,000 to 45,000 therms of natural gas per year.

Work protects Music Library collection

The Performing Arts Center Music Library was upgraded to control for high temperatures or humidity that could endanger the collection materials. The library houses more than 80,000 items including books, periodicals, musical scores, records and compact discs, in addition to providing listening stations for patrons.