
UNCW Campus Construction Update Spring Semester 2010

Now that the new semester is underway, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the status of the major construction projects happening around our campus.

Nursing Building

Brickwork and roofing on the Nursing Building are now complete. Installation of major HVAC, electrical and plumbing systems will be completed in February, and finishes inside the building will start in March. Site work and landscaping are scheduled for this spring. In addition to classrooms and offices, this Nursing Building has approximately 10,000 square feet of dedicated simulation learning space that will be equipped with state-of-the-art technology and equipment. These simulation labs will support nursing education as well as partnership activities with groups such as hospitals, disaster response, diving programs, pharmaceutical, high school enrichment programs and many others. The 97,000 sq. ft. building will be ready for classes this fall.



Chancellor's Walk



The second phase for environmental improvements along Chancellor's Walk is underway. We plan to use available surface water for irrigation along Chancellor's walk, thereby reducing the university's consumption of potable water. Additional oak trees will be planted along the walk in February, and as these trees mature, they will provide much needed shade along the walk, as well as result in some additional energy savings for adjacent buildings. On a related note, the brick pavers that have been placed in the middle of the sidewalks are designed as a permeable surface to assist with storm water runoff and are not designed for vehicle traffic. Please help us maintain the beauty of Chancellor's Walk by not driving any vehicles (automobiles or golf carts) on this paved area; repairs are disruptive and costly.

Oyster Hatchery

Located at the Center for Marine Science Campus, the footings and foundation walls for the Oyster Hatchery are now complete. This building, constructed in partnership with North Carolina's Marine Fisheries and funded by the North Carolina Legislature, will contribute to economic development initiatives and the regeneration of oyster stocks that are critical to our region and our state.

Cellular Telephone Reception Projects

As reliance on cellular telephones for work and personal use continues to increase, we want to ensure that all members of our campus community can utilize cellular telephones to contact emergency 911 services from anywhere on our campus. As such, we have been working particularly hard on improving cellular service inside all of our buildings by identifying those areas that need improved coverage and determining an appropriate location to support additional service equipment.

We are using best practices for this cell tower's construction. They include:

- (1) Ensuring that the tower can be used by multiple cell phone providers, thereby reducing the need to have multiple, or duplicative, towers;
- (2) Avoiding the use of guy wires, which can be hazardous for birds, by constructing a 150' tall monopole;

- (3) Ensuring that the tower can withstand 150 mph winds and is designed to collapse vertically in sections, as opposed to falling over; and
- (4) Locating the tower far enough away from existing buildings to mitigate other safety issues.

The tower will be located in an area behind the Seahawk Village parking lot area. This site, located at the edge of the tree line and co-located along an existing fire road and detention pond, will serve the community well, without interrupting the contiguous forest or being an eyesore to either the campus or adjacent neighborhoods. Painted gray, the tower is designed to blend with the skyline. To improve the aesthetics of the site, we already have transplanted more than 20 trees, including eight, significant-sized magnolias and four groups of live oaks trees, to this location to balance the loss of 6 pine trees and several other smaller saplings.

The tower actually will have the capability of serving a 30-mile radius, which translates to improved cellular reception not only for our campus community, but also for the people who live within that radius. Construction on the tower should be completed in the spring of 2010.

Regional Energy Plant

Our newest regional energy plant (one of three on campus), located in the service area behind Wagoner Dining Hall, will be completed this month. It initially will serve the Nursing Building, Wagoner Hall, the Student Recreation Facility and its subsequent expansion, and the new Psychology Building. The regional energy plant will serve additional buildings including the proposed Allied Health Building, Dobo Hall, and at least two additional classroom buildings. This is part of the university's overall strategy to consolidate utility services and reduce our energy consumption. In fact, in the last six years, the university has achieved a 28 percent energy reduction, surpassing the state legislature's mandated 20 percent reduction for all state institutions.

I hope this information is helpful to you. If you have any questions or would like additional information, I can be reached at VCBA@uncw.edu.

Charlie Maimone
Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs