

As we move into the third year of the five-year New Landscape for Learning campus enhancement program, three major projects near completion and several others begin.

Campus transformation *progresses*

New Arts and Sciences Building nears completion

By Dave Nypaver '82

The University held a groundbreaking ceremony in April for the new Student Recreation Center located at the corner of South Union and Carroll streets. The facility will be packed with basketball courts, running tracks, a rock-climbing wall, juice bar, recreational pool, wellness center and much more.

Two important projects will be completed this summer. The new Arts and Sciences Building will be completed in June, and the Science and Technology Library renovation/expansion will be completed this summer.

Faculty will begin moving into the Arts and Sciences Building during the summer, and a

dedication ceremony is scheduled for early September. The new classroom building features a soaring glass atrium and will house the departments of history, math, computer science, psychology, geography and planning, statistics and the English Language Institute.

The Science and Technology Library, located in Auburn Science and Engineering Center, will be about 140 percent larger than before and will offer students and faculty 12 study rooms, 18 study carrels, seating for 150 at study tables, a conference room and a class/seminar room.

This summer, work begins on two new facilities that will serve all students. The University plans to begin construction of the North Campus Parking Deck in June. Located on the site of the former North Hall and Central Stores buildings, the new deck will provide more than 1,100 parking spots within a five-minute walk to the center of campus. It is expected to be completed in fall 2003.

A few hundred feet away, ground will be broken in August for the new Student Affairs Building. Located at the corner of East Buchtel Avenue and South College Street, this convenient "one-stop shop" will house a number of student services, including registration, financial aid and academic counseling.

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The new Arts and Sciences Building will house the departments of history, math, computer science, psychology, geography and planning, statistics and the English Language Institute.





President Luis M. Proenza outlines the current status of The New Landscape for Learning program at a recent meeting on campus.

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The new Student Affairs Building is scheduled to open in spring 2004.

The west wing of the new Student Union is expected to be completed near the end of the year. This facility will provide office space for student organizations, a bookstore and coffee shop. After the west wing opens, Gardner Student Center will be razed and construction of Phase II of the Student Union will begin. When finished in 2004, the complete Student Union will include a cyber café, movie theater, full-service food court, lounges, computer labs and meeting rooms.

Several other projects are on the drawing board for the 2002-03 academic year. Work will begin on an addition to Guzzetta Hall, and two other academic buildings are scheduled for renovations.

The New Landscape for Learning campus improvement program was approved by The University of Akron's Board of Trustees in 1999, and construction began in 2000. The program is adding six new buildings; renovating 14 residence halls, academic buildings and other structures; closing two city streets that traversed campus; and creating 30 acres of new green space on campus.

Among the projects already completed are: the new four-story Polymer Engineering

Academic Center; the Interim Student and Administrative Services Building; the East Campus Parking Deck; remodeling of Bulger, Spanton, Sisler-McFawn, Ritchie and Orr residence halls; improvements to E.J. Thomas Performing Arts Hall; and renovations to the West Campus, E.J. Thomas and Exchange Street parking decks. The University also has planted the first of thousands of new trees on campus. ■



The East Campus Parking Deck, which features detailed and ornate brickwork, is among the projects already completed at the University.



Phase I of the new Student Union, the west wing, is expected to be completed near the end of the year. Gardner Student Center then will be razed and construction of Phase II of the Student Union will begin.