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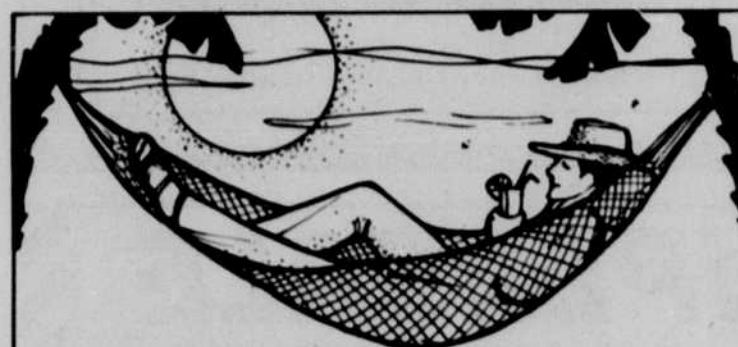
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Campus construction: more than meets the eye

By Chris Norred
Of the Emerald

It may seem as if the University campus has entered the construction season. But according to University planner David Rowe, the current construction projects at the University are just the beginning of a building spree that will last throughout the academic calendar.

"We try to plan construction projects so the completion dates

coincide with the end of a term," Rowe said.

More than a dozen campus construction projects are currently underway or in the planning stages at the University. Four of the projects are scheduled for completion by the beginning of fall term, Rowe said.

EMU Ballroom
The \$1.7 million EMU Ballroom renovation is in the final stages, Rowe said. The

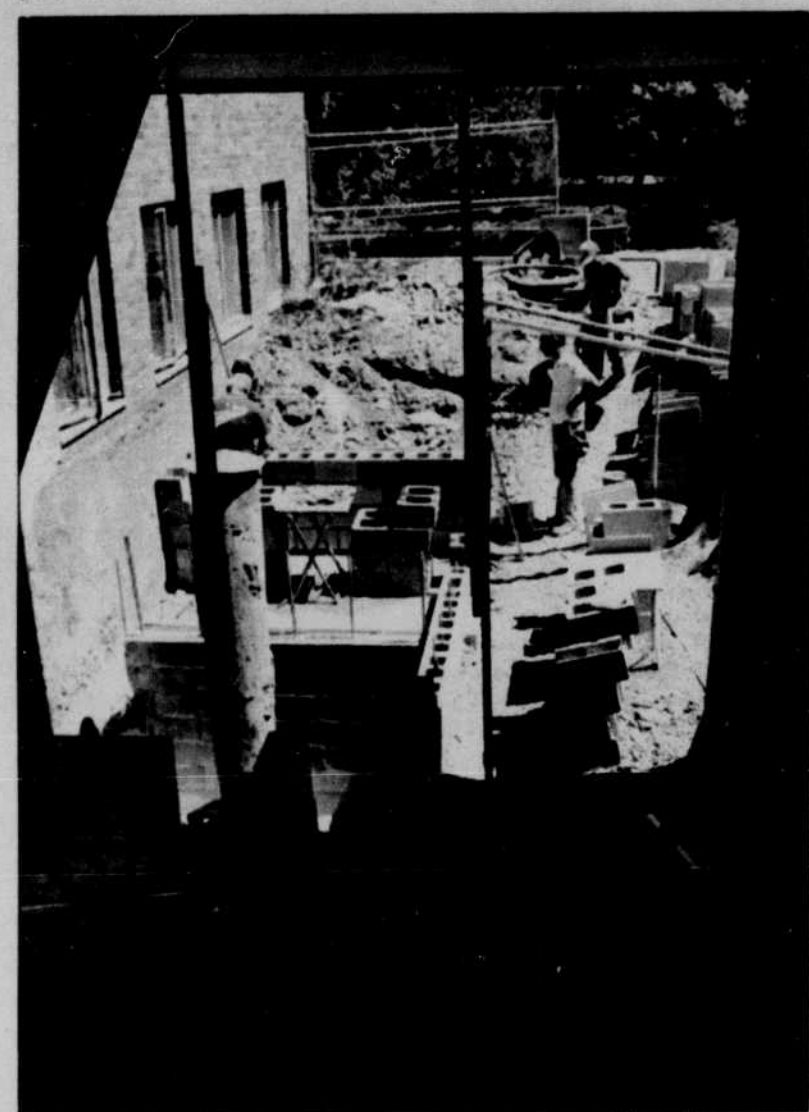


Photo by Ross Martin
The construction of the elevator at Allen Hall continues with completion set for September.

Ballroom is now being used for the summer Early Orientation Registration Program, but the official ribbon cutting is not scheduled until Aug. 25, said Frank Geltner, assistant director of the EMU.

"We're absolutely delighted with (the Ballroom project)," said Adell McMillan, EMU director.

New carpeting, paneling and space organization give the new Ballroom area a quality of character that it did not have before, she said. Two specific improvements to the Ballroom include a rearrangement of the stage area that will make it more useful, and the construction of large glass-enclosed cases that will allow the EMU to revive its old practice of holding art exhibits.

A grand opening celebration is scheduled for Oct. 2-9, to introduce students to the new Ballroom facility, Geltner said.

Chiles Business Center
The new Earle A. Chiles Business Center is near completion and should be open for classes at the beginning of fall term, Rowe said. The Chiles Center is a \$1.5 million project.

Westgate
Other improvements at Westgate, where the Chiles Center is located, include the construction of a new Lane Transit District bus shelter, and finishing a courtyard between the Chiles Center and the Computing Center, both of which also should be completed by fall term, Rowe said. The Westgate improvements will cost about \$175,000.

An elevator addition to the Computing Center is now in the beginning stages of design planning, Rowe said.

Allen Hall
The large hole outside of Allen Hall is the beginning of a new elevator addition for that building. The Allen Hall project

is scheduled for completion by September, Rowe said.

"We've waited for an elevator for a long time," said Arnold Ismach, dean of Allen Hall's journalism school. Besides the obvious conveniences of having an elevator for the regular occupants of Allen Hall, the new elevator also will allow access for the physically disabled, he said.

"In the past, some of the physically handicapped people at the University may have forgone journalism because Allen Hall was inaccessible," he said.

Because Allen Hall restrooms will have to be modified to allow access for the physically disabled, Ismach and other Allen Hall occupants have requested that the women's restroom and the men's restroom exchange genders.

"The reason is that the men's is larger, but there are more women than men, about a 60 to 40 ratio, in the journalism school," Ismach said.

Architecture building

Construction of a new building to house the architecture and allied arts department should begin this fall as the first step in the new science buildings project. Architecture students should be able to move out of Emerald Hall by winter vacation, after which time Emerald Hall will be demolished to make way for four new science buildings, Rowe said.

Science Buildings

The four new science buildings include two that will be funded by the state for \$12 million and two funded by the federal government for \$33.3 million.

The project funded by the federal government also will include the new architecture building and a new home for the Museum of Natural History. Construction of the new museum also should begin in the fall, Rowe said.



Photo by Ross Martin

Nearing completion, the Earle A. Chiles Business Center stands next door to Gilbert Hall and the Computing Center on the western edge of campus.

Hayward Field

Also in the planning stages, and expected to begin sometime before fall term, is a reconstruction of the Hayward Field complex. That project will include a new track, and repositioning and remodeling of the old grandstands, which will displace the parking area now behind the grandstands. The new track is important because it will meet international specifications that the existing track does not meet, said Chris Voelz, assistant athletic director.

"Meeting those specifications is very important to the bidding process for a pre-Olympic trials," Voelz said.

"That's important for us to maintain our reputation as Track Town, USA," she said.

University Main Library

Also being planned is a revamping of the entrance to the University Main Library. That project is being supported with help from the ASUO, and bids for the construction are about to be accepted, Rowe said.

Center of Gerontology grapples with problems of aging

By Michael Rivers
Of the Emerald

Society must develop strategies to provide for care of the elderly if it is to avoid a crisis in 2010 when the "baby boomers" reach retirement age, says Jeanne Bader, director of the University Center of Gerontology.

The center is a degree and certificate-granting department that offers gerontology courses and researches aging-related issues.

"The country is graying," Bader says, referring to the "huge demographic bulge" of people in the United States who are growing older. There are fewer younger taxpayers to support government aid to the elderly, she says, which is creating a crisis that is going to worsen until it peaks in 2010.

"As the taxpayer pool shrinks and the elderly pool grows, society will be less able to support older people," Bader says. "Hopefully, we'll have developed strategies and incentives by then."

Strategies include keeping people in the labor force by repealing mandatory retirement laws and developing a technology for evaluating job performance that is age-irrelevant, Bader says. Employee evaluations should be based on job performance and skill; age and experience should not be used as evaluative criteria, she says.

The study of gerontology emerged about 1945 when older people became more noticeable because of their increasing numbers, Bader says. Up until then, elderly people used to be the property of

communities — the entire community took care of them, she says.

The elderly made contributions to the community by passing on crafts and by caring for children, she says.

But with the onset of industrialization, older people lived longer and came to be considered a problem of society, Bader says. Society's success at keeping people alive longer is creating a tragedy, she says.

"People and society are finding life extension a tragedy because they have to decide whether to spend time, energy and money on their children rather than their parents or grandparents," she says.

Research shows that most people are willing to pay for the support of older people through Social Security, Bader says. Studies show that if taxpayers had to make trade-offs — taking money away from some federal subsidy programs to keep others afloat — the last group they would turn their backs on is the elderly, especially the disabled elderly, she says.

Other research currently underway includes a study of mental retardation and aging, a study of posture and balance control and a study on gardening, nutrition and aging, Bader says. Some of the projects are under the supervision of researchers from other University departments since the gerontology program is interdisciplinary, she says.

The center currently has about 30 faculty members from about 15 departments, either teaching courses or doing research in gerontology, Bader says. The center has been at the University since 1967.

"We think of ourselves as the focal point for the study of aging issues on campus," she says. "Gerontology is a way of cutting across disciplines. By nature, it can't be disciplinary."

The University's gerontology program is one of the most visible in the country and has been unusually successful at placing students in jobs, Bader says.

Kathryn Zuckerman, who will be graduating from the University with a master's degree in planning, public policy and management in August, has been working toward a gerontology certificate for the past several years.

She originally became interested in the program because she had been working with Senior Companions, a sister program to Foster Grandparents, she says.

At the time, she wanted to go into an aging-related area because the population is aging so quickly, Zuckerman says. Her primary interest is in the financing and policy of aging-related issues, she says.

"The government, state and federal, is going to have to deal with it whether they want to or not," she says.

Zuckerman also just completed a recent stint as a member of the Eugene Aging Commission.

Ben Taitel, chairman of the commission, says the center has been helpful to the commission in its efforts to improve the quality of life in the Eugene area for seniors.

"As a general rule, the center is willing to offer the assistance of grad students and



Jeanne Bader

the benefits of its research and knowledge," he says.

There could be more interaction between the commission and the center, however, Taitel says. He would like to see a graduate student apply for and be appointed to the commission so there would be more direct communication between the two groups.

Constance Richards, a second-year doctoral student in speech pathology and

audiology, is taking gerontology courses because she would like to work with the senior population in a hospital setting when she graduates.

"I have an interest in the aging population and wanted more insight and expertise to interface with my knowledge in speech pathology," Richards says. "I pick up some little nugget of insight with each class that broadens my perspective and makes me a more informed person."



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