



**The signs of campus progress are everywhere
—in Norman, OKC and gearing up in Tulsa—
as hard hats become the order of the day.**

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

BY CAROL J. BURR

photos by Robert Taylor

One campus rumor over the summer months was that fans flocking into Oklahoma Memorial Stadium this fall would be issued hard hats. Not likely—but if such headgear were required, they probably could be obtained from the faculty and students of the newly completed Law Center—who might have gotten theirs from the staff of the Oklahoma Memorial Union or any one of dozens of building projects that have altered the campus landscape in the nearly eight years of the David Boren administration. Then the hats could be passed on to the would-be occupants of more than a dozen other ventures currently in some phase of construction. And that is just in Norman; similar undertakings are occurring on both the Health Sciences Center campus in Oklahoma City and at OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center.

Literally millions of square feet have been added to the three campuses. Completed construction and renovation in Norman are valued at more than \$154.5 million, with another \$123 million presently under construction and \$235 million in various phases of planning. In Oklahoma City, more than \$120 million worth of new facilities either are completed or in the planning, design, bidding and building stages. Classrooms are being renovated at the Schusterman Center, a facility purchased



in 1999 for \$24 million, and a comprehensive plan is in progress to determine the future needs of this newest OU campus. Boren expects \$450 million in new construction to be under way in the next three to five years, bringing the grand total to \$600 million since he became president.

Years of dreaming, hoping and preparation precede groundbreaking for each of these projects. Funding requires ingenuity and perseverance as packages and partner-

ships are formed: combinations of public and private, individual and corporate, state and federal, bonds and appropriations. Private donors alone have contributed more than \$73 million to capital projects during this building boom, and they have pledged another \$66.5 million. This fall Boren expects to announce approximately \$28.5 million in gifts and pledges toward future construction for a total of \$95 million.

But the quality most in demand in Norman this fall is patience. Another bumper crop of returning students, harried faculty and staff and the annual influx of frantic football fans and other visitors will encounter construction barricades on every hand, detours around closed streets and an ever-more-challenging search for new parking places. The mammoth stadium/athletic complex project already complicates movement through the main campus, soon to be joined by

obstacles created by new facilities for the art museum, journalism, music and business.

Though faced with a gigantic packing and moving job, the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History staff could remain in tiny Stovall Museum during the three-year construction of the massive new Sam Noble Museum. Similarly, south campus development of the Multi-Purpose Research and Technology Facility and the National Weather Center will be minimally disruptive and conveniently out of the traffic flow. Renovations and expansions of present structures, however, may necessitate working in the hard-hat areas while construction progresses—as the lawyers did—or require imaginative relocation as the Athletics Department experienced last year.

Stadium construction crews had from the last football game of 2001 to the first of 2002 to gut the north end zone structure and recreate a new entrance, enhanced quarters for athletic administration, development, the academic center, student center, media relations and other support offices. Meanwhile, their occupants were moved into existing stadium space—the sky suites, press box, lounge, cardiac care center and any other nook or cranny they could find.

“They were like sardines in a can,” admits University architect Michael K. Moorman, who as director of Architectural and Engineering Services coordinates this construction jigsaw puzzle with amazing aplomb.

The Athletic Ticket Office is temporarily housed in former

basketball coaches’ offices in the recently enlarged Lloyd Noble Center, which comes with abundant workday parking, recently expanded for LNC events. The spacious new Ticket Office will be located on the Asp Avenue Parking Facility’s plaza level.

Moorman finds fascinating another game of musical offices being played out in the campus’ northwest quadrant. When the new Archie Dunham Conoco Student Leadership Wing was added to Oklahoma Memorial Union, the student organizations could vacate Ellison Hall, which then was completely renovated for the College of Arts and Sciences, who in September can leave its quarters in the Physical Sciences Building to the School of Music faculty as they are evicted by the restoration and expansion of historic Holmberg Hall.

So for some time the campus population will continue to play detour-of-the-day and find-the-faculty. Moorman is grateful that at least three-fourths of the students became accustomed to the street closures, especially Jenkins Street, during the spring semester when the pace is less frenetic. In the fall, he explains, the students are out in their cars, soaking up the atmosphere, checking out their surroundings, testing parking availability, but eventually the traffic settles down.

And if their patience needs a boost, visual sightings and published reports of progress toward long-awaited goals should do the job—and the proof positive is all around them in everything that already has been accomplished in less than eight short years. *(Completed major projects appear on Page 8.)*

PROJECTS IN PLANNING OR CONSTRUCTION ■ Norman Campus



Asp Avenue Parking Facility

Spanning the length of the stadium’s west side, this 750-space structure will be in use by January 2003. Though not available for fall football parking, the ground level will be finished to allow access to the west-side entrances for game-day crowds and stadium deliveries. Eventually this plaza level will contain the Athletic Ticket Office on the south end and the new University bookstore on the north.



John Jacobs Track & Field

A new grandstand is under construction at Jacobs Field as part of the Athletic Training Facilities project. The track itself is scheduled to be revamped by late summer or early fall 2003.

Felgar Hall

Construction of the Williams Student Services Center for the College of Engineering has begun within this 1928 structure, and completion is expected in early 2003.

Oklahoma Memorial Stadium

The \$79 million expansion and improvements project, to be completed for the 2003 football season, will add an east-side upper deck, bringing capacity to more than 80,000; build 27 new suites, a new club and Athletics Department facilities; and provide all new seats, improvements and fan amenities throughout the existing stadium. The brick-clad structure's new north entrance will have a Gothic appearance in keeping with the nearby Field House and a clock tower above the Reflecting Pool shielding the scoreboard from view. The adjacent Jenkins Street is closed temporarily and will be reconfigured and reopened in spring 2003.



Athletic Training Facilities

Located near Brandt Park on Lindsey Street, the new indoor facility will be available to the football team for limited use for bowl game preparation in December 2002 and complete by spring 2003. The structure contains a 100-yard field with two end zones and a roof high enough for full kicking practice. A link is being constructed between the new structure and the existing Mosier Indoor Athletic Facility, which will contain team locker rooms and public accommodations such as restrooms and concession stands to serve Mosier and the nearby track. Mosier will receive limited modification, facilitating indoor track meets and other public events at the training complex.



Huston Huffman Physical Fitness Center

Reflecting changing sport and fitness activities in the past two decades, Huston Huffman is undergoing expansion and renovation to house four new multi-sport forum spaces, expand the heavily used weight and aerobic rooms and cardio fitness area, widen and lengthen the running/walking track, convert basketball courts to full size, add office space, one-on-one fitness counseling facilities and a climbing wall.

Holmberg Hall

The crown jewel of this renovation and expansion project is conversion of the existing auditorium to approximate its original design as Oklahoma's only European-style performance hall. The 750-seat hall will feature a domed ceiling and modern acoustical features. A new stage tower added to the back of the building will provide an orchestra pit and the latest in technical and fly space equipment for full-scale productions. An 18,000-square-foot addition to the west side of Holmberg has been custom designed for the School of Dance. The resulting complex will be named the Donald W. Reynolds Performing Arts Center. Construction is set to begin in fall 2002 with completion in fall 2004.



CAUTION

Bizzell Memorial Library Roof

The three phases of the library—the 1928 original, the 1958 north addition and the 1982 Doris W. Neustadt Wing on the west—will be reroofed as a whole for the first time.

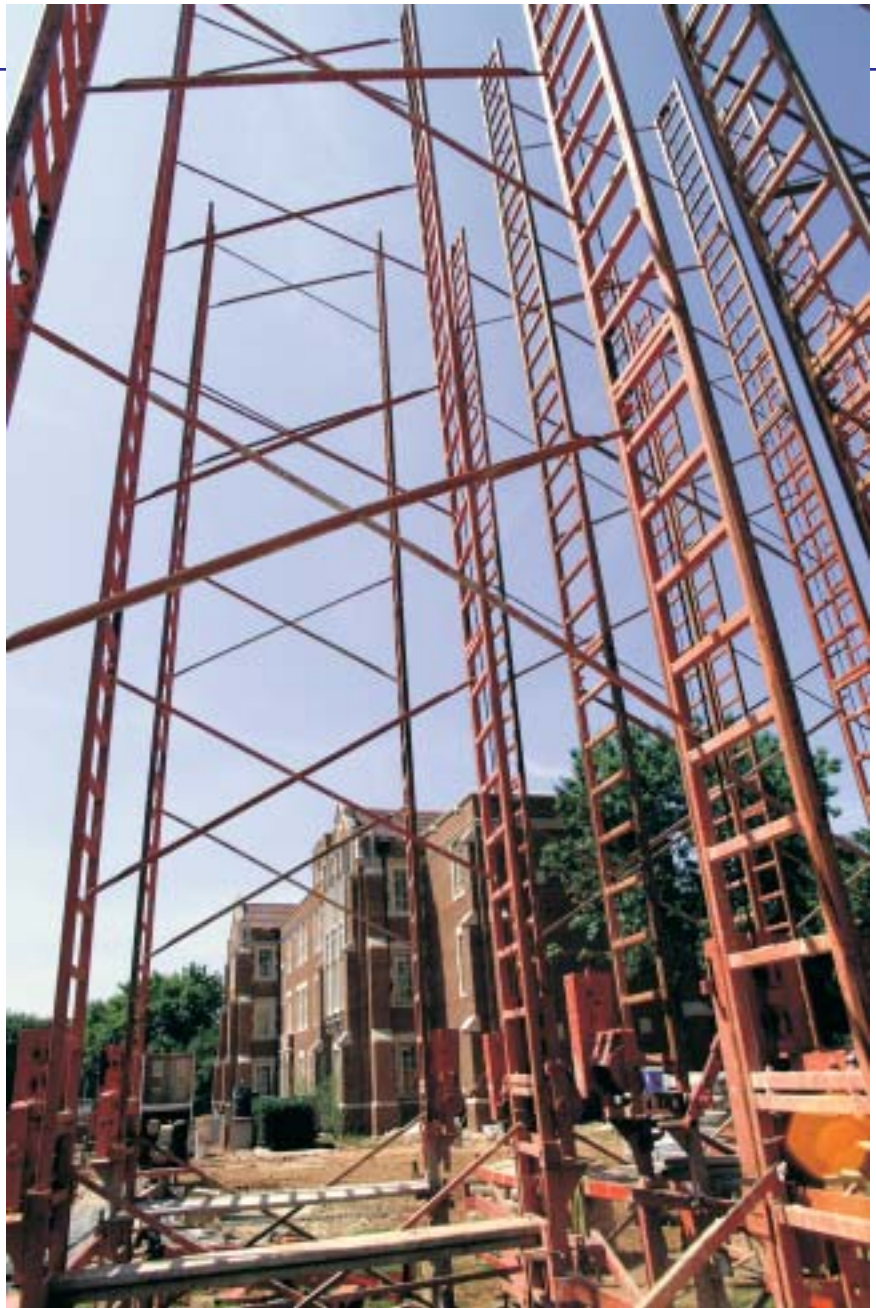
Collings Hall

Completion of a new \$630,000 computer laboratory is expected by the end of the fall semester. With 30 terminals, this College of Education facility will be one of the largest and most technologically advanced computer laboratories on the Norman campus. Named for its principal donor, Sandra O'Brien, of Houston, the new resources will emphasize special education needs.

Gaylord Hall

Since the \$17 million new home of the Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication will replace a parking lot on the east side of Van Vleet Oval, just north of Lindsey, construction must await opening of the Asp Avenue Parking Facility in early 2003. Completion is targeted for summer 2004. The 59,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art media education facility is designed for future expansion.

■ Temporarily on hold until other projects and additional fundraising are completed is the *Howard McCasland Field House* renovation, the first phase of which will include air conditioning and life safety improvements. The addition of the Port Robertson Wrestling Center and remodeling for the women's volleyball team were completed two years ago. Also in planning stages are *Nielsen Hall*, Phase II, for physics and astronomy, renovation and expansion of *Gould Hall* for architecture, *Chemistry Building* addition, a new *Engineering Technology Center* east of Carson Engineering Center, modernization of *Old Science Hall* and major renovations to the student residence towers.



Ellison Hall

Ready for occupancy in September 2002, the completely renovated 1928 building that first housed the student infirmary, then campus student organizations, will be home to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Student Academic Services Center and the interdisciplinary academic programs, Native American Studies and African American Studies.

Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art

The 34,000-square-foot Howard and Mary Lester Wing on the museum's west side, which will house the Weitzenhoffer Collection of French Impressionist Art, will create additional gallery and classroom space and a new main entrance off Elm Avenue. The existing building also will receive some renovation. Construction of the \$14 million wing is scheduled to begin this fall with completion in late spring or summer 2004. The expansion will necessitate relocation of the Rose Sharp Rose Garden, possibly to the Oklahoma Memorial Union area.



Multi-Purpose Research and Technology Facility

Construction of this long-awaited facility is scheduled to begin in November 2002. Designed to nurture research projects with important economic development implications for Oklahoma, the first occupant of the 93,000-square-foot, \$27 million building will be OU's nationally distinguished biogenetics program. This project and the nearby National Weather Center will share the cost of a separate chilled water plant for the new Research Campus-South.



National Weather Center

This federal/state/University partnership facility brings together the best of the nation's weather research, forecasting and educational agencies, notably the OU School of Meteorology and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Approval of the design is expected in September 2002. The 244,000-square-foot, six-story building will cost approximately \$67 million.

Adams Hall

Now in the final planning and fundraising stages, the 55,000-square-foot, \$18 million addition is pointed toward construction in late spring 2003. To be located just east of the present building, the addition will contain 10 new classrooms, student services area, a large commons and courtyard and study spaces. The development also will produce a pedestrian mall with the conversion of Asp Avenue from Buchanan Hall to Brooks Street and on east to Jenkins. The mall will feature one of only two replicas of "The Guardian" statue that tops the State Capitol dome.



Health Sciences Center Oklahoma City Campus



Stanton L. Young Walkway

Centerpiece of an extensive \$6.5 million landscaping and site improvement project, the Walkway's fall dedication celebrates achievement of a cohesive central core for the Oklahoma City campus, creating a collegial and healing environment for HSC's teaching and treatment missions. Stanton L. Young Boulevard has been transformed into a tree-lined, "garden walk" pedestrian mall, complete with fountains, a clock tower, spectacular gardens, sculpture and arches.

Student Center, Phase II

A key element in the development of a full-fledged residential campus is expansion of this much-needed center for health sciences students. Phase II adds a third floor to the heavily used, six-year-old structure on Stonewall Avenue.

Student Housing Center

For the first time, the University will be able to offer on-campus, apartment-style housing to HSC students. The 87 townhouses and studio apartments will be ready for occupancy in fall 2003.

Basic Sciences Education Building Lecture Halls

Large group assembly areas are in increasing demand, a need to be partially alleviated by these two new facilities to serve the College of Medicine.

- HSC Projects in the Planning Stages include:
 - Biomedical Research Center, Phase II
 - O'Donoghue Center research units renovation
 - College of Allied Health Building, Phase I, to house the
 - Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders
 - Dermatology Clinic Building addition
 - Biomedical Sciences Building renovations for the
 - Department of Pathology
 - Department of Pediatrics laboratory



OU-Tulsa Schusterman Center

A complete campus development plan is being formulated for the Tulsa campus, located at 41st and Yale, which will address the addition of academic, research and support facilities.

COMPLETED CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The Boren Era—1994-2002

Norman Campus

- Boyd House renovation and expansion
- Oklahoma Memorial Union addition and renovation
- Archie Dunham Conoco Leadership Wing
of Oklahoma Memorial Union
- Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History
- Catlett Music Center, Phase II
- Elm Avenue Parking Facility
- Andrew M. Coats Hall (Law Center) renovation and
addition
- Nielsen Hall, Phase I
- School of Art ceramics facility
- Old Faculty Club renovation and addition
- Honors College at Cate Center
- Henderson Tolson Cultural Center
- Faculty-in-Residence (six) housing units
- Max Westheimer Airport taxiway improvements
- Oklahoma Memorial Stadium public facilities
improvements
- Reflecting Pool at Oklahoma Memorial Stadium
- Barry Switzer Center
- Softball Park and team locker rooms
- Jimmie Austin OU Golf Course and clubhouse
renovations
- Charlie Coe Golf Learning Center
- John Crain Soccer Facility
- Howard McCasland Field House team facilities
- Headington Family Tennis Center
- L. Dale Mitchell Baseball Park improvements
- Lloyd Noble Center expansion and improvements

OUHSC: Oklahoma City

- Biomedical Research Center, Phase I
- Family Medicine Clinic addition
- Greenhouse
- Student Center, Phase I

OU-Tulsa

- Schusterman Center purchase and modifications

