

Bond to Buildings

Issue Two - June 2011

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Whirlwind Decade

Eleven years ago in the first issue of the construction update newsletter entitled *Earth Shaking News* readers learned that the first step in the campus renaissance was about to commence with grading scheduled to begin for a new parking garage in October. Following close behind would be a new library and a student services building. During the ensuing decade a miraculous transformation has taken place with 21st century architecture and technology replacing outdated and inefficient structures in a spectacular fashion on the campus of San Jose City College. In this relatively short span of time the college has additionally gained a new technology center, natural science building, high tech building, dramatically remodeled business education building, cosmetology facility and reprographics area, as well as a new football field, running track, and baseball field.

After what has appeared to be a cessation of construction activity that has lasted several years work is now well underway on a new fine arts facility. There is very little to suggest the magnificence of this new

building at the moment, and in fact the most noteworthy aspect of this project is currently nothing more than

A hole in the ground



This doesn't look like much, but in truth it is an exciting element in the new fine arts building that will rise on this spot. This excavation is being dug to accommodate a music theater that will be part of the new building. Nothing like it has ever existed on this campus before, but it will be one of the many spectacular elements of this building that has been planned with extensive input from the members of the art department.

Sharing this building site will be the new building for mathematics instruction, which will include classrooms, lecture halls and faculty and administrative offices for the division.

More Than Meets The Eye

There is far more to the construction of a new building than meets the eye. In fact the vast majority of the initial construction work is ultimately hidden beneath the structure itself. For this reason many people ignore what is going on until the framework of the building itself begins to rise.

Without precisely planned and installed utility lines and structural foundation work a new building simply would never function properly. The extreme care with which seemingly haphazard excavation work is conducted is vastly underappreciated by most people. The below picture shows a bit of the trenching work being done on the new fine arts structure.



It's obvious that they are creating places for lines carrying electricity, telephones, water and sewer to specific spots where they will feed into the structure itself. Three of these feeds can go both uphill and down. However have you ever thought about how drain water and sewage has to constantly flow downhill to a treatment facility? How do they do this over great distances? Pumps? Where are they located? Or are there large underground sewers like those in Paris running beneath the streets of San Jose all the way to the sewage disposal plant in Alviso?

Yet To Come

There are still more construction projects in the future of SJCC. Do we solar power the 1-2-300 wings? When a new gym is constructed to replace the two we currently have what will their present locations become? Imagine if you will one more decade passing and picture if you can the way you believe the campus will look.

For those of you who have been here for more than 10 years try and recall what the campus used to look like. Do you remember the XYZ Buildings? The west ends of the 1-2-300 wings? The old student union? The green louvers on the B Building? How about the Vocational Arts Building that housed dental assisting and cosmetology, or the W Building.

We've Come A Long Way!