Update on Major Projects
August 26, 2019

Shafer Hall Renovations – Shafer Hall has opened its doors for residents! Shafer is one of Eastern’s earliest buildings, originally constructed in 1946. It previously served as an academic building and has undergone major renovations to re-purpose the building as a residence hall. The architect designed the project taking care to preserve Shafer’s roots; original glazed block arches welcome students as they enter the residential core of the building. The original lobby’s raised paneling was carefully restored and serves as an appropriate entrance to the newly-restored auditorium and new café. The building features several types of suites including a new loft-style suite which features single apartments with kitchenettes, a sitting area, breakfast bar, and loft area for bedroom furniture. The building also features three- and four-person occupancy suites with private bedrooms, kitchens, and separate bath and toilet facilities. The building will house 91 students. The Harry Hope Theatre will be renovated for recreation space that will be designed for use by students campus-wide. This space will be available later this fall. The building also includes a large game room/lounge, a kitchen lounge where students can gather to cook group dinners, computer rooms as well as several study rooms for group study, and meeting rooms. The project included all new mechanical systems, new electric, plumbing, sprinklers, and data as well as all new windows, doors and roof. The building was designed in accordance with the Connecticut High Performance Building Regulations, which closely aligns with the USGBC LEED Silver Certification Standards. Construction began August 17, 2018.

Goddard Hall/Communication Building Renovations – The Goddard Hall Renovation Project received its Certificate of Occupancy in June. The Goddard renovation was Phase II of the Goddard/Communication Renovation Project. Phase II included the complete gut/renovation of Goddard Hall. The project includes newly-renovated classrooms, labs and offices. The labs in the building include a Psychology Suite which includes six labs. Kinesiology & Physical Education also has labs in the building including a new Kinesiology lab that features an interactive wall and AV systems. The project included eight general-purpose classrooms and meeting rooms all outfitted with AV systems standard for classrooms on campus. The building was completely gutted to the structure, and new electrical, HVAC, plumbing, sprinklers and heating systems were installed. The replacement of old single-pane windows and building skin improvements have increased the building’s energy efficiency. These buildings meet the State of Connecticut High Performance Building Regulations. The Communication Building came off line in May of 2017 and was completed in July 2018.

Low Rise Courtyard Improvements & Stair Replacement – Phase three of the Low Rise Courtyard Improvements and Stair Replacement project was completed this summer. The exterior stairs to the 100 and 200 buildings were replaced. The center courtyards now have a central plaza with seating, new lighting and new plantings. Next summer, the enclosed stairwells will be demolished and re-built.
Noble Hall Roof Replacement & Masonry Restoration – Design was completed in the fall of 2018 for this project which includes the replacement of the roof on Noble Hall as well as masonry restoration. The building permit was issued in late November, and the project was bid in February. Construction began during the week of May 20. All masonry work is substantially complete, and the contractor is now working on the roof replacement. The project is scheduled to be complete in October 2019.

Burnap & Crandall Roof Replacement & Masonry Restoration – This project replaced the existing roof membrane and repaired/repointed the masonry on both buildings. Burnap & Crandall serve as residence halls. The design was completed in the fall of 2018. A building permit was issued in December, and bidding occurred in March. The construction contract was awarded in April, and construction began the week of May 20. The masonry restoration and re-pointing are scheduled to be complete mid-October. The roofing is scheduled to be complete by the beginning of October.

Burnap & Crandall Flooring Replacement – The existing asbestos flooring that was installed throughout the student rooms in Crandall Hall was abated and replaced with vinyl plank flooring throughout the student rooms and the corridors. New carpet was installed in the lounges. In Burnap Hall, we removed the carpeting in the corridors and replaced it with vinyl plank flooring. The lounges also received new carpet tile.

High Rise Flooring Replacement – The High Rise Apartment Complex is a nine-story residence hall. This building was last renovated in 2000. We replaced all flooring in student rooms and the corridors with vinyl plank flooring.

Occum Hall Flooring Replacement – We replaced all flooring in student bedrooms this summer, removing old carpet and replacing it with new vinyl plank flooring.

Roadway and Walkway Improvements – We continued to repair and replace walkways throughout campus to maintain an accessible campus for students, faculty and staff. This year, we replaced sidewalks at the entry to the Library, along Eastern Road in front of the Planetarium, and adjacent to the Clock Tower.

HTHW Manhole Replacement – Webb Hall – The HTHW manhole replacement outside of Webb Hall was completed over the summer. This project included the replacement of the original HTHW piping into Webb Hall. We restored the sidewalks and will complete the planting of the beds later in the fall.

Campus Wayfinding Signage – This project has been bid, and a contract has been awarded. We will begin the refurbishment of our campus wayfinding signage in September. This project will refresh and update the wayfinding signage throughout campus. With the addition of several buildings since the signage was originally installed, signage schedules need to be updated, and signs need to be re-finished and re-lettered.

Child & Family Development Resource Center Painting – The exterior of the Child & Family Development Resource Center will be painted. Work will begin the last week of August and is expected to continue through September.