Ground Broken, Bottomed Out for New Ambulatory Care Building

As you can see — and hear — we are fully into the excavation phase of our new Ambulatory Care and Medical Education Building on the Southwest corner of York Ave. and East 70th St. Ground was broken in an official ceremony on May 25, and bottoming out will be achieved by September 30 — incredibly, only four months after the groundbreaking. The evidence is the removal of 60,000 tons (or 39,000 cubic yards) of earth and rock, and a remaining 55-foot-deep, 9.5-acre cavernous pit.

WHAT HAS BEEN...
Congratulations to all for having endured, in the past few months, a number of changes to walking and driving patterns to allow construction to occur with minimum disruption to the movement of patients, visitors, students, and staff. During this phase, the wooden fence was constructed around the Southwest corner of 70th and York, and brightly laminated with a descriptive summary of the key clinical services the construction will soon bring to fruition.

ON EAST 70TH STREET
On East 70th Street, you have observed new signs around the construction zone and the elimination of the Ambulance Zone in front of Payson House. The objective was to provide three striped traffic lanes at the corner: one for right turns, one to go straight toward the Hospital’s Emergency Room, and a third for left turns.

Also note that the South end of the Lasdon House roof terrace, including the metal stairway from Lasdon to East 69th St., has been removed. Do not trespass into this area, as excavation is taking place right up to the Lasdon residential tower wall.

ON EAST 69TH STREET
Our steam line relocation went very well. After its connection to Phipps House, we were able to backfill and replace the torn-up sidewalk and street. One of the Livingston-Farrand houses, at 427 East 69th St., was demolished. And this was all finished in such a neat and tidy manner that all construction vehicles are already gaining entrance and egress to the site by way of 69th St. and not 70th St., dramatically reducing the traffic congestion on the busier 70th St.

AND WHAT WILL BE
Excavation on the site will be completed by Sept. 30. Dubbed “bottoming out,” this event was specially celebrated with a party for the students, faculty, and staff who endured this summer’s noise and tumult. With all chopping and blasting now done, foundation work is the next phase — which will continue until about November 15, just before Thanksgiving. Currently, the East foundation concrete wall is complete, and runs about 100

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New Archbold Commons Lounge

On March 4, students celebrated the newly renovated Archbold Commons Student Lounge in the Weill Education Center. The refurbished space now features new lighting, leather seating, and new carpets — all aptly shown off below by student overseer Joseph Habboushe (seated), who, with his fellow overseer Michael Keyoung and others, provided leadership for this special project. Says Michael: “We wanted to warm up and brighten the space with a lounge atmosphere that is student-friendly for social gathering and studying. This is a place students can and will enjoy, and it will foster an even more nurturing community.” A new vendor, Pyramid Coffee, provides food service in the lounge — offering gourmet coffees, lunch, and assorted pastries and snacks.

New Lecture Hall A-250

The newly renovated lecture hall in room A-250 includes comfortable new seating, new carpeting, new lighting, and new state-of-the-art audio-visual technology for instruction, distance learning, and video conferencing. The room is fully set up with recording, projection, display and sound equipment. Two adjacent rooms house the distance-learning support installation. The facility is now able to support current teaching methods and the needs of the medical students, both here and in Qatar.

New Ambulatory Care Building

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feet west on both the north and south sides. Trucking of the excavated material for the Materials Handling section of the Building will occur on 69th Street, with only limited sidewalk and street interruptions. 70th Street will see some trucking activity from the construction of the Con Ed vaults.

Structural steel is scheduled to start Nov. 15. The first operation will be the erection of the tower crane, which will sit in the center of the building site. The structural steel phase — the Building’s basic 15-story skeletal frame — will be completed in only six months, on about May 15, 2005. This 4,000-ton steel frame will be marked by another spectacular celebration — known in the trade as “Topping Out.”

Ongoing Projects

New Stem Cell Center (A-8)
Approximately 3,400 square feet is being used for research, administrative, and support space for the new Ansary Center for Stem Cell Therapeutics, to be located on A-8. Under the direction of Dr. Shahin Rafii, the Center will provide new modern, contiguous laboratory space.

New Pediatric Research Labs (S-6)
The entire sixth floor of the Hamad bin Khalifa Biomedical Research Building (“S” Building) is being renovated to provide new laboratories and offices for Weill Cornell’s Department of Pediatrics. These new labs will focus on the molecular basis of growth and development — encompassing research programs in four areas: pulmonology, gastroenterology, infectious disease, and critical-care medicine.

New Cardiology Offices/Labs (A-3)
Design is now complete for the construction of new laboratories and administrative offices for Weill Cornell’s Greenberg Division of Cardiology on A-3. State-of-the-art research facilities will be devoted to molecular biologic and electrophysiologic cardiovascular investigation.