

Honors hall construction breaks ground

BY KIMBERLY SWEET
Senior staff writer

Students will face a formidable obstacle when they leave Selleck Hall and cross 15th Street this fall. Instead of crossing a parking lot and some green space, they will meet a fenced-in hole.

Over the next year and a half, the hole will transform into an innovative, hi-tech residence hall. The complex — the Esther L. Kauffman

Academic Residential Center — will house members of the J.D. Edwards Honors Program in Computer Science and Management, a program funded by UNL alumni — software developer Edward McVane and his wife, Carole.

While the official ground-breaking for the residential center was July 9, site work began June 21, said project manager Tracy Aksamite.

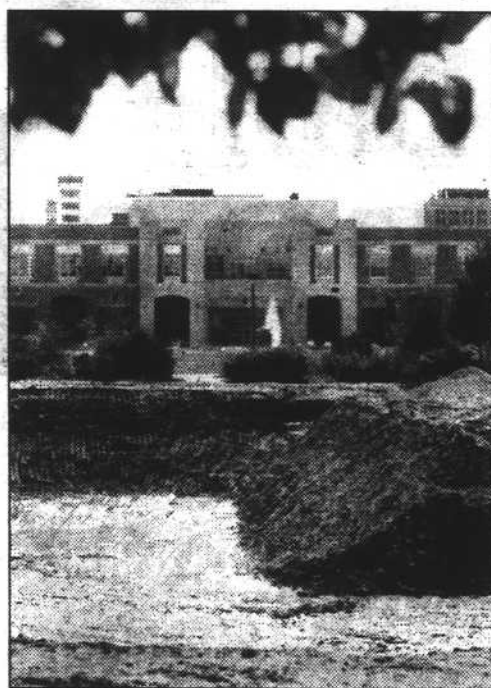
Construction workers will begin foundation work Sept. 1, but evidence of the structure won't be visible until October when beams are raised. That phase of the project will last until the end of 1999, Aksamite said.

Construction should be done by Jan. 1, 2001. The new hall will have suites to house 116 students.

The residential center will contain classrooms and offices for permanent and visiting faculty. Seminars, meals and lectures by special instructors will be held in a banquet facility.

The complex also will contain what Aksamite calls a "virtual Kinkos," where students can check out equipment such as digital cameras. Computers and copiers also will fill the room.

Howard Parker, Facilities Planning and Construction direc-



LANE HICKENBOTTOM/DN
The future site of the Esther L. Kauffman Academic Residential Center is where a new dorm will sit by 2001.

tor, said the residential center, which was modeled after the living quarters at Oxford University in England, will be a unique edition to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"It will be a living and learning environment," Parker said.

Having an area where students can interact 24 hours a day is a big part of the J.D. Edwards Honors Program, said Steve Dunbar, program director.

Students will be working together on projects, and it will be vital for them to have an area equipped with the technology where they can work together around the clock, he said.

Money for the \$14.7 million project was taken from a \$32 million gift to UNL by the McVaneys in May 1998. Edward McVane established J.D. Edwards in 1977. The company develops, markets and supports software.

The first class of the J.D. Edwards Honors Program will enter UNL this fall, Dunbar said. The 16 undergraduate students who make up the program will not have a common living place before the hall is completed, but the majority of them will reside in Neihardt Residence Center.

Dunbar said the small progress made so far is an exciting step for the program.

"Finally it seems real," Dunbar said. "I am a little tired of them pushing dirt around, but it was nice to see them finally moving the dirt and doing the excavation."

Building the Future
The University of Nebraska-Lincoln will be undertaking more than a dozen construction projects over the next six years. The projects include a new residence hall, a new outdoor track and addition to the library.

Project	Total Cost	Start	End	Duration
Richard Hall renovation	\$8,546,000	1999	2000	21 months
Outdoor track	\$2,250,000	1999	2000	6 months
Devaney fan renovation	\$7,896,600	1999	2000	10 months
Kaufman Center	\$14,710,000	1999	2001	19 months
Low Library South	\$12,685,000	1999	2001	21 months
Seton Hall renovation	\$998,600	1999	2000	12 months
Lyman/Bancroft	\$10,560,000	1999	2001	21 months
Harrison Hall	\$12,135,000	1999	2001	21 months
Journalism facility	\$6,800,000	1999	2000	17 months
Chemical Engr. facility	\$24,000,000	1999	2001	23 months
Visitor Center/Press Theater	\$8,900,000	1999	2001	24 months
Hexaplex Materials	\$1,100,000	1999	2000	12 months
Schmid Law Library	\$5,813,700	1999	2000	18 months
Former Biochem. Bldg. & Nat. Res. complex	\$6,655,000	1999	2001	22 months
Avery Hall	\$10,778,000	1999	2001	20 months
Low Library addition	\$14,092,000	1999	2001	21 months
Sheldon addition	\$18,071,000	1999	2001	24 months

Source: Facilities management

Few small stadium tasks remain

BY DANE STICKNEY
Staff writer

This season, Husker fans will have even more to celebrate than a winning record with the unveiling of a freshly renovated Memorial Stadium.

After nearly two years of construction, the \$36.3 million renovation of the football stadium is almost complete.

The project is highlighted by the addition of a new press box and 42 skyboxes and is scheduled to be done Aug. 30. Only minor tasks such as laying carpet and installing ceilings remain.

John Ingram, director of Athletic Facilities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said the renovations will make the stadium enjoyable for everyone.

"The average fan will have access to much better concession, restroom and concourse areas," Ingram said.

He said everyone who enters the sta-

dium will notice the new aesthetics.

"It will be fabulous," he said. "The look of the place has been completely changed. The stadium has been really dressed up."

With the benefit of twice as many concession areas and three times as many restrooms, fans can plan on shorter or possibly nonexistent lines.

The fans won't be the only ones benefiting from the new venue. Ingram said the stadium's new appearance and accommodations may draw the nation's best high school players to UNL.

"Potential recruits will see the commitment that is given to football," he said. "Not many schools can offer a facility like this." The proceeds from the skyboxes will go toward helping athletes in every sport.

"The first year's revenue will help pay for the new outdoor track for the track teams," Ingram said.

The renovation project began nearly

two years ago when more restroom and concession areas were added to the east side of the stadium.

Emphasis then shifted to the west side of the stadium, where the skyboxes and new press box were added.

One of the stadium's most glaring needs — a new press box — was high on the university's priority list.

The new press box will be able to accommodate nearly twice as many people as the old one.

The stadium will be a culmination of Husker history and modern beauty, Ingram said.

"We were very concerned with preserving the aesthetics of the old stadium while creating a new facility," he said, citing the fact that the old inscriptions on the west side of the building can still be read despite the renovations.

Tours of the stadium will be available after the first home football game Sept. 11.

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