

# Schultz: Construction remains on schedule

BY JULIA HANSEN  
Staff Reporter

Walking around campus without running into construction is nearly impossible these days.

Buildings all over campus, including Missouri Hall, Barnett Hall, the Student Union Building, Dobson Hall and Blanton, Nason and Brewer halls, are currently being designed, bid on by construction companies and in time will be renovated.

Construction companies and Truman administrators have been working tirelessly over the summer to complete campus renovations taking place on campus before students arrive.

Mainstreet Market in the Student Union Building — which is in the midst of major construction — will open in time for classes to start, and Missouri Hall will have finishing touches added just days before incoming freshman move in.

"We're just barely getting underneath the wire of having occupancy," Campus Planner Mark Schultz said.

Sujit Chemburkar, Student Union Building director, said that since the SUB renovation began in fall 2006, the building has undergone Phases One and Two.

Phase One consisted of renovating the southwest corner of the building, including the Down Under, the Georgian Room and a small addition. Phase Two, which is near completion, involves the middle of the building consisting of Mainstreet Market and the Center for Student Involvement.

Phase Three, which will begin within the next few weeks, consists of the renovations of the Truman bookstore and the Quiet Lounge. Chemburkar said what used to be The Lounge across from Mainstreet Market will have an upper mezzanine that comes out above pub-style seating, and the rest of



Mike Avery works on a construction project in the SUB. Renovations to the building are slated to be finished one semester ahead of schedule.

Jason Williams/Index

the lounge will consist of sofas and lounge furniture where students can hang out, study or just relax. A cascading stairwell connecting to the third floor also will be added to the lounge, Chemburkar said.

"I think [the students] will be excited [to see the SUB]," he said. "It's going to be a fabulous building. It's very beautiful. I think our building's excellence will match our passion for students. We've always provided very good support for students, but now the building helps us in achieving that goal. ... I think students will be very pleased when they come back."

The SUB hosts hundreds of events monthly and was designed for efficiency and flexibility, Chemburkar said.

"We'll be able to place a lot more student events back to back rather than to spread them out a bit," he said. "So for organizations of any capacity whether it's six folks, 50 folks or 200 folks, we now have space in the building to meet their needs."

Apart from just being functional, the SUB has also been designed to be energetic, comfortable and fun, Chemburkar said.

"[The SUB] is really the heart stone of the campus," he said. "[It is] student-focused. ...

The union really is about coming together and engaging in conversation. [It is] about learning about yourself and others."

In addition to all its amenities, the renovated SUB is now more environmentally friendly with terrazzo floors and new energy efficient lighting fixtures and roof.

"It's kind of surprising, and when you walk in there, it's kind of scary because it's like, 'I don't know where to go,'" said senior Katie Neville. "From the outside it looks good, but the inside they're still putting together."

Schultz said the SUB construction is far ahead of schedule and is likely to

finish more than a semester early.

Built in 1965, Missouri Hall also was in need of updating. New amenities include elevators, sprinkler systems for fire safety, kitchens and laundry facilities on each floor, air conditioning, a new main entrance and much more.

"I can't wait for the students to see [Missouri Hall]," Director of Residence Life, Andrea O'Brien said. "The students that we have had in it so far that had seen the building prior to the renovation are walking around with their jaws on the floor because it is so beautiful. I'm really excited about it, and I know the students will be excited about it when they see it."

Blanton, Nason and Brewer are the next residence halls to be remodeled, said Schultz. A contract currently is being negotiated with River City construction, the company that renovated Missouri Hall and constructed the West Campus Suites, Schultz said.

O'Brien said the renovation of BNB will include installing an elevator, making sorority area chapter rooms more spacious and redesigning community spaces like lounges. She said the main things that need to be addressed in BNB are the plumbing, electricity and installing air conditioning and sprinklers.

After work begins on BNB, other residence halls will move into the construction spotlight.

"We're trying to work our way all the way around the domes," Schultz said. "We're looking at BNB this year being repaired, Dobson next year, Ryle the following and then Centennial."

The renovation of Barnett Hall on the south end of campus is also seeing finishing touches. The building will now hold the campus radio station, News 36 and the Index newspaper. Barnett's classrooms, offices, and labs were also renovated.

# Truman will turn to texting in times of emergency

BY JULIA HANSEN  
Staff Reporter

Believe it or not, text messages are now a new way to keep Truman students safe.

On July 16, Information Technology Services implemented a free-of-charge emergency notification system through text messaging. The system will broadcast alerts to students who have opted in during life-threatening situations in which their health or safety may be threatened, according to Truman's Emergency Notification Policy.

"It's something that hopefully you wouldn't receive any

or very many of these, but in situations where they're needed, this is yet another avenue [for informing people] because one single avenue is not going to work for everybody," said Tammy Roberts, director of administrative computing.

Incidents that qualify as emergencies are natural disasters, criminal activity or public health threats, according to the Emergency Notification Policy.

"It has to be some kind of impending threat to the campus that administrators have to send [a text message] to [students]," Roberts said.

The only person appointed to

activate the system is University President Barbara Dixon, who can appoint a designee if she is unavailable. In case of an emergency, a recommendation for activation of the emergency notification system will come through Tom Johnson, director of public safety or Lou Ann Gilchrist, dean of student affairs.

Linda Souza, director of marketing for the National Notification Network, said colleges all over the United States are implementing the system for campus safety, including Pepperdine University (Calif.), Rochester Institute of Technology (N.Y.), University of Miami

(Fla.) and University of Alaska-Anchorage. Virginia Tech also has implemented emergency text messaging.

"From what I've seen, most colleges are getting [the system] for emergency purposes, especially because of the Virginia Tech incident," Souza said.

Roberts said Truman has been considering setting up the system for a while, even before the Virginia Tech tragedy.

"The University was already working on plans for this, but [Virginia Tech] brought it to the forefront," Roberts said. "It's something that we took a minute to look at, and we said we have

this available, is it something people are interested in?"

After sending out information on text message notification availability in tuition bills a few weeks ago, ITS will wait to see if students find interest in the system.

"Text messaging is a very good idea," freshman Prasang Chhetri said. "[Informing students] is only possible if someone has a cell phone, so if [a student] has a cell phone, then it's a very good idea. It goes to a lot of people at once."

Most cell phone carriers are available for the system at Truman, including Sprint, AT&T,

Cingular, Arch, Alltel, Nextel, T-Mobile, Verizon and U.S. Cellular. But if a carrier is not on the list, it can notify ITS, and they will work on adding it.

"Cell phones are in almost everybody's hands it seems like anymore, so I think anything we can do to communicate well is a good idea," Roberts said.

Students can sign up for the free service by logging into TruView, clicking the Student tab, going to the Update Emergency Text Messaging Information link under the category My Personal Information and entering their area code, phone number and cell phone provider.



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