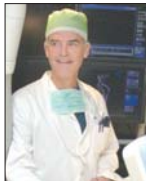


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Robertson King Press will complete the renovation of the former King Press building at 13th and McClland Blvd, Joplin, in January 2008. With 140,000-square-feet in place and 60 percent renovation complete, the company is almost ready to install its equipment. Shown above left, Bob Robertson, president and Jason Bard, marketing director. Robert L. Roach/JBJ

By Robert L. Roach
Journal Staff Reporter

JOPLIN, Mo. — "We've got two big orders to ship before the end of the year, so I think it will be after the first of the year before we can move," said Bob Robertson, president and owner of Robertson King Press. "January is a really good month for us to look at doing it; I mean, it's cold outside and it's gonna be tough to move then, but as far as our workload in the shop, I think that's a good time to do it."

Operations are currently shoehorned into the 20,000 square feet space they occupied since about 1980 in Webb City. Expanding business demands relocation across the metropolitan area to the west side of Joplin.

For years, Robertson Press was the smaller company making add-on products for the larger King Press who produced the main printing press. When King press went out of business, that did not end Robertson Press' business. Instead, they bought out the assets of the former main company in 2003, and closed on their 140,000 square foot building in 2006.

Total renovation of the former King building progressed steadily since closing on it, but

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Higher education construction builds economy

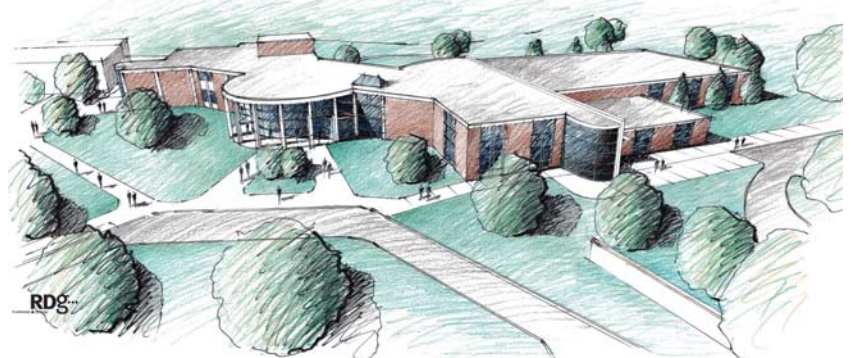
By Robert L. Roach
Journal Staff Reporter

JOPLIN, Mo. — Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent on higher education campuses in Missouri, Kansas, and Oklahoma. Some is supported by individual donors. But much or most of it is your tax dollars at work, channeled back through federal and state programs.

Construction projects continue to grow in this region and have greatly added to the overall economy of the tri-state area in recent years. This construction growth contributes strongly to the continued health of the economy in the Midwest versus other sections of the country. It also lowers unemployment rates in the region below those of almost any other area across the U.S.

Many of the new construction projects take into consideration environmental aspects such as insulation and heat loss, HVAC, and life cycle costs of building systems and their materials. However of all the new construction projects in our random survey, only one facility was brought up to us and touted as a "green building."

Referring to design choices in constructing facilities, "green buildings" attempt to go beyond traditional building design considerations for construction budget and operating costs. They further reduce use of energy and water and the



Aerial view looking south at MSSU's Billingsly Student Center; new addition is the two rectangles to the far right. Architect's rendering by RDG Planning & Design.

facility's the impact on the local infrastructure and environment.

Proponents of green facilities are concerned because USA buildings account for 65-percent of electricity use, 36-percent of energy use, and 12-percent of potable water use — according to the Web site of US Green Building Council.

Green buildings are as designed using specifications referencing one of two competing benchmark systems. These establish criterion for rating

the efficiency of buildings and their occupants in initial and daily use of energy, water, and materials and the impact upon the environment.

For more information about "green buildings" see: www.greensource.construction.com. For more about the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design benchmark system see: www.usgbc.org. For more about the Green Globes benchmark system see: www.thegbi.org

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**FEATURED
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Education:

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Pittsburg State University

"PSU Student Recreation Center/Pittsburg Armory is a new facility housing the PSU Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation; the PSU Department of Military Science; and the Kansas Army National Guard," said Cassie Mathes, assistant director of public relations. "It will be dedicated in March of 2008 with 101,000-square-feet of classrooms, offices, and a student recreation center for PSU students."

City, state, and federal funds provide PSU with \$9 million and the remaining \$7 million comes from the Kansas Army National Guard. "The new center will have four gyms – the ROTC program and the National Guard will share one of them, with their own locker rooms," Mathes said. "By working together, both the National Guard and the University got better facilities."

Bob and Gwen Tyler were principal donors of the \$5.1 million funds for the 23,500-square-foot Tyler Research Center, lauded by the governor and dedicated in Sept. 2007. PSU Business & Technology Institute and the Kansas Polymer Research Center scientists and labs are housed in the building, on land donated by the city of Pittsburg. "They've been doing research for 20-years with a team that comes from across the world," said Mathes. "Now they've moved from a former dormitory into a state of the art facility to use soybean oil to create bio-based plastics, foams, and items that we use in everyday life."

"PSU also had seven projects for maintenance, repair, and renovation in 2007," Mathes said. "These included the football stadium and a health simulation center that provides robotic-style 'patients' for medical students to practice on, giving them realistic interaction."

The new 5,171-square-foot Gibson Plaza provides a paved entryway and gathering area for students between Willard Plaza and Gibson Dining Hall.

Office of University Housing funded the \$200,000 project, completed this year.

Missouri Southern State University

"We have \$36 million worth of construction projects coming up," said Rob Yust, interim vice president for business affairs. "Both will start mid-Spring, and take about 18-months."

Connected to the Billingsly student center and the learning center will be the new \$17 million student recreation and wellness center to be financed as a bond issue paid out of student fees.

"The addition and remodeling to the student center has four main parts," said Bill Wedeking with the project's architectural firm, RDG Planning Design of Des Moines, Iowa. "In the addition will be a fitness center with three gymnasiums and a running track, and a 150-seat theater with raked seating. The remodeling will create a student services health center, a 3,000-square-foot bookstore, and redefine the ballroom to allow two events to happen simultaneously."

"We were fortunate enough to receive \$19 million for a health sciences building," Yust said. "It will house dental, nursing, psychology, and radiology departments, and an animal lab for the psychology department to study." Architect on the project is Ed Wimmer of Deutsch Associates of Phoenix, Arizona.

Yust noted two projects just completed: a \$490,000 exterior renovation to make the Mansion weather-tight, and a \$290,000 new portico on the Robert W. Plaster Free Enterprise Center.

Crowder College

"Missouri Alternate Renewable Energy Technology Center will be a business incubator for ways to save on renewables," said Cindy Brown, Director of Public Information. "It will be a green building from the paint furniture and stuff to the angles of the roof to catch the light that it needs."

"The entire project has \$9 million, of which state and federal funds total about \$4 million dollars for this first stage. The building will be done in two phases."



Tyler Research Center opened in September, launching state of the art bio-based products at R&D facilities for Pittsburg State University. Photo courtesy of PSU.

"Third phase is a 120-foot tall wind turbine costing \$195,000, and will actually be done first when it is erected by the end of this month and operational sometime after the first of the year when we coordinate with Empire District," Brown said. "It will power the MARET Center, and put energy back into the campus electrical grid."

Crowder's MARET Center was designed by David Kromm of Kromm, Rikimaru and Johansen, Inc. of St. Louis, Mo. It represents a trickle of green buildings in tri-state region schools. "We are just completing a little prototype building so that contractors could see what the LEED construction consists of, so that we could get a more accurate bid from them," Brown said. "They are getting ready to let the MARET Center out for bid, and then construction should start early spring."

The second major construction project on campus is the \$7.4 million Arnold Farber Academic Building, to be completed April 2008. It provides much needed classroom and office space.

Northeast Oklahoma A&M College

Construction dust on the campus flies from renovation of Commons Hall.

"This is one of our oldest buildings on campus and will be restored to its original grandeur when it was constructed as a dormitory in 1939," said Christen Stark, Director of PR and Marketing.

Part of a 2005 statewide bond project, the renovation will house the music department with classrooms, practice rooms, office, and a 116-seat auditorium which will be a venue for smaller performances, lectures, presentations, community events. Project designer is Architecture Services of Oklahoma State University.

Work on Commons Hall started in June 2006 and should be completed in early 2008, somewhat later than originally scheduled. "Last summer's flood delayed our work several weeks," Stark said, "and also cost about \$12 million in damage to buildings, equipment, and contents."

Allen County Community College

"We just completed a 19,000 square feet residence hall, housing 56-students and 2 advisors," said Randy Weber, Dean of Students.

"The residence hall was completed in early August and has been a real blessing for us," Weber said. "One, it addressed a housing need that we had. Two, it presented a housing option we didn't have before the dorm was built."

"It is suite style, but with the living room and a little kitchenette as well," Weber noted. "Students have a range and an oven, and more square footage than typical campus housing. It also comes furnished, which is popular with our students that come from farther away and can't bring a bed and dresser onto the plane."

Steve Troxel, vice president of finance, noted that the housing was designed by Paul Cavanaugh of Places Architects out of Wichita. Troxel said the project cost about \$2 million, which was financed through a bank.

Cavanaugh noted that the college completed work on a second project designed by his firm. Within the administration building, a \$600,000 remodeling created a 5,000-square-foot Yavorn Student Success Center. It provides academic and specialized support to help individuals meet their educational and career goals, according to the college's Web site.

Coffeyville Community College

"Housing is a huge issue," said Kelli Bauer, Student Services Assistant. "I've been doing this for six years and we have been at capacity the last few years plus 25-75 students on wait lists." So, three apartment buildings located next to the campus looked mighty tempting. Helping to mitigate the housing crunch, one of the 16-unit apartment building was bought last spring.

"Cost was in the \$350,000 range," said Dickie Rolls, executive director of the Coffeyville Community College Foundation. "We used donor money, an estate that was given to us. So, the foundation owns it, the college leases it from us, and the revenues will go to pay for it. Once it is paid for, the college will acquire it from the foundation."

"We took possession July 01, we remodeled, and were open for school this fall," Bauer said. "It's a two-floor, 16-unit apartment building with one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. Each apartment has a small living room and dining room, and a small kitchen with the range/oven replaced with storage cabinets because of safety concerns."



Prototype building will familiarize contractors with the LEED construction for their bidding on Crowder College's new MARET Center (inset). Photo courtesy of Crowder; Architects rendering by Kromm, Rikimaru and Johansen Inc.