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DICK ANDERSON

CONSTRUCTION ZONE

University's
ongoing
building
boom has
bolstered
academic,
research
excellence



When Scott Cole was a business administration major at ASU in the early 1980s, he lived in a nearby condominium and rode his bicycle to the Tempe campus. Today, as deputy executive vice president of university services, Cole is at the center of an ongoing building boom that has spawned new research facilities and residence halls, expanded transportation options, and embellished the university landscape. “The campus is much more mature than it was some 20-odd years ago,” Cole, who graduated in 1984, said. “People coming back would be blown away.” Things haven’t always been that way. Despite the passing of Proposition 200 in 1958, which conferred full university status upon Arizona State, it would be more than a decade before changes to the infrastructure caught up to the voters’ enthusiasm.

In the early days of university status, enhancements to its research facilities were more piecemeal than master-planned: In fact, when the university was recruiting big-name researchers to join its ranks in the 1960s and 1970s, those “star faculty” would often stipulate for certain “expensive laboratory equipment” to support their research as part of the negotiation process, according to university archivist Rob Spindler.

“There were lots of teaching facilities but very little in the way of research laboratories,” Spindler said. Under President J. Russell Nelson (1981-89), a substantial building program provided somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100 million in new facilities in the 1980s, including a major expansion of Hayden Library, the Nelson Fine Arts Center, and the Barry M. Goldwater Center for Science and Engineering. That decade also saw the expansion of the university beyond the confines of Tempe, with the creation of the West campus at 47th Avenue and Thunderbird Road.

President Lattie F. Coor (1990-2002) “recognized the projections for enrollment at ASU were far beyond what could be handled on the Tempe campus,” says Spindler. And just as the West campus had opened in 1986 following a grassroots effort to expand educational opportunities in the West Valley, “it was clear there was going to be extensive development and growth in the far East Valley.”

With a number of large open buildings that could be retrofitted as classrooms and teaching facilities for



programs such as agribusiness and pilot training and safety, the Polytechnic campus, which opened in 1996, took over the former Williams Air Force Base and “morphed into a college campus with very little money,” says senior vice president and university planner Richard Stanley.

When the university achieved the Carnegie Foundation’s Research I status in 1994 under Coor, the impetus for growing the research facilities was apparent. But it wasn’t until the dawn of 21st century, and the rise of public-private partnerships under President Michael Crow, that the new building boom truly began.

On the Tempe campus, the first of four master-planned buildings that will eventually comprise the 800,000-square-foot Biodesign Institute opened in December 2004, with a second facility completed in January 2006. Total cost of the two structures: \$151.3 million. In addition, three Interdisciplinary & Technology (ISTB)






structures totaling nearly 300,000 square feet have been constructed since 2002, and a fourth ISTB structure is on the drawing board.

The West campus expanded its capacity for instruction and student/faculty research with the opening of the new Classroom Laboratory Building (CLCC II) in 2004. The completion of the 413-bed Las Casas development in 2003

introduced the residential experience to campus, as well.

On the Polytechnic campus, more than \$159 million has been poured into physical improvements since 2002, culminating in the anticipated July 2008 opening of a 240,000-square-foot academic complex that will accommodate the expansion of the enrollment from 6,000 to 10,000 students.

 <p>The Arizona Legislature authorizes the creation of ASU's West campus.</p> <p>1984</p>	<p>ASU celebrates the centennial of its founding with a year-long series of events.</p> <p>1985</p>	<p>Ground is broken for ASU's West campus in February.</p> <p>1986</p>	<p>The Honors College is established.</p> <p>1988</p>	<p>A massive 97,000-square-foot two-level underground expansion of Hayden Library opens.</p> <p>1989</p>	 <p>Lattie Coor becomes president of ASU.</p> <p>1990</p>	 <p>The women's golf team wins the first of six NCAA championships it will claim during the 1990s.</p> <p>1990</p>	<p>The Ross-Blakley Law Library opens on the Tempe campus.</p> <p>1993</p>	<p>Money Magazine names ASU's Honors College one of the top eight honors colleges in the United States.</p> <p>1994</p>	<p>The Fiske Guide cites the Honors College as the principal reason for awarding ASU four stars in academics.</p> <p>1994</p>
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SKYSINE



DESIGN



NURSING

The Downtown Phoenix campus opened in fall 2006 with the renovation of a number of existing buildings, including a Ramada Inn-turned-residence hall. The campus will take another giant step forward this fall with the opening of a new multi-use complex on the corner of Central Avenue and Taylor Street—the new home of the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, as well as university-operated public television station KAET/Channel 8. The development of the Downtown Phoenix campus is a textbook example of social embeddedness. The city had been looking for a



catalyst for redeveloping the area—where 40 percent of existing properties were either vacant or underdeveloped—and ASU President Michael Crow and Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon spearheaded the effort to develop a downtown campus.

The idea moved forward with the support of the community in the form of a \$223 million bond program approved by the city's voters in March 2006. Six months later, the Downtown Phoenix campus opened with some 300,000 square feet of



academic and support space. Such a rapid turnaround was made possible by utilizing public-private partnerships—where a government entity such as ASU partners with the private sector to develop projects in which they have a mutual interest.

“We can build things (through public-private partnerships) faster than we can normally afford to develop,” Steven Nielsen, assistant vice president for real estate, explained.

In the coming years, as the capacity for research grows, the population of the Tempe campus will gradually shift to accommodate more graduate students. “It’s been a tremendous boon for research,” says Stephen Goodnick, associate vice president for research at ASU. “One of the factors that was limiting our ability to grow research was the amount of space.” If there’s a speed bump in the road ahead, deferred maintenance will become a greater challenge as the university’s older buildings show their age. But overall, the future is bright for the physical structures that form the New American University. “The geographic distribution of the four campuses and the amount of acreage we have should allow us to address our needs for the next 10 to 15 years,” said Stanley.

Dick Anderson is a freelance writer based in Los Angeles.



The regents approve the following West campus schools: the College of Arts and Sciences, the College of Education, the

1994

College of Human Services, and the School of Management.



ASU opens its East campus at Williams Gateway in Mesa; the schools of

1996

agribusiness and technology relocate to the campus.



East College is created as an academic home for liberal arts programs at ASU's East campus.

1997



ASU's West campus begins admitting freshmen and sophomores.

2001



Michael M. Crow becomes president of ASU.

2002



The College of Business is renamed the W.P. Carey School of Business.

2003

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences becomes the Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering.

2003



The university creates University College.

2003

The New U

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- **Sun Devil Destinations** – a travel program for Sun Devils of all generations.
- **Recent Graduate Programming** – Services, programs, benefits for alumni who graduated within the last 10 years.
- **Scholarships** – The Alumni Medallion Scholarship Program rewards top students with financial support, while matching them with alumni mentors.
- **Honoring Traditions** – Increased attention to enhancing traditions and building new ones at ASU.
- **Benefits for You** – New benefits that provide service and have meaning in all facets of your life.
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