GOING UP

Construction Continues on New Center for Science and Mathematics

By Teresa Mariani Hendrix

The walls of Cal Poly’s Center for Science and Mathematics are rising. The $131 million, 197,000-square-foot building was made possible by $110 million in state bonds and $20 million in private donations to Cal Poly. It’s scheduled to be completed in May 2013 – but if weather allows, it could be finished by the end of 2012.

The six-story structure will include classrooms, labs and offices for the chemistry and biochemistry, physics, and earth and soil science departments, as well as student gathering and study spaces.

The construction zone has been dubbed Area 52. Photo courtesy College of Science and Mathematics

The fifth floor will house two of the college’s applied research centers: the Kenneth N. Edwards Western Coatings Technology Institute and the Environmental Biotechnology Institute. Both were made possible by industry support.

The new center is replacing the north wings of Building 52, the science and math complex affectionately known to generations of alumni as the Spider Building because of its multiple wings.

The south half of Building 52 remains. At the center of the old and new science facilities – and the campus – will be a plaza and green named Centennial Park.

“Science and mathematics are really the foundation of a polytechnic education, and this center exemplifies that,” said Phil Bailey, dean of Cal Poly’s College of Science and Mathematics. “We want it to be a warm and inviting building, a place where students will want to gather – and a place where people can see art and science intersect. The building’s design brings both together beautifully.”

Cal Poly is hosting two web cameras that show construction live “24-7,” and photo galleries documenting construction from demolition to completion. Find them at www.cosam.calpoly.edu/gallery/csmgallery.html.