I’ve learned a lot about TESC this morning in a very short span of time. One thing I learned is where the old construction photos of our campus have been hiding. Another thing I learned is our contractor on the Lecture Hall Renovation (Absher) was also the contractor who built the College Activities Building back in early 70’s. I think that is pretty cool. In viewing the photographs of the original construction on the Lecture Hall building I leaned the construction firm that built it (CE & C, Inc.) also did a remodel to the Library building in 2009. Absher is celebrating being in business for 75-years, and CE & C has been in business for 67 years. I guess both of these firms must being doing something right if they have been in business for so long.

My timing in finding these old photographs is perfectly apt for this week’s edition of Lecture Hall Construction Digest. Last week I told you there would not be any jackhammering or concrete saw cutting for this week. Well, earlier this week Absher’s construction superintendent sluggishly walked into my office with his hat in his hand seeking forgiveness. They were planning on doing some major jackhammering next week, but they decided to move it up a few days.

What they have been jackhammering are some oddly shaped concrete walls that could be considered buttresses. On the attached photo titled “LH looking east”, taken on April 14, 1971, you can see I’ve circled some of these buttresses in yellow. They were built to support the stepped concrete floor levels in the lecture halls while also supporting the cantilevered exterior walls. We have removed the steeply stepped floors (try to say that fast three times in a row!) and will eventually be installing a much more gentling stepped flooring system that will meet accessibility needs. If we are to remove these buttresses the exterior walls need to be supported first. On the second attached photograph, taken this morning and looking at the same area of the Lecture Hall, I’ve pointed out these buttress locations, and you can also see the new concrete infill walls supporting the exterior walls. Anyway, they have been jackhammering these buttresses to allow us to fill the gaps between these infill walls. The third photograph titled “no buttress” shows what the inside of Lecture Hall 4 looks like with the buttress removed.

Anyway, the good news is we should only have two days of this jackhammering next week. It had to happen at some point in time, so the majority of next week should be much quieter out there.
Construction activity next week will also include another concrete pour, more formwork and more grading of the soil inside the old lecture halls.

Thanks to all of you who have conveyed to me how they like my weekly updates. It seems like every time I meet someone for the first time on campus their immediate reply is how much they like my email messages. I really appreciate the support you provide me. Believe it or not I use to be an extremely shy and timid person. It has taken some time, but I’ve learned through the years that fear does nothing but stifle creativity and hinders accomplishment. I really like my job here at Evergreen, and I hope it shows.

Cheers,

Tim