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AGRICULTURE



NEW FRONTIERS UPDATE June 2023

Parting Thoughts

One of my compulsions during the past 24 months has been to check the progress of the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall. I frequently visit the websites that host the two construction [webcams](#), installed by Randy Raper, assistant vice president of facilities. When I boot up my laptop every morning, I check the webcams to look for any noticeable changes. Throughout the day, I refresh the sites to look for further changes. I'll check them on weekends even though the camera feed ends at 5 p.m. every Friday. For a project like this, any sign of physical progress is welcome.

This project has more subtle indicators of progress that the webcams cannot capture. Part of our vision for the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall is that it will help us change the way we work – the way we teach, the way we conduct research and the way we engage with students, alumni and colleagues. Just as Dr. Raper engaged faculty in discussions about building design earlier in this

Throughout the next year, this group will bring forward ideas to help prepare for the move-in taking place next summer and the use of spaces throughout the inaugural year in the building.



A driving theme will be to develop a guide for using and allocating space in a way that strengthens the unique culture of our college. Collaboration among colleagues is already especially strong within departments. Is it possible to maintain collaboration, while using this project to expand the sense of common purpose and mutual respect across the six departments that will be housed in the building? How can those in Animal and Food Sciences, the Robert M. Kerr Food and Agricultural Products Center and the Noble Research Center join in that collaboration?

Just as the building is unfinished, the fulfillment of this change in how we work is unfinished as well. For some, it may seem odd for me to depart at this time with unfinished business. It is true the birth of four grandchildren over the past four years is a strong motivator for my timing. And the desire to spend more time in the water – fishing and studying aquatic things – is nearly as strong. But the reality of this building and the way it is used needs to be embraced by those who will be working and studying in it.

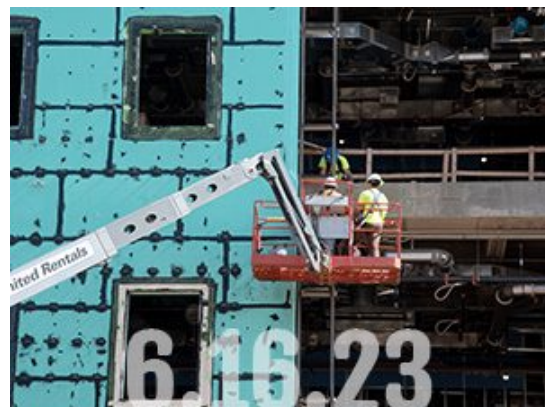
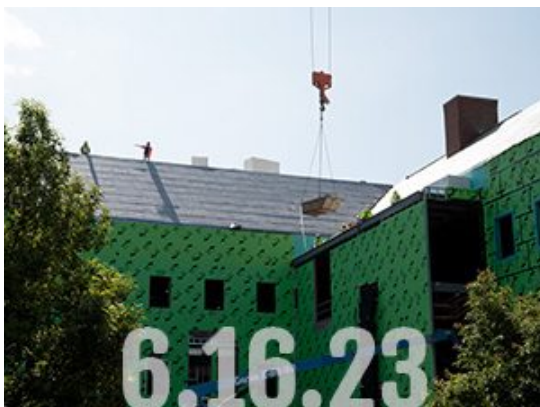
Whether I retire this year, next year or the following year, I would not be among those working in this new space for long. I look forward to seeing how new creativity and discovery unfold and how this rich culture adapts to a new habitat. I would love to have a live webcam in the Dairy Bar to watch the progress of life in the new building. But a webcam won't tell the full story of how a college changes the way it welcomes new students and faculty, the way it supports innovative inquiry and the way it radiates respect for all. That can only be experienced by those who live it, and I have faith the people of the Ferguson College of Agriculture, OSU Extension and OSU Ag Research will create something special.

Together, we are embarking on New Frontiers!

Thomas G. Coon
Vice President and Dean

Building Progress

Click on each photo for more information and additional building progress images.



Time-lapse Video

View the progress made during the previous month in the time-lapse video below.

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Drone Video

View the drone video below of building construction taken in early June 2023.



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Facility Fast Fact

There will be about **16,000 cubic yards of concrete** in the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall when completed. Learn more fun facts about the concrete process in this video.

[Watch Concrete Fun Facts Video](#)

Featured News

As the New Frontiers Agricultural Hall is taking shape on campus, the Ferguson College of Agriculture family eagerly awaits the completion of the new, state-of-the-art facility.

[Read More About Journey to New Frontiers](#)

Featured Donor

New Frontiers donor Linda Cline sets an example to her children through generosity and courage. As a strong supporter of the Ferguson College of Agriculture, Cline instilled her generous spirit in her daughter, Amy, from a young age.

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NEW FRONTIERS ▶



than \$50 million, reaching the fundraising goal in record time! Click the button below to learn more about New Frontiers, including building features, donor stories, how you can support the project and more.

[Support New Frontiers](#)

Celebrating Tom and Rhonda Coon

The Cowboy family honored Dr. Coon and his family with a retirement reception for his dedicated service and visionary leadership to OSU, the Ferguson College of Agriculture and the university's two state agencies: OSU Extension and OSU Ag Research.

To create a legacy in the Coons' name, the [Coon Family Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship](#) was established and recently endowed to honor Tom and Rhonda Coon's passion for student study abroad experiences through the Ferguson College of Agriculture.

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