

editor's note



MY DAUGHTER, JULIA, REPORTS THAT HER ENGINEERING FRIENDS AT SCHOOL ARE EXCITED ABOUT SOME SPECIAL CONSTRUCTION ON HER CAMPUS.

Jobst Hall, the home of the Caterpillar College of Engineering and Technology and one of the oldest buildings on the Bradley University campus, will soon be demolished. And in its place will rise a new 270,000-sq.-ft, five-story building that will house the engineering and business schools.

As a learning opportunity, this project can't be beat. Students will get to see the old steel-and-masonry building taken down and will receive a lesson on how buildings used to be put together. And they'll get to see the steel go up for the new building (fabricated by AISC full member and certified fabricator A. Lucas & Sons).

The new building is both architecturally striking and structurally innovative. It features welded moment connections to enable large open spaces throughout, with minimal bracing. It will clearly be a learning opportunity for the students, and hopefully they'll get the chance to both visit the fabricator and watch the steel being erected.

The building is significant for another reason: Bradley University has chosen to locate its business and engineering schools under one roof, an

acknowledgement that engineers need to better understand business and finance majors need to be rooted in practicality. According to Lex Akers and Darrell Radson, deans of the engineering and business schools, respectively, the building will further Bradley's goal of breaking through barriers between the engineering and business departments and help better prepare their students for advancement in their careers. To help develop collaborative spaces, the two even visited Apple's headquarters to see how that company fosters natural collaboration.

Bradley has already begun incorporating some of these collaborative concepts in its classes. Business and engineering students are working together on paid projects for different companies, a program that Akers said will grow in the new building. "We create the teams and we create the solutions," he explained.

As for me, I'm just excited the fabricator has already invited me to Peoria for a site visit when the erection begins.


SCOTT MELNICK
EDITOR

Modern STEEL CONSTRUCTION

Editorial Offices

130 E Randolph Street, Suite 2000
Chicago, IL 60601
312.670.2400

Editorial Contacts

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Scott Melnick
312.670.8314
melnick@modernsteel.com

SENIOR EDITOR

Geoff Weisenberger
312.670.8316
weisenberger@modernsteel.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tasha O'Berski
312.670.5439
oberski@modernsteel.com

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

Keith A. Grubb, SE, PE
312.670.8318
grubb@modernsteel.com

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Erika Salisbury
312.670.5427
salisbury@modernsteel.com

GRAPHIC DESIGN MANAGER

Kristin Hall
312.670.8313
hall@modernsteel.com

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Advertising Contact

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Renaë Gurthet
231.995.0637
renaë@gurthetmedia.com

Address Changes and Subscription Concerns

312.670.2400
subscriptions@aisc.org

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Erika Salisbury
312.670.5427
salisbury@modernsteel.com