Construction of a new $7.2 million physical sciences laboratory building is now well underway north of Overman Hall. The 52,800-square-foot structure, which will be five stories tall, will include 30 laboratories for instruction and research in chemistry and physics, 16 instrument rooms, 18 faculty offices, a planetarium and a rooftop observatory. Groundbreaking for the facility, the first major construction project undertaken since the opening of the Moore Musical Arts Center, was June 1. The target date for completion of the project is January 1984.

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New faculty/staff benefits effective Sept. 1

University enrolls in innovative insurance program

The dental and vision insurance coverage for faculty and contract staff approved by the Board of Trustees at its July 23 meeting will become effective on Sept. 1.

Paul Nusser, treasurer, said information concerning the program will be mailed to each eligible employee sometime before Sept. 1, adding that in the interim, specific questions can be addressed to the insurance office (372-2112).

The plan will be identical to that currently provided for classified employees and their families, but the University said it will pay the premium only for employees in the faculty/contract staff group.

A survey to assess interest in optional family vision and dental coverage, at the employees’ expense, is to be distributed to faculty and contract staff about Sept. 1.

Nusser noted that 75 percent of the employees eligible for family benefits must elect to enroll in the optional program before it can be provided. The cost of the family vision/dental package will be $19.22 per month.

Classified employees will continue to receive full family health care insurance benefits, including the vision and dental program, at no expense to them. Effective Sept. 1, however, the University, in an attempt to keep insurance costs at a minimum, is moving to a self-funded health care program to be administered by Benefit Plans Risk Management, Inc. of Findlay.

Prior insurance contracts will be terminated, but there will be no change in the benefits provided to employees.

Nusser said all expenses covered under previous plans will continue to be paid under the new agreement. New identification cards and brochures explaining the health care package will be issued to faculty, classified and contract staff about Sept. 1.

Nusser said the change in the insurance program will save the University and its employees about $188,700 during the coming year. That savings is reflected in lower premium rates than would have been experienced if existing coverage had been continued.

Despite the savings, however, premium rates will be increased, effective in September, for both the University and those faculty and staff who have optional family coverage.

The University will continue to pay for hospitalization coverage for faculty and contract staff, in addition to providing the new vision/dental package. Major medical insurance, which has been deducted from faculty/contract staff paychecks along with the life insurance premium paid by that group of employees, will be raised from $7.09 to $12.32 per month, effective with the Sept. 2 paycheck.

The deduction for optional family hospitalization coverage will be increased $6.70 per month, from $38.11 to $44.81 (excluding the optional $19.22 vision/dental package described earlier).

Nusser said the total rate increases would have been eight percent higher if the University had not changed its approach to administering the insurance program.

He added that the University’s decision to enroll in the new program is innovative in higher education in the state and that its degree of success will depend largely upon employees’ willingness to help keep health care costs down.

Through the new program, the University will pay directly for health care services required by employees until costs exceed a certain pre-determined rate, at which time an insurance stop-loss carrier will begin to pay. The stop-loss insurance guarantees that the University will not sustain charges beyond its budgeted level.

“We have confidence that our employees will use only those services they need and thereby help control our health care costs,” Nusser said, adding that wise use of the health care program could pay off for both the University and its employees through decreased rates, or lesser degrees of increase, in future years.

He stressed, however, that there will be no change in previous coverage or the ways in which insurance claims are handled, regardless of patterns of use.

Dates set for open, evening registrations

Open registration for fall semester classes begins Monday (Aug. 16).

Full-time and part-time undergraduate students may register for fall classes between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday or between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays from Aug. 17-25 in the Grand Ballroom of the University Union. Open registration also will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 27 in the Community Suite of the University Union and from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Aug. 30-Sept. 3 in the Ballroom.

Open registration for full-time and part-time graduate students also is being held during this time period.

Graduate students may enroll for fall classes at Graduate Registrations in McFall Center between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays or between 8 a.m. and noon on Saturday, Aug. 28. Graduate Registrations will observe extended hours from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. from Aug. 30—Sept. 2.

Fall semester registration for evening students, those who attend classes only after 5 p.m., will be held Aug. 24-25.

Registration for undergraduate and graduate students will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. both days in the Ballroom. At that time students can register for classes, pay fees and receive parking decals.

Among the new faculty and staff approved by the Board of Trustees:

Dr. Diane G. Pretzer, romance languages, has been appointed to a four-year term as chair of that department.

Pretzer, who joined the faculty in 1962, received a bachelor’s degree from Knox College, her master’s degree from the University of Iowa and a doctoral degree from Indiana University.

A former chair of both the college section of the Ohio Modern Language Teachers Association and the Spanish American literature section of the Midwest Modern Language Association Pretzer’s research interests are in the areas of Spanish American prose fiction, linguistics and foreign language teaching methodology.

Pretzer succeeds Dr. Richard Hebein as chair of romance languages.
Nov. 1 is deadline for FRC program

The Faculty Research Committee has set Nov. 1, 1982, as the deadline for application for the annual program of research associateships and research grants.

New in Review

Labor Day, Sept. 6

Monday, Sept. 6, is Labor Day, a holiday for University employees.

Only those activities deemed absolutely essential by area supervisors will be scheduled that day. Classes will not meet.

Classified group has new members

Six new members have been appointed to the Classified Staff Advisory Committee (formerly the Personnel Steering Committee).

Four of the new members will serve full two-year terms. They include David Maley, for services (2-2342); Nancy Borck, custodial services (2-2251); Deb Clink, computer services (2-2911), and JoAnne Dailey, arts and sciences (2-2015).

Beverly Cope, international programs (2-2247), will serve one year, completing the unexpired term of a member who has resigned.

Linda Canterbury, athletics (2-2401), has been named to a new non-voting position representing permanent part-time personnel.

Four members who have completed two-year terms will retire from the committee effective Sept. 1. They are Beverly Copper, custodial services; Annette Ecker, writing lab; Ruth Hafner, technical support services; and Cindy Matyi, research services.

Campus housing still available

On-campus housing is still open for fall semester, according to Robert Rudd, director of housing, who said that all "waiting lists" have been accommodated.

He added that housing is much more flexible this year than in the past, a situation he attributes to changing economic conditions and a decline in federally funded financial aid.

"We are finding that more of our continuing students than usual have delayed making a decision about living in residence halls because of the uncertainty of personal finances. As a result, the normal 100 percent occupancy rate for the fall semester is currently about 97 percent," Rudd said.

Housing contracts are available in the housing office in the Student Services Building.

Faculty and staff eligible for entertainment discounts

All faculty and staff are eligible for discount admissions to the following attractions and amusement parks through the University’s Academic Affairs: The Toledo Zoo, Recreational Employees Services Council (Tires); Cedar Point; Colonial Williamsburg, Va.; Disneyland/Disney World; Great Lakes; Greenfield Village and Henry Ford Museum; King’s Island; Opryland; Pro Football Hall of Fame; Campbells World; and Wisconsin Dells.

Questions about the discount programs should be directed to the personnel office (372-2001).

In addition, tickets to both Cedar Point and King’s Island are available to faculty and staff at a discount rate at the Union Information Desk.

Cedar Point tickets may be purchased at the special price of $9.50 (child or adult) for $8.50 for each ticket. Children four years of age or younger are admitted free.

Discount admission tickets to Cedar Point will receive $2.50 in Cedar Point "crazy cash." The "crazy cash" may be used to purchase food, games, and souvenirs in the park.

King’s Island tickets also are being sold for $5.50 for adults and $4.50 for children 4, 5 and 6 years of age. Children age three and younger are admitted free.

The savings for University employees are $2.45 for adults and 20 cents for children.

Only cash ticket sales are accepted at the Union desk. Employees must present their University identification card to make a purchase.

Time cards need budget/cost data

Effective Aug. 30, all time cards submitted to the payroll office must include budget and cost information that will facilitate processing time.

Any time cards turned in without the budget and cost numbers will be returned to their respective offices.

Questions about the procedure should be directed to the payroll office, 372-2201.

Fall ‘opening day’ scheduled Aug. 27

The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs has announced the schedule for fall semester opening day activities, to be held on Friday, Aug. 27. Activities scheduled are as follows: 10-11 a.m. — College faculty meetings Arts and Sciences, Grand Ballroom Business Administration Building, 112 Life Sciences Bldg.; 11:52 p.m. — College adviser meetings Arts and Sciences, Grand Ballroom Business Administration, 112 Life Sciences Bldg.; 1:15-2 p.m. — Library and Learning Resources, 112 Library; 2:15-3:15 p.m. — Meetings of schools and departments Library, 112 Library; 3:30-5 p.m. — Graduate College wine and cheese reception for all faculty, Milleti Alumni Center.

Faculty/Staff Positions, 1982-83

The following faculty positions have been authorized:

- Computer Science: Assistant or associate professor. Contact Faculty Search Committee, computer science department (2-2377), Deadline: Open.