

FORWARD PROGRESS

BY NICHOLAS BROWN

Construction on an ambitious \$83 million capital-improvements project nicknamed "Saluki Way" has kicked off at **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, CARBONDALE**. One focus of the multiphase project is a new 12,000-seat football stadium. The U-shaped, \$25.3 million stadium will replace McAndrew Stadium, built in 1939. Eight enclosed luxury suites overlooking the synthetic turf field will help pay the project's debt service. A \$29.9 million addition to Saluki Arena, built in 1964, will include new seating throughout, improved accessibility, and new concessions and restroom areas. Another major component of the project is an \$11.5 million, 53,000-square-foot, two-story addition to the arena that will serve as its new main entrance, while also providing a ticket office, football and basketball team support facilities, an auditorium and administrative space. Saluki Way is expected to be completed in 2010, in time for the university's "Southern at 150" festivities. Kansas City-based **360 ARCHITECTURE** served as the lead architect for the three projects while Carbondale-based **IMAGE ARCHITECTS INC.** lent its expertise to the design of the football stadium.



RENDERING COURTESY OF BRINKLEY SARGENT ARCHITECTS

Construction is under way in North Texas on the **GRAND PRAIRIE ACTIVE ADULT CENTER** (above), which is just one element of a 78-acre municipal park development that will also include a \$45 million public safety center. The \$25 million activity center will feature a natatorium, a gymnasium, a fitness center, a hot tub, a second-floor walking area with glass tunnels and lake views, a group exercise room, classrooms, a 100-seat theater and banquet rooms. Dallas-based **BRINKLEY SARGENT ARCHITECTS** designed the center so that it will provide both visual and physical connections to a series of lakes and open lawns on the site. A pedestrian boardwalk and vehicular esplanade will link the facility to the safety center and neighboring retail developments.

Grand Openings



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CRAFTON TULL SPARKS



The Baylor University football program has beefed up its operations with the opening of the 96,500-square-foot **Alwin O. and Dorothy Highers Athletics Complex and Simpson Athletics and Academic Center** (left).

The athletics center, flanked by two football practice fields, includes a football locker room, a strength and conditioning area, sports medicine suites, a hydrotherapy room, team meeting rooms and football staff



PHOTO COURTESY OF TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

offices. The academic center is available to all Baylor student-athletes. In addition to numerous other green design elements, the facility takes the place of a former city landfill and incorporates a complex underground system designed to mitigate the spread of methane gas. The \$34 million complex was designed to visually connect to other buildings throughout campus, including an adjacent museum... Texas A&M hopes its new

state-of-the-art 68,000-square-foot basketball training and office facility will help attract new talent to campus. The \$23 million **Cox-McFerrin Center for Aggie Basketball** (right), which opened in February and connects to the Aggies' Reed Arena, features a rotunda entrance leading to two 12,000-square-foot practice gyms, spacious locker rooms, players' lounges, coaches' offices, and training and video rooms. Ⓜ