

Walsh College begins \$750,000 building addition

By Suzie Rollins Singer
staff writer

Administrators don't know quite how to explain the growth surge at Walsh College that's been going on for the past few years.

They say people are attracted to the school's programs, pricing and reputation so much that they've been forced to expand their quarters by more than 10,000 square feet.

The bulldozers have already leveled ground, drainage work is under way and it won't be long before the parking lot is extended, the student lounge redesigned, classrooms and faculty offices added and the library's size doubled.

When the 10,400-square-foot addition is complete the building will be 40,200 square feet, sitting on 20 acres of land.

Expansion costs are estimated at \$750,000, funded completely by private donations, said the college's president, Jeff Barry.

Walsh College of Accountancy and Business Administration has built its reputation on offering degree programs in accounting, taxation and business management. Bachelor-degree candidates must first complete two years of general-education requirements at a liberal-arts college before being admitted to the specialty program.

ALTHOUGH FALL enrollment figures aren't complete because registration extends through Sept. 16, Barry said undergraduate enrollment is already 13 percent higher than projected, and master-degree enrollments are 34 percent higher than administrators expected.

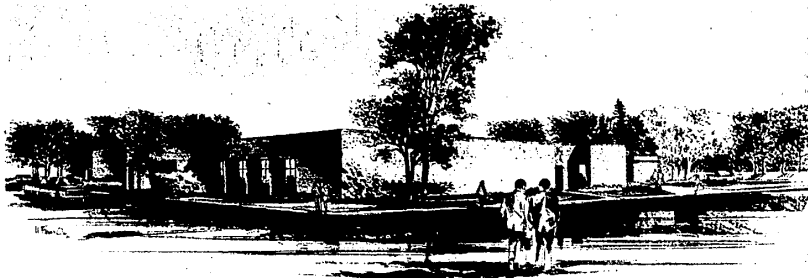
"It's a great experience to see the demand in education increase. We make every effort not to turn people away who are qualified, to the extent that we offer classes in the boardroom (due to space constraints)," he added.

So far, Walsh's Troy campus has enrolled 1,218 undergraduate students. Of those, 602 are male, and 616 are female. The majority of students, 979, are part-time and 239 are full-time. Last year when 1,212 were undergraduates.

Graduate enrollment is at 352 so far, with 267 males and 85 females. Part-time students are by far the majority with 335 signed up, compared to 16 full-time students. Last year, 298 students enrolled in graduate-level courses.

Barry estimated that the expansion will take the college through five years of continuing growing enrollments. Classroom space will expand by 37 percent, the faculty area by 67 percent and the library by 107 percent.

"WE'RE MAKING more private



JOHN STANO/staff photographer

In just a few months Walsh College will be 10,000 square feet larger as a result of a new addition to accommodate the huge influx of students

the college has been receiving during the past few years. The drawing illustrates the design of the new back entrance.

areas in the lounge so students have a place to study in between work and school," Barry said.

Barry attributes the increasing enrollment to the college's concern for the student's needs. Most students are in their 30s, married and working full time.

"We offer programs in the evenings, daytime and Saturdays. The quality of our programs is well known, and the college has a good reputation for placement after graduation," he said. About 90 percent of the Walsh graduates are recruited by employers, he added.

ACCOUNTING is still the most popular undergraduate major, while taxation ranks No. 1 with the graduates.

In addition to graduate and undergraduate programs Walsh offers one-day workshops in continuing professional education. The program is in its second year, and courses are designed

to meet the needs and schedules of professionals looking for the most current technical information and techniques; dealing with accounting, auditing, taxation, management and finance. Some courses may be taken for credit towards a degree or they may be taken for personal enrichment.

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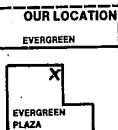
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