Arch marks Evanston campus entrance

Northwestern University's Evanston campus has a new main entrance—a 36-ton stone and wrought-iron arch at the northeast corner of Sheridan Road and Chicago Avenue. The arch, which towers more than 28 feet over the walkway leading to the campus, was commissioned by University President Arnold R. Weber "to define the main entrance to Northwestern with a permanent landmark structure that shows the strength and tradition of the University." Work on the project started in June, with carving and widening of portions of the sidewalk at the intersection and installation of new flowers and evergreens adjacent to the entrance.

Eighteen-ton stone columns were erected on both sides of the walkway during the summer. Indiana limestone, in blocks weighing 600 to 700 pounds, was used to construct the 10-1/2-foot columns. The stone was cut and shaped to match the stonework of University Hall, the oldest building on campus, located northeast of the entrance.

Open enrollment starts for benefit plans

Open enrollment in the University's 1994 benefit programs for health and dental insurance and Flexile Reimbursement Accounts (FRA) started Oct. 25 and continues through Nov. 19. This period is the one time each year when benefit-eligible faculty and staff may make changes to benefit plan selections. Changes are effective Jan. 1, 1994.

The University has made changes in some benefits for the new year, including:
- New Plan A (Blue Cross) prescription drug program, inpatient deductible and out-of-pocket expense limit
- New HMO alternative (Chicago HMO)
- New $50,000 coverage option for the Group Term Life Insurance plan
- Reduced Optional Term Life Insurance premiums
- New Retirement Plan Cash Distribution option

These changes and other benefit information will be discussed at sessions on both campuses with representatives of the benefit division and insurance companies available to answer questions.

To make changes in benefits or to continue participation in the FRA program for 1994, completed enrollment forms must be received by the benefit division no later than 5 p.m. Nov. 19. The forms are available at the information sessions; the benefit division on the Evanston campus, 720 University Plaza; and at Human Resources on the Chicago campus, 119 Wacker Building. Call (708) 491-7513 for questions.

The University will continue to contribute approximately 75 percent of the total cost of health insurance plans and 55 percent of the dental insurance plans for full-time employees. Premiums are paid on a pre-tax basis; federal and state income taxes and Social Security/Medicare taxes under the Federal Insurance Contribution Act (FICA) are not paid on income that is used to pay premiums.

Health Care Plans

Chicago HMO has been added to the choices of health insurance plans, providing greater flexibility in the selection of health care providers. Employees will continue to be able to select from the current health providers, including one indemnity plan (Plan A, administered by Blue Cross-Blue Shield) and four health maintenance organizations (HMO Illinois, Omaha Michael Reese HMO Health Plans; Rush Prudential Health Plans; and The Affiliates Plan) and Chicago HMO.

Chicago HMO operates under the same principles of an Independent Practice Association (IPA) model: HMO such as HMO-Illinois and The Affiliates Plan of Rush Health Plans which contract directly with physician groups. Chicago HMO has one of the most extensive hospital and physician provider networks in the Chicago area.