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 repaving and widening of portions of the sidewalks 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 stone exterior 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 Flexible 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; Human Resources on the Chicago campus, 159 Walter Hall; and by calling (708) 491-7513.

The University will continue to contribute approximately 72 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 further 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, Humana Michael Reese HMO Health Plans; Rush Prudential Health Plans (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. (continued on page 8)
Arnold Weber: Comments during the dedication of the Arch, June 7, 2011.

I am deeply appreciative and flattered that President Schapiro has arranged this occasion for the dedication of the Arch.

It's now almost 17 years since the Arch was built and shortly thereafter I stepped down as President of Northwestern. Indeed, some of you are probably scratching your heads and wondering why this occasion has come about or asking who is that kindly old gentleman looking uncomfortable at the lectern.

With your indulgence, permit me to tell you what journalists and Hollywood producers call the “back story”, which I believe has a happy ending. The idea to build an arch (or gate) was germinated in the last six months of my tenure as President. At that time, the campus landscaping had been rehabilitated
through the skillful, diligent efforts of Ann Ziegelmaier, the Landscape Architect for the University, and Swede Olson, the director of what we then quaintly called Building and Grounds. The massive, $140 million renovation of the Technological Institute was in its final stages, and we had just completed the last major “deferred maintenance” project on a seemingly endless list, a $2 million repair of every roof on the Evanston campus.

Almost all university presidents seem to harbor what is called an “edifice complex” and I must confess that I was humbled at the prospect that my administration might be remembered for installing the most cedar shingles since 1851, when Northwestern was founded. Also, another, covert vanity was in play. One of the great appeals of working for a university is the tacit belief that you will leave a mark for posterity. In 2111, IBM will probably be part of Facebook, which will have been
absorbed by Groupon, but there is a high probability that Northwestern will have preserved its place, identity and traditions.

I received a quixotic confirmation of this appeal when I was leaving the University of Colorado to return to Chicago and Northwestern. A wealthy Colorado alumnus, who believed that the University gave inadequate recognition to the symbols of patriotism, financed the construction of three towering flagpoles outside the Administration Building. The pole designated to display the university's flag was dedicated in my name. Since I left Colorado, I understand that a familiar exhortation on campus when reviewing a new idea or proposal is "Let's run it up the Weber and see how it flaps."

With this cautionary experience in mind, I judged that the main gap in the Evanston campus architecture was the absence of a
physical, symbolic portal where faculty, student, alumni, visitors and football recruits would be clearly aware that they were entering the Northwestern community. The campus was crisscrossed by roads, parking lots, paths, and even a beach for amphibious landings, but no single entry point was identified. The obvious location to remedy this deficiency was the pathway at the intersection of Sheridan Road and Chicago Avenue. The architectural feature would be a gate, or more appropriately, an open welcoming arch.

Ann Ziegelmaier then developed a design and worked with the stone masons and iron workers to create the Arch. It was completed in the summer of 1994 and has classic stone and grill work. The contractor for the construction assured us that it will last at least 200 years, barring a tsunami or the Cubs winning the World Series.
I confess that I harbored a desire to put my fingerprint on the Arch. Now fast forward to President Schapiro's arrival on campus. At an introductory luncheon he asked me if he could do anything for me. Since I already had a parking place, the question stirred my yearning for a fingerprint on the Arch and I asked if a small plaque could be placed on a column indicating that it had been constructed during my tenure as President. He agreed to do this but he had larger plans and that it would be an occasion to highlight the traditions and welcoming environment of Northwestern. Indeed, if you look through the Arch you can see the venerable spine of the campus reaching to University Hall, Harris Hall, Annie May Swift and down to the Library and the landfill. Also, to the south is Alice Millar Chapel, a monument to the Methodist founders of the University. And to the north is a restored remnant of the iron fence which defined the boundary of the campus and which was torn up by student protestors to block Sheridan Road
during the tempestuous 1970’s, altering forever the image of Northwestern as a genteel haven for humanistic studies and the creative arts. The restoration is marked by a small sign which is almost always ignored by current students hurrying to class.

President Schapiro has established a new tradition by leading the new freshman class through the Arch when they first convene on campus. And I must admit that I get a little tug of satisfaction when I see a visitor or prospective student taking a picture framed by the Arch.

Architectural ornaments do not define the quality of a university. This is the task of the trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni. And we are all proud that under the leadership of Presidents Bienen and Schapiro Northwestern has attained increased eminence for the quality and diversity
of its academic programs and students. But such an Arch does signify that you are transiting the boundaries of a university community which has passed the test of time and will expand the life horizon of those who pass through it.

Again, I’m grateful to President Schapiro for his kind words, the plaque and this ceremony. And who knows, a flag pole may beckon to some future Northwestern president?