Excitement, passion and energy are three words describing the feel as you walk through the halls of Williston State College (WSC). With all the renovations going on, an exhilarating new phase of the campus is under way.

The latest innovative addition to the college is going to be the new science wing. It will contain four new laboratories. Physics and Engineering will share one of the labs, Anatomy, Physiology and Micro Biology will share another and Chemistry and Biology will each have their own. It will also have a student lounge.

The current laboratories were built in the late 1960’s and no updates have taken place since. One person that can attest to this is Lance Olson. He is the Science and Mathematics instructor at the college, has been teaching there for 20 years and is heading the committee in charge of the new laboratory project.

“The new labs will have updated equipment and ventilation systems so the students will always be breathing clean, fresh air,” said Olson. “It will also contain energy efficient means of heating and cooling.” Each lab will be high-tech with wireless internet and state-of-the-art IVN (Interactive Video Network) along with the ability to have distance education in other locations.

Olson wants to have labs the college can be proud of to help them recruit students. He said the college is a driving force in the community and the college needs to be kept healthy and updates are a large part of attracting students to the school. With the right
equipment, technology and ventilation systems on the way, they will have university-quality labs and will be on-par with other colleges in the state.

“Science is hands-on and a science environment for learning is very unique,” said Dr. Raymond Nadolny, president of WSC. “We are in an era of scientific discovery and this building will provide a place for our students to jump in and receive a higher education that will open up the world. Science is a critical part of that.”

Olson and his committee are in the process of building partnerships with North Dakota State University, Dickinson State University and the University of North Dakota to create more programs. “The credits from student’s first two years here will transfer to any four year University without losing any time,” said Olson.

This new wing is an accomplishment for several of the committee members that have been meeting for approximately two years. They have $1.6 million State dollars to do the laboratory renovation. When completed it will be an 8,000 to 10,000 square foot building. The committee needs to raise another half million dollars due to the total cost being over $2 million. “We’re looking at doing a capital campaign,” said Olson. “This will be the first time Math and Sciences has ever asked for support.”

Olson commented on how the community has been extremely supportive of WSC. “The college also brings revenue to the community with students living here year-round,” he said. “Taking care of our campus keeps the community vibrant and alive.”

The layout of several areas of the campus will be changing. Due to the new building

This is the new location for the Science Wing, which will be added onto the north end of Steven’s Hall overlooking the Teton Baseball field.
space, the Art and Geology programs will now share the original lab space and the Art
department will be able to move into a lab that has water. The current Physics lab will
turn into a traditional classroom and the Agriculture department will get its own lab
space.

“The new lab and classroom space could not have come at a better time,” said Olson.
“WSC has been getting a lot of music students so we would’ve lost a lecture room to that
and Adult Education has moved into the main building and will be absorbing another
classroom.”

Olson complimented Dr. Nadolny on how
he is looking toward
the future of the
college. “It’s nice to
know we have the
support and will now
have the ability to
offer students what
they need to move
forward with their
education on so many
levels.”

The design of the
Science wing will
match the style of the
original building and will be added onto the north end of Steven’s Hall. It will be
designed to overlook the Teton baseball field to the north. A patio area with picnic tables
will be built outside for the students to enjoy nice days and watch the games.

The committee has an architect chosen and they hope to begin the rendering process
soon. The Science wing is scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2010 with
construction to be completed by December 2011. The first class will be offered that fall.
Also starting in the fall will be a new Forensics Chemistry class focusing on CSI-type
material.

Dr. Nadolny concluded by saying, “We are excited for the opportunity to have a truly
great science culture here at WSC and now we will have a place for students to live and
experience it.”