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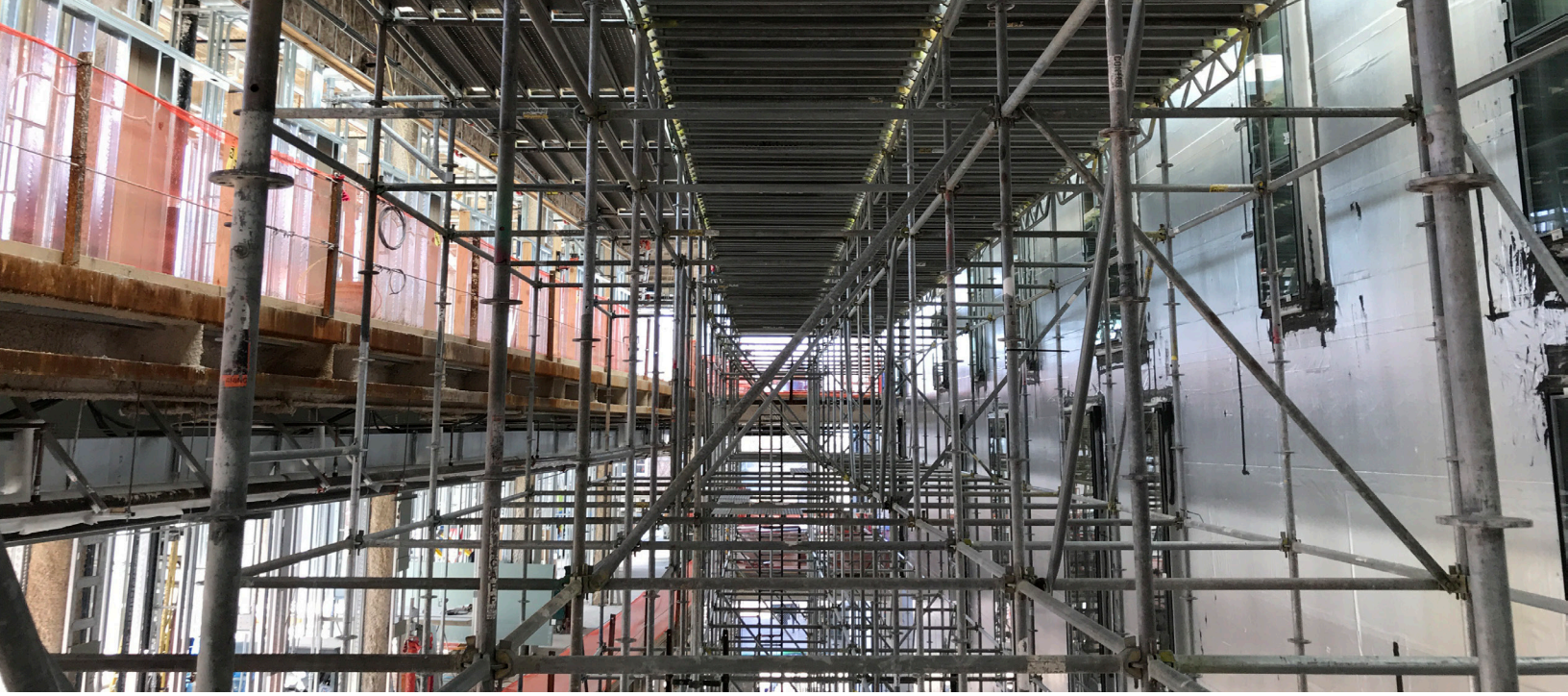

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

SCAFFOLDING MAXINE FRANK SINGER '52 HALL, PATHWAYS

BY ERIK HIGHLAND | SUPERIOR SCAFFOLD SERVICES, INC.

I thought this was an interesting job to write about for a couple of reasons. First, this was a very cool and unique project that started like any scaffold job (pre-COVID) with intricate scaffolding and work deck allowing crews access to finish the walls, ceiling and skylights of this atrium. But then COVID hit and it was put on hold with all construction in Pennsylvania. Second, when we came back to work – **it was a NEW WORLD out there.**

And like everyone, we had to adapt and adopt a new way of doing business. New regulations to prevent the spread of the virus on construction sites are now the norm. So much so, that when the Governor gave the go ahead for construction again, we had to develop a way to keep multiple crews from being within too close a proximity to one another. On the work deck they could spread out giving the safe six-foot distance but what about getting the multiple people from different trades up and down from that work deck?

That's where GC, Skanska, had the brilliant idea of adding a second, one directional, pathway. And in our industry that meant adding a second staircase or stair tower to the job. One for people climbing up to the top and another one on the opposite end for everyone coming down. It was a great solution that we would repeat for several of our other jobs. Each staircase was complete with hand sanitizing units and worker regulation posters.

In addition, every person had to have their temperature taken at the trailer, located away from the site, before they were allowed to set foot onto the job. Skanska issued daily colored wristbands to keep track of those who had been scanned. All steps necessary to prevent the spread of the virus.

And speaking of virus, this particular building just so happens to be named for Maxine Frank Singer, the famed American molecular biologist and science administrator. She is best known for her contributions to solving the genetic code, her role in the ethical and regulatory debates on recombinant DNA techniques, and her leadership of Carnegie Institution of Washington. In 2002, Discover magazine recognized her as one of the 50 most important women in science. She majored in chemistry (and minored in biology) at Swarthmore College. (Courtesy of Wiki)

So I thought – wow, this all kind of works together in a crazy round about pre and post COVID-19 way.

Now, let's talk about details of this job. We started in phase one by helping remove the Egleson murals from

Hicks Hall (that was being demolished) to make way for phase two of this project.

The first phase of construction was completed in summer 2019, which includes space for the Department of Engineering and teaching and research laboratory and space for the Biology and Psychology departments. This is part of phase 2, which includes faculty and staff offices for the Departments of Biology and Psychology and the shared commons and outdoor spaces.

> "Just one small way we as a scaffold company could contribute to the health and safety of all the workers.

Superior was called in by GC, Skanska, Inc, to provide the scaffolding to get crews inside the new atrium to do the finish work. The system scaffold was 120 feet long by 40 feet high and roughly 20 feet wide and followed the contour of the atrium (tapering down to 15 feet wide).

The top level was decked in solid complete with guardrail and toe board providing a safe and stable work deck or dancefloor for all the trades. As I said, we originally installed a system stair tower at one end but and then assembled a second stair tower on the opposite end. Just one small way we as a scaffold company could contribute to the health and safety of all the workers.

The biggest challenge for this job was the load in. It was a tight job site and everything had to be loaded in on carts from the one end (see the pic). The second challenge was getting around all of the other trade's materials. Other than that, the job went off without a hitch and everyone is adapting to the new way of working during this pandemic.