Chemical engineering labs undergo makeover

Research laboratories in the department of chemical engineering have been expanded in size and extensively renovated to meet current needs of the faculty, and to improve the labs’ safety, functionality and energy efficiency.

Total cost of the renovation was $2.6 million, which included a $1.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and funding from corporate and individual donors, the College of Engineering and the university.

Improvement highlights:

■ Five large labs and a staging area, created by combining nine laboratories and 10 offices, resulted in more than 5,000 square feet of renovated laboratories.
■ Updated safety showers, eye wash stations, overhead sprinklers and exits now meet current safety standards.
■ A central corridor connects three of the labs and the staging area, allowing students to easily pass from one lab to another.
■ A professor’s equipment and instruments can now be consolidated in one lab location.
■ Modern features include updated lighting, seamless epoxy floors, adjustable overhead electrical outlets, and individual ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

“The newly renovated laboratories offer improved safety, more space, and better analytical and synthesis capabilities. Expanded areas for research greatly enhance our students’ training and education.”

—James H. Edgar
CHE department head and professor
Tom H. Barrett Faculty Chair