



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: Wayne Blasius
June 7, 1999 423.637.1925

TOPPING OUT CELEBRATION @ UTK GEOGRAPHY BUILDING, JUNE 9TH

KNOXVILLE, TENN. - DENARK-SMITH, INC., a Knoxville-based general contracting firm with nearly one-half billion dollars in construction experience, will conduct a Topping Out celebration at its Burchfiel Geography Building project on the UT-Knoxville campus, on June 9, 1999, beginning at 11:45 a.m.

The nearly \$4 million facility on Phillip Fulmer Way just east of the UT Student Center garage, is a 27,000 square foot, mid-rise building designed to provide modern classroom/administrative space, while respecting the neighboring historic buildings on the "Old Hill" at The University of Tennessee main campus. The building was designed by McCarty Holsaple McCarty, Architects.

The age-old custom of Topping Out has been enjoyed for centuries as a way of celebrating the completion a building's frame, and the expectation of safely completing the remainder of the construction. The origin of this practice is usually attributed to Scandinavian builders who believed the ritual would appease the gods whose spirits resided in the trees they had cut to build the building. Many variations on the custom exist, but today most US builders raise an evergreen tree and an American flag to the building's pinnacle, and complement the celebration with food and fellowship.

Since its launch in 1985, Denark-Smith, Inc. has completed a wide variety of commercial, industrial, and institutional projects throughout East Tennessee and the eastern US, serving customers such as The University of Tennessee, local governments in Knox, Blount, Loudon and Sevier Counties, SunTrust Bank, Union Planters Bank, BankFirst, Kroger, Regas, Rohm & Haas, Walgreens, B&T Distributing, Malibu Boats, WIMZ/WJXB, St. Mary's Health Systems, Inc., Maryville College, Wal-Mart, Pilot Oil, and AT&T.

At present, Denark-Smith's work-in-progress including, the UT Burchfiel Geography Building, Sevierville/Smokies Baseball Stadium, Knoxville Convention Center, etc., totals more than \$150 million.