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This month’s newsletter is shorter than usual due to the holidays. Please be patient with us as we get through this time of year. Thank you for your understanding.

Around Campus....

New Adams Street Entrance

Western Illinois University teamed with the City of Macomb to help in the conversion of the Adams Street/Lafayette Street intersection. Western funded the new median designed to change the new intersection into another gateway to campus. As part of the Master Plan, this is the third in the series of updated entry corridors designed to enhance the access portals to campus. The new column, with lighted logo and light pole with banners, follows the theme set with the Grand Entrance at the intersection of University Drive and Route 67. Project Manager Carina Kapraun kept the process moving forward working with Western’s design firm and the city’s contractor making sure the project was completed as designed.

Safety Training

Safety Coordinator Don Much conducting an active training session on confined space extraction procedures to FM maintenance personnel, OHP, and the Macomb Fire Department.

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Western Illinois University Facilities Management

What’s going on at Facilities Management

Campus Greenspace Addition

This year, Western Illinois University purchased four properties bordering campus and converted them to greenspace. The four rental properties were cleared of structures, graded for drainage, and seeded in grass. A new sidewalk was added to allow pedestrian traffic to move along the south side of Adams Street to the crossing at Ward Street. Additional landscaping of plants and trees is being planned for the spring of 2016. Carina Kapraun acted as project manager working with the local contractor to make the transition successful. In making the change, existing trees along Adams Street were given a wide berth respecting their existing root systems.

Central Stores

The Central Stores department controls incoming and outgoing shipments/deliveries of materials, parts, and supplies that keep the campus running. Housing thousands of individual parts in three warehouses, valued at close to $1,000,000, this department is operated by three people: Kathy Coats, Stores Manager, Dana Bray, Storekeeper, and Dan Spangler, Route Driver. They are assisted in the store room by three student workers.

2015 Beautification Award

Western Illinois University is the 2015 recipient of the Macomb Beautiful Association’s Beautification Award, which is presented each year either to a local business or not-for-profit organization. The Western Illinois University grand entrance sign, located at the University Drive campus entrance was specifically recognized and includes Spruce, Junipers, and Sumac trees; ornamental grasses; purple and gold tulips; petunias; and mums. A big thank you to Landscape Maintenance for all the hard work keeping this entry to campus looking beautiful.

Facilities Focal Point

Congratulations to Aaron Smith, sprinkler fitter in Mechanical Maintenance, for being the Fall 2015 recipient of the Facilities Focal Point. The Facilities Focal Point is a quarterly employee recognition award.

Aaron first began his employment at Western Illinois University on October 24, 2012. As a sprinkler fitter, he maintains, tests, fits, and inspects all of the fire sprinklers on campus. Before coming to Western, Aaron worked at Continental Fire in Davenport, Iowa. His favorite part of his job is being a member of the university community. Aaron said, “I love the people, the campus, and the university. It’s cool being a part of a community that provides for young people and for families. I am grateful for my job.”

One nominator stated, “Aaron consistently offers improvement options and suggestions. By doing this, he goes above and beyond the expectations of his job. He always has a positive attitude and good moral standing.”

Aaron is originally from Hillsdale, Illinois, and now resides in Keokuk, Iowa, with his wife. Aaron has three children. In his spare time, Aaron likes to read and study the Bible.

FM Named a Winner of 2015 Governor's Sustainability Award!

WIU Facilities Management is a first time recipient of the 2015 Governor's Sustainability Award. This award is the nation's longest-running state award for excellence in environmental performance. Mandi Green, Facilities Management’s Sustainability and Safety Coordinator, applied for the award competition.

In making the choice, some of the benefits recognized by the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center were the DCEO rebates/grants totaling over $200,000 in 2015. The projects involved in this program were lighting upgrades, installing variable frequency drives, high efficiency HVAC, pipe insulation, and steam traps. Western was also recognized for their green building practices which include two Silver LEED buildings completed and two in the construction phase.
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This small group of employees controls most everything needed to maintain the entire campus in working order. This massive inventory is monitored by work order number and is inventoried daily. Maintaining the ever-changing inventory levels is one of Kathy’s main priorities. Tracking orders and watching trends in usage is also a constant focus. Maintenance personnel needing parts for a job come to the campus “stores” to do their shopping using an open work order as currency. Each part/piece checked out is charged to a work order number and replaced as needed.

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