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In this month’s newsletter, you can see the proof that we are moving on. While the total number of projects are down from last year, there are still several that have been completed that provide a better learning environment for our students. Many classrooms have been upgraded and there is improved WiFi in several academic buildings along with a nice looking remodel to the Beck Health Center. The cupola restoration is nearing completion as well as the addition of a new patio on the Alumni House. The painters continue to make the campus buildings look better by painting.

The message I would like all of you to take away from this is; while the big remodeling projects (Thompson, Corbin/Olson, etc.) may have stopped temporarily, there are several smaller improvements ongoing and we have to continually keep mind we are here to provide the best learning environment for our students.

The trademark cupola on Sherman Hall is seen undergoing a much needed restoration process. The structure was suffering from years of elements slowly deteriorating the wood columns and metal roofing components. New columns and components made of composite materials (approved by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency) will replace the old pieces and be able to brave the elements with much less maintenance. Ted N. Renner, project manager, said despite some unforeseen areas of decay, the project is moving quickly ahead. The contractor is scheduled to complete the process in October.
What’s going on at Facilities Management

Alumni House gets new front entrance and patio area

The Alumni House is in the process of modifying the existing porch and creating a pedestrian plaza on the north side of the building. This will be done by extending the porch, incorporating limestone pavers, a planter, flagstone pathway, and patio area. Main west side will be ADA compliant by incorporating Universal Design Principle Mission. Grading a stone pathway to the porch accomplishes the goal. The unique front steps will accent the entry and street view of the house and blend with the existing “Western” wall. The finished landscaping will include low growth plants in the planter giving a green feel to the area. When complete this area will be open for entertainment during festivities and allow much larger groups to use the facility.

Tanner Hall Lobby updated

State of the art classroom comes to life.

Tanner Hall lobby and elevator hallways have a new look. The reception desk and surrounding floor area were completely remodeled making the lobby a much more inviting entrance for students and guests. All new flooring, LED lighting, counter tops, and paint brought the lobby into a present day look. The color and material choices brought forth by Michael Hott, project manager, highlight the area without changing the original structure, saving much needed funding. The lobby was open in its new look for move in on August 21st.

Beu Health Center Remodeled

Beu Health Center has been undergoing significant upgrades this summer. Both first floor and basement level underwent a complete remodel. The second floor was given a new coat of paint. The first floor offices, pharmacy, and lobby were completely remodeled and updated. The basement level offices and lab were modernized with new lighting, paint, wall changes, floor coverings, and communications. According to the project manager, Mark Blaylock, the goal of opening the complex before students returned for fall semester was accomplished. The facility had been given new heating and cooling piping and fan coil units last year. These upgrades will give the building many more years of useful service to students at WIU.

The Painters

Consuming 1000’s of gallons of paint each year, the paint crew of Facilities Management is responsible for maintaining all 100+ campus buildings inside and out. The four crew members, Larry Litchfield, Ed Sloan, Danny Rittenhouse, and foreman Davey Haney are tasked for not only painting rooms but, entire buildings (recently the golf pro shop). Their jobs run from routine maintenance to graffiti removal and vandalism repairs. During the busy summer months, when most buildings are empty, as many as six additional temporary painters are added giving a much needed assist to the group.

Facilities Focal Point

Congratulations to Greg Hozard, carpenter sub-foreman in Building Maintenance, for being the Summer 2015 recipient of the Facilities Focal Point. The Facilities Focal Point is a quarterly employee recognition award. Greg first began his employment at Western Illinois University as an extra help carpenter in 1996. In 2001, he was hired as the carpenter sub-foreman and currently holds this position. In his position as sub-foreman, Greg is responsible for maintaining the campus in all levels of carpentry from repairing office furniture to building windows, doors, and roofs. He also supervises seven full-time carpenters. One of his most memorable moments is when he had to cut a hole in the wall to rescue a hamster at the University Residence. One nominator stated, “Greg is such a great employee and he does a wonderful job overseeing the carpenters as well as doing his own work.” Another nominator said, “He is the best sub-foreman we have. He is fair, very respected, and well-liked throughout campus.” Greg is originally from Industry, Illinois, and now resides in rural Macomb with his wife, Lori. Greg has four daughters and five grandsons. In his spare time, Greg likes to hunt and fish.

Western Illinois University Facilities Management

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State of the art classroom comes to life.

Room 324 in Stipes Hall was reborn this summer as a modern, state of the art, electronic classroom. Re-configured from a fixed seat traditional (1960’s) classroom, the room underwent extensive remodeling including new LED light fixtures, additional air handling capabilities, floor covering, ceiling tile, paint and furniture. Thirty new iMac computers (funded by State Farm Insurance Company) and three 60 inch flat screen panels rounded out the project. Carina Kapraun, project manager, reported the project not only was completed on time but, under the estimate!

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