Higgins Demolition set for Summer 2017

The demolition of Higgins Hall is scheduled for 2017. Work will begin early in the year to strip the building down to the core and the implosion is set for sometime in June or July. The demolition contractor is Spirtas Wrecking Company from St. Louis, MO and the total cost of the demolition is approximately $1.7 million. This project has been planned and designed in conjunction with the demolition of East Village and Lamoine Village through our demolition consultant, FEH Design from Des Moines, IA.
Greenhouse Addition

The greenhouse building will be up within two weeks of delivery. Once the building is erected it will take several weeks to complete the wiring, plumbing, and heating connections. The plan is to have the greenhouse functioning in time for the spring semester. Work on this project is being completed by Laverdiere Construction and The Nexus Corporation.

Western Hall Bleachers

The Western Hall bleacher replacement and rehabilitation project consisted of the complete removal and replacement of the lower bleachers and renovation of the north balcony bleachers in Western Hall.

The renovation was necessary due to the fact the former bleachers did not meet current ADA code; were at the end of their service life; were difficult to operate; and service parts are no longer being manufactured. In conjunction with this work, vomitory entrances into the gym that were covered in 1985 were reopened, and the balcony guardrails were modified in order to meet the most recent National Fire Protection Association egress requirements for large events.

Additionally the Soccer field and Tennis court bleachers were replaced to address safety concerns.

This work was unanimously approved by Student Government Association in September of 2015. This project updated life safety requirements of Western Hall while simultaneously increase seating capacity for any event held therein.
October is Campus Sustainability Month

Campus Sustainability Month (CSM) is an international celebration of sustainability in higher education held during the month of October. Colleges and universities around the world organize events on campus to engage and inspire incoming students and campus occupants to become sustainability change agents. The goal of CSM is to raise the visibility of campus sustainability and provide campus sustainability advocates with a platform through which to deepen campus engagement around sustainability.

Please join us in the Multicultural Center 10am thru 2pm on October 19th to learn what faculty, staff, and students are doing to enhance sustainability on campus and beyond.

Presentations will be followed by a 2pm tour of the Multicultural Center building’s sustainability features.

- 10 a.m. - “From Economic and Moral Challenges to Opportunities in Innovation,” by Facilities Management Director Scott Coker and English Professor Amy Mossman
- 10:25 a.m. - “Green I.T.” by U-Tech Consultant Beverly Baker
- 11 a.m. - “In it Together: Flooding Along the Mississippi,” by Sociology and Anthropology Professor Heather McIlvaine-Newsad
- 11:25 a.m. - “Sustainability, Morality and Climate Change,” by Management and Marketing Professor Gordon Rands
- Noon - "Creativity and the Potential of Reclaimed Materials,” by Art Assistant Professor Duke Oursler
- 12:25 p.m. —“Recycling Shipping Pallets into Theatrical Scenery,” by Theatre and Dance Faculty Assistant Dan Schmidt
- 1 p.m. —"Managing Facilities to Save Energy, by Facilities Management Engineer Chris Martin
- 1:25 p.m. —"Our Better Tomorrow Plan," by Resident District Manager Ada Neighbors
- 2 p.m. —Tour of the Multicultural Center’s sustainable features with Facilities Management Deputy Director Ted Renner

At 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20 at the Sandburg Theater, the film "Bitter Seeds" will be shown. The showing will be followed by a panel discussion with Agriculture Associate Professor Joel Gruver, Instructor Jana Knupp and Kale Renner.
The Director’s Corner

Communication: information transmitted or conveyed. We recently completed our customer and employee surveys and as I review the results, I can see there is room for improvement. I appreciate the employees that have taken the time to fill out the survey and especially those of you who provided thoughtful, constructive input.

One area that our employees specifically showed dissatisfaction with was how information is communicated to them. It is important that we have a well-informed and well-trained workforce so we will continue to work on this. Things we already do to inform our employees are; The Facilities Newsletter, monthly supervisor meetings, our FM webpage, bi-weekly management meetings and our Facebook page. One idea from the surveys - improved use of bulletin boards in the Physical Plant, so we will be working on reorganizing and updating the boards we have.

President Thomas has been successful in communicating to campus through roundtable discussions. In the near future, I will be starting a FM roundtable which will consist of workers from each of our departments, so we can improve back-and-forth discussions.

Overall, we are a large department spread over a vast area and because of this good communication is difficult, but we will continue to improve. I spend quite a bit of time on campus visiting our buildings, talking with our customers and observing our workers. I welcome any suggestions from each of you as to ways we could improve communication.

As we all know, and as Dr. Thomas has said, we are suffering from a “Crisis of Confidence” caused by the State of Illinois fiscal problems. To help all of us weather this storm, we have to pull together as a department, work through our problems with a united front. Improved communication is one of the many things that will help us to be successful.

Around Campus...

Welcome Back Students!

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Troy Rhoads volunteered to assisting with Student Move-In.

Students wait in Q lot to move in to North Quad residence halls.

Vomitories re-opened at Western Hall in support of bleacher replacement.

North Quad Drive repair - A portion of the North Quad under repair. Several portions of the drive are deteriorating and may present a hazard to vehicles.

Monopole cell tower is being installed by SBA. It is located on the south side of Q-lot. Verizon is the only provider and US Cellular and AT&T have the option to join. WIU will utilize this tower for WiFi as well.

Athletic Facility Enhancements - Projects include Track and Field locker room, Volleyball locker room, and Women’s Basketball locker room. The projects are funded by donations through the Athletic Foundation and from funds raised through concession sales.