

Facilities Management Happenings



A Year in Review!

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What's going on at Facilities Management

Heating Plant/Steamline improvements lower both costs and carbon foot print of WIU.



During the last several years WIU has made significant upgrades and improvements to the existing steam distribution system. The improvements have not only lowered the cost of generating and distributing steam, which heats and cools most of the buildings on campus, but at the same time, the system is reducing the total carbon foot print of campus. The completion of the multi-million dollar projects are showing a return on that investment in cost savings. The renovating of the three boilers has brought about a significantly more efficient use of the energy required to heat the water to steam. The boilers were rebuilt and converted from coal burning to natural gas as the primary fuel and #2 oil as a backup. With the addition of modern controls to monitor energy consumption and increase efficiency the boilers are now operating at a much higher performance.

During the same period, additional steam distribution tunnels (walk and shallow) were added to the existing tunnel system. The new tunnels connected Thompson, Brophy, and the North Quad on the north end of campus and Corbin/Olson on the south. Upon adding these tunnels, the outdated inefficient direct buried steam lines were abandoned. The tremendous loss of heat going directly into the surrounding earth and the associated leakage of return water in the outdated lines were eliminated. The loss of make-up water alone was reduced by almost 12 million gallons a year. The associated treatment and heating of this amount of water was reduced in kind. All of the work has not only saved money, but, helped in reducing the environmental impact of Western Illinois University.

Upcoming Projects

Sherman Cupola Restoration



The restoration of the cupola at Sherman Hall is set to go forward. Release of funding was announced in January with the scheduled completion date set for August 2015. The \$200,000 project will

restore the original look to the cupola using modern materials approved by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Project Coordinator **Ted N. Renner** is planning to get bid documents out in March and is anticipating a successful time line.



Cinema Demolition

Funding has been approved for the demolition of the Cinema building just east of University Services. The project will go out for bid in March with the scheduled demolition and removal set for this summer. The immediate plan is for demolition and removal of the building and does not include any change to surrounding areas.

Spot Light

Facilities Business Operations



The Business Operations of Facilities Management is one of those behind the scenes departments that work quietly to make our day to day operation run smooth. Deputy Director, **Cathy Dwyer** and Business Manager, **Jonathan Myers** are assisted by two student workers to keep all the paperwork in order and processed in a timely fashion. They work closely with Project Coordinators in monitoring ongoing projects to make sure contractors and vendors receive payments for work accomplished.

Direct communication with multiple offices in Sherman Hall is a critical link to the successful completion of their jobs. Some of the many duties performed include:

- Prepare, review, and submit bi-weekly payroll for all trades personnel.
- Administer Sprocket software/ Reviews Sprocket usage/work orders: average of 30,000 work orders opened annually.
- Process all invoices for payment: maintain over 100 continuous orders
- Prepare monthly project billings
- Reconcile all financial accounts: operations & maintenance, deferred maintenance, repair & replacement projects.
- Annual Facility operating expenditures of approximately \$22 million.

Welcome to Facilities Management!

Brandon Sudzuis - FP&C
Dustin Smith - Landscape Maintenance
Curtis Samson - FP&C (starts 3/16)

Facilities Focal Point



Kevin Swanson

Congratulations to **Kevin Swanson**, Carpenter in Building Maintenance, for being the Winter 2015 recipient of the Facilities Focal Point. The Facilities Focal Point is a quarterly employee recognition award.

Kevin first began his employment at Western Illinois University as a temporary employee in Building Maintenance in the summer of 2011. In January 2013, he became a full-time employee as a carpenter and currently holds this position. Kevin is the youngest member of the Building Maintenance trades at Facilities Management.

As a carpenter, Kevin has the responsibility of maintaining the Bond housing buildings, including Lincoln, Washington, and Grote Halls, as well as East Village and University Village. He keeps up everything related to carpentry from leaking roofs to doors and windows. Kevin says the best part of his job is being able to see happy customers once an issue or problem is resolved.

One nominator stated, "Kevin is always willing to perform assigned tasks. He is a self starter, very friendly, and always smiling. Kevin represents his generation as a very responsible individual and he is a great asset to the university."

Kevin is originally from Sciota, Illinois, and now resides in Blandinsville. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, boating, and being outdoors.

The Director's Corner



As I sit pondering my words for this version of the FM newsletter, I am reminded that our new governor, Bruce Rauner, will be giving his 2016 State of Illinois budget address later today.

As we all know, our state is in a terrible financial condition and it is expected the governor will propose major changes. Time will tell and I hope you all stay tuned as there will likely be discussion about funding for higher education.

On a lighter note, the days are getting longer and longer with spring just around the corner. I certainly hope it comes sooner than later as it is 3 degrees out with a minus 20 degree wind chill. With the coming of spring, Facilities will enter our busy time when we spruce up, clean up, and polish up the campus for our customers. We all work diligently to provide the students the best environment for them to conduct their studies.

Last week, I presented a facilities update to the departmental chairs across campus and they were very appreciative of the improvements they have noticed in our services. All of our departments have submitted new goals and objectives to continue our progress. I encourage all of you to look at your departmental goals and discuss them with your supervisor.

I would like to end with a thank you to the Landscape Maintenance department for their hard work during the last couple of snows. Along with all of the hard work in the department, Tara, Eric, and Neil have worked very hard to get their efforts better organized this year and it has really shown in the response to campus.

Around Campus....

Snow!!



Landscape Maintenance employee **Sheri Schaidle** clearing the priority snow route in the early morning hours.

Video Panels in Western Hall



The video panels that make up the new Hanson Field scoreboard are now hanging on the east and west walls in Western Hall as part of a planned annual move between the two locations.

FM Christmas Party another success!



President **Jack Thomas** and VP **Julie DeWees** visit with the crowd attending the Christmas Party on Dec. 18th.