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The new fans will raise the exhausting capacity to a code compliant 26,000 CFM. They are also equipped with VFD (variable frequency drive) controls which will allow our Mechanical Operating Engineers to maintain native grassland areas.

"prescribed" burning is an important management tool. "controlled" burn near Thompson Hall. Controlled or "prescribed" burning is an important management tool

Western Illinois University: Drive to Excellence is on its way to raising $630,000 for a planned replacement to the existing golf clubhouse at the Harry Mussatto Golf Course. The Arthur D. & Roselyn Chown Golf Learning Center is a 3,360 sq. ft. clubhouse and learning center that would replace the original 1,600 sq. ft. clubhouse built in 1972. The proposed building would house men and women's locker rooms, a 900 sq. ft. all-purpose room doubling as a dining and lounging area, a large outdoor patio with winter outdoor hitting bays, and a full service golf pro shop.

The fundraising campaign has raised over $450,000 to date.

Landscape Maintenance personnel performing a "controlled" burn near Thompson Hall. Controlled or "prescribed" burning is an important management tool to maintain native grassland areas.
What’s going on at Facilities Management

Union Kitchen Exhaust Fans Updated

Johnson Contracting was awarded the contract for replacing three kitchen exhaust fans for the University Union. The existing kitchen exhaust fans were original to the building and in need of replacement after being in service for over 50 years.

The new fans will raise the exhausting capacity to a code compliant 26,000 CFM. They are also equipped with VFD (variable frequency drive) controls which will allow our Mechanical Maintenance Department to monitor the new exhaust fan’s performance. During this upgrade, automated kitchen hood controls with manual overrides and new heat sensors were also added to increase the efficiency and safety of the system.

Project Coordinator Carina Kaprun reports the system is fully operational and working as designed.

New Golf Course Clubhouse?

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Building Operating Engineers

Probably one of the most demanding and least noticed jobs on campus is a Building Operating Engineer. There are seven people tasked with maintaining the mechanical systems of all 50+ buildings on campus, plus the University Farm, and Horn Field Campus. This elite group is comprised of Brad Payne (Assist. Chief BOE), Scott Wetterling, Steve Barnett, Gary Campbell, David Vawter, Coy Abernathy, and Joseph Walters.

Not only are they responsible for constantly monitoring the condition of the systems on these buildings, (such as heating, cooling, and ventilating machinery; steam, water and waste systems; electrical systems; food service appliances; and stage operating equipment), they are the ones who have to fix problems. These problems range from broken dishwashers and water heaters to clothes washers and kitchen stoves. "From a drinking fountain to a 20 ton chiller, they do it all," commented Troy Rhoads, Supervisor of Mechanical Maintenance department.

A section of their job description says it all: “inspects, cares for, cleans, operates, and lubricates building mechanical equipment, including air-conditioning systems, humidifiers, temperature regulators, steam and water systems, food-service appliances, and other equipment required for the operation of a building.”

Facilities Focal Point

Congratulations to Zulma David, Building Service Worker (BSW), for being the Winter 2016 recipient of the Facilities Focal Point. The Facilities Focal Point is a quarterly employee recognition award.

Zulma first began her employment at Western Illinois University in February 2004 after she retired from the Navy. She works the second shift in Horrabin Hall. A typical work day for Zulma begins at 4:30 pm. She cleans, empties trash, and restocks her closet with supplies by midnight when her shift ends. Zulma loves second shift because it gives her more access to areas to clean without interference. She stated that her favorite part of her job is “knowing that the supplies and equipment are given to me to get the job done.”

One of the challenges she faces is when she is pulled away to help with set-ups because the next day is spent trying to catch up on her work.

One nominator stated, “Zulma works second shift and she is always upbeat/positive and never complains. Her area inspections are always outstanding with few, if any discrepancies, and she always is going above and beyond doing the little extras in her area to make it shine.

Zulma is originally from East Orange, New Jersey, and now resides outside of Macomb with her husband, Wesley. She has two daughters that are graduates of Western Illinois University. One daughter is a child psychologist in the Quad Cities and the other is a school teacher in Farmington. In her spare time, Zulma likes to watch Korean dramas and Kung Fu movies.

Western Illinois University Facilities Management

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The Director’s Corner

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