



*Message from Olivia Yang,
Associate Vice President*

A year ago I thought we were at the end of our pandemic journey. But wait! There's more! Supply chain issues. Inflation, skimpflation. A container ship stuck in the Suez Canal. Omicron variant. Santa shortage.

Against the backdrop of this unruly world, as we grapple with our own daily problems, it may be easy to forget that these past months showed us at our best.

Our world is different and the future is uncertain. Almost certainly there will be difficult days ahead. But when those days come, remember how we stood together and rose above our fears and frustrations. With these hard forged habits we will face what may come and prevail.

So I am as hopeful now as I was a year ago: optimism grounded in your achievements and daily victories. I am so grateful to each of you for all you have done.

A happy and peaceful holiday to you and your loved ones!

Olivia



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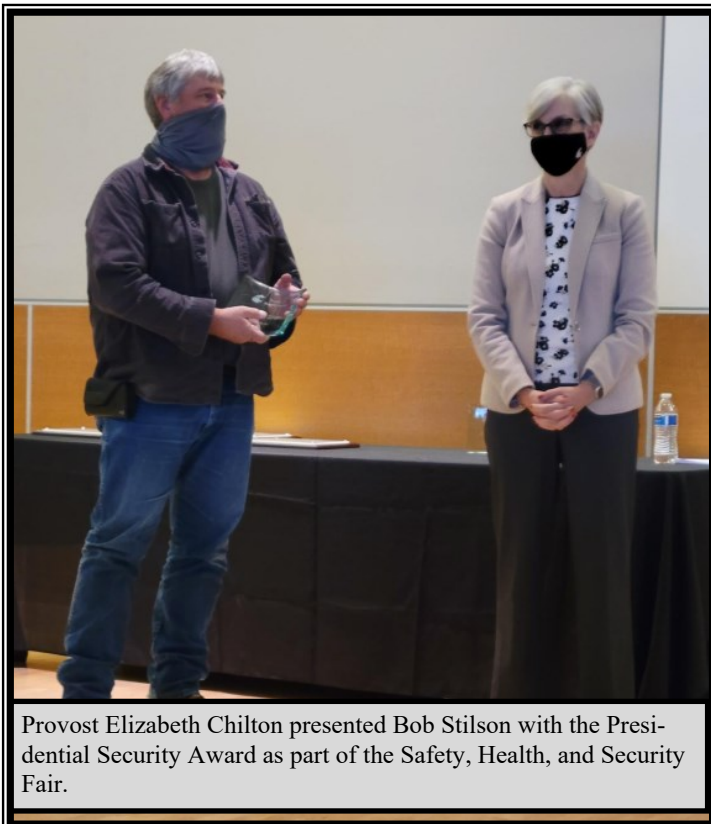
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Enter the Safety
Question
Contest on the last page
of this
Newsletter and you
could win a
PRIZE!



Bob Stilson is a Presidential Security Award Winner!

NOMINATION READ: "Bob has worked in the Life Safety shop at Facilities Services for over 23 years. His role in this position is to test, maintain, and repair many different Life Safety and Security systems all over campus (Fire Sprinkler, Fire suppression, Fire Alarm, and Security systems). His professionalism shows every day in his willingness to help others in any kind of situation at any time of the day. Working within a group of technicians, he consistently relays information to help the team grow and become stronger. Bob has shown dedication to implementing a safe operating procedure for elevator pits. He also worked closely with Pullman Fire Department and WSU Public safety when assisting in the acceptance testing for the new Global Animal Health phase 2, and Plant Sciences buildings. Keeping information correct and working with Facilities Services Work Management Center to be sure data is correct and work is properly assigned is another strong attribute demonstrated by Bob. Fire sprinkler systems are vital to building and personnel safety, this is an area of expertise where Bob thrives. During one rather cold winter period Bob began proactively checking spots that could be potential problems and noticed a frozen sprinkler line in Food Science Human building penthouse. If that line would have broken it would have flooded the elevator controls and the rest of the building causing extensive damages. Safety is always on the forefront of Bob's mind even outside of work. He serves as a resource for many in his personal life to help ours get the job done safely."



Provost Elizabeth Chilton presented Bob Stilson with the Presidential Security Award as part of the Safety, Health, and Security Fair.

Coins of Honor Awardee Ben Triplett



In recognition of his service, innovation, teamwork, and collaboration during his four year tenure with Facilities Services Custodial at Washington State University, we proudly award Ben Triplett with these four honor coins:

Innovation—Ben has “moved the needle” in so many ways throughout his time here. Notably he developed and implemented a Lead training program to improve consistency. He has also improved the processes for recruitment, onboarding and training by delegating to his supervisory staff and encouraging more involvement.

Teamwork—Ben was a key participant in many initiatives requiring teamwork. He assisted with the transition to AiM and Workday. He was a critical and valued team member on the University's Covid task force.

Collaboration—Ben's collaboration with other groups in Facilities Services and departments across campus have been significant.

Service—Ben's service is what all organizations hope they will get from a senior leader. He has shown commitment to his staff by coming in early and staying late. He is an active participant in many of the department's key initiatives and a welcome voice in those discussions. Ben embodies “service provider of choice.” Clients respect his perspective and actively seek to interact with him because of his honesty, directness and professionalism.

Changes at Supply Management Services.....by Craig Cole



It is hard to believe, but it has been a year since Facilities Services merged with Supply Management Services. There have been challenges along the way, like Workday implementation, but overall, Supply Management Services has continued to provide a high level of services to the campus and specifically to Facilities Services.

Before the end of the calendar year, Central Receiving and Delivery will be relocating up to the University Stores building. We have been planning on this consolidation effort since the merger. The Shops have assisted us in getting our warehouse capabilities relocated, we finally got our new conveyor belt system, and our crew has been working feverishly to relocate our stock items around in the warehouse to make way for the freight receiving function. If you haven't been up to Stores lately, it looks completely different.

We had to move a lot of the Facilities Services items around in the warehouse. While the location may be slightly different, we do continue to stock the items, you may just need to ask the warehouse crew where your usual stuff is now. While we experimented with reducing stock levels down to zero and ordering your items just in time, some of those items were turning so often, that this approach did not make sense. The effort to constantly order and restock the shelves was more that we imagined, and in some cases, we have returned to keeping those high turn stock items on the shelf for your convenience. We still want you to place the order in AiM though, and we will get it delivered to your shop directly, or we will stage it for larger projects and deliver it to the jobsite when you request it.

We have had other big changes as well. We have decided to reduce our Campus warehouse stock of laboratory items down to just chemicals, gases, bio-hazard containers, alcohol, liquid nitrogen, dry ice and a few other key items. By doing this, we are reducing or required floor space for that inventory, and departments



have already been going straight to vendors for several years, resulting in declining sales. This reduction in stock levels will allow U-Stores to focus on the Facilities Services requirements almost exclusively. Unfortunately, this shift will result in even more packages coming in for Central Receiving to process and deliver.

Finally, similar to other areas in the campus, Supply Management Services is experiencing employee turnover. We had one retirement, Jim Beck, back in October, he is sorely missed, but we wish him all the best in his next great adventure. Several of our long-time staff members have also found other opportunities either locally or within WSU. Jason Hansen, Lesa Neumann, Kyle White, and Josh Palmer are all moving on to bigger and better opportunities. Their service to SMS, Facilities Services, and Washington State University has been exemplary, and we wish them all the best in their next opportunity. We will be backfilling some of these positions very quickly, but please be patient as we will be strained over the next few months with their absence and getting the new folks up to speed. We are confident that we will come out of this strong and strive to provide you with even better service than before.



WSU & The Palouse Winter.....by Darren Palmer

As the last of the leaves from the trees have fallen, we begin to realize that winter is closing in fast. Colder temperatures and more precipitation is expected here on WSU's campus but how much snow are we going to get? The almanac this winter suggests colder temperatures with below-normal snowfall, most of the snowfall occurring late December. Whether the predictions are correct or not, Facilities is gearing up for the winter. We maintain several miles of roadways and acres of parking lots that involves de-icing, snow removal, and transporting snow piles. Our overall goal is to not only keep campus open and operational but also provide the safest road conditions for motorists and pedestrians to navigate through campus. We are equipped with a diverse amount of snow removal equipment that allows us to be as efficient as possible. Our crew dedicates themselves to snow removal by working long shifts, sometimes 24/7 split shifts, even during extreme winter conditions to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. During these extended work shifts, you may witness

us not only plowing snow off of roadways and parking lots, but also transporting snow from roadways and parking lots to provide space for traffic and to open up parking stalls. This presents a vicious cycle that continues throughout the winter months. Throughout the years I have witnessed stuck vehicles, pedestrian slips/falls, and even accidents as the weather begins to worsen. The best way to reduce these incidents is to prepare yourself for the worst winter conditions and also to reach out and help others in need. Prepare your vehicle with traction tires/chains, keep winter clothing in your vehicle, (maybe even a portable shovel), wear appropriate footwear, and drive appropriately to adjust for winter weather. These simple precautions help reduce accidents, lower stress levels, and allow people to get to their destination safely. Lastly, be patient and give the snow plow operators a wave. Driving in winter weather is stressful but remember, our crew takes great pride in keeping campus clear and safe. Be safe and GO COUGS!



Snow Challenges.....by Rick Finch

Well you can't really manage winter, the best you can do is prepare for it. As with everything else over the last two years we are facing some unique challenges as this winter approaches. The students are back in person, buildings are open and events are taking place and labor market is more challenging than most of us have ever experienced. Staffing levels are down in some areas that are critical for snow removal, it is not for a lack of funding and desire to fill vacant positions, and we are actively recruiting.

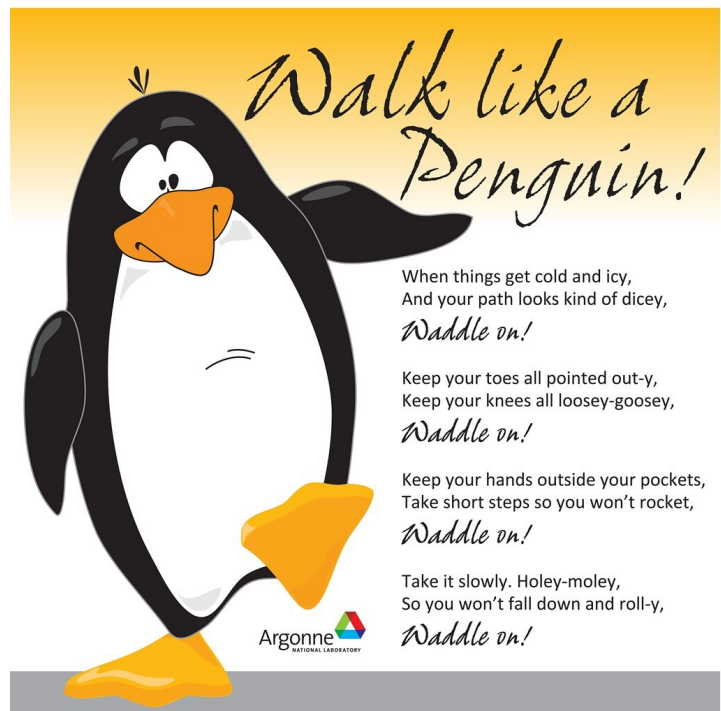
Custodial and Grounds are two of the most impacted areas and they are also carry primary responsibility for snow removal on sidewalks, stairs, building entries and loading docks. We expect that we see some impacts this year such as; it taking longer to get these areas cleared across the entire campus in routine snowfalls. The walkways and entries will get cleared but with less hands it may take a little longer. Heavy Equipment is fairly well situated in terms of staffing and equipment so we expect the plowing of streets and parking lots to be at normal service levels. Heavy Equipment will take on a few tasks that have traditionally been the responsibility of Grounds staff, so we could see some minor service impacts during prolonged snow events; such as temporarily closing some lower traffic sidewalks and stairs or a secondary entrance to a building. Facilities Services has taken some steps and invested in new resources and equipment to make us more effective and managing snow and ice. Plant Services has purchased three new winged plows. These plows can fit in locations where we need a narrow plow or the wings can be expanded for open areas. We can open one wing to clear a curb cut where we might have had to clear it by hand before. We tried a winged plow last winter and we estimate they are about 30% more efficient in the time spent doing the same task as a traditional snowplow. This season Plant Services is testing some different products to apply as a pre-deicer and a deicer to melt compact snow and ice. These products are supposed to be more effective at lower temperatures and we are testing some new applicators that are more precise so that we can get the

same effect with less deicer. We are optimistic that these changes will help us do more with less and make us more effective this winter.

Even at full staffing levels, major storms that bring prolonged snowfalls for several consecutive days' taxes our resources. As Darren pointed out in his excellent commentary (page 4 of this newsletter); the staff that fight the snow for us put in a lot of very early and very late hours in the worst weather and sometimes dangerous conditions. It is important that we remember winter weather is something we can't control, and the Facilities Services staff that are responsible for making the campus safe, work very hard in very difficult conditions. In light of this we ask for your patience and understanding and I have added two additional ideas to Darren's list of suggestions for winter preparedness:

- Keep your hands free and your eyes on where you are walking.
- Keep your fuel tank on the full side and carry blankets in case you become stranded for a while. If you are stuck in the snow and running your vehicle to provide heat, make sure the exhaust is clear and crack a window to let in some fresh air.

We are doing our best to make your commute to work and walk to the office as safe as possible but we cannot eliminate the inherent risks of winter. Please do your part, and stay safe.



Welcome New Employees!

(September, October and November 2021)

Name	Position	Division
Dylan Freeman	Custodian 1	Custodian
Ethan Olson	IT Tech Support	Administration
Kenneth Bontuyan	Custodian 1	Custodian
Nathan Spencer	Waste Collector	Waste/Surplus
Galen Simpson	Custodian 1	Custodian
Mark Boylen	Custodian 1	Custodian
Jeremy McLane	Custodian 1	Custodian
Dean Hampton	Custodian 1	Custodian
Dean Nizer	Grounds Nursery Services Specialist 2	Grounds
Stephen Berger	Custodian 1	Custodian

SR 270 Bike Pathby Cyndi Arbour

In 2020, WSU received its first ever grant from WSDOT to construct a new multi-use path on campus. In 2017, WSU Transportation was looking for ideas to improve the connection from the Chipman Trail to campus. As a Project Manager at Facilities Services Capital, I worked with Transportation to develop a conceptual 12 foot paved sidewalk that could be used by bicyclists as well as pedestrians behind the Gateway at Main Street and Stadium Way. To improve its connection to the Chipman Trail, Transportation teamed up with the City to extend the new sidewalk southward along SR270 to the intersection of Bishop Boulevard.

As the costs for the project were well over \$600,000 for construction alone, Transportation decided to submit the project for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Program grant. This grant is funded by the state legislation as part of the biennial budget and is administered by WSDOT. The grant is highly competitive. Typically the legislature sets aside about \$20 million to fund multi-use pedestrian and bicycle projects, but often WSDOT will receive grant applications for over \$100 million worth of projects from communities around the state. Colleges and Universities are allowed to apply for the grant, but few if any have ever received funds.

WSU Transportation, with help from Facilities, submitted a grant application in 2017 but the project came in about 40 projects below the funding limit. We were not deterred, however! After meeting with the grant administrators for advice, the application was submitted again in 2019 with improved wording and better graphics. This time the project came in only TWO projects below the funding line. So close! A short time later, though, we learned that Governor Inslee was going to add \$5 million to the available funding and suddenly our project was in!

Since then we have been working on the design, which is being completed by Keller Associates out of Lewiston, ID. As half of the project is on WSU property and half on City/State property, design reviews are being closely coordinated with Pullman City engineers as well as WSDOT engineers. Transportation also submits quarterly progress reports to WSDOT on the progress. The total project cost is just under \$950,000 with about \$750,000 coming from the grant and \$200,000 as a match from Transportation. The target bid date is late February 2022, with construction starting in mid-May to be completed before the start of the Fall semester 2022.



Length of Service Awards

Learn more about Service Awards at:

<https://hrs.wsu.edu/recognition/length-service-awards/>

Name	Division	Years
Amy Hickman	Accounting/Administration	5
Bryan McLaughlin	IT/Administration	5
Sunny Rains	Custodian	5
Douglas Revord	Custodian	5
Larry Grassmick	Custodian	10
Benny Johnson	Custodian	10
Duane Rossi	Steam Plant	10
Mike Chilson	Steam Plant	15
Ken Moore	Maintenance	15
Tonya Prewitt	Custodian	20
Rod Main	Maintenance	20
Doug Wickham	Maintenance/Utilities	35

Promotions! Congratulations! (September, October, and November 2021)

Name	Position	Division
Darren Palmer	Heavy Equipment Operator Lead	Heavy Equipment
Legan Morgan	Plant Communications Coordinator	Work Management Center

ANNOUNCING.....2022 Safety Design Contest!

Put your thinking caps on and your talent to use! Create the 2022 Facilities Services Safety Design and win a prize! (The design should be suitable for use on a t-shirt, cup, or other items). No limit on colors, but we cannot use any copyrighted WSU logos/phrases/etc. Put your idea(s) to paper and submit them to one of the Safety Promotion Subcommittee Members (Eric Reichmuth, Lara Banister, Heather Munro, Corrina Johnson, Jann Dahmen-Morbeck, Nathan Kite, and Milan Barton.) Deadline for submissions is February 28, 2022.

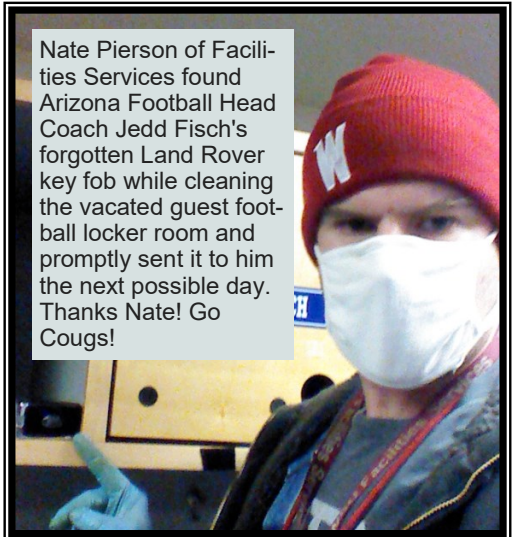
KUDOS

Project: Jackson 382 Paint (Staff that worked this project: Bill West, James Garret, JB Self and Jason Brausen) "The room looks complete and very well done. Thanks to all who helped to complete the project!"

S. Johnson



Nate Pierson of Facilities Services found Arizona Football Head Coach Jedd Fisch's forgotten Land Rover key fob while cleaning the vacated guest football locker room and promptly sent it to him the next possible day. Thanks Nate! Go Cougs!



WSU Holiday Schedule

Christmas	December 24 & 27, 2021
New Years Day	December 31, 2021
Martin Luther King Day	January 17, 2022
Memorial Day	May 30, 2022
Juneteenth	June 20, 2022

Independence Day	July 4, 2022
Labor Day	September 5, 2022
Veterans Day	November 11, 2022
Thanksgiving	November 24 & 25, 2022

WSU Scholarship Deadline is Approaching!

January 31, 2022 is the deadline for completing the scholarship application.

Do you have a student (child or grandchild) that will be attending WSU the Fall of 2022? Now is the time for them to start working on the Scholarship Applications online at:

<https://financialaid.wsu.edu/home/>

To be considered for any of WSU scholarships including the Facilities Services Scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year, the application must be completed by the deadline date of January 31, 2022. If you have questions on scholarships, financial aid, and options for funding your students education at WSU, you may call the Student Financial Services office at 509-335-9711.

Don't let your student miss the Scholarship Application deadline!

Open to the public every Friday 10am-3pm



Public Surplus

WSUSURPLUS

<http://surplus.wsu.edu>

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Facilities Services Safety Committee

Safety Question Contest for the Month of December 2021

Directions: The answer to the question below can be found in one of the chapters of the Accident Prevention Program (APP). Read the question carefully. When you think you have found the answer, you may email your answer to Jann Dahmen-Morbeck jann.dahmen@wsu.edu or print off this page and cut out the form on the dotted lines. You may give the form to your supervisor to send in intercampus mail to Jann or drop it off at her desk in the front reception area of McCluskey Office building. The names of all employees who submit the correct answer will go into a hat for a drawing. Whoever's name is drawn will be able to pick out one of the monthly safety awards. **This contest will be open only until 5 p.m. on January 31, 2022** so get started finding the answer now and win a nice prize! Link to APP Chapters is on the Safety Sharepoint Site. <https://sharepoint.wsu.edu/FacilitiesServices/Operations/Safety/SitePages/Home.aspx>

Reference APP Chapter 14: Ladder Safety

Question (You must get both 1 & 2 correct) : 1. If the top step of a Step Ladder is 16" or more below the top cap it can be used as a step. True or False?

2. If the work requires wearing eye protection or a respirator, how many feet about the ground or floor can the person be on a ladder?

Answer: _____

Employee submitting the above answer:

Name: _____ **Division:** _____

CONGRATULATIONS!

Heather Munro is the Winner!

Heather's entry for the September Safety Question was randomly selected from the total entries with correctly answered questions. Thank you to all that entered the contest!

Septembers Question: Chapter 18 – Machine and Tool Safety—What chapter and WACs are referenced in the section under “Employees who use machines shall:?”

Answer: Chapter 23 Lockout Tag-out, WAC 296-806 and WAC 296-155-360