



*Message from Olivia Yang,  
Associate Vice President*

I am writing this in the early morning of Thanksgiving. It seems there is something about watching the landscape take shape out of the darkness that invites introspection.

Looking back, there has been no end of challenges: labor shortage, supply chain disruptions, inflation. Who would have thought a century old athletic conference would implode. Most recently, a clear lesson of what happens when you do not "call before you dig".

When we thought the pandemic was over, we thought we would go back to what it was. We have learned that there is no going back. To survive and in fact to prosper we must deal with the reality that we see, not the reality we used to have or the reality we wish we had.

In the midst of unending change, we each must make a decision: is change something that overcomes us or is change a force we channel.

I say we embrace change and celebrate the resiliency that each of you demonstrate every day. You may think that you cannot. I say you have shown that you can. We can say that was a tough year. I say we showed how tough we are. Which makes me very proud to be a part of you and grateful for all you do every day.

Enjoy your time with family and friends this holiday season. May it be peaceful and joyful. We look forward to the coming year.

Happy holidays!  
*Olivia*



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

# Schweitzer Engineering Hall Groundbreaking Dedication

By Louise Sweeney



The Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture (VCEA) celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Schweitzer Engineering Hall on September 22nd. Special guests were in attendance, and some spoke to the crowd about the reasons they felt this project was an important first step to renew the engineering and architecture district and support the needs of our students.

The preparation for the event took many hands. Dar Neunherz and the WSU Foundation organized the preparations and Facilities played a major part. Special THANKS to the following for

taking charge on getting the site ready for this event. JB from the Carpenter Shop built a great “shovel ready” box for the folks partaking in the symbolic groundbreaking. Ian Allen and Darren Palmer of Heavy Equipment ensured the parking lot was cleaned and assisted in set up and take down of the tents. Derek Reynolds, Grounds Shop, assisted in beautifying the planting beds with new bark and tree trimming, Brian Lesko, Recycling, provided containers and the Electric Shop connected the audio equipment to a nearby energy source. This special event took a village, and if we missed anyone, thank you! Everyone’s efforts were very much appreciated.





## Kei truck mania is sweeping WSU facilities on campus!

By Stacey Trevino

You may have already seen that the Grounds department and Housing have these mini trucks added to their work truck fleet.

Kei class truck or Japanese mini truck is a type of pickup truck available in two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive versions built to satisfy the Japanese keijidosha statutory class.

Keijidosha means “light automobile” refers to the Japanese vehicle category for the smallest highway legal passenger cars with restricted dimensions and engine capacity.

We at the Grounds department have had one for almost a year now and have two additional trucks being implemented to our department. The super small trucks are perfect for maneuvering around the sidewalk system of campus with ease. Getting into areas that make it easy for distribution or removal of materials with ease.

Their quiet design also means they keep disruption to a minimum.

The dump bed and plow attachment capabilities are some added bonuses that will make it efficient for all of grounds plant beds, turf maintenance and snow moving and removal options.

Daihatsu Hijet models are what grounds is running and it has proven to be most efficient for our needs with being able to access areas without having to drive on the lawns and when we have to, it minimizes the wear on the turf when the conditions are good for that. The bed can hold quite the loads of leaves, grass clippings and branches or bush trimmings. We are also looking at getting ramps that double as side rails for either extra-large load hauls or ramps to move in lawnmowers or other small equipment to the bed. We are looking forward to having them plow some snow areas and



carry tanks for spraying or water distribution.

If you see us around campus in these trucks, just know it is all around fun to drive. In my own opinion, I feel very happy driving them and want to wave to everyone staring like I am in a parade!



## KUDOS

Project : Children's Center Flooring Replacement  
"A big THANKS to everybody involved with this flooring replacement and waxing, your effort does not go unnoticed. Thanks again."

C. Gray

"Thanks (**Craig Gray**) for orchestrating this whole flooring project (Children's Center) . We appreciate it! "

M. Chapman

Project: Lights in Hulbert 223. "The response was amazing! Thank you to you and your crew (**Forrest Gilchrist**) so much! This has made an incredible difference!"

D. Kearney

"I just want to extend my thanks to you (**Amy Hickman**) personally on getting State Supply to address orders correctly to WSU. Your help in getting this fixed, should help mitigate lost packages and delayed packages to the end user across WSU. Always appreciate your work. Thanks again!"

S. Cottrill

(**Jon Asplund**) "Just received a gracious thank you for your work at Bryan Hall. Quick turnaround on a lighting request was much appreciated and I wanted to pass that on to you. "

A. Craigen

"I just learned yesterday that when we held our ITS annual picnic a couple weeks ago, **Eric Reichmuth** went out of his way to assist our Assistant to the CIO with getting things cleaned up on the mezzanine before the event. I knew that Eric was a tremendous help around the building, always letting me know if he sees things and going above and beyond to make sure our building is being taken care of since our regular custodian has been out, but this is awesome!!!! We have a little token of our appreciation for Eric in my office, but I just wanted to make sure you knew what a stellar employee he is!!"

C. Johnson

I just received a wonderful call from Elise Zeigler, a Program Support Supervisor in the College Assistance Migrant program. She works over in Lighty second floor and called me specifically to express her gratitude regarding **Barb's (Kinzer)** care for her

area, but more importantly the conversations and overall attitude she brings to her work environment each day.

J. Griffin

"The Wegner 170 floor looks AMAZING! Thank you to you and your team (**Jonathan Williams, Jared Nau, and Kyle Peterson**)!"

G. Turner

"I am absolutely astounded at the finished product that the team was able to provide to the requestor, and the students! Since my work history is coming from the install side of this type of project, I can honestly say this is one of the nicest, cleanest, most comprehensive floor repair projects I have seen in my nearly 12 years with Facilities here at WSU! Thank you to you and your team for your representation of Facilities Services, attention to detail, and professional results! I also know this is not an isolated event, and your team has been doing amazing work throughout campus! "

J. Griffin



"I would like for some kudos go to **Dan Roe** of Heavy Equipment from myself and others at Grounds, during this season of leaf collection we have had Dan Roe come upon several of us at grounds and assist us with collection and want for him to know that we appreciate the help and really want everyone to know that we appreciate working alongside heavy equipment to clean up campus whether its leaves on the roads or hardscapes or getting into snow. Thank you **Dan Roe and Heavy Equipment.**"

S. Trevino

"Shoutout to **Angel Hawkins**, who has done an amazing job in Avery Hall! We deeply appreciate her efforts on our behalf, as well as her cheerful attitude."

D. Potts



# ***Length of Service Awards***



**Robbie Dudley  
5 Years**



**Joshua Woodland  
5 Years**



**Angel Hawkins  
5 Years**



**Judy Aung  
5 Years**



**Lynn Hopkins  
5 Years**



**Craig Cole  
10 Years**

# ***Length of Service Awards***



**Jason Brausen  
10 Years**



**Melissa Tholstrup  
10 Years**



**Daniel Richards  
10 Years**



**Randy Cavanaugh  
10 Years**



Kathie Jahn (left) award presented by Kellie Cornish

**Kathie Jahn  
10 Years**



**Rick Hull, Jr.  
10 Years**



# ***Length of Service Awards***



**Eric Sorenson  
10 Years**



**Joanie Thomas  
15 Years**



**Tom Wilson  
20 Years**

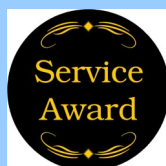


**Jerrad Graham  
20 Years**

**Service Awards not pictured:**

**“Wayne” Kenneth Comstock  
10 Years**

**Aaron McArthur  
25 Years**



**John Maurin  
25 Years**

## In Memoriam 2023



Ken Moore passed away February 12, 2023. Ken had a long 16 year career within Facilities Services and WSU. He played a key role for Operations and Maintenance when it came to building systems, and brought a high level of service to all his campus customers. With his experience and knowledge he helped mentor and teach others. He is missed by the Facilities Services staff and WSU community.

### WSU Scholarship Deadline is Approaching!

**January 31, 2024 is the deadline for completing the scholarship application.**

Do you have a student (child or grandchild) that will be attending WSU the Fall of 2024? Now is the time for them to start working on the Scholarship Applications online at:

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

To be considered for any of WSU's scholarships including the Facilities Services Scholarship for the 2024-25 academic year, the application must be completed by the deadline date of January 31, 2024. 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.

### WSU Holiday Schedule

Christmas	December 25 & 26 2023
New Years Day	January 1, 2024
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	January 15, 2024
Memorial Day	May 27, 2024
Juneteenth	June 19, 2024

Independence Day	July 4, 2024
Labor Day	September 2, 2024
Veterans Day	November 11, 2024
Thanksgiving	November 28 & 29, 2024

### Honor Coin Awards



**Mike Chilson**—awarded the Service Honor Coin for his ongoing service especially during Steam Plant turnover.

**Brian Funke**—awarded the Service Honor Coin for his excellent and ongoing work on 5KV Feeders.



## PROMOTIONS for September, October, and November 2023



CONGRATULATIONS to Newly Promoted Employees (Pictured Left to right): Alex Galford and Shelley Kenney. Joe Kline pictured far right announced their promotions at the Service Awards presentation in the Carpenter Shop on November 29, 2023. (The full list of promotions is shown below.)

# CONGRATULATIONS!

Name	Promoted to:	Division
Amanda Goucher	Plant Comm Coord	Work Mgt. Center
Shelley Kenney	Custodian 3	Custodial
Alex Galford	Grounds & Nursery SS 3	Grounds Shop
Calvin Baisley	FOMS	Trades/Shops
Andrew Roehl	Maintenance Custodian	Custodial
Jonathan Williams	Custodian 3	Custodial

## RETIREMENT CONGRATULATIONS!



Dave Baker started his career in March 1994 as a Custodian 1 with the Physical Plant. In January 1997 Dave was promoted to a Maintenance Mechanic 2 where he worked until August 2017 before being promoted to Facilities Operations Maintenance Specialist. Dave worked with Facilities Services just shy of 30 years....(29 years and 7 months). Enjoy Retirement Dave!



Duane Dammel started his career with Facilities Services as a Custodian 1 in February 2003. In July 2008 was promoted to a Maintenance Custodian where he worked until his retirement on October 31, 2023. Enjoy Retirement Duane!

# Congratulations

## Welcome New Employees! (September, October, November 2023)



The new employees present were introduced at the Service Awards Presentation in the Carpenter's Shop on November, 29, 2023. Pictured left to right: Brandyn Morley, William Essary, Robert Boren, Wade Johnson, Caitlyn Johnson, Katrina Stephens, (Joe Kline introduced the group), Joelle Burnett, Dylan Griffin, Maria Hernandez, and Enrique Soto Meza. (The full list of new employees for September, October and November is shown below)

Name	Position	Division
David Varvel	Stationary Engineer 2	Steam Plant
Caitlyn Johnson	Grounds & Nursery SS 3	Grounds Shop
Robert Boren	Truck Driver 2	Waste Management
Ryan Enriquez	Stationary Engineer 2	Steam Plant
Steven Loret	Custodian 1	Custodial
Adriana Harper	Custodian 1	Custodial
Dylan Griffin	Fiscal Specialist 1	Administration
Wade Johnson	Equipment Operator 2	Heavy Equipment
Van Hollman	Custodian 1	Custodial
Troy Ammons-Cohen	Custodian 1	Custodial
Katrina Stephens	Custodian 1	Custodial
Brandyn Morley	Grounds & Nursery SS 3	Grounds Shop
Maria Hernandez	Program Specialist 2	Administration
Joelle Burnette	Custodian 1	Custodial
Kathy Rueda	Custodian 1	Custodial
Gabriela Perdomo	Custodian 1	Custodial
Enrique Meza	Custodian 1	Custodial
William Essary	Truck Driver 2	Waste Management



## Facilities Services Safety Promotion Committee

### Safety Question Contest for the Month of December 2023

**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 have found the answer, you may email your answer to Lara Banister [lara.banister@wsu.edu](mailto:lara.banister@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 Lara or drop it off in the APP Question box by the McCluskey Key Shop. 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 safety awards. **This contest will be open only until 5 p.m. on January 31, 2024** 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 18—Machine and Tool Safety** Question: List three of the nine safety practices required of employees who use WSU machinery.

Answer:

Employee submitting the above answer:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

**Christopher Cyr  
is the Winner!  
September's APP  
Question Contest!**

Christopher's entry for the September Safety Question was randomly selected from the total entries with correctly answered questions. Those correct entries not chosen will be placed in the bucket for the annual Safety Award Drawing.

*Thank you to all that entered the contest!*

