SPRING IS HERE!

It got a late start then decided to stick around until April, but at long last Winter has finally left us. We have waited patiently (or maybe not so patiently) for daffodils in the meadows and buds in the trees here at Northwestern. Apart from its high academic standards, the university’s flora is also a draw for attention; not only from potential and current students, but visitors, locals, and casual passersby. Some of that happens on its own, but most of it happens with help from the Landscaping department. This issue of the FM newsletter will tell you a little bit about what our green-thumbed gang has been up to.

▼ The new design for the Abbott Hall Pocket Park. Read more about it on page 2.

BIRTHDAYS

MAY
1 - John Rodriguez
2 - Raymundo Lopez
3 - Jack Tucker
4 - John Conlon
7 - Francisco Martinez
8 - Bruce Tripple
9 - Carl Spencer
10 - Osman Acuna
12 - Servando Olguin
14 - Angela Berlant
15 - Stanley Sienko
19 - Andrew Szczepanski
21 - Marzena Pedzinska
24 - Andrew Sehnal
26 - Jay Vaught
27 - Richard Rohrer
28 - Jonathan Weiss
30 - Robert Carlton
31 - Timothy Keller
Scott Anderson

JUNE
1 - Robert Jones
4 - Cory O'Leary
6 - Allan Cousins
9 - Gary Wojtowicz
10 - Ahmed Hassan
Kamaleeswar Kannan
18 - Ronald Nayler
19 - Thomas Heneghan
20 - Jose Rojas
21 - Faith Hundahl
22 - Manuel Guerrero
24 - Stephen Lynch
26 - Elio Banks
28 - Quentin Bruhn
29 - Patrick Galinski
30 - Edward Cuny
Louis Sacco
Kevin McLean

JULY
1 - Alma Donnelly
2 - Thomas Arey
Justina Quashie
Adam Mason

JULY (continued)
3 - James Niedzwiedz
4 - Julie Cahillane
Keen Casey
5 - Jerry Harris
5 - Gary Dasciano
8 - Linda Reinken
Bonnie Humphrey
9 - Edward Nash
Joel Lucci
10 - Tyler Whitehead
12 - Paul Kuhavy
14 - Nicholas Cuny
15 - Allison Potterteger
17 - David Mooshil
18 - Asad Mirza
19 - David St Aubin
20 - DaRon Lott
21 - Melissa McMullen
22 - Andy Roman
23 - Matthew Jeffrey
27 - Matthew Sanders
28 - Robert Frederick
29 - Kevin Kelly
30 - Emmanuel Cartagena

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF

Matthew Ferguson
Engineering (Evanston)

Carlos Rodriguez
Utility Worker (Evanston)

Michael Lombardo
Engineering (Evanston)

Walter Stevenson
Maintenance Engineer (Evanston)

Samantha Mathis
Properties Mgmt Asst (Evanston)

Anthony Tado
Engineering (Evanston)

Jeffrey Pharr
Locksmith (Evanston)

Bahar Uribe
Finance and Admin. (Evanston)

Francisco Moro’n
Engineering (Evanston)

STAFF CHANGES

As of April 15, 2013, Steve Matz joined Residential Services as the Director of Facilities and Construction. He is now the primary contact for all construction, maintenance and facilities work happening in the residential buildings. Steve is excited to collaborate with and work along side his great friends in FM.

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Elizabeth Hitchcock will be leaving FM Planning to become Sarah Pritchard’s new Associate University Librarian for Planning and Facilities, in the Main Library. Since February 2004, when Elizabeth joined FM, she has worked on a wide range of campus initiatives and projects, including the Library’s Master Plan, Oak Grove, planning for Deering’s renovation, along with various studies related to the Library’s satellite facilities in Evanston and Chicago.

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JOHN BRZEZINSKI RETIRES

After 28 years at Northwestern University, Senior Project Manager, John Brzezinski will retire as of May 3, 2013.

Read more on page 2.
Walking through Northwestern’s Chicago Campus, visitors see serene gardens canopied by the branches of skyward stretching trees—trees desperate to grasp the few streams of sunlight that manage to find their way between the city’s glass and stone bulwarks. Flower beds and manicured parkways line Superior, Huron and Erie Streets. Even the parking garage is decked with flower boxes holding cascading plants that adorn the concrete walls. How does this oasis survive in this cold city on the lake?

Ken Martire.

Single-handedly, Ken maintains grasses and gardenias in an inhospitable sphere. He has been with Northwestern’s FM since 1991, but has only presided over the Chicago Campus grounds for the last year and a half. When asked what his favorite task is, he immediately states: “Planting the Fall bulbs.” Although one may be hard-pressed to see the perks in nurturing an arduous garden, Ken finds contentment in compliments and approving nods as residents and visitors pass through.

Even Chicago’s formidable winters give Ken a rush of adrenaline as he battles Mother Nature...alone.

So what is the “down side” to being the Lead Groundskeeper at the Chicago Campus? The same adoring fans that launch compliments and laud praise may also trample through the bed of newly planted Hydrangea. Watering is a demanding task as well, because of the same culprits. In order to avoid giving pedestrians showers, the constant stopping and starting makes watering a long process.

The Abbott garden (see page 1 for this year’s design) has also been acknowledged previously on a more official level by Mayor Daley’s Annual Landscaping Award. In 2008, the garden captured third place and second place in 2009. In 2007, the “Pocket Park” won the Streeterville Organization of Active Residents (SOAR) Beatification Award.

Not that Ken needs accolades to keep him motivated. The slowing pace of those taking time to gaze at the Orange-Red Cosmos, waving in the breezes off Lake Michigan, some even taking the time to snap a photo with their iPhone, is enough for Ken.

**IN GRATITUDE**

At the monumental milestone of 20 years of service, and every five years thereafter, NU staff members are recognized publicly at the Staff Service Recognition Luncheon held annually. This year’s luncheon will be held on Tuesday, May 21, 2013.

**FM Honorees**

Scott W. Airth
Robert E. Buckman
Stephen A. Camburn
Gary J. Dascanio
Jeffrey S. Elbe
David A. Hicks
Rickey G. Jarrell
Lawrence Maday
Kenneth Martire
Enrique D. Muhlberger
Daniel N. Murphy
Marzena M. Pedzinska
Christopher C. Piehl
Raymond W. Rang Jr.
Richard O. Rohrer
John D. Seay
Benjamin W. Vinzons
Karl H. Wolff

**John Brzezinski Retires** (continued form page 1)

“My first assignment was the building at 1801 Maple. I was responsible for clearing numerous buildings. One small building along Maple Avenue had a link to an enormous subterranean cavern-like structure. I was assured that the abatement of the radioactive materials had already been done and that I could ignore all the ‘Danger – Radioactive Materials’ signs,” John recalls.

Since those early days, John has worked on Cook Hall (formerly known as Materials & Life Science Facility), renovating Harris Hall, and creating a cleanroom facility for the Robert R. McCormick School of Engineering & Applied Science.

John is eager to retire, but admits that he will miss working here.

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**PUZZLE CORNER**

What is it?

Send it in an email to fmnewsletter@northwestern.edu.

Prize: One NU Seal Pro-Weave sweatshirt blanket.

(Who wouldn’t want one of these babies?!)  

Winner will be selected at random from correct answers received. 
Deadline: May 12, 2013

(Winner/answer will be posted on the FM website.)
ON TOUR WITH NIGEL

It’s Spring and everyone waits with bated breath for the colors that will soon clothe the Evanston Campus. But so much happens before those buds bloom.

The vehicle of choice today is the Kubota RTV1100. This baby can take you all around the campus in style. Practically speaking, though, it can also get into small spaces, make tight turns, and carry a load. However, it’s March 27, and as much fun as it is to ride around in the Kubota, there’s work to be done.

Aside from the obvious, the Landscaping department also takes care of minor road repairs. Ruts and holes created from snow and salt definitely keep them busy.

Certain pieces of equipment cannot be used in the peak hours when foot traffic is heavy, so workers in Landscaping get an early start—6:00 a.m. During the school year there are other restrictions, such as noise, which limit how where and when the teams can work. The pruning is a bit behind schedule since Winter got lost and couldn’t find its way out of Evanston. They’re picking up the pace to get as much done as possible in the school’s Spring Break.

Weather is not the only adversary of the Landscaping department. Rabbits do a fair amount of damage as well. It’s too early to tell, but some shrubs may not grow back and will need to be replaced if they’ve been too badly damaged.

FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

GREEN HEROES

Northwestern University is committed to creating and supporting energy conservation projects which have significant environmental and economic benefits. As part of this commitment, Northwestern has launched some of the most ambitious university energy efficiency programs to date.

FM Operations and the Office of Sustainability would like to recognize two people that have made a considerable contribution to these projects.

Chief Maintenance Engineer, Keith Barr salvaged over 200 used window air conditioning units from Abbott Hall (Chicago Campus) and arranged to donate the units to Habitat for Humanity. This saved the units from entering the waste stream and will provide window air conditioners for low-income families.

Facilities Management project manager, Dave Grosskopf, is overseeing the Main University Library window renovations. The new windows will utilize low-E glass and better sealants to reduce solar heat gain in the summer, and ensure heating energy is not wasted in the winter. The glass waste will be recycled and the wooden frames will be reused, making the project even more environmentally friendly.

If you would like to know more about how you can contribute to a more sustainable NU, visit the Office of Sustainability’s new website at: http://www.northwestern.edu/sustainability/
BUDGET NEWS

Facilities Management is fiscally responsible for the maintenance and operation of all educational spaces and administrative buildings on both campuses excluding the spaces occupied by the Feinberg School of Medicine and the Law School on the Chicago campus. The fiscal 2014 budget that has been established for these tasks is $65.1 million. Key pieces of the budget are:

- all wage and salary increases
- anticipated material cost increases
- contracted services (waste disposal, elevator, exterminators, etc.)
- increases and utility
- cost infrastructure improvement increases
- new testing protocols mandated by the federal government

As utilities comprise $26.2 million (roughly 40%) of the operating budget, FM has been aggressively pursuing energy conservation projects for the past few years that are reducing NU’s consumption of both electricity and steam. This program is even more critical going forward as negotiated contracts for fiscal 2015 for the commodities of natural gas and electricity will result in increases over 2014 of 4.2% and 21.6% respectively.

The 2014 budget has also been increased for the maintenance required to support the new north and south parking garages and the Visitor’s Center which will open in the summer of 2014.

FM also has also received a separate allocation of $25 million in 2014 to support the ongoing renewal and replacement program (R&R) for educational buildings. These funds are used for larger scale repairs (such as roof replacement, air handler replacement or exterior façade repairs) that are not included in the maintenance budget.

For more information, please email Tim Keller at t-keller@northwestern.edu or Liz Schaps at l-schaps@northwestern.edu

CAMPUS HISTORY

In October of 1937, two years after the publication of “The New America: the New World”, H.G. Wells visited Northwestern to give a lecture on “The World Community of Tomorrow.” Wells told his audience that because the world was changing with increasing violence, they would have to “make a new world” or “suffer and perish.”

In addition to his apocalyptic warning, Mr. Wells also planted an evergreen tree in front of Deering Library. The tree flourished until 1987, when it was destroyed by an ice storm.

An exact species replacement of the original red cedar tree (or botanically speaking, juniperus virginia canaerti), was planted in 1988. It was knocked down this past year by yet another storm, but this time the Landscaping crew was able to save it.

Special thanks to Yvonne Spura, Archives Assistant at the University Library, for unearthing the photos and historical details.

For questions or comments, please contact: fmnewsletter@northwestern.edu

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