MESSAGE FROM ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT CHARLES KENNEDY

March winds have blown across our region with gusto and ushered in another Northwest Spring with quite a performance. Our beautiful cherry blossoms survived the 40+ mph wind gusts but Mother Nature once again reminds us who is really in charge. When branches, tree limbs, bushes and litter are strewn about the campus after such a windy and rainy onslaught, Facilities Services staff dialed up to high gear and did whatever was needed to keep our campus operational and safe for our customers.

We can always count on UW Emergency Management to monitor the weather patterns that affect our campus operations. With severe windstorms approaching back to back, earlier in March, detailed warning notices were sent out to all EOC responders, EMPC members and key FS stakeholders. UWEM participated in a number of emergency planning and weather service conference calls and shared information among university and regional partners prior to and during the actual windstorms.

In the aftermath of the storms, our Grounds Staff in FMC were busy with their leaf blowers and chainsaws to clear sidewalks, roads and pathways for students, staff and visitors. The high winds brought down some construction-project scaffolding and the Grounds crew, FOMS and FS Safety personnel were on hand to cordon off the area and work with UWPD and the project team to keep the surrounding areas safe and secure.

Campus Engineering & Operations monitored the campus power resources 24/7. Our Campus Operations Communications Center addressed emergency calls including working on the power outages caused by the storms.

Transportation Services’ TransMaintenance Team inspected the gated facilities and rebooted gate arms, as needed due to the power outages. TS was prepared to operate gatehouses in an off line mode to provide uninterrupted service to campus operations.

Building Services Custodians saw additional dirt and debris tracked into campus buildings. They gave extra attention to keeping the lobbies and entranceways safe and clear of debris.

Thank you to all the great employees across Facilities Services!

+TRAINING

How to Hire a Winner
Thursday, April 21
10 a.m. to noon
https://goo.gl/58W3NL

Confidence in the Contract
Thursday, May 12
10 a.m. to noon
https://goo.gl/nQHXmx

Managing for Performance
Thursday, May 19
10 a.m. to noon
https://goo.gl/Ub87c7

Have an idea for a class?
Get in touch with the FS Training Center:
https://goo.gl/fkG8zN

FS SAFETY PPE OPEN HOUSE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20
9 A.M. - 4 P.M.
FS TRAINING CENTER

ARE YOU SQUARED AWAY?
On March 29, 2016 at its annual awards ceremony, the U-District Partnership recognized UW Facilities Services with its Keep the U-District Beautiful award. The partnership chose Facilities Services for the award because of its work on last year’s FS Day of Service, and for record-breaking years of SCRAM, the student move-out donation program, and the U-District Cleanup.

U-District Partnership CEO Elizabeth McCoury and Don Schulze, winner of last year’s Keep the U-District Beautiful honors, presented the award to leadership from Facilities Services.

In 2015, because of the SCRAM program, the University of Washington donated 28.7 tons of reusable items to local charities and non-profit organizations, a 60 percent increase from 17.9 tons in 2014. This includes 13.8 tons of clothing and household goods donated to Northwest Center, and 7.9 tons of food donated to the U-District Food Bank.

“Last year’s SCRAM event was truly a remarkable one for our organization,” said Kalyn Brady, marketing and outreach coordinator of Northwest Center. “With the help of University of Washington students, we are able to provide early intervention, inclusive early childhood education, teen programs and after school programs for children and supported employment, job training and placement for adults.”

Held during popular student move-in and move-out times, the Husky Neighborhood Cleanup encourages students living in the U-District area north of Northeast 45th Street to leave their unwanted items at our collection site for free disposal. In an effort to help prevent illegal dumping, and keep surrounding campus neighborhoods clean. Trucks from Goodwill, UW Recycling and Waste Management gather for three days near Greek Row in order to provide free removal services for students.

In 2015, the Husky Neighborhood Cleanup collected 3.03 tons of garbage, 1.11 tons of recycling and 5.70 tons of donations, for a total of 9.84 tons of material collected, keeping that material off of the streets of the University District.

And finally, during the first of what will become an annual event, more than 100 Facilities Services employees donated three hours of their time on a wet and windy Saturday morning to partner with the U-District Partnership and clean up University Way. Employees washed storefronts, removed stickers from poles and bus stops, picked up garbage, swept sidewalks, and even partnered with SDOT to improve gravel beds for the Ave’s trees, mitigating a tripping hazard.
The cherry blossoms have bloomed, the sun is starting to peek out from the clouds, and ducklings will soon take up residence at their favorite campus fountain. In the early hours of Tuesday, April 5, maintenance crews from Facilities Services installed a campus icon almost as famous as the fountain itself, the duckling ramp.

Carpenter Danny McCoy designed and built the duck ramp, with assistance from fellow carpenter Gordon Keough, and sheet metal mechanic Lance Jensen and his lead Jerrett Roberge, who fabricated and installed the railing around it. These skilled tradespeople from Facilities Maintenance & Construction came together to create the first ramp for Drumheller’s ducklings years ago, and they’ve refined their design in the last few years.

“This is our third or fourth version of the ramp,” said Architectural Trades Lead Robin Shoemake. “The floating component is now two years old, while the ramp pieces are three or four years old.”

Maintenance crews deploy the ramp every year when the fountain is turned on after its winter hiatus, usually the first week of April. The ramp usually stays out for a month or so, until the ducklings are able to fly out of the pond and stop using the ramp.

“We spotted two mallard mates just this morning during the installation,” said Shoemake.

This year the ramp is accompanied by signs reminding the campus community to give the ducks some space.

“We’ve found that when people stand right next to the ramp, the ducklings become afraid to use it,” said maintenance supervisor Dale Baxmann. “We hope the signs will help encourage the community to not get too close.”

On top of huskies scaring off the ducks, a regular occurrence in the PAC-12, ducks can carry Salmonella, and feeding the ducks can make the fountain dirty and attract rats.
When tree removal is necessary on campus, one of the best ways to use the wood is to make it into something new. Under Grounds Management’s wing, campus trees take on new life through the salvage wood program.

The salvage wood program is run by the Facilities Services Grounds Management. The program uses wood from all across campus to create finished products, such as benches and tables. Essentially, the wood is being reused instead of turned into compost or made into wood chips for campus garden beds. The entire program is a collaboration between the Facilities Services carpenters and the local projects team of the UW chapter of Engineers Without Borders.

A majority of the wood that gets funneled into the salvage wood program comes from construction projects, trees that pass from natural death, diseased trees, and potentially hazardous trees that need to be removed.

Before the salvage wood program began, trees that needed to be removed by Sara Shores, the campus arborist, were cut into chunks and put into a compost pile. Now, the wood is diverted and made into something with new life.

Grounds Management is beginning to stockpile wood for future projects.

STARTING THE PROGRAM

Shores said Ed McKinley, the Shop 54 finish carpentry lead, was invested in starting the program, but the sawmill used to cut the wood was too expensive to immediately purchase. When new project ideas were brought up – such as making a bench or a conference room table – McKinley originally sawed everything by hand.

“Ed was really invested in the project, and kept pushing for it,” said Shores.

The salvage wood program came to fruition from a variety of projects.

According to Shores, the desire for a salvage wood program began with an elm tree in front of Gerberding. The tree needed to be taken down, and Grounds Management didn’t want the wood to go to waste. Grounds Management received an offer from Urban Hardwoods, a local reclaimed wood furniture store, to store the wood to dry for two years.

McKinley said the program developed when a community member came to Shores about making a log bench for a local restoration project. McKinley said Shores asked if he could cut a log in half, but McKinley didn’t have the proper equipment. Eventually, McKinley purchased a chainsaw attachment to eventually cut the logs in half.

“This program has made the job more interesting and fun,” said Shores.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE
WHERE DO THE TREES COME FROM?

The north campus student housing project will be a huge wood supplier for the salvage wood program. The project requires dozens of trees to be removed from the area surrounding McCarty Hall. McKinley and Shores said it is likely that 60 percent of the trees are likely going to the salvage wood program.

“At the University's Seattle campus, we've established a one-to-one tree replacement policy for all trees removed for construction. The [north campus housing project] is actually exceeding that, because we have the area to do it and the intent is to recreate the wooded environment characteristic of this part of campus,” said Kristine Kenney, the university landscape architect from the Office of Planning and Management.

Around McCarty Hall, there are 87 trees being cut down. Each tree will produce somewhere between one to four logs depending on the height of the tree. The remaining wood waste goes to Cedar Grove, an environmental solutions company, to be used for mulch.

The project has used a variety of wood from around campus. Years ago, the Hec Ed Pavilion used to pack people onto wooden bleachers to watch the games. The bleachers were eventually removed to be replaced by aluminum bleachers. In the end, the Grounds team ended up with the bleachers. They are planning on using the material to make windows, conference tables, and other products for campus.

The program is just now getting started. “[The salvage wood program] is still in its infancy. I'm not exactly sure how it's going to work, but we're going to make it work,” McKinley said.

During the 2014-2015 school year, Grounds Management applied for a Campus Sustainability Fund grant for the program. They ended up receiving more than $40,000 to fund the program.

The sawmill for the program just arrived in February 2016, and the Grounds carpentry shop began training for the machine almost immediately.

But with every new project comes a new learning curve. “There are people who have spent their whole lives learning [about the lumber drying process],” McKinley said. “We really don't have anybody on campus who knows this stuff.”

Grounds Management has also been working with UW Engineers Without Borders on the project. McKinley and Daniel Sorensen, the sustainability coordinator for Grounds Management, have been collaborating to design a solar kiln to dry the wood before milling.

“If you release the moisture slowly, it has a low chance of damaging the lumber,” McKinley said.

Ideally, the solar kiln will be constructed sometime in April.

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE
PARTNERSHIPS

Noah Johnson, a student who volunteers with UW Engineers Without Borders, started getting involved with the solar kiln project in autumn 2015. Some of the group coincidentally met Sorensen at a nearby volunteer work day. UW EWB needed a local project, so Sorensen suggested UW EWB partner up for the solar kiln.

“When looking for a project we wanted something nearby that would make travelling and communication relatively easy, a small to medium scale project, and something that would offer the team both design and construction experience,” Johnson said.

Johnson and the rest of the team work with several mentors that help out with the solar kiln design process. Scott Douglas, one of the mentors, looked over their initial designs and reviewed their first round of changes.

Now the students meet up once or twice a quarter with Sorensen and McKinley. At their meetings, they discuss insulation options, the proper angle of the solar panels, and the framework for ventilation controls.

Sorensen is also working to coordinate outreach efforts to the campus community who may be interested in participating in the project, such as the College of Built Environments and projects related to Capital Planning and Management and Facilities Construction projects. Sorensen is additionally working on a way to measure and quantify how much wood is being used as part of the program.

“What I really like about [the salvage wood program] in particular, is the furniture made from these trees tell a story,” said Kenney. “We know where the wood came from, the species of tree and its former location on campus, and that story and the legacy of the University, is carried on for future generations to enjoy in a new way.”

The table in the large conference room at the FS Training Center is just one example of using campus trees to make useful goods. The Elm tree used to make this table came from behind Gerberding Hall. The shops involved in creating the table received a Husky Green Award for their work.
UW RECYCLING BRINGS IN NEW WEB APPLICATION TO SIMPLIFY WORK ORDERS

For the past few months, UW Recycling has been using their new application, Streams, to better connect their administrative office to crews in the field. Through smart phones and tablets, Streams enables employees across campus to access their collection routes online, and log changes that occur throughout their day.

When the crew can't access a garbage or recycling bin, or additional equipment is needed, Streams is the one stop shop to track it all.

Building and container type information – such as if a building has any eMedia bins, how many trash containers, and where outdoor solar bins are located – are all embedded in the application.

“We were trying to create something that really works for us,” said Liz Gignilliat, UW Recycling’s program coordinator.

UW Recycling, UW-IT, and Facilities Services began discussing the switch to Streams in September 2014. Phase one of the program – replacing the previous system, Wheels – began in January 2015.

The crew is now able to log billable start and end times on the job. They can write comments within the system with updates about specific work requests, and communicate more efficiently.

Wheels, which was created in 1997, became outdated and didn't have strong usability.

Previously, customer emails were all manually entered in the system, scheduled, and then printed out to distribute to multiple people within the department. Once these job cards were turned in to the administrative office, the program coordinator had to manually mark it in Excel and in the Wheels system. It was an extensive workflow process.

“It could go wrong in so many different places,” Gignilliat said.

UW Recycling also wanted to cut out a main part of the workflow: paper.

In Fiscal Year 2014, nearly 4,000 sheets of paper were used in the workflow process. An average of 103 minutes per month were spent entering vendor requests in Wheels, and service requests could take up to 30 seconds to log.

After Streams was implemented, the log time was cut down to just eight seconds.

The team also wanted to give crew members access in real time to route information and job changes.

Streams funnels work orders and requests that are made by phone, email, or through an online form. Right now, using their mobile devices, crews are able to see job details and route information while in the field. Once the route is complete, it's recorded in one click. Virtually no paper is involved.

“Everyone on our team got to test [Streams] and provide feedback,” Gignilliat said.

The administrative team first demoed the application in June 2015. The team gave feedback to UW-IT, and changes were made up until late 2015. Meanwhile, staff began testing out their new mobile devices to become familiar with the system features. Internal training for Streams started in August 2015, and soon after, the UW Recycling staff voted on their final logo. The system officially went live on Nov. 2.

Meetings have continued throughout the year, filled with feedback, suggestions, and noting system limitations. Even after the initial launch of Streams, crews discovered the need for features that hadn't come up in the initial design process. For example, the crew members wanted an undo button if a misstep had been made in the logging process.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, UW-IT and UW Recycling logged these ideas for a second phase of the program. Phase two launches later this week with an improved online request form.

Customers will soon be able to use their UW NetID to fill out online request forms, which will allow them to view the status of their requests, request history, and make changes or add services to previous requests. By allowing editing access to forms, fewer forms will need to be redone from scratch.

Within the form itself, customers will no longer have to manually enter the full building name to fill out a service request. Instead of typing PAB for the Physics/Astronomy Building, the list will display full building names to ensure accuracy and clarity in the work orders.

After phase two rolls out, Streams will continue to see improvements. The team hopes to create additional reporting functions, provide drivers with route mapping, and simplify the process of sending service requests to vendors.