Thank you to all who attended the Facilities Services Training Center Open House on April 25. We had well over five hundred FS employees stop in throughout the day to celebrate and explore the new facility. I would also like to thank the staff members who took time to showcase their expertise in our wet and dry lab demonstrations. Kudos to Dale Baxmann (FMC Central Zone), Scott Preston (Emergency Management), and Shawn Broderick, Mike Ewing, Keith Louguet, Suraj Wati Nand and Mike Nguyen (all in the Building Services Department) for taking time out of their day to show us the work they do and how it positively impacts the University of Washington.

Enthusiasm and camaraderie were high as open house attendees walked through our new training spaces and learned about the state of the art audio/visual components and the types of training classes planned to enhance employee learning and growth. Visitors asked a lot of great questions as they toured the facility and perused the historical wall murals of the original power plant in 1909, the George Washington statue installation in 1909, the UW columns being painted in 1919, the plaster shop in 1908 and the hand-drawn Olmsted Brothers blueprint of the quadrangle and surrounding buildings from 1904. The Olmsted blueprint design was commissioned by the 1903 University of Washington Board of Regents with the request to provide a plan for the UW campus to be “in harmony with the proposed park system of the city and which can be used to guide all important construction and planting on the University grounds for years to come.”

My appreciation also goes to Training Specialist Mary Mahon and Training Center Manager Mary Jo Blahna for planning such a successful open house event. Keep your eyes on the FS Training Center website (http://www.washington.edu/facilities/orgrel/training) to stay current on class offerings and career enhancing opportunities.
Our Vision: Facilities Services is a world-class organization providing exceptional service anywhere, anytime to enable discovery and excellence at the University of Washington.

Reminder: The deadline for use and accrual of comp time and holiday comp time is 5/31/2013. All comp time and holiday comp time balances as of the end of May will be cashed out and paid on the July 10 paycheck.
Campus maps are everywhere. Most of us probably don’t give maps much thought, even though we often rely on them. Maps are used every day in the maintenance and operation of the campus, as well as in construction. Students use maps to locate classes and amenities. Visitors to campus depend on maps to find their destinations; 88,000 copies of the campus “vicinity map” are printed each year, and most of those are handed out at the gatehouses. In addition, derivative maps based on the same background are printed by University Libraries, Transportation Services, Housing and Food Services, and others. All of these maps rely on an up-to-date and accurate background of campus buildings, roads and pathways.

In December 2012, Campus Engineering & Operations brought together a collection of experts to form the Campus Background Map Update Lean Team. Composed of engineers, drafting technicians and campus process partners who use maps for their services and operations, the team studied the process for updating the campus map and looked for streamlining opportunities. They learned that there were approximately 30 versions of background maps used around the campus that needed updating every time something on campus changed, such as the addition of a new building. The team developed an elegant, improved approach to map production that creates only three versions of the background map: Campus Engineering creates and maintains the base map that compiles all available information. The base map is then translated electronically to produce the detailed background map used by FS for maintenance, operations and planning. Finally, from that detailed map, a simplified background map is created and made available for use by anyone on campus who needs to develop their own specialized map. At their launch workshop, the team set a goal to reduce the number of background maps by 50 percent and reduce the process time for updating the background portion of the map to 20 business days. After just 60 days of effort, the team had reduced the number of background maps by 90 percent (from 30 maps to 3) and they estimate the process time to make changes will be two business days.

The availability of the electronic simplified background will be a time-saver for the many campus organizations that produce specialized maps for their services. “Anyone who needs a background drawing can now rely on getting an accurate and up-to-date background for their map,” says team leader Jim Morin. In the past, when maps required updating, each mapmaker spent hours creating their own backgrounds, which in many cases introduced errors that were then time consuming and costly to fix.

Access to the simplified background map in a variety of formats will also be available to campus users through the University Libraries. Students and faculty who need maps will be able to access fresh and accurate backgrounds rather than spending research time redrawing the background maps for their projects.

When asked what makes this team work so well, Jim said, “We had exactly the right people on the team. These are the experts. You need the people who are doing the work to improve the process. They have to have experience with the process, and everybody needs to be willing to consider change.” Every team member brings something important to the table, Jim adds, and everyone is engaged. “We are mapmakers. We’re excited about making good quality, accurate maps.” By making the production of the background so much easier, he says, “We are freed up to do what we do best — produce quality maps for the University.”

More information on this and other Facilities Services Lean teams is available at www.washington.edu/facilities/strategy/lean/teams/archive.
May is here, which means Bike to Campus Month is rolling your way! Bike to Campus Month and the 2013 Commute Challenge Presented by Adobe began May 1, and feature a variety of events, classes, and prizes geared at encouraging students, faculty and staff to bicycle throughout the month of May.

Visit the Commute Challenge website (http://commutechallenge.cascade.org) to learn more about the Commute Challenge competition, join a team or start your own. The 2012 Commute Challenge saw the University of Washington place a close second behind Seattle Children’s Hospital in participation, and we need your help to bring home the yellow jersey in 2013!

Throughout the month of May, UW Transportation Services will be hosting a variety of bike-related classes and events to keep you safe, informed and pumped about bicycling:

- 5/14/2013 | Rules of the Road | 12:30-1:30 p.m. | HUB Room 238
- 5/15/2013 | Webinar Screening: Bike Signals | 12-1 p.m. | Gould Room 142
- 5/17/2013 | Bike to Work Day | 6-9 a.m. | Burke-Gilman Trail & Rainier Vista
- 5/21/2013 | Fix-A-Flat Lab | 12:30-1:30 p.m. | Gould Room 100
- 5/23/2013 | UW Trail Party | 4-7 p.m. | Burke-Gilman Trail between Northeast University Way and Brooklyn Avenue Northeast
- 5/28/2013 | Basics of Bike Camping & Touring | 12:30-1:30 p.m. | HUB Room 238

Visit the Bike to Campus Month website (http://www.uwcommute.com/biketocampusmonth) to register for classes and to see the full schedule of classes, webinars, rides and events. See you in the bike lane!

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Congratulations to FMC Shop 54 for receiving a Husky Green Award in honor of their work on the elm tree table at the FS Training Center. The Husky Green Award is a campus-wide award given to students, faculty and staff who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication to environmental stewardship and sustainability. The group’s work crafting the conference table out of reused wood from a campus tree exemplifies these qualities. The shop reuses materials in other ways as well, such as building windows for the mechanical engineering building with wood from Husky Stadium.

The award and a certificate for 10 trees to be planted in the team’s honor were presented at the FS Training Center on Tuesday, April 24 to Shop 54, as well as campus arborist Sara Shores (Shop 10), and sheet metal mechanics Kelly Durand and Brad Mcouat (Shop 56) who were also involved with elm table construction. Way to go!

Hillary Burgess, graduate student and IPM Coordinator for Grounds Management was also nominated for a Husky Green Award this year. Learn more about the Husky Green Award at http://f2.washington.edu/ess/hga.