Above & Beyond: The Keller Award

Senior Financial Analyst Brian Lipinski consistently goes above and beyond what is expected. His superior financial analytical skills, strong work ethic and deep knowledge of Facilities Services (FS) budget supports his selection as the 2012 recipient of the Keller Award.

Lipinski is a member of the FS Finance team and began working at the University in December 2006. He has consistently and expertly handled finance-related tasks and makes himself available to a cross-section of individuals within FS units who need financial information or assistance. Lipinski’s work adds strategic value to our department. His Keller Award nominator put it this way:

“Brian’s support in financial analysis and record keeping is unparalleled in the organization, and allows us to make good investment decisions. He understands the accounting rules and provides solid guidance and offers suggestions on how we can best accomplish our operational goals from a financial perspective. Brian provides accurate information the FS Team can act on without reservation.”

In addition, Lipinski stepped up and took on many additional responsibilities in April when tragedy struck the Finance unit. On April 26, one of our beloved colleagues, Dion Manna, manager of financial analysis, suffered a stroke while in his office and was rushed to the hospital. Manna continues to recover, and is missed everyday.

Manna’s medical emergency meant the responsibilities within the FS Finance team had to be restructured. Lipinski stepped up to assume many critical responsibilities and ensured success. Lipinski has performed exceptionally in his current position and adds a tremendous amount of value to the FS Finance team as a top performer.

In addition, Lipinski is committed to making a positive impact in the community. He volunteers on various Office of Sustainability programs and also for the Ronald McDonald House with the Finance team. Lipinski understands the power of collaboration and offers his assistance willingly whenever called upon. Lipinski is a good representative of the qualities we value in our employees and is deserving of our department’s highest honor.

—Compiled from Keller Award nomination forms

FS Team Award: Residence Halls & Dining

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Keller Award, our department’s highest individual honor. With that as a backdrop, Facilities Services (FS) leadership felt the time was right to create a new award to recognize collaborative teamwork. The new FS Team Award complements the Keller Award and adds the department to honor outstanding teamwork.

The newly-formed Residence Halls & Dining (RH&D) Team (made up of property managers, building maintenance workers and building engineers) has made significant contributions to the improvement of student life on campus through a challenging transitional year, earning the 2012 FS Team Award.

The following individuals are awarded the 2012 FS Team Award:

Jennifer O’Brien, Senior Manager
Randu Ahuja, Assistant Property Manager
Ivanka Ferenc, Desk Clerk Supervisor
Ruth Johnson, Front Desk Clerk
Christina Miles, Front Desk Clerk
Martha Perryman, Front Desk Clerk
Patricia Posey, Front Desk Clerk
Sheila Downs, Assistant Property Manager
Benjamin Webb, Building Maintenance Worker
Angel Murillo, Building Maintenance Worker
Andrew Dancy, Building Maintenance Worker
Alex Helewa, Property Manager
Juan Johnson, Building Maintenance Worker
Santiago Murillo, Building Maintenance Worker
Schuyler Rentall, Building Maintenance Worker
Vernon Smith, Building Maintenance Worker
Thomas James, Property Manager

Jose Rodriguez, Building Maintenance Worker
Ronald Heard, Building Maintenance Worker
Timothy King, Building Maintenance Worker
Jose Hernandez, Building Maintenance Worker
Kimberly Brand, Building Maintenance Worker
James Coleman, Supervisor, RH&D Engineering Shop
Steven Dostal, Building Refrigeration Engineer
Joseph Ivezic, Building Refrigeration Engineer
Jim Robson, Building Refrigeration Engineer
Milch Baker, Building Engineer
Tom Evers, Building Engineer
Bob Ignasiak, Building Engineer
Derrick Parker, Building Engineer
Alvin Lewis, Building Engineer
Lucion Gasby, Building Engineer
David Petraskos, Building Engineer
Walter Thomas, Building Engineer
John Fejes, Building Engineer
Don Szepienowski, Building Engineer
Patrick Wilson, Project Manager
Laura Jacobs-Jansky, Project Manager
Desiree Dilucente, Senior Project Manager
Barry O’Quinn, Senior Manager
Roslyn Johnson, Director, Procurement and Econ Impact
John MacDonald, Contract Administrator
Colleen Lanier Christiansen, Program Coordinator
Victor Alvarez, Business Diversity Manager
Carl Thompson, Supervisor, Campus Services
Bret Eddings, Financial Analyst
Dave Vandas, Supervisor, Campus Utilty Plans
Andy Cobb, Supervisor, Hull Court Engineering

...FS Team Award continues on page 3
Summer 2012 saw Facilities Services successfully undertake one of the most expansive summer construction efforts in University history, with much of the key work taking place in the highly visible and historically important Main Quad area bounded by 57th Street, University Avenue, 59th Street and Ellis Avenue.

Projects ranged from the massive extension of a chilled water line running from the west Quad to University Avenue and the refurbishment of steam tunnels to a variety of office, lab and exterior building renovations.

In all, Facilities Services successfully completed 27 projects in the Main Quad and its vicinity between June and September 2012, adding strategic value to the University’s mission and vision.

While dozens of employees had a hand in some portion of summer 2012 Main Quad work, a core group of employees, led by three project managers, are being recognized for their commitment to complete these projects on time and within budget.

In addition, these employees are to be commended for continually maintaining the appearance of the Quad while these construction projects were underway. This became an even bigger challenge when rainfall this summer fell far short of normal levels.

It is for the reasons mentioned above that the following individuals are receiving the **honorable mention FS Team Award** in recognition of their outstanding contributions during the Main Quad summer 2012 construction season:

- **Denise Davis**, Project Manager
- **Jose Lopez**, Project Manager
- **Sara Mateseyac**, Assistant Project Manager
- **Steve Frank**, Landscape Supervisor
- **Brandon Rux**, Assistant Supervisor, Landscape Services
- **James Koushides**, Electrician

---

**Fewer injuries, less lost time in FY 2012**

Visitors at FS trade shops might not notice the poem amongst the heavy equipment, tools, lockers and workbenches.

It’s innocuous, but it’s there, pinned to a bulletin board alongside other information and announcements — and its very presence hints at a larger cultural change taking place.

“If you see a risk that others take, That puts their health or life at stake, The question asked or thing you say, Could help them live another day.”

That stanza is included in “I Chose to Look the Other Way,” a poem by Don Merrell, which Safety Committee members chose nearly two years ago to kick-off the formation of a group determined to lead a workplace culture committed to safety.

And the numbers show they’ve taken that commitment seriously. Data shows on-the-job injuries for FS skilled trade employees is down more than half since fiscal year 2011. The OSHA Recordable Injury Tracking shows just 18 incidents in FY 2012, compared to 39 in FY 2011. In addition, time lost due to injuries is also significantly down.

“These employees have really stepped up to the plate. They are really connecting with the fact that their own on-the-job decisions impact not just themselves, but their coworkers and the University at-large,” said **Joel Schiever**, executive director of operations. “They’ve set the bar very high for themselves, and I have every reason to believe they’ll continue chipping away at the numbers in coming years.”

The poem was just the beginning. Employees also gather and track data, share stories or ideas about other safety programs and watch videos that demonstrate how to handle an unsafe situation or a coworker resistant to change, according to safety committee Chair **Nate Pritchard**.

The committee meets monthly to discuss safety issue or concerns and to review a variety of reports tracking injuries, lost time and a host of other safety-related issues.

“This is about common care for your fellow employee,” said Pritchard, a skilled carpenter. “It’s a focus for everybody, and a huge change from where we were.”

Originally created and run for one year by Schiever, now all leadership positions on the Safety Committee are now held by union members, who also make up the bulk of the membership. Union membership and leadership in such a critical area shows employees are taking safety seriously and are taking ownership of their role in creating and maintaining a safe work environment.

“They know that any situation can go from routine to high-risk really fast, so they really listen to each other,” said **Craig Kelley**, residential properties manager. The 24-member Safety Committee includes members of SEIU Locals 1, 73 and IBEW 134; Teamsters Local 743 and operating engineers Local 399. It includes employees who work in all FS shops.

“We’re all true volunteers; we weren’t strong-armed into it,” Pritchard said. “We participate because we care and we want to be the best.”

---

**OSHA Recordable Injury Tracking FY11/FY12**

---

**By Amy Lee**

---

**John O’Donnell**, Electrician
**Ernesto Negrete**, Electrician
**Pete Hickling**, Supervisor, Electric Shop
**Dwight Jackson**, Building Foreman, Hull Court
**Michael Pankowski**, Building Engineer, Hull Court
**Alexander Lukich**, Building Engineer, Hull Court
**Andy Cobb**, Supervisor, Hull Court Engineering
**Mike Kekelik**, Structural Mechanic Foreman
**Robert Tiberg**, Operations Manager
**Gavin Tun**, Director, Project Management
**Rob Jones**, Director, Planning
**Glenn Okazaki**, Manager, Planning ADA Code Specialist
**Matthew Curlin**, Director of Service Delivery
**Kevin Ahn**, Client Services Manager
**John Carey**, Client Services Manager
**Dan Larson**, Client Services Manager
Spotlight On: Maya Gharpure and Armando Pizano

Maya Gharpure and Armando Pizano may work in different units within Facilities Services, but they both possess the flexibility, willingness to go the extra mile and professional kind demeanor that makes their work stand out.

Gharpure, an assistant project manager with the Planning and Design unit, and Pizano, an assistant supervisor-Faculty Exchange with the Operations unit, both were selected to receive an Honorable Mention for the department’s annual Keller Award.

Gharpure joined the department in February 2011, while Pizano joined in January 1995.

“Her calm demeanor, professional expertise and willingness to spend an impressive amount of time working toward operations needs of the FS team caught the attention of one of the two individuals who submitted nominations for Gharpure.”

— Compiled from Keller Award nomination forms

“Iván Martello, Carpenter Helper I
Ignacio Martínez, Production Specialist
Paige McGhee, Financial Analyst
David Micus, Carpenter Helper I
Bethany Minton, Executive Assistant
Christopher Mitchell, Building Engineer
Robert Moss, Electrician Foreman
George Nugent, Building Engineer
Brandon Osterman, Building Engineer
Chisty Perera, Assistant Program Coordinator
Patrick Polhemus, Commissioning Manager
Sony Rane, Coordinator
Bobby Rawls, Material Control Coordinator
David Rill, Senior Project Manager
Kevin Rodgers, Energy Engineer
Kimberly Sanford, Executive Assistant
La Tanya Styles, Recepcionist/Fiscal Assistant
Najeeba Syed, Office Assistant
Michelle Thomas, Office Administrator
Leon Watson, Grounds Laborer
Myriam Weaver, Senior Project Manager
Janine Wilkosz, Executive Assistant
James Wooll, Structural Mechanic
Richard Wrigley, Project Manager

— Compiled from Keller Award nomination forms

New Hires (Since October 2011)

Abe Abdelrahman
Building Engineer
Kevin Ahn
Client Services Manager
Ronju Ahuja
Assistant Property Manager
Charles Becker
Groundkeeper
Jason Caulfield
Building Engineer
Julia Colvin
Project Coordinator
Ted Davis
Material Controls Manager
Shelna Downs
Assistant Property Manager
Bret Eddings
Financial Analyst
Salvatore Fricano
Journeyman Electrician
Joshua Garza
Fixture Cleaner Electrician
Victor Gavin
Material Control Coordinator
Kevin AGB
Maintenance Program Manager
Kathleen Golomb
Assistant Project Manager
Penny Gomez
Senior Financial Analyst
Aurelio Hernandez
Groundkeeper
Keith Ivy
Purchasing Assistant
Thomas James
Property Manager
Brent King
Groundkeeper
Angela Knoble
Project Manager
Amy Lee
Communication Strategy Manager
Jose Lopez
Senior Project Manager
Elliot Lounsbery
Journeyman Locksmith
Kyle MacNeill
Journeyman Electrician
Angela Melehman
Operations Administrator

October 2011
Jim Ogorka
Denise Davis
Matthew Beach
November 2011
Ursula Seahoss
Roland Rumsey
December 2011
Jill Jureczko
James Coleman
February 2012
Patrick Polhemus
March 2012
Victor Gavin
Dan Carey
April 2012
Dave Vandas
Andy Cobb
James Coleman
Terry Durcan
Brent King
Adrian Velez
Tiffany Grant
Maya Gharpure
Maya Gharpure
Kevin Ahn
Michael Echter
April 2012
May 2012
Kevin Ahn
Floyd Botheer
John O’Donnell
Joe Doddy
June 2012
Adrian Velez
Dave Vandas
Linda Flanagan
July 2012
Leon Penisa
Brent King
Richard Burnstead
August 2012
Bob Tibergh
Brian Lepine
Julia Colvin
September 2012
Tim Stejc
October 2012
Adrian Velez

October 2011
Jim Ogorka
Denise Davis
Matthew Beach
November 2011
Ursula Seahoss
Roland Rumsey
December 2011
Jill Jureczko
James Coleman
February 2012
Patrick Polhemus
March 2012
Victor Gavin
Dan Carey
April 2012
Dave Vandas
Andy Cobb
James Coleman
Terry Durcan
Brent King
Adrian Velez
Tiffany Grant
Maya Gharpure
Maya Gharpure
Kevin Ahn
Michael Echter
April 2012
May 2012
Kevin Ahn
Floyd Botheer
John O’Donnell
Joe Doddy
June 2012
Adrian Velez
Dave Vandas
Linda Flanagan
July 2012
Leon Penisa
Brent King
Richard Burnstead
August 2012
Bob Tibergh
Brian Lepine
Julia Colvin
September 2012
Tim Stejc
October 2012
Adrian Velez
Facilities Services

On a steamy hot day in late summer, a group of Facilities Services landscapers threw some tools into pickup trucks and headed to a city block at 57th and Perry streets in Washington Park.

“We volunteered to help out, but we really didn’t know what to expect,” said Steve Frank, supervisor of landscape services. “We get there and it’s just huge piles of mulch, compost and vegetables growing 4-feet high. It was impressive.” So impressive, in fact, the crew recently went back to the lot to pitch in again.

Frank and seven other Facility Services Landscapers, at the suggestion of the Office of Sustainability, volunteered their time on Aug. 23 and Oct. 17 at a 1.7-acre site known as the Perry Street City Farm. The site – once home to a school and then a 70-bed homeless shelter – had sat vacant for years and is now an island of City Farms, a citywide project that is helping to turn fallow, vacant land into productive farmland.

“The farm is part of a larger urban agriculture initiative led by the Washington Park Consortium, with significant support from our own Office of Sustainability. The Resource Center, run by UChicago alumni Ken Dunn, manages the site. FS crews enjoyed the time giving back to the Washington Park community,” Frank said.

“I thought it was a great idea, and so did my crew,” Frank said. “They felt they made a difference.”

The FS volunteers in August helped Dunn spread organic compost into the soil to fertilize the beds and built crop rows for vegetable plants. This month, they helped to ready the vegetation for the coming winter months.

“The farm serves many different purposes: it will supply high-end organic produce to upscale restaurants in the city and, ultimately, the University of Chicago, provide more jobs in the community and generate organic produce for the local area. The Perry Street farm also features an on-site farm stand, where local residents can purchase fresh produce year-round.”

Brandon F. Johnson, executive director of the Washington Park Consortium, views the Perry Street City Farm as a highly visible way to spark interest in a community where unemployment hovers around 50 percent.

“The Perry Street Farm is a first step in activating Washington Park’s wealth for the benefit of its residents and stakeholders. This wealth is most evident in the substantial available land in Washington Park,” Johnson said. “We are sincerely appreciative of the University’s support in this endeavor.”

From the Desk of Steve Wiesenthal

Dear FS Colleagues,

As chilly weather sets in and the leaves begin to blaze in vibrant hues of reds and gold all over campus, it’s a good time to reflect on the amazing amount of work we’ve accomplished in the last few months.

We can’t begin to discuss our gorgeous campus without emphasizing the summer projects completed on the Main Quad, which included not just what you could see in the landscape, but also included work in 25 buildings on the Main Quad.

Above ground, below ground and on the ground – Facility Services employees in summer 2012 had a hand in nearly every aspect of renewing the Quad, the historical heart and soul of campus.

We know a lot of the work we do is not always visible to students, faculty, staff and campus visitors, and most of the time, we like it that way. But at times like this, when we see students reading under a tree or gathering around a drum circle in the Quad, we know that we have set the stage for students and the University community at large to make the space their own. For that, I thank you all.

It was not just about new construction. The Office of Sustainability led a weeklong e-waste collection that resulted in 37,000 pounds of electronics being diverted from landfill. In addition, the structural shop recycled 1,400 pounds of scrap metal and obsolete material.

And we capped off our massive construction season with the official opening of the Reva and David Logan Center for the Arts, at which we were thrilled to have Reva Logan in attendance. Witnessing the official opening of this important arts space reminds us of the lasting importance of the work we do everyday.

Finally, I know we all are eager to know more details about our upcoming relocations. As one employee quipped, some units within Facilities might be “facility-less” for a short time as we relocate our shops and offices to better position ourselves to serve our University clients. While some FS employees will move to Harper Court on 53rd Street, others will transfer into space designed and constructed to meet their functional needs as we move toward our goal of housing all FS trade shops under one roof.

While challenges lie ahead, we are reshaping our department based on the needs of our clients. We are truly building and maintaining excellence.

As always, I welcome your input and suggestions. We will share information as it becomes available, consult with you, and keep you involved along the way.

Thank you for making 2012 such a success story for Facilities Services and the University of Chicago, and best wishes for this academic year.

― Steve Wiesenthal