The North Sciences Quadrangle reduces the amount of potable water used through storm-water capture tanks. (Photo by Tom Rossiter)

Sustainability year in review

The 2014-2015 school year yielded many success stories for the Office of Sustainability (OS) and its campus partners. OS staff worked to enhance recycling efforts, storm water systems, and a bike-share program, to name just a few of the myriad projects underway. The office serves as a resource and to support a thoughtful balance between environmental, social and economic sustainability in all decisions at the University of Chicago. Highlighted projects and initiatives resulting from the OS’s collaboration and research activities are presented below. This list is a brief overview of just a handful of initiatives the Office of Sustainability tackled this year.

North Sciences Quadrangle Storm-Water Capture and Reuse Tank

The Office of Sustainability co-funded the installation of a storm-water capture tank and associated infrastructure, along with software to monitor water recapture. The first of its kind on campus, this system will lower utility costs, lower us to quantify the benefits, helping to inform future decisions surrounding water usage. Learn more, and visit our website for updates regarding this project.

Regenstein Library Energy Reduction Pilot

This pilot program is designed to reduce utility costs by creating a culture of energy consciousness through education and training. This is achieved by a dual approach: building systems optimization, and various strategies to educate and encourage occupants to use less energy. The University’s main study center consumes 7.4 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually – equivalent to the total electricity use of 600 homes per year. To incentivize participation, a portion of the utility cost savings will be shared with Regenstein for projects of their choosing. Learn more, and visit our website at sustainability.uchicago.edu for updates regarding this project.

On-demand electronic-waste recycling now available

The Office of Sustainability and IT Services collaborated in spring to bring on-demand electronic-waste (e-waste) recycling services to campus. Community members pitch cell phones, televisions, digital cameras and other items in special bins located at the east entrance of the Regenstein Library and the west lobby of the Gordon Center for Integrative Science seven days a week during business hours. Learn more about this service by visiting our website. As of March 2015, the University collected and recycled more than 25,900 pounds of electronic scrap – an increase of 10,000 pounds compared to the previous year (2014-2015).

Accelerate Performance Grant – Campus North Residence Hall and David M Rubenstein Forum

“Accelerate Performance” is a U.S. Department of Energy funded initiative that enables owners and developers to achieve desired energy performance goals. It will shift the market from energy analysis which focuses on energy savings predictions, toward one where the anticipated performance is clearly stated and actual energy use is measured. This will ensure accountability for building performance after construction.

The University of Chicago is one of the first to pioneer performance-based procurement in the higher education sector. “The contract is used as a mechanism to spark creativity on how to integrate energy efficiency in the design,” said Mike Stopka, director of sustainability. “Selecting an energy goal engages the architect in the discussion.”

Gordon Parks Arts Hall draws inspiration from the University of Chicago’s gothic architecture. (Photo by Barbara Karant)

Y ears of collaborative work across all units of Facilities Services led to the formal opening of two major new facilities on campus this autumn – the Gordon Parks Arts Hall at the University of Chicago Laboratory Schools and the William Eckhardt Research Center. The Gordon Park Arts Hall is the result of a $25 million gift from the George Lucas Family Foundation in 2014 to the Laboratory Schools in support of the new facility, which strengthens programs in theater, music and the visual arts with three new performance halls. One hall is named for Sherry Lansing, a Lab alumna and former head of Paramount Studios.

At the request of filmmaker George Lucas and financial executive Mellody Hobson, his wife, the building is named in honor of Parks, the American photographer, writer, film director, musician and social justice advocate.
Facilities Services PIPELINE December 2015

Facilities Employee Spotlight

More than 350 of us work for FS, yet we don’t often have the time in our busy workdays to learn and share our backgrounds and hidden talents. The Employee Spotlight helps us learn about each other beyond our professional roles.

Jill Loffredo
19 years of service
Electrician
FS Service Building

Q: Where is your hometown?
A: I grew up in Burbank IL, now I live in Oak Forest.

Q: What’s your favorite movie? TV show?
A: A: Splendid in the Grass, Blacklist.

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: A: Thank God for the day and make the most of where you are.

Q: What have you accomplished in FS that you’re most proud of?
A: I have learned many new aspects of electrical work that you may never see out in the field.

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: I bring my lunch everyday but if I don’t it’s Jimmy Johns – fast & easy.

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: Pizza Capri

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: Cubs vs. Sox vs. Dog vs. cat?

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: White Sox all the way. Both…can’t choose because I’ve had both.

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: An encyclopedia of recalling facts.

Q: Who is your favorite hero of fiction?
A: Santa Claus

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: T Rex

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: T Rex

Jose Lopez
4 years of service
CPD Senior Project Mgr. Lab Schools

Q: Where is your hometown?
A: North Riverside, IL

Q: What’s your favorite movie?
A: It’s a Wonderful Life, TV show? Shark Tank

Q: What was your first or most interesting job?
A: Being a development manager for the initial Navy Pier Redevelopment.

Q: What have you accomplished in FS that you’re most proud of?
A: Managing the adaptive reuse of 5757 S. University to the new Sahc Hall for Economics.

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: A: Harold’s.

Q: Cubs vs. Sox? Dog vs. cat?
A: Sox. Cat.

Q: Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
A: Cut to the chase and tell me what your problem is...

Q: Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
A: At a doctor.

Q: Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

Q: Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
A: A: North Riverside, IL

Q: Which words or phrases do you most overuse?
A: At a doctor.

Dale Lundgren
37 years of service; retired October 2015
Carpenter

Q: Where is your hometown?
A: Portage, IN

Q: What’s your favorite movie? TV show?
A: Pawn Stars

Q: What was your first or most interesting job?
A: Marine Corps.

Q: What have you accomplished in FS that you’re most proud of?
A: Working with great people.

Q: What’s your favorite place to go for lunch since working in FS?
A: A: Harrold’s.

Q: Cub vs. Sun? Dog vs. cat?
A: A: Sox. Cat.

Q: Which living person do you most admire?
A: Al Pacino.

Q: Which words or phrases do you most overuse?

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Project managers build playground at local school

Facilities Services provided pro bono services to support the construction of a new 15,000 square foot Outdoor Learning Space (OLS) at the Ancona School, a Montessori-based school in South Kenwood. The project was over two years in the making and came together with the support of many volunteers, including FS and Office of Civic Engagement (OCE) teams.

The newly-opened OLS is a powerful symbol of the school’s child-centered approach to learning and recognition that play is vital to children’s social, emotional, cognitive, creative, and physical development.

When OCE staff member and Ancona board member Joanna Trotter saw the need for professional project management services to support the OLS, she reached out to Gavin Tan, director of project management in Facilities Services. FS Project Manager Denise Davis and Kathleen Golomb provided pro bono services to the school and supported the construction process from spring 2015 through December 2015.

Davis and Golomb worked with the architect, UrbanaU, to provide project management services such as construction document review, specification and bid form review and refinement, participation in interviews with contractors, and construction scheduling reviews. UChicago also provided expertise in construction oversight throughout the installation process.

Ancona educates students to become creative problem solvers, confident risk takers and independent, lifelong learners. Rooted in the Montessori tradition, the child-centered school stimulates the joy of learning and builds a strong academic foundation, inspiring children to nourish their inner fires, find the power in their own voices and strive for justice and peace. In a community of cultural and economic diversity, Ancona cultivates understanding, care and respect for others.

The University of Chicago is proud to be a partner in the new space and to support Ancona, a school that has been educating students in the community for fifty-three years.

Message from Rowan A. Miranda

Dear FS Employees,

As 2015 comes to a close, it’s time to reflect on another successful year of progress at the University of Chicago. I want to thank each of you for your significant contributions to the University of Chicago this past year.

What does all of this change mean to you and the critical work you do? If you stay focused and confident, we can continue to improve what FS does with Maron assuming day-to-day oversight. The strong FS senior leadership team of Alicia Berg, Boyd Black, Erin Mlideoney and Gerty McGillian will continue to guide and track progress on our strategic goals and initiatives.

I deeply appreciate your commitment and dedication to the campus community as we navigate through this transition and shape our path forward.

Happy Holidays!
Best,
Rowan

What do you value most in your friend?
A: Loyalty

What do you value most in your friend?
A: Trust

What do you value most in your friend?
A: Santa Claus

What do you value most in your friend?
A: A: T Rex

What do you value most in your friend?
A: A: T Rex

What do you value most in your friend?
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What do you value most in your friend?
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What do you value most in your friend?
A: A: T Rex

Building & Maintaining Excellence

New Hires
August - December 2015
Dale Janeczko, building engineer
Misael Martinez, utility plant assistant operator
Antonio Mena, manager, capital planning
Miroslav Skoric, building engineer
Sarah Stack, horticulturist

Spot Awards
August - December 2015
Mary Campbell
Julie Carey
Andy Cobb
Ralph Dietz
Tiffany Grant
Brandon Janowski
Angela Knoble
José Lopez
Amaechi Okonma

What is a Spot Award?

Spot Awards are a $15 gift card issued "on-the-spot" to FS employees who have demonstrated superior performance, extraordinary achievement or engaged in exemplary cross-unit collaboration.

To honor an employee with a Spot Award, supervisors and staff may request a card by contacting FS HR.

Happy Holidays!