

## Above & Beyond: The Keller Award

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 2 TEAM
- 2 SAFETY
- 3 SPOTLIGHT
- 3 HR CORNER
- 4 SUSTAINABILITY
- 4 FROM THE DESK OF STEVE WIESENTHAL

**S**enior 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) budgets 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



Brian Lipinski at a winter 2011 Facilities Services event.

## FS Team Award: Residence Halls & Dining

**T**his 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** compliments the Keller Award and allows 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  
**Ranju Ahuja**, Assistant Property Manager  
**Ivanka Ferenac**, 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 Flentall**, 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  
**Mitch Baker**, Building Engineer  
**Tom Evers**, Building Engineer  
**Bob Ignasiak**, Building Engineer  
**Derrick Parker**, Building Engineer  
**Alvin Lewis**, Building Engineer  
**Lucion Gasby**, Building Engineer  
**David Petrouskas**, Building Engineer  
**Walter Thomas**, Building Engineer  
**John Fejes**, Building Engineer  
**Don Szejnowski**, 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**, former Program Coordinator,  
**Victor Alvarez**, Business Diversity Manager  
**Carl Thompson**, Supervisor, Campus Services  
**Bret Eddings**, Financial Analyst  
**Dave Vandas**, Supervisor, Central Utility Plans  
**Andy Cobb**, Supervisor, Hull Court Engineering

...FS Team Award continues on page 3



# Team Honorable Mention: Main Quad

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:



Photograph by Mortenson Construction

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

- John O'Donnell**, Electrician
- Ernesto Negrete**, Electrician
- Pete Hickling**, Supervisor, Electric Shop
- Dwight Jackson**, Building Engineer 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 Curtin**, Director of Service Delivery
- Kevin Ahn**, Client Services Manager
- John Carey**, Client Services Manager
- Dan Larson**, Client Services Manager

— By Amy Lee

## 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 Schriever**, 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 Schriever, now all leadership positions on the Safety Committee are now held by union members, who also make up the bulk of the

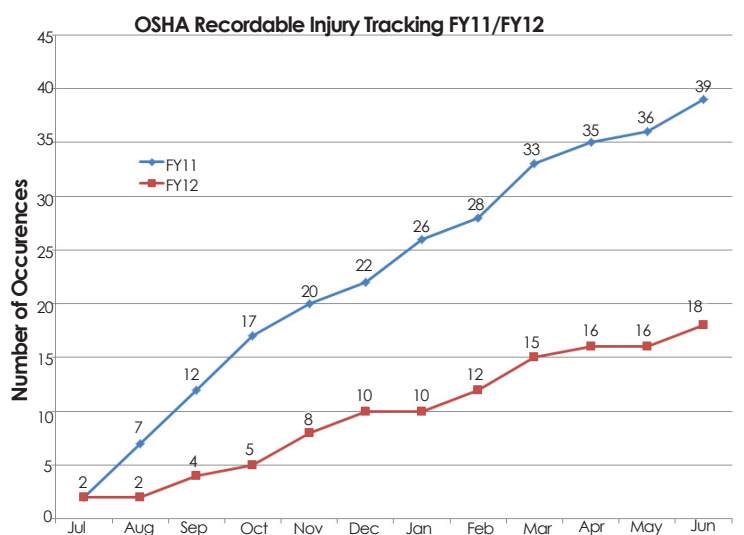
membership. Union membership and leadership in such a critical area shows employees are taking safety seriously and are taking ownership of their role in creating and maintaining a safe work environment.

"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."

— By Amy Lee



# Spotlight On: Maya Gharpure and Armando Pizano

**M**aya 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 and 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.



Gharpure is singled out in recognition for her outstanding efforts in evaluating the options for the FS Shops relocation initiative.

Her calm demeanor, professional expertise and willingness to spend an impressive amount of time working

to understand the operations needs of the FS team caught the attention of one of the two individuals who submitted nominations for Gharpure.

"She consistently showed grace under fire as challenges to decisions or recommendations were made and did so with the upmost respect for opposing viewpoints...I can say without reservation that the traits that Maya displayed throughout the project would serve every one of our employees to replicate."

Armando Pizano's day-to-day work style contributes greatly to the efficiency and professionalism of the FS department, as well.

Whether it's unlocking doors, assisting departments with recycling efforts or working with pest control, elevator mechanics or window washers, Pizano brings the same positive attitude and willingness to help out to every task he undertakes.

"Armando does so much more than his title suggests, and his efforts impact nearly every person on campus...Just ask and he'll help out, in fact, a lot of the time you don't need to ask. Armando is always here to serve."



Armando Pizano

— Compiled from Keller Award nomination forms

## ...FS Team Award from page 1

The beginning of this fiscal year marked the transition of facility management of this portfolio to FS from Campus and Student Life (CSL).

Led by **Jennifer O'Brien**, senior manager, residential properties, and **James Coleman**, facilities manager, with strong support from CSL, Capital Project Delivery, FS shops, Central Utility Plants, Management Services and others, the RH&D Team defined collaboration and achieved significant and lasting results that will long benefit the University community.

These teams worked tirelessly to improve conditions for students living in very challenging circumstances at Pierce Tower. Following significant building system failures, the dorm was completely transformed.

These efforts have resulted in visible improvements — garnering high praise from our clients.

"Thank you for how spectacular the residence halls looked throughout the move-in of early arrival students and then new students. I have not seen all of our halls as consistently clean and ready for opening as they were this year," wrote **Katie Callow-Wright**, assistant vice president for Campus Life and assistant dean in the College, in a September email to FS.

"We have gotten loads of positive feedback from students, many parents and other family members about our residence hall opening day."

— Compiled from FS Team Award nomination forms

# New Hires (Since October 2011)

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

- Ivan Markotic**  
Carpenter Helper I
- Ignacio Martinez**  
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
- Christy Perera**  
Assistant Program Coordinator
- Patrick Polhemus**  
Commissioning Manager
- Sony Rane**  
Coordinator
- Bobby Rawls**  
Material Control Coordinator
- David Riff**  
Senior Project Manager
- Kevin Rodgers**  
Energy Engineer
- Kimberly Santor**  
Executive Assistant
- La Tanya Styles**  
Receptionist/Fiscal Assistant
- Najeeba Syed**  
Office Assistant
- Michelle Thomas**  
Office Administrator
- Leon Watson**  
Grounds Laborer
- Myriam Weaver**  
Senior Manager
- Janine Wilkosz**  
Executive Assistant
- James Woolf**  
Structural Mechanic
- Richard Wrigley**  
Project Manager



- October 2011**  
Jim Ogorzalek  
Tim Strecj  
Denise Davis  
Matthew Beach
- November 2011**  
Ursula Searfoss  
Roland Rumsey
- December 2011**  
Jill Jureczko  
James Cook
- February 2012**  
Patrick Polhemus
- March 2012**  
Victor Gavin  
Dan Carey
- April 2012**  
Dave Vandas  
Andy Cobb  
James Coleman  
Terry Durcan  
Barry Hurt  
Adrian Velez  
Tiffany Grant  
Maya Gharpure  
Maya Gharpure  
Kevin Ahn  
Eric Eichler  
Michael White
- May 2012**  
Andy Cobb  
Kevin Ahn  
Floyd Boatner  
John O'Donnell  
Joe Doody
- June 2012**  
Adrian Velez  
Dave Vandas  
Linda Flanagan
- July 2012**  
Boro Persia  
Brent King  
Richard Bumstead  
Kevin Ahn  
Gregory Figueroa
- August 2012**  
Bob Tiberg  
Brian Lipinski  
Julia Colvin
- September 2012**  
Tim Strejc
- October 2012**  
Adrian Velez

# FS crews pitch in at Perry Street City Farm<sup>4</sup>

**O**n a steaming 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 initiative 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."

—By Amy Lee and Christy Perera



Landscaping Supervisor Steve Frank stands with FS employees Cris Cook, Pam Williams, Arturo Ortiz and Aurelio Hernandez at the Perry Street City Farm on Aug. 23.

## Service Award Recipients

5yrs

Kainse Hamilton  
Eric Eichler  
Leslie Kittles  
La Tanya Styles  
Jim Hathorn  
Eric Boyle  
Richard Teresiak

Tarsha Rose  
Arleta Porter  
Stipo Blazevic  
Mijo Petrovic  
Ruza Trtanj  
Rajko Ferenac

10yrs

John Carey  
Ruben Del Valle  
Dan Marlowe  
Jonathan Seligman  
Al Lewis  
Gary Freudenberg  
Jim Koushifas  
Drago Zugovic  
Joyce Griffin  
Laura Jansky-Jacobs  
Nichole Littleton  
Steve Dostal  
Aurelio Hernandez  
Charlie Boyd  
John Fejes

15yrs

Nancy Schnosenberg  
Kevin Cali  
Crishawn Cook  
Jill Loffredo  
Keith McFall

20yrs

Exedito Mercado  
Charles Moseley

25yrs

Andy Vasilj

30yrs

Tommy Draine  
Glenn Strzechowski  
Duane Skrbina

35yrs

Wally Thomas

40yrs

James Turner

50yrs

Jim Garcia

# From the Desk of Steve Wiesenthal

**D**ear 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



Steve Wiesenthal

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