As wintertime quickly approaches, campus soon will be blanketed with snow and many of the challenges of landscaping will be covered until warmer weather once again embraces us. Site Development faced a few challenges with the new Life Sciences Building and its landscaping. With the combined efforts of those involved, we were able to successfully complete most of the work, which has added to the beauty and spirit of BYU campus.

The rock walls present an attractive view of the hillside and when the plants mature, they will surely add a sense of stability and grace, but they did present a challenge. It was impossible to use any size of heavy equipment due to the height, gradient, and frequency of the surrounding walls. As a result, most of the work needed to be done with shovels and wheelbarrows. Here at BYU we like to maintain a depth of 16 to 18 inches of engineered soil in the flower and shrub areas to maximize the growth of our plants. In order to achieve this depth, we needed to excavate from the base of the rock walls. This required precision and accuracy to ensure that no movement of the walls occurred. However, it presented a unique challenge to come up with an efficient way to replace the existing soil with the engineered soil. We solved this by taking a two-foot round pipe and strapping it to an excavator, which allowed the soil to travel up 40 feet to the location where the soils needed to be placed.

During the month of August we received some major thunderstorms which caused flooding around campus; the Life Sciences Building was no exception. Twice we had downpours that caused water to be backed up in the storm drain system. It occurred with such force that the engineered soils on the west side of the building were washed out and were deposited on the road at 800 north. Thanks to a quick response by the BYU grounds crew, we were able to clean the area and avoid any additional problems. While working with BYU and Provo City engineers, we were able to come up with solutions that will resolve future problems with the storm drains.

As we move forward, it’s important to recognize the common obstacle in landscaping is change. As changes take place, it is important that we keep communication lines open and people informed, to maintain a positive working atmosphere and to resolve future challenges. In a short period of time, the landscaping of the new Life Sciences Building will be an attractive and inviting area for all who visit; a beautiful addition to BYU campus.
Lloyd Patterson was born and raised in Rexburg, Idaho. He has worked for BYU for 35 years in the Grounds department. In 2000, he was assigned to care for the beautiful grounds of the Missionary Training Center (MTC) and experienced a defining moment in his life. After noticing two Elders near a Spruce tree, one who was sitting and reading and another who was kneeling and praying, he realized it was his responsibility to provide beautiful surroundings where missionaries could ponder, pray and feel the promptings of the Spirit and receive a testimony of the Savior and His gospel. It was an experience that brought to reality Brigham Young’s admonition to “progress, and improve upon, and make beautiful everything around you... and render the earth so pleasant that when you look upon your labors you may do so with pleasure and that angels may delight to come and visit your beautiful locations.” He enjoys the compliments he receives from missionaries and staff and visitors there. He and his wife, Helen, currently live in Provo. They have six children: Maurine (36), George (32), Cami (28), Doug (24), Katie (22) and Molly, (17) and seven grandchildren. Lloyd loves woodworking, carpentry, reading WWII accounts and visiting their sites, snowmobiling and watching the Cougars play. He is responsible, kind, hardworking, respectful and extremely competent.

Stephen Tibbs was born in Provo, Utah and was raised in Indianola. He has worked for BYU for 18 years in Facility Services and currently works in Auxiliary Custodial for the BYU Store. Stephen loves working with the people here at BYU, especially the students, and he is often playing jokes on his coworkers (especially June). He and his wife, Kathy, have four children: Joseph (34), Matt (32), Joshua, (30) and Brendan (29), and nine grandchildren (three girls and six boys). He likes camping, fishing and building small wooden toys for his grandchildren. Scouting has been a big part of his life for over 20+ years; in fact, Stephen was awarded the Boy Scout’s Silver Beaver award (an award given to those who implement the Scouting program and perform community service through hard work, self-sacrifice, dedication, and many years of service). He loves to go camping, especially up Spanish Fork Canyon (Diamond Fork area), and loves to fish (Strawberry Reservoir is his favorite when he can get there).

Lynnette Webb was born in Tacoma, Washington but now calls Springville, Utah home after 37 years in Orem. She has worked for BYU for 25 years in the Transportation department and loves the people she works with and the variety of things she does. She and her husband, Merrill, have four children: April (42), Melanie (40), Melinda, (38) and Tyler (37). Lynnette loves gardening, sewing, quilting, painting and fixing up things around her house and yard. She likes traveling with her husband, mainly for birding trips around the world, watching basketball games, BYU games and her grandchildren who have played junior high and high school ball. She enjoyed walking (until recently) and even completed the Scout 50-20 (going 50 miles in 20 hours or less) three times until they discontinued it. Lynnette is really looking forward to doing more family history work.

Moises Nayanael Ontiveros Gonzalez is an international student from Mexico City. He moved to the States to come to BYU where he is studying civil engineering. During his year at the English Language Center (ELC) and as a freshman, he worked as a custodian where he learned to love America and the way BYU treats student employees as evidenced through Physical Facilities’ Student Appreciation Day. “I love soccer and meat,” he raved, “and the Student Appreciation Day has them both.” Since his sophomore year Moises has worked as a draftsman for Space Management. As for hobbies, Moises says, “Utah has beautiful outdoors. I enjoy climbing and hiking during the summer, and snowboarding during the winter.” He also likes to cook, bake, and play sports. “Being here is an amazing experience. I love my co-workers and my classmates; I love what I do, and if I could go back in time, it would be just to live it again.”
Leaves are all around us and winter is coming soon! The last outdoor events are over and everyone has gone indoors for the cold season - everyone except Grounds. There are still finishing touches to construction projects, the last of the leaves to be cleaned up before the weather carries them to drains, soils to be screened for winter and spring projects, plants to install, compost to grind and process and snow equipment to ready before the needed storms arrive. The long but way-too-short summer is past and the energy of maintaining the landscape now slips into preparation mode. The summer machines need to be repaired and serviced. The tree rings and shrub beds will get a final cleaning as weather permits. Trails across summer lawns are aerated and hoping for a rest through the winter months. Training becomes more intense as we ready crews for the next season’s work. Plans are discussed to ensure that gardening, construction and athletic events are all coordinated to allow everyone to do their job and still keep campus as “neat, clean and beautiful” as possible. Throw in Student Appreciation Day and campus summer activities and there is much to plan and prepare for during our “slow” time all with the constant turnover of student employees who are essential to our success. And with it all, we have the privilege of working with so many others who work on campus and call BYU our home away from home. The employees of the Grounds department feel blessed to have much to do as we serve the BYU community!

The mission of the Gardening Maintenance division of the Grounds Department is “To provide an atmosphere of excellence and serenity, and to assist individuals in their quest for perfection in eternal life by providing outdoor facilities, indoor plantings and services that are neat, clean and beautiful, creating an optimum atmosphere for learning and inspiration.”

Some of our greatest challenges, as we strive to meet our mission, are to keep up with the mowing, edging, weeding, weed whipping, flower planting (100,000 fall bulbs; 120,000 pansies; and 120,000 summer flowers), setups and support for outside events, sprinkler repair, and the snow removal of sidewalks, stairs and landings. This, of course, doesn’t even include the incessant, everyday tasks of picking up litter and maintaining all the trash cans and liners across a campus of over 600 acres.

To accomplish this herculean task, we have 14 full-time gardeners, each of whom are responsible for about 35 acres of landscape stretching from the Provo Temple, the MTC and housing areas, and down through every area across our main campus including the South Campus Stream and Trail, Botany Pond and the new Life Sciences Building.

As gardeners, it is our responsibility, honor and privilege to maintain campus at a high standard. Each year it is also our obligation to help teach and train as many as 500+ student employees in good work ethics and character as they prepare to “go forth” after their BYU experience. Without these students there would be no way to keep campus looking like the neat, clean and beautiful place we know.

As you pass through the various parts of campus that are part of your daily routine, we invite you to take notice of the work that is accomplished each day by these dedicated BYU employees.
NEW EMPLOYEES
We extend a warm welcome to the following new employees who recently joined our Physical Facilities Team.

Danny Gray  Site Development
David Harris  Custodial/Special Events
Jason Bengry  Site Development
Ryan Standifird  Site Development
Brigg Olsen  Site Development
Daniel Lee  Site Development
Brian Ewell  Purchasing & Travel
Ronny Gonzales  Landscape Specialty
Nathan Dulong  Site Development

INTERNAL PROMOTIONS
Jennifer McNabb  Gardening Maintenance
Steven Larsen  Custodial/Special Events
Matthew Porter  Custodial/Special Events
Robert Goodwin  Custodial/Special Events

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT RETIREES
Tom Chapman  Purchasing & Travel
Dale Johnson  Custodial/Special Events

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SAERA RECIPIENTS
Oran Walter Crow  Teamwork
Wayne Albert Olsen  Teamwork
Kenneth W Westfall  Exceeding Customer Expectations
Ross P. Schaefer  Innovation
Craig Owen Sackett  Innovation
Melissa Whaley  Teamwork
Bret Curtis Banks  Integrity
Dee M Shirts  Integrity

The 2014 year has come to an end and many of us now reflect back on the accomplishments and challenges we faced during the previous 12 months. Although there were a good handful of facility challenges on campus in 2014, the dedicated teams of craftsmen, designers, tradesmen, builders and office staff in Physical Facilities were able to greet each one head-on and come up with great solutions. While they took on those challenges, they still accomplished record performances in work orders completed, 3,497; work orders initiated, 3,936; service requests opened, 23,866; service requests completed, 26,362; and purchase orders placed/filled, 5,288. We were also able to finish 59 large campus construction projects, with 43 more in progress. And, as you read this message, there are 971 college projects, from small to large, in the planning and design phase. Some of the projects completed in 2014 were the new Life Sciences Building, the addition to the Monte L. Bean Museum, the Nursing Learning Center in the Spencer W. Kimball Tower, the Talmage Math Computer Building’s Data Center Electrical Upgrade, the Missionary Training Center West Campus construction, and the last construction phase of BYU’s new campus utility tunnels. It was a good ending to a good year.

Now we begin 2015 and look forward to accomplishing more than ever. The campus is in good hands everywhere I look. Our Physical Facilities team is focused on serving with a smile and with great enthusiasm. We would like each person on campus to find our work quality amazing, our dedication to BYU complete, and our desire to be of “service with excellence” fundamental. We would be pleased to hear from you during this new year about how we are doing.

Ole M. Smith
-AAVP
Physical Facilities