The new Life Sciences Building (LSB) was completed May 2015, the first phase of a multi-phase project to relocate the College of Life Sciences. The second phase involved demolition of the old Widtsoe Building (WIDB). Before demolition could take place, however, new elevators were needed in the Martin Building (MARB) since a portion of that building’s access relied on the elevators of the WIDB. The MARB also relied on the stair enclosure just inside the WIDB as part of its emergency egress routes and the utility lines that ran through the WIDB. Demolition was scheduled during the summer months to maintain proper egress capacity due to lighter student enrollment and the utility lines were re-routed and reconnected in preparation for the fall semester.

Once the elevators were installed and throughout the rest of the summer of 2015, the contents of the WIDB needed to be moved to the new LSB, most of which had to be moved within a few weeks in order to be ready for classes in the fall. Also prior to demolition, asbestos abatement needed to take place and the required governing approvals obtained.

Once clearances were obtained, demolition began in the summer of 2015. Large crowds gathered daily to watch its progress, and after weeks of work, the seven stories above grade were brought down to ground level. Then the bottom two levels below ground with the footings had to be excavated and removed, then backfilled with soil and new utility lines installed. As soon as the construction area was cleared, a new stair enclosure was constructed on the south side of the MARB where the halls once connected to the WIDB. All of that work, including new sidewalks, had to be completed before the start of classes in September 2015.

It took great coordination with Okland Construction, all of their subcontractors, Provo City and other government entities, and many BYU departments and shops. Classes were relocated and schedules modified by the Space Management team which allowed everything to move forward smoothly and on time. The final product and new home of the College of Life Sciences, the Life Sciences Building, is beautiful and will greatly help facilitate the education on the BYU campus. Our respect and admiration go to the many craftsmen and individuals who have worked so hard alongside us to make this university an even better place to learn.
At BYU we are fortunate to be able to rely on an incredibly talented custodial staff that does an amazing job keeping our buildings clean on a day-to-day basis. On campus we have two carpet-cleaning teams, the Physical Facilities (PF) Specialty Crews and the Auxiliary Facilities Services crew. These two teams supplement our Custodial staff and keep our building interiors extra clean and sanitary.

Auxiliary Facilities Services is responsible for taking care of all the floors, both interior carpets and hard surfaces, in non-academic facilities which includes missionary housing (MTC), single and married student housing, campus cafeterias (including the Wilkinson Center) as well as some off-campus properties. The Physical Facilities Specialty Crews, on the other hand, are responsible for the care of carpet, hard & soft tile, rock and Terrazzo, stone and wood flooring in all academic and athletic buildings as well as some nonacademic/non-housing buildings.

The amount of carpet the Auxiliary Facilities Services and PF crews have stewardship over is massive … around ten million square feet (which is about 200-football fields or about the size of five MGM Grand Hotels in Las Vegas). It takes approximately seven to twelve months to service all the carpets and floors on campus and then the process starts all over again.

The carpet is cleaned using very powerful, truck-mounted hot water/chemical extraction units coupled with specialized carpet machines that inject a hot, environmentally friendly soapy solution into the dirty carpet essentially scrubbing and removing the grime in one quick operation. (See inset photo.)

It’s an honor and privilege to work here at BYU and to participate in keeping this university a clean and beautiful campus.
Paul Slagowski was born in Provo, Utah, and grew up in Mountain View, Wyoming. Paul has worked for BYU for 11 years both in the Electric Shop and in Access Services. He loves working with the wonderful and dedicated individuals in his and other departments. Paul and his wife, Amy, currently live in Provo, Utah, and have four children: Nicole (17), Kate (14), Danielle (11) and Corey (9). He enjoys art, woodworking, reading and playing video games. Back when Paul attended BYU, he was a member of the track team and competed in the decathlon. Since college, he enjoys playing basketball, tennis and golf. Paul is friendly, witty and loads of fun to be around. He is also extremely competent, skillful and is a valuable member of the Physical Facilities team.

Matthew (Matt) James Johnson was born and raised in San Jose, California, and currently lives in American Fork, Utah. He has worked for BYU for two and-a-half years in Business Support where he loves the challenges of the job and enjoys working with the great people there. Matt and his wife, Julie, have two children: Sam (14) who is a budding artist and Lola (5), an aspiring princess. He enjoys football (go 49’ers!), movies, cooking, eating really good food and spending time with his kids. What people might not know about Matt is that he’s practically blind. He says whether it’s due to pride or laziness, he hasn’t yet broken down and bought a pair of glasses. Also, at one time, he enjoyed going to hard rock concerts, but now that he’s older and lost some of that youthful rage, he enjoys basketball, ping-pong, bowling, target shooting and board games. Matt is friendly, easygoing, helpful and great to work with.

Richard (Rick) Knecht was born in Summit, New Jersey, and grew up in Ohio. When Rick was 19, he traveled with a friend to France and spent three months there enjoying the culture and sights. At the age of 20, Rick joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. For 26 years now, Rick has worked in the Auxiliary Maintenance Department at BYU where he has been able to bless and serve others with the terrific and talented people there. One of the things Rick loves the most is taking a piece of equipment that’s broken and making it work again. He and his wife, Nancy, currently live in Springville, Utah. They have four children: Rick (32), Mathew (30), Megan (25) and Sean (23). Rick enjoys reading (especially J.R.R. Tolkien’s works), doing puzzles, and collecting Postal First Day covers. He also enjoys soccer (the Liverpool Football Club being his favorite). Rick is very friendly, approachable, and honest. He is hardworking and it is a great pleasure to work alongside him.

Emily Douma was born and raised in Orem, Utah with her two older brothers and one older sister. She has worked for BYU in Auxiliary Maintenance for one-and-a-half years where she loves being able to talk to all the people who come through the warehouse whether it is vendors or others in the department. She is proud to be a student at BYU and is majoring in Family Life which is a perfect fit for her as she is a very happy, responsible and caring person. Emily loves to travel with her family, loves pizza and donuts more than anything, and loves to watch BYU sports. She is an amazing student employee and Physical Facilities is grateful to have her on the team.

AWARDS

Congratulations to Richard Piccolo of the Custodial Department on receiving the Fred A. Schwendiman Award, which recognizes staff and administrative personnel for exceptional service, creativity and competence.
April is upon us and for many it is the joyful end of another busy semester. For some it’s the end of a memorable BYU academic experience where they’ve given their best efforts to learn, grow and eventually leave the Y a better person than when they arrived. We could say their BYU time is winding down. Most leave a bit of their heart and soul here when they head out into the world, but the days they toiled away in their books and classes and the times they broke away from their studies to cheer on the BYU athletic teams are sweet memories. For others however, April isn’t the wind down time, it’s the gear up time. They too have their heart and soul invested in BYU. Actually they have their careers invested in the Y and summertime is when they roll up their sleeves and accomplish more work than most people even dream about. This summer we have over 500 jobs that have to both start and finish between mid-April and mid-August in order to have campus ready for Fall semester. And the challenge doesn’t stop there, all the other work must continue. Phase III of the Campus Drive/Pedestrian Safety project needs to start and finish in that same time frame, construction of the new Engineering building will start soon, and the Marriott Center Annex (Basketball Practice Facility) will be nearing completion by Fall. Additionally, the Carillon Bell Tower refurbishing will come to a conclusion, our new #2 Chiller plant will come on line, Heritage Housing construction will continue forward, the SAB weight room expansion will wind down and our work on various high voltage electrical vaults will conclude. We gear up in the summer so our faculty, staff and students have what they need, when they need it. Please let us know how we’re doing.