Miller Park (MLRP) is a unique, combined baseball-softball facility which is home to the BYU baseball and softball teams. When it was built in 2001, it was the first combined facility of its kind. Now the newly renovated baseball field is the first of its kind in Utah to include a synthetic turf field with a zoned heating system.

A little history: From 1955-1957 BYU baseball was played on the baseball diamond at the old Timpanogos Park adjacent to the Provo Power Plant. They played there until Cougar Field was constructed where the existing Tanner Building (TNRB) now resides. Baseball games where played at the TNRB site from 1957-1968 until Cougar Field was moved to its current location in 1969. BYU baseball has played 32 consecutive seasons at the existing Cougar Field site from 1969-2000.

In 1999 the outfield fence of Cougar Field was lengthened adding a warning track and a concrete retaining wall covered with padding. In 2000, the BYU Women's Softball team joined the ranks of the BYU sports teams. In 2000-2001 Miller Park combined baseball-softball facility was constructed by Sahara Construction with VCBO as the architect. It included stadium seating, concessions and a press box for both baseball and softball teams with many more amenities. MLRP complex has provided an up-to-date facility which has helped BYU build some great baseball and softball teams over the years.

When Cougar Field was constructed in 1969, it was constructed so that the baseball field could be flood irrigated. This resulted in the left field being 5-feet higher than the right field. Thus, the batting team was at a disadvantage in hitting a home run in left field, and if a ground ball was hit into left field, it would slow down or stop sooner than expected since it was rolling uphill. In the mid-1970's, a sprinkler system was added thus removing the need to flood irrigate.

In January of 2017 BYU contracted with Fields, Inc. of Canton, Georgia, to provide both design and construction services to renovate the baseball and softball fields of Miller Park. Fields, Inc. has been a great partner during the entire process. They were professional, reliable, and committed to the condensed 12-week construction schedule. Listed on the next page are the renovations for each field.

Continued on Page 2
It has been a great privilege to return again to this university and once more call BYU my home.

After spending more than a decade working for an outside contractor and interacting with many whose views and attitudes differ greatly from those found on this campus, it was a true pleasure to return and find a number of things which I had so loved about going to school and working here still part of the fabric of campus life.

In the construction industry, things are done somewhat differently than here at the Y. Meetings are held to determine the scope of work, sequences of operation, problem resolutions and a myriad of other items. Usually these are all done by men and women relying on their past experiences and understanding of specific issues. One of the great differences between off-campus decision making and the problem solving done here at BYU is that the Lord is invited to be part of the process here on campus. Most meetings begin with a prayer. Petitions are made for guidance, direction, inspiration and enlightenment. Acknowledgement of our weaknesses and our need for the help of our Heavenly Father are often included. In a day in which so much seems to be determined by the wisdom of man, it is wonderful to be part of an organization that leverages the wisdom and understanding of an all-knowing Father in Heaven.

I am reminded of an account in the Book of Mormon in which Moroni, as a newly appointed chief captain of the Nephite armies and only twenty-five years of age, acknowledges the need to call upon the Lord for guidance. Relying on the Lord for military intelligence and decisions is not often something we hear of in our day. Much like the decisions being made here on campus, Moroni knew where to turn. In Alma 43:23 it states, “...Moroni...knowing of the prophecies of Alma sent certain men unto him, desiring him that he should inquire of the Lord whither the armies of the Nephites should go to defend themselves against the Lamanites.” Because of Moroni’s willingness to seek the Lord’s help, the Nephite armies received instruction through His holy prophet as to where their enemy would be found. They vanquished the Lamanites at the river Sidon and on many other occasions because Moroni and many of the other leaders knew “that God would make it known unto them whither they should go to defend themselves against their enemy” (Alma 48:26).

How wonderful it would be if all aspects of our life were turned over to the Lord. If we truly would ask for His guidance, help and direction on everything from the mundane to the complicated, from work projects to matters at home, from the needs of our children to which of our neighbors might need some help. All of these situations can be enhanced by involving the Lord. I give thanks to my Heavenly Father for this great university which helps set the example of how things should be. Our Heavenly Father truly wants to be part of our lives and having an environment that fosters the concept that God should be part of every aspect of our life is a wonderful thing.

**Leadership Message**

Jim Sawka
Director
-Engineering
Maintenance

**Softball Field:** The outfield sod remained untouched but the infield soils have been replaced with an updated soil mixture; the sod in the foul territories has been regraded and replaced with synthetic turf; a drainage system has been installed under the synthetic turf; the bull pens have been reconstructed; and permanent sideline field markings with BYU athletic logos have been installed.

**Baseball Field:** The entire field has been reconstructed and regraded with a 0.4% slope from home plate to the outfield walls; the outfield walls have been removed, lowered and reconstructed and new wall padding installed; and the sod field has been replaced with a multi-colored, synthetic turf that includes a tan infield and warning track with alternating light & dark green outfield turf areas. A gigantic athletic Y logo has been incorporated in center field. An underground drainage system has been constructed and a heating system installed with the ability to melt 3-4 inches of snow. Bull pens, batting cages, bunting station, new audio-visual connections, and new TV camera pits have been installed.

The synthetic turf has a sand to rubber infill ratio of 50/50 for the green turf and an 80/20 for the tan areas. The benefits of the synthetic turf include extended play and practice time on the field with the removal of snow earlier in the season and not having to wait for the natural sod to recover from the wear and tear of use or winter recovery. Go Cougars!

**Shop Highlight**

Grounds

The year 2017 has been a very busy one for the Grounds Department in Physical Facilities. To the right is a list of irrigation and landscaping materials for some of the major projects which have been completed including the construction of Heritage Halls, Heritage Halls Central Building and the renovation of the baseball and soccer fields. These jobs required the combined efforts of not only the Site Development and irrigation crews, but the Electrical Shop, as well as many others. We appreciate the many individuals whose talents, help and cooperation have contributed to the completion of these jobs.

It takes an amazing team to complete the landscaping projects on campus. What a pleasure it is to work with such capable and caring people as we continue to make BYU campus a beautiful place.
Benny Liao was born and raised in Provo, Utah, and is majoring in Information Technology. He has worked in the Central Heating Plant/Water Treatment Plant for three years and really enjoys the people he works with. He loves mountain biking, shooting and collecting firearms. Benny has participated on his high school swim team and enjoys badminton and downhill biking. He is relaxed, friendly, approachable and is a valuable member of the Physical Facilities team.

David Parker Stringfellow was born and raised in Provo, Utah, along with his older brother and sister. He has worked in the Central Heating Plant for over 21 years and excels at helping others solve the technical problems that sometimes arise. He and his wife, Denise, live in Salem, Utah, and have three children: Whitney (30), Shelby (27), and Parker (26). David’s greatest joy is his family and he especially loves to spend time with them off-roading, camping and fishing. He is quiet (‘til you get to know him), patient, and a good listener. He works extraordinarily hard and is known for being able to fix anything. Physical Facilities is delighted to have Dave on our team.

Robert Nelson was born and raised in Provo, Utah, and is the third of five boys. He has worked in Physical Facilities’ Paint Shop for over six years and loves working with his fellow employees. He enjoys improving our campus’ appearance and is very successful in managing the Paint Shop so they are effective in their endeavors. He and his wife, Kari, live in Orem, Utah, and have three children: John (18), Sam (15), and Nathan (15). Robert is very proud of his family, and is especially pleased that his boys are great young men (at least, most of the time). He likes to bike, ski, and golf. Robert also has a keen interest in astronomy, as well as coin and watch collecting. He is friendly, honest, dependable, and a hard worker. Physical Facilities is pleased to honor him as the December “Service with Excellence” recipient.

Charles (Chuck) Andersen was born and raised in Orem, Utah. He is the youngest in his family and has three older sisters. He has worked at BYU for 22 years in Custodial/Special Events and enjoys the interaction with students and the variety of projects. There is never a dull moment in Area 5. Chuck and his wife, Pandy, live in Mapleton, Utah. They have two children: Austin (30) and Jace (28), two daughters-in-law and two, 1-year-old twin grandsons who are their pride and joy. Chuck enjoys fishing, hunting, skiing, camping, doing yard work, and riding his Harley motorcycle. He is an introvert, is hard working, dedicated and fun loving. Physical Facilities is pleased to honor him as the December “Service with Excellence” recipient.

Interesting Facts:

**Irrigation:**
- Heritage Halls & Central Building
  - PVC piping 3” to ¾” 12,000 ft.
  - HDPE 2,000 ft.
  - Sprinkler conduit 1,500 ft.
  - Wiring 15,000 ft.
  - Zero pops & heads 1,600-1,850

**Baseball**
- PVC piping 3” to ¾” 3,000 ft.
- HDPE 500 ft.
- Sprinkler conduit 700 ft.
- Wiring 6,000 ft.
- Zero pops & heads 200-250

**Soccer**
- PVC piping 3” to ¾” 10,000 ft.
- HDPE 2,000 ft.
- Sprinkler conduit 1,500 ft.
- Wiring 18,000 ft.
- Electrical conduit 3,000 plus

**Sod:**
- Heritage Halls & Central building 100,000 sq. ft.
- Baseball Field 26,000 sq. ft.
- Soccer Field 173,000 sq. ft.
- Total sod laid in these three areas 299,000 sq. ft.

**Trees and shrubs:**
- Heritage Halls & Central Building 2,423
- Baseball Field 115
- Soccer Field 0
- Total trees and shrubs planted 2,538
NEW EMPLOYEES
We extend a warm welcome to the following new full-time employees who recently joined our Physical Facilities Team.

Conley Hubert  Construction
Carly Mitchell  Auxiliary Custodial
Rachel Fournier  Auxiliary Custodial
Jared Villarreal-Amador  Custodial
Orrin Whaley  Custodial
Peter Hanohano  Custodial
Mariana Call  Custodial
Chase Ricks  Site Development
Staci Cowley  Custodial
Bryan Larsen  Auxiliary Maintenance
Korey Kuhni  Auxiliary Maintenance

INTERNAL PROMOTIONS
John Neiderman  Stone Crew Specialist

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT RETIREES
Doug Porray (Dec 31)  CNA

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SAERA RECIPIENTS
William T Graham  Teamwork
Matthew H Giles  Teamwork
William J Rudy  Exceeding Customer Expectations
Gregory A Bahr  Exceeding Customer Expectations
David John Jensen  Accountability
Lisa Marie Ward  Exceeding Customer Expectations
Mark A Drennen  Teamwork

Listening & Learning
Ole M. Smith - AAVP
Physical Facilities

Often, when a difference of opinion occurs, we find that listening to the ideas, views and thoughts of others helps us to understand why so many differing viewpoints exist in working through the same challenge. At the same time, listening to others allows us the opportunity to analyze our own viewpoint and ask, “Is there a better solution?” One real test of character is the ability to set aside personal thoughts and ideas and, rather than trying to persuade others we are right, listen to new views with the objective of finding the best idea. We all know that under the right circumstances 1+1 can equal 3 and that synergy is an outcome of the principle of working together and listening to one another. My experience continues to confirm that when the best idea wins, we all win.