

# Footpaths

Volume 4, Number1

February 2004

## Facilities Awards Day January 28, 2004!

The 16th Annual Facilities Awards Day was held January 28, 2004 in the Rehearsal Room, Chester Fritz Auditorium. Before the program started, people gathered and enjoyed the refreshments that were served by Facilities office staff: Patti Schmidt, Karen Myerchin, Billie Gaddie, Debbie Merrill, Gracie Dahl, Janice Troitte, and Pam Zimbelman.

Larry Zitzow (Director of Facilities) welcomed everyone! He began by acknowledging guests and past award winners. He also talked about accomplishments and challenges for Facilities workers over the past year.

President Kupchella greeted the group by complementing them on the fine job they do for the University. Facilities workers assist in making possible the following: the University was able to purchase Dakota Hall and have it ready to be lived in by the end of 45 days of remodeling a hotel into a residence hall; the School of Medicine has gone from \$4 million in research to \$24 million in research; the residence halls are 95% full. Appreciation was given for those people helping to develop the Strategic Plan by their input.

Bob Gallager, Vice President of Finance and Operations, who was dressed in his Facilities "greens" as he continued adding his praises to Facilities. The tremendous amount of snow that we have had this winter has not been a problem because of the efficient work of the Grounds crew. He still would like his chance at driving one of the big snow removal machines. Paul Clark

will have to see what he can do to get him on the machines.

Larry explained how the LeRoy Facilities Award came to be. This is the first year that the award was given. The award was named for long time Facilities Director LeRoy Sondrol. LeRoy was present to help give out the first award. The LeRoy Facilities Award will be given annually to a Facilities worker that stands out above the rest and has a good attitude, someone who is a star performer. This year the LeRoy award was given to David Diseth, Building Services Technician for Odegard Hall. Some of the comments about David were: David will do what can be done to accommodate the needs of faculty and staff and is always helpful; he is attentive to details and this makes his work outstanding; David is always willing to help in other buildings when there is a staff shortage; he is conscientious; besides strong work ethics, a love of reading and working with a campus congregation is part of his world; the daily work David does in Odegard is appreciated by all faculty and staff alike; David's attitude makes him a star performer. After the Award was presented, LeRoy spoke about his fond memories of Facilities and the workers he always enjoyed. He was very proud that his name was chosen for such an award and replied that **David Diseth** was very deserving of this award. The LeRoy will be displayed on the Honors Wall at Facilities with a plaque that has each recipient's name and year listed. Congratulations to David for being the first LeRoy Facilities Award winner.

**UND** UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH DAKOTA

*Footpaths* published by The Facilities Department  
Grace Dahl, Editor (777-4137)

E-mail: [grace\\_dahl@mail.und.nodak.edu](mailto:grace_dahl@mail.und.nodak.edu)

Newsletter Committee: Grace Dahl, Pam Zimbelman,  
Deb Merrill, Patti Schmidt, Janice Troitte, Shelly Kain

*Footpaths* is available on the web at:

[www.facilities.und.nodak.edu/](http://www.facilities.und.nodak.edu/)


F a c i l i t i e s



# Thanks!



TO: Paul Clark  
 FROM: Charles E. Kupchella, President UND  
 RE: "Lighting of the Green"

"Thanks again for your diligent work in planning and staging our second annual "Lighting of the Green"... As I said in my comments...the meaning of the season and the importance of community signify the primary reasons we do this as a campus community. My sincere thanks to each and every one of you for helping to keep this in our hearts and minds this holiday season..." 

Paul added his thanks to the note saying:  
 "Dale and crew - super job on the lights!  
 Thanks! PC"

### *Facilities Awards Day continued:*

The next award was presented by Paul Clark. The John Meagher Ecology & Conservation Award was presented to **Rod Goeser of Waste Management** for their continued work in recycling, not only at UND, but in the surrounding area.

Zero Sick Leave and 1/4 Hour to 8 Hours Sick Leave certificates were given out. We had 23 staff who had perfect attendance and 12 who had 1/4 to 8 hours of sick leave.

We also had a special Zero Sick Leave "Hall of Fame" award given to **Milt Stai**. Milt is retiring this year, but for 20 years he had perfect attendance. It is quite an achievement to be able to say you had 20 years of "no sick leave". Congratulations!

**Jason Uhlir**, Safety Director, was on hand to give out the Safety Award for 2003. He chose **Darrel Iverson**, Electrician, as the recipient because the daily "behind the scenes" work Darrel does for the University to keep it safe.

**Madelin Johnson**, Auxiliary Building Services Technician, retired after 25 years in the Residence Halls. She spent most of her time in Bek, Squires, and Johnstone. Madelin was described as someone always willing to help the students when they had problems or questions. She was an ear to listen and a friendly smile to send them on their way throughout her years in the Residence Halls. She will be missed by coworkers and students alike. Madelin put on her resignation form for her reason for



**Corey Shock**  
BAC  
11-26-03



**Thomas Crook**  
AC BST  
2-10-04



**Vince Bishop-Diaz**  
Comm Ctr  
12-29-03



**Harrison Keel**  
Aux BST  
12-3-03



**Joseph LaPorte**  
AC BST  
12-29-03



**John Toay**  
Steam Plant  
1-15-04



**Roger McWilliams**  
AC BST  
12-29-03



**Ronald Willing**  
Aux BST  
1-30-04



**Scott Smith**  
Aux BST  
11-24-04



**Roberta Stavig**  
AC BST  
Return worker

*✍...Patti Ryan Schmidt...*

leaving: "Because I can - finally!" Good job!

**Andy Rassier**, Asbestos Abatement worker, retired after 19 years on the job. He is described as a person who worked well with anyone and produced high quality work; Andy took on the extra responsibility of running crews and kept to the work schedule; needed little supervision. It will be hard to replace Andy with someone who has the same dedication and focus on details. Happy Retirement, Andy!

**Milt Stai**, Carpenter Foreman, retired after 21 years in that position. Milt's employees found him easy to work for and have the utmost respect for him. Through the years, Milt has received numerous "thank you" from departments who were very pleased with the work done by him and his crew. In 1996, Milt was honored with Facilities highest award - the Golden Hammer. Another smiling face with a super attitude retires...Milt, Best Wishes in your retirement!  
*✍...Gracie Dahl...*

There were three Golden Hammer winners this year. Robert Hodek (Drafting), Gary Lunski (Food Service Maintenance), and Byron Anderson (Grounds).

Bob had these nice things said about him: Bob has taken on a much larger and more diverse workload with skill and an attitude that surpasses others. He is an open listener to project requests and strives daily to offer creative solutions to problems, no matter how small or large the project. He has become a trusted resource and is always willing to help. He is a great asset to Facilities.

Gary was described as an employee who is not afraid to bring ideas and use good common sense in planning and projects. He can be counted on to complete a task and has proven to be very important for our customer relations. He shows he truly cares about the image of Facilities by his attitude and the way he performs his work. He has also improved his skills and knowledge by attending professional training and has taken classes to maintain his skilled expertise. He always seems to see the good in people and is understanding, he knows what teamwork is all about.

Byron has been doing an outstanding job for Facilities for 25 years. If something breaks in the shop, he is the person that can tell you how to fix it or he will fix it himself. He is an inventor and builder. He has a reputation for taking on the toughest jobs; no job is too "ugly" for him to tackle. Byron is given the more difficult and challenging jobs because he likes challenges. He is a self-starter and the first one out the door when the projects are assigned. Byron is the best heavy equipment operator on the Grounds crew and is very deserving of a Golden Hammer.

***Congratulation to all of you who received awards and praises for 2003. See you next year!***

*✍...Gracie Dahl...*

### **Award Nominations for 2004**

*Please keep in mind that you can nominate your co-workers for either the Golden Hammer or the LeRoy Facilities Award throughout the year. See Gracie or Patti for Nomination Forms.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Visit the COSE website for State Employee Discounts: [www.state.nd.us/cose](http://www.state.nd.us/cose)**

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and he almost didn't get the job of bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for a period of twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. But his superiors instead appointed St. Palladius. But two years later, Palladius transferred to Scotland. Patrick, having adopted that Christian name earlier, was then appointed as second bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. And this fact upset the Celtic Druids. Patrick was arrested several times, but escaped each time. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461. That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day ever since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated.

Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. He also is said to have given a sermon from a hilltop that drove all the snakes from Ireland. Of course, no snakes were ever native to Ireland, and some people think this is a metaphor for the conversion of the pagans. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock. And this stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.

*✍...found on the Internet...Gracie Dahl...*



Gale Delude and Peter Grabanski as drawn by Harrison Keel. All work in the Auxilliary Building Services area.



Billie, Patti, Karen



People gathering



More goodies!



Waiting for the show to start!



Our Leader  
**Larry Zitzow**



President Charles Kupchell addressing the group



VPFO Bob Gallager



Trying to talk Paul into allowing him to drive the "tractor"



LeRoy Sondrol & Larry Zitzow



LeRoy, David Diseth, & Larry - LeRoy Award



Former Director LeRoy Sondrol



Rod Goeser & Paul Clark, John Meagher Ecology & Conservation Award



1/4 to 8 Hours Sick Leave Awards



Zero Sick Leaves



Hall of Fame Zero Sick Leave



Art Rice, Lily Dubuque, Mary Lou Feilen, David Diseth



Milt Stai, Patti Schmidt, Paul Clark



Jason Uhlir and Paul Clark giving the Safety Award to Darrel Iverson



Paul Clark, Madelin Johnson Retiree



Andy Rassier, Larry Zitzow Retiree



Milt Stai, Larry Zitzow Retiree



Golden Hammer Winners Bob Hodek



Byron Anderson



Gary Lunski Golden Hammer



Darrel Iverson & James Bock Special WAPA Award



Facilities Frogger says...  
There are three current Facilities workers in this circa 1956 Winship school picture. Can you find them and name them? Still cuties today!!

