As a boy on a bicycle, Tim Zimmer raced over the sidewalks at Eastern Illinois University, not realizing at the time that he would, one day, ultimately be responsible for the upkeep of those same walkways. Earlier this year, the Mahomet resident was serving as Associate Director for Construction Services at the University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign. Upon discovering that Eastern was seeking a director for its Facilities Planning and Management division, Zimmer submitted his application. “The position appealed to me on many levels,” he said. There were of course, the memories of the town and the university when, as a youth, he visited his grandparents - long-time Charleston residents Lloyd and Katherine Thudium. Even though he is a native of Neoga, Zimmer talks knowledgeably about former city landmarks, including, for example, the former community pool, once located at the southwest corner of Lincoln Avenue and Division Street. But he also longed for the opportunity to work at a university where academics and interpersonal relationships reign.

“I brought my wife down here for Homecoming and every few steps, I’d find myself introducing her to yet someone else new and from all facets of university life - not just facilities,” Zimmer said. “In fact, at one point, this tall fellow standing about 15 feet away turned around and, with a wave, yelled out, ‘Hi, Tim.’ And it was President Perry. You just don’t experience those types of relationships at bigger institutions,” he added. “We’ve got some very friendly folks here.”

As Director of Facilities, Planning, and Management, Zimmer is responsible for the overall operations, maintenance, construction, renewal and continuous stewardship of the campus’ physical facilities. Specific areas of responsibility include management, oversight, fiscal authority and direction of maintenance functions in all buildings; ground care; utilities and their infrastructure; engineering and architectural service delivery; campus design and construction activities; project management and coordination; renovations and alterations to campus assets; and janitorial services in administrative, classroom and athletics buildings.

“President (Bill) Perry and I have high expectations for the facilities team,” said William Weber, vice president for business affairs. “Mr. Zimmer has a proven record of accomplishments, and I believe he will be an outstanding director of Facilities Planning and Management at Eastern.”

Zimmer comes prepared for his new role, having served nearly 14 years at the U of I and seven years in the U.S. Air Force working in related positions. He received his bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana and completed graduate work toward a master’s degree at the University of Tennessee-Tullahoma and the Air Force Institute of Technology at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. Zimmer assumed his post at Eastern on August 1. Since then, he said, he’s spent a good deal of his time as director “observing and absorbing.” Meetings, of course, have been plentiful and he’s looking forward to visiting the various individuals he’s met through those meetings on their own turf - in the classroom, the laboratory or the office.

He and his wife, Peg, also plan to begin building a home in Charleston - on land once owned by his grandparents. There are no regrets about taking the position at EIU. “My daughter recently told me, ‘you seem happier now’. And I am,” he said. ‘It’s really been great.”

Article Published by Greg Sapp of Premier Broadcasting, Inc.
Located west of O’Brien Stadium in the university’s Facilities Planning & Management complex, the facility is the new center of operations for Eastern’s groundskeepers and all the equipment they need to care for the 320-acre campus year round.

As a traditionally built pole building with a large, attached lean-to for additional storage, it’s not an architectural wonder. It is, however, a significant improvement for the department and its employees who previously worked and congregated in a confined space.

“The new building allowed us to make some safety improvements,” said David Crockett, associate director for maintenance and operations. “In addition to separate storage areas for chemicals and cleaning supplies, our employees now have a larger inside area in which to store and maintain the various machines they use in their work.”

Also in attendance at the grand opening, William Weber, vice president for business affairs, noted his appreciation for the new building and thanked the Council on University Planning and Budget for its support for the project. “The council identified the new grounds facility as a campus priority that was worthy of funding,” he said. According to Scott Hall, superintendent of grounds, Eastern currently employs 18 individuals (13 during the winter months), hired to keep the campus safe for student, faculty and staff use, and attractive for Eastern constituencies and visitors – including future Panthers.

“The president has placed significant focus on the campus grounds, which, of course, is what all prospective students and their families see when they come to visit,” said Steve Shrake, associate director for design and construction. “The overall appearance of a campus can certainly affect admissions.” In addition to mowing, seeding, fertilizing, watering and maintaining the university’s trees, shrubbery and flowers, the department removes trash from across campus.

Employees set up barricades and banners for special events. And they’re the ones, Hall added, who are responsible for removing the snow and ice from sidewalks and parking lots to ensure the safety of students and other university employees – even if it means getting to work in the middle of the night. In addition to mowing the sports and band fields, grounds crews also do additional tasks to help maintain some of Eastern’s athletic venues – the replacement of nets on the tennis courts, for example. And then, there’s always the unexpected. “We retrieved a golf cart that someone had turned upside down in the center of the soccer field during spring commencement,” Hall recalled.

Crockett said the area formerly occupied by the Grounds Shop is being renovated, and will allow for the expansion of Eastern’s Paint Shop and a new headquarters for Facilities Planning & Management’s building service workers.
Photos from top to bottom: (top) Dave Crockett, Steve Shrake, John Sigler, V.P. Weber, and President Perry, cutting the ribbon. (Middle) Facilities vehicles parked outside new grounds building. (Bottom) Newly built grounds pole building. (Below) President Perry preparing for the ribbon cutting.
EIU’s Facilities Planning and Management’s Office of Energy and Sustainability has been hard at work to identify and apply for grants to improve the energy efficiency on EIU’s campus. So far this year, there have been 4 projects that have been applied for and approved by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for EIU to implement. The 4 grants are a total of over $380,000. The 4 projects are replacing heating and air conditioning equipment at the Burl Ives Art Studio and 9th St. Hall, a new central chiller installed at the Doudna Fine Arts Center, new lighting installed at the University Ballroom and Grand Ballroom, and upgrades to the Doudna Fine Arts Center HVAC controls.

The new equipment that was installed at Burl Ives and 9th St. Hall replaced original equipment with new high efficiency equipment. The new central chiller installed in the Doudna Fine Arts Center replaced the 1998 Steam absorption chiller that had been in the building. It will also allow the University to eliminate three additional steam absorption chillers at Booth Library, Buzzard Building, and Lantz Arena. EIU will have reduced the number of chillers needed to cool central campus from 17 to 7 since 1995. The Ballroom down lights are being upgraded from 250 watt halogen lights that have to be replaced annually with 20 watt LED lights that should last at least 10 years. The Doudna Fine Arts Center was renovated from 2002-2008. The renovation was designed in 1997, so the control design is 15 years old and due for an upgrade. The Grant will cover micro humidity units for humidity control of sensitive equipment, which allows for the building systems to be upgraded and scheduled more effectively, substantially reducing the energy consumption of the Building.

The Office of Energy and Sustainability is looking for more energy savings opportunities and will apply for additional grants to help make the improvements. To date, an additional $120,000 in grants have been identified, and we would like help to identify more. Grants will cover up to 75% of the total installed cost of projects.

Can you believe it? This year is almost over! Halloween and Thanksgiving are now history. Christmas is on the horizon. This passage of time also heralds the beginning of our 8th annual Share Your Holiday charity drive. Back in 2005, Facilities Planning and Management decided to forgo interoffice gift exchanges and donate the money we would typically spend for these gifts, to local charities. Ever since then, we have been able to accumulate funds that have been delivered yearly to our chosen recipients. An email was sent out to foremen, managers, and various staff members of Facilities on the first day of November, signaling the start of the 2013 drive. Our donations will go to the same local charities as in the past, Charleston Food Pantry, Mattoon’s Salvation Army and Carl Sandburg School’s Helping Hands. A fourth option, of Eastern’s Foundation was added three years ago. This choice was included in answer to the continuing budget cuts that Eastern has endured. It is hoped that these donations, designated to a department of the donor’s choice, will help with lessening the results of the ongoing budgets shortfalls. Hopefully, we will be able to surpass last year’s giving and make 2013 the largest year ever. So far, the highest total for a single year was 2011 with a grand total of $2,307.00. It would be wonderful if we were able to top that amount! This holiday season, let us all take stock of the blessings that we have received and share some of those blessings with others.
Thinking Caps in Place | It’s time for a Quiz!

By: Jeff Wilson

1) What is the name of the oldest class memorial on campus, and who and what made the donation?

2) What Illinois Governor signed Senate Bill 148, authorizing the construction of Eastern Illinois State Normal School, and in what year?

3) Charleston’s bid for the Eastern Illinois State Normal School included utility rates for extended periods of time. What did the school pay for water a year, and for how many years was this in effect?

4) What did the original 40 acre tract of land purchased from Charlie and Virginia Bishop sell for?

5) What was the 1919 “Play Without Words” written about?

Send your answers to:
dlblack@eiu.edu

Good Hunting! Good Luck!

No Winner in Last Issue’s Quiz!

Answers to last issues quiz:
1) This is sort of a trick question. Almost every building on campus has had more than one name. Often a building will have a name upon construction, and then be renamed afterwards for a particular individual or function. A better question would have been what buildings have had only one name! See if you can figure that one out.

2) Hellandreigh Colseybur was the fictional name of Franklyn L. Andrews, faculty sponsor of a forerunner of the DEN, who wrote 420 or so columns for the Teacher’s College News from 1931 until 1944. In the beginning, he used the nickname of “Ole Poker Face”. He was much loved by his students and was mourned by many at his passing in 1944 at the age of 44.

3) The very first yearbook was published in 1913 and was called the W’apper. It was edited by Arthur Frazier. The first Warbler was published in the Spring of 1919 for the school year of 1918-19.

4) WELH campus radio station was closed circuit to residence halls. It began broadcasting in 1964.

5) Mr. & Mrs. Marion (Jake) Zane. Jake retired from Eastern, in 1991 after serving for over 30 years. His positions at Eastern included, Assistant Director of Business Services, Purchasing Agent, Controller, and Acting Vice President for Administration and Finance.

6) 1927.

7) The band first appeared at the October 22nd football game with Evansville College.

8) President and Mrs. Doudna.

9) Governor William Stratton attended the dedication of Weller Hall, in 1958.

10) Librarian Mary J. Booth took a leave of absence to work for the Red Cross. Booth Library is named after Miss Booth.

If you are feeling ambitious and want to try this issue’s quiz, please do so! You never know until you try! Answers for the last quiz are listed above. Remember, there are many sources where Eastern information can be found. Don’t give up, when you look in only one or two - there’s bound to be another book that has just the right answers. Good Luck!
Travis Tidbits | By: Travis Gresens

Are you cheap like me? I am always looking for a way to save a little money when buying electronics and thought I would share this little tip. When looking for Dell products, I have used their Dell Outlet several times and have been very pleased. It can be found on their front page at www.dell.com along the bottom of the page called Dell Outlet. From here you will find most all the products they carry on their main website, only the items here in the Dell Outlet are items that are Scratch & Dent or returns that can’t be sold as new. If you are looking for Apple products like a new Mac, MacBook, iPad, or iPods, they have a nice site for you to snag a great deal on. Apple’s refurbished and clearance webpage can be found here: http://store.apple.com/us/browse/home/specialdeals. Recently my dad was wanting to purchase an iPad and I told him to purchase a refurbished iPad from Apple because it is $100 cheaper and has the full warranty from Apple.

Here are some other sites I like to visit when looking for bargains:
http://www.woot.com
http://www.slickdeals.net
http://www.techbargains.com
http://www.blackfridayads.com

Upcoming Events

December
- Last Class Day, 6
- Final Exams, 9-13
- Graduation, 14
- First Day of Winter, 21
- Christmas Eve, 24
- Christmas, 25
- New Years Eve, 31

January
- New Years Day, 1
- First Class Day, 13
- MLK Day, 20

Recent Retirees

June 30, 2012
- Bill Barter, Energy Center
- Tom Rennels, Plumber Shop
- Boyce Dillman, Carpenter Shop
- Ross Bennett, Carpenter Shop
- Lynn Kimbrough, EC Shop
- Ed Andres, HVAC
- Ron Cassiday, BSW
- Mike Nickell, BSW

February 28
- Jerry Drummond, Route Driver

June 30
- Randy Rodebaugh, Carpenter Foreman
- Brenda Pearcy, BSW

November 30
- Rex Hilligoss, Architect

FPM wishes all of the above a wonderful retirement. Good Luck!
Cathy Kimball is Administrative Assistant in FPM and Manager of Records Management for Eastern Illinois University. In her current position Cathy works half time in Facilities and the other half as Records Manager. In her capacity as Records Manager she serves as the liaison between EIU and the Illinois State Records Commission as well as assist departments at Eastern with updating retention schedules and oversees the shredding and storage of records.

Cathy has earned her bachelor degree and a Master of Science from the School of Technology while working full time at Eastern. Prior to working in Facilities, Cathy worked for one year in African-American Studies, three months in the ROTC Department and then “Cathy Kimball worked in EIU’s Office of Safety programs for several years before joining the Child Passenger Safety Resource Center at Eastern Illinois University. As Illinois child passenger safety coordinator, Cathy provided resources for technicians and the general public throughout the state, and even sometimes outside of the state borders. She was with the state’s program from its inception. While working in EIU’s Office of Safety Programs in 1998, Cathy voluntarily attended Illinois’ very first training program to become a certified child safety technician. The center was notified in August 2005 that its grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation was not being renewed, making September 30, 2005 the last day of business. She transferred to her present job in Facilities Planning and Management.”

Cathy was raised in Oakland and she and her husband Wayne still live there. Cathy’s three children all still reside in the State of Illinois. Her oldest daughter and her husband work at EIU and reside in Charleston, her son lives in Harrisburg, and her youngest daughter is married and works at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital.

Cathy loves spending time with her family; gardening, golfing, and camping. National Park and Yellowstone are two of her favorite places. Cathy truly hopes to be able to visit Denali National Park in Alaska someday.

(1) EIU Press Release "Lacking State Funds, Child Passenger Safety Resources Center Closes Sep-30-2005."