What **WE** Did

on **YOUR** Summer Vacation - 2015
The basement of Harrington Auditorium received 10 new team locker rooms to welcome new & returning athletes. Ample showers, toilets, lockers, & changing areas for varsity teams, as well as for visiting teams, coaches, & officials were added, including a gender-neutral locker room, and a refreshed corridor displaying large photos of WPI's athletic best.
The new locker rooms in Harrington Auditorium have facilitated moving the last vestiges of occupancy out of ALUMNI GYM and the Connector. As you may know, the Worcester Historical Commission recently granted WPI approval to demolish these now-vacant buildings, to make way for the new Foisie Innovation Studio. Planning is beginning for how to raze these vacant structures, while minimizing impact on the buildings and circulation around them. We are working on plans to salvage key architectural features, including the “grotesques” (AKA the gargoyles).

Proposals have been received from four architectural firms vying to be selected as the firm to design the FOISIE INNOVATION STUDIO AND RESIDENCE HALL, a new and exciting mixed-use building in the center of WPI’s campus. The firms will present their proposals and approaches to a review committee including faculty, students, trustees and administrators in late September. Selection of the firm and the start of the design process is expected to begin in October. The design is expected to be completed in the spring and timed so that as demolition of Alumni Gym is completed, the contractors will immediately move into construction mode on the new building, expected to open in summer 2018.
BOYNTON HALL had staging up all summer to facilitate replacement of the slate roof on WPI’s oldest building. Many of the old slate shingles were original from 150 years ago. The new slates, copper flashing, snow retention clips, and a sub-surface heating system will make the roof water-tight, help eliminate huge icicles and the safety concerns that come with them, and help avoid the history of ice dams and water infiltration there. Some of the slate details and color banding have restored the look of this roof to its original design.
The basement of the LSBC is now benefiting from daylight as a result of some skylights on the ground beside the building entrance on Washburn Way. Inside the building, 7,400 SF of new labs and workspaces are nearing completion.
STODDARD A now has reconfigured showers and bathroom facilities, as well as improvements to the lounges. These compliment the work done last summer in Stoddard B. Planning is underway to modernize Stoddard C next summer.
GORDON LIBRARY HVAC

- Planning and design have been underway for extensive renovations which will replace much of the HVAC infrastructure in the library over the next year. Bids are due soon, and while this work will replace a lot of behind the scenes infrastructure, the process won’t go unnoticed. The work will be broken down into phases and will focus on sections of the building, to minimize any impact and be the least disruptive while the library remains open. This is more work than could be completed in a summer, so careful planning with the library and IT staff will be ongoing.
A new suite of offices and labs is consolidating much of Robotics Engineering into 11,000 SF of new space on the 2nd floor of 85 Prescott Street, just across from Gateway’s LSBC. Previously, Robotics offices and labs were scattered across 5 different buildings around campus. The space vacated is being carefully reviewed by the Academic Space Planning Committee to ensure a cohesive, efficient, and well-thought plan is developed for occupancy and utilization of the former spaces.
MORGAN HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT

A new roof was provided on Morgan Hall, as part of WPI’s ongoing deferred maintenance program, providing important upgrades to infrastructure around the campus.
The exteriors of Washburn Shops, Stratton Hall, Higgins Labs, and Olin Hall all received a power-washing treatment to refresh the masonry from years of dirt and discoloration.

- Washburn Shops
- Stratton Hall
- Olin Hall
- Higgins Labs
The BOYNTON PARKING LOT received re-grading and a new re-paved surface. All of the spaces are now standard size, which makes maneuvering in and out a little easier than with some of the tight spaces before. Providing an exit from the south end of the smaller lot has helped establish new traffic patterns and improves exiting. Traffic Flow on the service road, coming down Boynton Hill, has also been revised for facilitating better egress. A new motorcycle parking area has been provided to help make that area more sturdy and conducive to motorcycle parking.
EARLE BRIDGE received some significant concrete repairs and a new waterproof coating to address spauling of the concrete surface and minimize tripping hazards.
WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATIONS

85 PRESCOTT STREET AND STRATTON HALL are two of the latest buildings to receive new Water Bottle Filling Stations;

Additional dispensers will be installed in 4 RESIDENCE HALLS over the coming weeks.
At this time of year I provide an annual update of summer activities from the Facilities Department. We hope you had a great summer, wherever you were. All areas within Facilities - Projects, Trades, Powerhouse, Custodial, Grounds, Events, and Safety - and many others across the campus, were engaged in special projects in addition to supporting events, summer programs, and all the ongoing activities and research.

Some projects and results are more visible than others. You may have already noticed some, others you may have yet to encounter, and still more are literally behind the scenes supporting utilities & services many students, faculty, & staff may take for granted, like:

- over 2 million of square feet of flooring cleaned, refinished or shampooed;
- over 90 acres prepped, mulched, & planted to show off our beautiful campus;
- preparing a new system to improve access to online safety training.

So, as A-Term begins for you, I hope you enjoyed this brief recap of...

What **WE** did on **YOUR** Summer Vacation!
All areas of the campus received some amount of special attention this summer to improve functionality, reliability and improve accommodations. And there are a few more yet to do over the coming months.

I want to thank all the Facilities staff, managers, student workers, temps and other departments who helped us through this summer. 

Best of luck to everyone as A-term moves forward.

ALFREDO DiMAURO, ASSOC AIA
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, FACILITIES