2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
Patrick Brennan

Proactive, efficient and positive, Property Manager, Patrick Brennan has a challenging portfolio.

On top of the usual - responding to building emergency calls and issues, planning for maintenance work or repair jobs, Patrick also has the added bonus of dealing with the challenges that come with the preservation of heritage buildings and making sure that any work or renovations will not compromise the space's architectural integrity – whether it is finding a low energy lighting solution, adding wifi or installation of new carpeting.

However, no matter how busy and challenging his portfolio gets, Patrick also finds time to devote energy and enthusiasm for other causes especially the ones that are close to his heart, recently organizing and acting as captain for U of T's Bleed Blue Team for the Inside Ride, a cycling charity event benefitting kids with cancer. 100% of the receipted donations from this event help childhood cancer charities and at last count donations to the Bleed Blue team stood at $3,890.00, the largest fundraising total of any team.

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
John Calvin

From planning and initiating a performance analysis of critical service issues during peak load times, like student registration, to planning the business day migration of the University's Call Xpress Voicemail system from the old data centre to the new – something never attempted in the history of the Call Xpress system, John continues to demonstrate exceptional initiative a number of times this past year.

This kind of out-of-the box thinking demonstrates John's initiative, his willingness to take on new tasks, his desire to foster collaboration and cooperation between ITS units, and his exceptional service orientation. John's service orientation extends externally as he recently used his strong vendor relationship with Cisco Canada to negotiate a $250,000 credit earlier this year!

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
Richard Cheng

Richard consistently demonstrates an exceptional level of professionalism and teamwork. He's both persistent and flexible, and overcomes challenges with ease, diplomacy and tact.

Whether it's working with Capital Projects to align the opportunities of new construction and renovation with the wireless expansion project or leading an innovative implementation of wireless in Innis Residence Richard is clearly skilled in the ways of people and technology.

Richard's knowledge of changing wireless standards and evolving technology and his non-formulaic approach has time and again allowed him to work successfully with academics, engineers and electrical contractors to implement solutions appropriately tailored to community needs and the constraints of physical plant.

What impresses his colleagues most about Richard is his ability to recognize and share innovative project techniques as well as his ability to form ad-hoc teams to complete initiatives. His leadership qualities allow him to see past the traditional hierarchies, and develop relationships with colleagues in other divisions which is especially important given the highly distributed IT at the University. Through this approach he not only achieves great project results, but also helps other staff recognize collaboration opportunities and their abilities to apply their skills across projects.

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
David Kim

David has served U of T well both at Chestnut Residence and at Woodsworth College during his tenure here. In that time he has earned the respect of many colleagues far and wide, within and external to the university.

More specifically, David has brought about structural changes to the Residence Office at Chestnut, which has not only allowed it to grow, but to offer greater services to the student body within the Residence. This in turn has increased Chestnut's profile to prospective students, making it a place they want to call home rather than just a place where they eat and sleep.

Furthermore, David stands firm on his principles of inclusion and diversity: during his time as Dean, he has increased the residence office staff compliment from 6 positions to 8, by advocating for the need to grow as a means of better assisting the student population at Chestnut, while also working to ensure that those hired reflect those students whom they are serving.

David has also taken upon himself to chair the Positive Space Committee at UofT this year. Under his guidance, the committee has a new brand and identity, and has solidified its purpose by creating a mission statement and increasing its online presence. The inclusive efforts of this committee have a profound impact on those who identify as members of the LGBTQ community.

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
Nicholas Potovszky

Positive, collaborative, a high performer and 'ready for anything' that contributes to departmental and University goals and priorities, Nick approaches design in ways that deliver excellence in student and campus experience at the University.

For the Landmark Committee Project he completed excellent research on other competition models, which assisted in the development of a different kind of request for qualifications, enhanced by graphics and images to clarify scope of work and inspire external and internal UofT enthusiasm for the project.

He is both proactive and receptive to feedback, and a wonderful team player, both internally and with other divisions, always looking to offer the best options or approaches.

In addition, Nicholas has demonstrated interest and energy in promoting campus and office sustainability, and is a Green Ambassador at UofT.

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
Wayne Shaw

As Manager, Caretaking Services on St George campus, Wayne leads a team of 300 people who carry out such tasks as unlocking doors, changing light bulbs and, of course, the cleaning of buildings. Altogether, the team looks after about 11.5 million square feet of space in almost 110 buildings.

Making the caretaking operations at the St. George campus sustainable is a high priority for Wayne, both environmentally and financially. Since he started at U of T ten years ago, Wayne has adjusted to budget cuts by introducing innovations that have saved money as well as contributed to a greener environment through the Caretaking Services' Green Cleaning Program by introducing the following initiatives:

- a program to cut down on the use of paper towels: first, introducing centre pull hand towels where users don't have to touch the dispenser, then introducing more widely perforated paper towels - quite a difference on an 800 foot roll! - then introducing Dyson Airblade hand dryers in busier washrooms, removing the need for paper towel use entirely in many areas. Even his choice of dryer – using air rather than heat – was both money saving and environmentally friendly!

- Wayne oversaw the replacement of a multitude of cleaning products with a single environmentally-friendly solution.

- Another initiative of Wayne's was the retro-plating of about 300,000 square feet of terrazzo flooring on the St. George campus; floors never need to be stripped and waxed again, and can be cleaned with plain water

From replacing traditional lights with LED lights and using microfibre cloths for cleaning, Wayne has been passionate about green cleaning in the 58 years he has been in the business and we know one thing for sure – he will always have new and interesting ideas to make things greener and better.

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
Allan Stojanovic

Information Security Architect Allan Stojanovic is a well-known collaborator and an information sharer…which makes him sound a bit like either a gossip or a spy! Allan is neither, of course. He is, however, well known and respected within the University's IT community for being a tireless and enthusiastic resource and leader, assisting individuals and departments achieve their information security goals.

Allan has developed a system of 'fingerprinting' unusual UTORid account activity that allows the University to identify whether an account is likely to have been compromised or not and he recently identified a way to save the University tens of thousands of dollars / increasing capacity and functionality by replacing this commercial system with off-the-shelf open-source products and is currently in the process of migrating to this new platform.

When approaching situations where victims of cyber-attacks are experiencing extreme personal distress and / or active threats, Allan has shown himself skilled in both tact and sensitivity. Allan is not only known as the 'go-to' person in our department for advice on resolving complex information security issues but he's also for communication with internal and external law enforcement agencies, providing timely and helpful information while at the same time protecting the privacy of / emotional impact to victims, and the interests of the University.

Allan has demonstrated exceptional flexibility in personal and work schedules to step in when needed, willing and able to consistently work around the clock to ensure an uninterrupted extraction of data from suspected perpetrators hardware assets, beginning and ending work at such hours as the investigation circumstances demand.

2015 University Operations
Outstanding Individual Employee Award
Stan Szwagiel

As Manager, Grounds Services, Stan seems to be on every project and event planning committee, including those for the Back Campus renovation, Convocation Plaza, Orientation, Run for the Cure, Fall Campus Day, the PanAm and ParaPan Am Games, to name just a few recent ones, and is consulted for every film, summer camp initiative or sign that's planned for campus. His memory is incredible – want to know exactly where the property line is between Knox and U of T? Ask Stan. When a particular donor tree was planted? Stan will know. Where do we have "no dogs allowed" signs? Stan not only knows, but he can provide photographic evidence!

In addition, Stan has demonstrated uncommon initiative in his development of programs to preserve and enhance green spaces on campus, and the campus' natural environment. Stan was instrumental in the development of the University's plan to protect campus ash trees from infestation. Stan has also demonstrated a willingness to take on new and additional tasks by assuming overall responsibility for responding to Ontario One Call requests from utility contractors and companies to dig on the St. George campus.

Stan initiated and implemented the Smart Irrigation program throughout the grounds at the St. George campus, designed to reduce water consumption in the irrigation systems on the St. George campus while maintaining the beauty of the campus grounds. With the installation of the centralized irrigation control system, 82+ irrigation systems across campus are adjusted automatically for weather conditions, soil type and plant species, saving over 50% of the amount of water previously consumed. Installation of rain harvesters, permeable paving, French Drains, and perennials has improved ground water retention, thereby reducing water consumption even further. The Smart Irrigation Program will generates savings of $60,000 in water expenses annually. U of T St. George Campus is one of the first institutions in North America to use these cutting-edge technologies to the extent that we have, thanks to Stan and his efforts.