Up high! Roofing crew an essential part of campus

From dorms to academic buildings to IU athletic facilities, the Facility Operations roofing crew maintains nearly 5 million square feet of roof campus-wide.

Greg Spaulding, sheet metal supervisor, said the type of roofing and safety techniques have changed over time since he began working here in 1988.

A roofing material called EPDM is the most common type his crew uses now; it was originally a tire material.

“A bunch of guys that worked for Firestone had a leaky roof and Firestone wouldn’t fix it,” Spaulding explained. “So they had this inner tube material – they stretched it out over the roof, the roof quit leaking. And the rubber roof was born.”

EPDM is the easiest material to put on quickly, Spaulding said. Another material, called TPO, is actually a plastic swimming pool liner.

There are also slate roofs, clay tile roofs and shingles. Josh Cornett, General Supervisor in Sheet Metal, said clay and slate tiles take more time to finish because they must be installed one at a time, but they typically last about 100 years.

When they aren’t installing a new roof, the crew is working to repair damaged roofs. Spaulding said they’ve found everything from darts to golf tees stuck in or on top of roofs. Depending on the size of a project, Spaulding will decide how many of his 16 crew members work on a particular project.

A new roof will usually last 20 years, Spaulding said, but it depends on a number of factors such as how much the weather has worn down the roof and how the sun is hitting it.

Cornett said it’s a dirty job, but taking the time to do it right pays off. Not many people are able to notice or appreciate the roofing staff’s hard work, Cornett added, but they need only look up to see that crew members are working constantly.

Jay Taylor, assistant manager of building maintenance, said roofing is a huge part of building maintenance and operations.

“The roofing crew is really an essential part of what we do because it prevents further structural damage to a building by getting the repairs made,” Taylor said.

Roofing crew members must protect themselves from the sun with hats, sunglasses and sunscreen.
Health tip: Take active breaks

In a society that encourages health and exercise, many of us spend our days sitting at desks. However, moving throughout the day can invigorate and inspire you – regular activity has been shown to actually boost productivity. It’s easy to fit a little activity into your day with these tips for taking active breaks at work:

• Join a lunch hour fitness program, or visit the gym over lunch.
• Use a few minutes of every hour to stretch at your desk.
• Take public transportation or bike to work.
• Take several short walks through or around your building throughout the day.
• Conduct small meetings while walking outdoors or around the office.
• Take a 10-minute walk outside during your lunch or coffee break.

From a Spring 1994 Physical Plant newsletter:

Marty McClure has worked as a Senior Records Assistant for Building Maintenance since August of 1993. Before working for Building Maintenance, he spent four years as a custodian and trained to be a Group Leader.

He came to his current position through the Custodian-to-Craftworker (CTC) program, which helps custodians learn skills for a new craft in order to move into a new position within Physical Plant.

“If it wasn’t for the CTC program, I’d still be a custodian,” says McClure. “I wanted to be a clerical because there are more chances of a career.”

McClure keeps records for Zone Four, the Electric shop, Night Operations and Preventive Maintenance. McClure’s duties include keypunching workers’ hours, tracking their attendance, filling out departmental purchase orders, filing and completing general office work for the supervisors.

McClure is enjoying his new career.

“The work is varied enough that I don’t get stuck in a rut,” he says. “I also like the daytime hours. Working a day job has been a goal of mine. It gives me more time to spend with my daughter.”

Now:

Twenty-two years and six title changes later, Marty McClure is a certified electrician in Zone 3.

After realizing clerical work wasn’t for him, McClure became an operations dispatcher in 1996 and an electrical apprentice in 1999. He was moved to Zone 3 in 2015 after having worked in night operations, in construction, and on the motor bench. He said he doesn’t have a favorite position among the several he’s held at VPCPF.

“They’ve all been fun in different ways,” McClure said. “You have to look for the good things in a job.”

McClure plans to retire in 2017 and spend more time with his grandchildren.

Working for VPCPF for over 20 years has allowed McClure to see the university change. He said he’s most happy with his work when IU shows up in a ranking of the most beautiful colleges in the country or when a customer says “thank you.”

“I wear my uniform with pride, and I wear my IU hat with pride,” McClure said.

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**Did you know?**

IU is a tobacco free campus - which means the use of tobacco, tobacco products and smoking-related products on campus property is prohibited.

Employees may only use these products in their personal vehicle or off campus.

If you’re ready to quit smoking, IU is there to help. University Health and Wellness educators offer support, counseling and free nicotine replacement therapy, including patches, gum and lozenges.

IU students, their spouses and dependents, age 12 and older, are eligible.

Quitting smoking may not be easy, but your body will thank you. You’ll smell better, feel better and cough less. You’ll also reduce your risk of several deadly diseases like cancer, heart disease and emphysema.

Visit Tobacco-Free IU to learn more about tobacco treatment options.
Working with water

It’s a year-round job keeping IU’s pool facilities looking clean, supervisor Mark Hobbs said.

“We take care of everything — all the indoor and outdoor facilities,” he said.

“Everything” includes all the fountains on campus, pools, spas, and hot tubs. And that’s not just during the months those facilities are in use — it’s during the winter as well.

Working with the pools, both indoor and outdoor, includes maintaining the filter system and cleaning to keep the water fresh. Certified Pool Operator Charlie Shepherd said operators must have a basic knowledge of chemistry to test the pools every morning for chlorine and pH levels. A sample is taken from each pool every week and sent to the Indiana State Department of Health for analysis.

Keeping up the fountains, such as Showalter Fountain outside the IU Auditorium, is a different process.

“We clear any debris that’s in them and drain and clean them when they need it,” Hobbs said.

The outdoor pool facilities are open to the public from April to September. They’re also used for IU athletics, like the swimming, diving and water polo teams. Shepherd said through work, he has been able to meet Olympic swimmers, divers and trainers. He’s also gotten to know some of the lifeguards and other athletes through their shared workplace.

“If somebody needs help, I can be here,” Shepherd said.

Charlie Shepherd tests the chlorine and pH levels at the Counsilman-Billingsley Aquatic Center in the SRSC. He fills a vial (left) with pool water and drips in a solution, then a guide on the vial tells Shepherd the chlorine level based on the color the water turns. The test is performed on each pool, every morning, to ensure the water is ready to use.

New Building training helps transfer knowledge to staff

Every time an IU building is renovated or a new one is built, IU Facility Operations organizes a New Building training session.

The sessions began in 2013 after feedback from staff that there was a knowledge gap between the contractors and IU when a building was released. The training ensures a smooth transition of knowledge from the contractor to the Facility Operations staff who are responsible for the maintenance of the building.

During these all-day sessions, employees are given hands-on orientation to the design, function, operation and maintenance of the systems and their components, said Bill Kersey, HR Staff & Development Coordinator. Staff are allowed to view structural drawings, tour the mechanical rooms and ask direct questions.

Since the sessions began, at least 10 different projects have been included in trainings, the most recent being the Kelley School of Business’ Hodge Hall and the addition to the Musical Arts Center (MAC). Denver Wrightsman, Director of Facilities for the Jacobs School of Music, said the MAC addition includes more rehearsal space capable of holding a large orchestra and choir with new, advanced acoustics.

The lead project engineers or architects for new buildings or renovations give staff an entire overview of the project, Kersey said. Construction Project Manager Herb Ranard said before the sessions, only a couple people would be trained on a new building, and they may not have been the people to actually perform maintenance on it. Now, everyone involved with the building has the chance to learn how to handle its systems and equipment.

“The primary benefactor of this training is the maintenance staff themselves, especially those that are called out in the night to address an emergency,” Kersey said. “By having had the experience of having the product installer show them in advance how to shut down and bring back online a complex system, hours of frustration can be avoided.”
Green Team receives Seedling Certification

The VPCPF Green Team received its Seedling Certification at the end of May. Each level of certification – there are four – is reached by completing a certain percentage of the initiatives outlined by the IU Office of Sustainability.

It’s all about having a group together that is working to make the environment more green, Green Team member Erica Steinfeldt said. The various initiatives are broken down into categories such as resource use, recycling, sustainable computing, transportation and food, among others. For example, if the VPCPF Green Team turns off computer monitors at night, they can check that off the list and be one step closer to a certification.

“As a university, we know that we need to do everything we can to reduce what we use, reuse what we can and recycle what we can’t,” Steinfeldt said.

The Green Team is on its way to applying for the Sprout Certification.

“We appreciated the recognition because it is evidence of our efforts within the building,” Steinfeldt said.

She and the Green Team encourage all staff members to take the course “How to Recycle on the Bloomington IU Campus.” To do so, go to: iu.instructure.com/enroll/NX86AL

Top: Assistant Vice President Hank Hewetson shakes hands with Bob Wetzel at Wetzel’s retirement party. Wetzel, Craft Coordinator, retired in late June after 41 years of service.

Bottom: Photos from the VPCPF Staff Appreciation Cookout (Clockwise from top left): Susie Simpson, Jamie Gayer and Liliam Burgos pose while helping with the picnic. Seth Wagner gives two thumbs up on the food. Steve Petry and Bill Brown work on the grills. Deborah Lockridge and Lawrence Thompson, Jr. enjoy the music and food. Greg Fichter and Sam Robertson grill bratwursts.