Can you believe Thanksgiving has snuck up on us already? Let’s not forget to take some time this holiday to reflect on all the things we should be thankful for. I have a long list and I’m sure you do also. Facilities Services has been in a somewhat steady state with all our major initiatives having been concluded and no new ones having started, but work continues as we prepare for the arrival of winter.

**Winter Weather Preparation**

Soon we will see white flakes flying through our skies. Preparations have already been underway for severe winter weather. With Joe Lalley’s departure, Maria Cimilluca has boldly offered to enter the weather forecasting business and will be providing the information necessary to determine our operating status. Do we delay opening? Close? Is the county closing the roads? Are TCAT buses operating on schedule? What about Ithaca College and Ithaca schools? How much snow fall is expected and when? These are all questions that a handful of people will be asking every time we receive a prediction of inclement weather. Although we would like to notify campus of any decision as soon as possible, we try to wait as long as we can to rely on the most current information available.

In hindsight, our decisions about particular weather events may appear justified or not. No matter what we decide, someone is going to be unhappy. We try to make our decision before 4:00 AM in the morning so we can get the word out before folks begin their trip into campus. This makes for interesting 3:00 AM conference calls! A general rule is if the county sheriff closes the roads, the university will be closed.

We have to weigh many factors, including campus safety, class schedules, the ability of our snow crews to keep up with the snowfall, conditions of the surrounding roadways, and the ability of faculty, staff and students to travel to campus. Some staff members are designated “essential employees” (not that we aren’t ALL essential!) Their services are required regardless of whether the university is opened or closed. Remember, we have students living on campus 24/7 so we are technically never closed. We still have to feed and house our students regardless of the weather.

**Brad Newhouse is now a CCM!**

Brad Newhouse has attained his certification from the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) after a rigorous written examination. By achieving this Brad can now use the CCM designation. Most of you know Brad as a project manager in CCF who has worked in many high profile projects including Stocking Hall and Fernow Hall.

**United Way update**

The Cornell United Way campaign has exceeded the 50% mark well ahead of last year’s pace. The recent chili and pie cook-off and crafts fair here at Humphreys attracted more than 100 people. Thanks to everyone who participated as we raised almost a thousand dollars to benefit UW. Watch for future fun events that are being planned, including an Ugly Sweater contest.

Kyu