EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Pictured with KyuJung Whang is **Brian C. Watson**

January 2016
Brian Watson’s current project is the $2M renovation of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering’s Unit Operations Laboratory, the 3rd of three. Brian managed three projects in Olin Hall over the past two years. The first project, the stairwells, was most challenging in that it seemed simple but was far from it. It transformed a pre-WWII stark space into a clean, bright, and utilized communal space. It was a key component in an ongoing attempt to bring the interior of Olin Hall up to what is considered to be an expected level of appearance. It came with challenges, all while Brian was also training a relatively new project manager.

The second project was the kitchen, small but with great impact as it is used daily by hundreds of individuals. This project showcased the project manager-in-training’s professional growth, which was a direct reflection of Brian’s supervisory and training skills.

The third and current UO Lab project is much needed and will have a great and immediate impact on teaching as well as provide an opportunity for the new Product Design for Manufacturing initiative. Brian is knowledgeable, competent, professional, and is able to work well with a diverse constituency. He is calm and level-headed while juggling multiple projects and issues. There were a string of issues on all three projects, and the challenges on the UO Lab project are many and varied, everything from delayed lead times due to a casework manufacturer going out of business and the epoxy countertop manufacturer having a plant fire, to finding mercury and removing it from the basement drainage trenches.

The project was scheduled to finish before the start of the semester but delays resulted in having to share space between teaching 100 students, finishing the project, getting the distillation column operational, and addressing punch list items.

Additionally, Brian had no obligation to assist with early enabling work that readied the space, but Brian ably did so and saved the project time and effort with his direction, advice and connections.

The UO Lab showcased Brian’s abilities to the fullest. He strives to and succeeds in meeting the highest standards, has a strong work-ethic, and always opts for the right path in terms of safety and long-term benefit while balancing financial implications.

This is an example of one of Brian’s biggest strengths... His client management and relationship building skills.

Congratulations Brian! Engineering & Project Management
Nominated by: Celia Szczepura-McLean