



## **Better Together**

There was no individual more senior than the other, no one more correct, and no one more in charge. They were a team. A very comfortable team.

The GWS Recognition Team is a dynamic group, and as they sat down to discuss the process of how the inaugural Recognition Awards came to be and how their team was formed, it was evident that there was respect, encouragement, and true friendship.

In September, 2013, the GWS Recognition Team was selected from the Facilities Operations associates around the globe. Since Facilities Operations makes up the largest vertical in GWS, it was an excellent representation of our global diversity for a pilot program that was hoped to grow and expand. Danny Seaton invited Jackie Eddy, Lisa Callahan, Rose Naftaly, Sandra Nichols, Sescia Grelet, Heike Wohlert, and Adi Tayeb Vitman (among others) to join him in this new program, but over time these eight became the pioneers.

“I was hugely nervous to meet people for the first time on the phone and curious how this might work. In our first calls we talked and tried to find out what to do, how to share knowledge, how to organize ourselves, and at last how to structure the project,” said Heike.

Even though there was a lot of uncertainty when they first began, the committee started working together, started to rely on each other and their unique talents, and found an enjoyable camaraderie. Jackie said; “there’s almost always one leader on any committee. But on this committee, it felt like everyone spoke their mind and had their part... everyone was really working together.”

As the year passed and the project developed, “everyone [had] the chance to show off the skills they had. Everyone had a chance to shine,” said Sescia.

When they all heard that that they had won the Team Performance Award, Rose recalled that it was “totally not expected. And we didn’t even know who was nominated.”

This team shows that there is a great advantage to working with your global associates. It can be hard and require compromise, but Lisa said if she had to advise others, it would be “to get involved, because you never know what you’re missing out on.”

This team will miss the weekly calls, friendly banter, and planning as their part of the project closes and moves on to other associates. Yet they have experienced a great reward outside of the official acknowledgement from their peers. Danny described it as this; “This team is a microcosm of the overall GWS organization. If we’re able to pull this off as a team, and become friends in the process... then that is where we’ll excel most.”