Safety Day and Employee Recognition

Safety Day was held on June 12, 2014. Speakers for the event included Dan Durham, Director of Facilities Operations, Matt Weaver, new Chair for the Safety Committee, Tim Slone, Health and Environmental Safety, Fred Patrick, Facilities Design and Construction, and our guest speaker, Dr. Mike Perko.

Buddy Hale, Facilities Design and Construction, made introductions for the Employee Recognition awards and awards were presented by Tony Phillips, HUB Coordinator.

Jeff Melton won the Safety award. Jeff was nominated for motivating his employees to work safer. He set a goal for his employees and put an incentive program in place to reward them.

Tom White won the Customer Service award. Tom was nominated for being knowledgeable of not only the campus, but also the people and cultivating and maintaining great working relationships with his campus customers. His nominator said he works with customers to minimize the impact of building service outages and that many complimentary communications were received by the Department about Tom’s commitment to Customer Service.

Hal Shelton won the Collaboration and Teamwork award. Hal was nominated for leading the response to the winter weather events that we experienced this year. His nominator said he did an excellent job in preparing for and responding to the winter weather. Hal spent the night on campus on more than one occasion to ensure he would be here to respond often beginning at 3:00 am and working a 12 hour shift.

Other nominees included: Cynthia Barnes, Mae Byers, Vickie DeBari, Erick Gardner, Jeremy Murray, John Pearce, Ray Riggins, Robert Simpson, and Debora Tininn.

Jorge Quintal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Facilities gave a brief year-end update for the division.

Lunch was served afterwards in Taylor Garden. There were many "behind the scenes" employees making sure this was a special day for all. A huge thanks to those who shopped, cooked, prepared, and cleaned up after the meal—Jeannie Lasley, Sandra Redmond, Helen Bradford, Lori Krise, Gail Hernandez, Randy Cappo, Al Hanes, Brad Weatherly, Paul Daniel, and the Grounds and Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling staff.
Staff Stars for Spring 2014

Facilities Operations employees continue to be recognized for their contributions to the University. Seven of our employees were recipients of Staff Star awards for Spring 2014. Even in the midst of budget cuts and with more buildings and grounds to maintain our employees look for more effective ways to do their jobs and they complete those jobs with pride. Congratulations to each of you!

Front row: Helen Burns, Facility Services; second row: Melanie Sawyer and Raymond DeFiore, Facility Services; third row: Robin Rorie, Facility Services; Brad Weatherly, Electric Shop; Tim Wilkins, Facility Services. Not pictured: Mae Byers, Facility Services.

Happy Anniversary

Chris Aaroe—Buildings—26 years
Cynthia Louis—Administration—18 years
Ken Hall—Buildings—17 years
Gail Hernandez—Work Information—16 years
Josephine Hall—Facility Services—14 years
Serena Raleigh—Facility Services—14 years
Wanda Swinson—Facility Services—14 years
Angel Ruiz—Utilities—14 years
Ann Johnson—Facility Services—13 years
Frances Jenkins—Facility Services—10 years
Kweka Atta—Facility Services—8 years

Chris Smith—Facility Services—8 years
Tammy Burroughs—Facility Services—8 years
Skip Burford—Grounds—7 years
Craig Payne—Facility Services—6 years
Kevin Siler—Grounds—6 years
Matthew Weaver—Grounds—6 years
Rhonda Mitchell—Facility Services—4 years
Steven Lane—Utilities—2 years
Darrell Trogdon—Utilities—2 years
Robert Sutcliffe—Utilities—2 years
Brad Weatherly—Utilities—1 year

Enjoy Your Summer

If you have any questions, kudos, projects, or ideas please send to:

Vickie DeBari at vjdebari@uncg.edu
Projects . . .

Campus Trees

Paul Knapp, Professor in the UNCG Geography Department and the Director of the Carolina Tree-Ring Science Laboratory, has academic interests in biogeography, climatology, and dendrochronology. His research principally has focused on examining the influence of atmospheric CO2 enrichment on the growth rates of tree species in the American West. Additional areas of interest include using tree-ring data to study Pacific Northwest windstorm frequency, Rocky Mountain pine-bark beetle outbreaks, and summer drought frequency in the Southeastern U.S. What in the world does that have to do with Facilities Operations? Dr. Knapp is interested in the trees on campus and who better to show him around than Hal Shelton, our new Assistant Director for Grounds. Hal said the age of some of the trees on campus is pretty amazing considering all of the construction changes throughout the years.

Dr. Knapp is currently conducting a study to determine the ages of the oldest trees across the UNCG campus. He will then create an interactive campus map showing tree age, species name, height, basal diameter, image, and location. Once completed, the map will be available online through the Carolina Tree-Ring Science Lab website. Map viewers will be able to click on icons representing trees on campus to see a photograph and learn about the tree’s attributes to understand and identify old trees on college campuses. The oldest tree on campus is expected to fall within the 100—200 year range. Currently the shortleaf pine next to Moore-Strong Hall has been identified as the oldest so far . . . dating to 1848. The tree-ring data will be collected during the summer and fall semesters of 2014 and the project will be completed during the spring semester, 2015.

Economizer Replacement

Facilities operations recently replaced two old boiler economizers. A boiler economizer is a device that recovers waste heat from the exhaust gas and then uses it to preheat the incoming boiler feed water which increases our fuel economy. The two old economizers, installed in 1990, have been leaking and have been repaired numerous times. The amount of surface area for recovering heat have been reduced by some of these repairs, which has reduced the amount of heat recovered requiring more fuel to be burned. The old economizers will be recycled by the contractor.
**Thank You and Kudos . . .**

A huge, special thanks to Andrew Gwyn who served four years as Chair of the Facilities Operations Safety Committee. Andrew said that during his time as Chair, the Committee conducted a fall protection survey and was instrumental in obtaining cleats for employees to wear during times of ice and snow. Andrew said management has always supported the committee in their endeavors and he is appreciative of the fact that every time he took a safety issue or concern to either Dan Durham or Tom White he could always count on a resolution. Andrew said he would like to thank everyone for their support during his time as Chair, particularly Arleen Westmoreland and Jeannie Lasley. He credits them as being instrumental in the success of the Committee. Andrew is taking some time to step back this year to give the new Committee Officers and members the ability to take the committee in the direction they would like to go. Thank you Andrew for all of your hard work!

Our staff would like to express our thanks to Ken Lewis’ attentiveness to the Cone Art Building during the annual steam plant shutdown.

He fielded all of our questions prior to the shutdown, kept us in the loop on when it would occur and what steps would be taken. During the shutdown he made himself available to our staff at all hours and in particular our weekend staff in case any questions or concerns arose. During the shutdown he created time to override the system to try to draw humidity out of the air.

Although there is only so much that can be done to try to keep our temperature and humidity within range, we really appreciate the efforts and attentiveness by Ken and the rest of the team in helping us to protect and care of the museum’s priceless collection.

Many kinds thanks,
Myra Scott
Assistant Registrar

Hoyte,

I wanted to compliment and send a huge thanks to all members of the housekeeping staff who responded to our emergency situation last Wednesday in the Elliott University Center. We had an unfortunate accident in room 078 with the grease trap. I was very impressed with Thomas Everett, Greg Poteat, and Rebecca Jones, and the floor crew who responded so quickly to begin the cleanup process. Both supervisors, Greg Poteat and John Pearce pulled staff from other areas to clean the tables. This allowed the staff in the building to continue their work, particularly since we had the SOAR program at that time. The work was dirty and difficult but everyone pulled together to clean up the mess. Thanks again for a job well done!

Kathleen McGirty
Assistant Director
Elliott University Center

We all know how hectic and busy year end can be. Recently I had a project in the Gatewood Studio Arts building that was challenging to say the least. Along the way there were many problems that required the help of many Facilities Operations staff. I would like to acknowledge and thank all of those who happily came when I needed help.

First, the Plumbing shop, especially Drew Bushnoe and Raymond Montgomery had to unplug the drains. Then, John Tinnin and Ken Strong from Facility Services who helped do some extra cleaning behind the contractors to keep their building looking great. John Pearce and his crew also from Facility Services got involved when we had some water problems. Each time I called, Teddy Hyatt was always there to help with anything needed. Now David Alcon is helping with some electrical boxes that were damaged to finish up the project.

It’s so great to have all these knowledgeable and helpful people here as co-workers that we can depend on!

Thanks!
Rhonda Strader
Facilities Design and Construction
Congratulations to the BEST of July

Walter Graham - 1st Shift
Michael Goodman

Welcome to the HVAC Shop
Welcome to the Steam Plant

Josh Fields

Celebrate Independence Day

The White House held its first 4th of July party in 1801.
America’s 30th President, Calvin Coolidge, was born on July 4, 1872.
Only 2.5 million people lived in the US in 1776, about 314 million live here now.
Only John Hancock actually signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
The Declaration of Independence was penned by Thomas Jefferson and signed by 56 men representing 13 colonies.
The Pledge of Allegiance did not exist during the lifetimes of our founding fathers. It was written in 1892, over a century later.
The Star Spangled Banner, written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812, became the national anthem of the United States in 1931.
The average age of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence was 45. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest at age 70, and Edward Rutledge was the youngest at age 26.
Both Thomas Jefferson and John Adams, the only two signers of the Declaration of Independence who later served as President of the United States, passed away on the same day, July 4, 1826.
Will You Choose Zero Accidents?

Did everyone listen, really listen, to all of the speakers on Safety Day? The University purchases personal protective equipment (PPE). Facilities Operations, Environmental Health and Human Safety, and your supervisor provide training. The Safety Committee looks at innovative ways to improve on safety. These are necessary and these are all good things to have in place. But the bottom line is personal choice and accountability. You, and only you, can choose zero accidents and you have been empowered to make that decision.

It’s a bit overwhelming to be compared to a work environment with a claim of over 18 years without an accident, but we can create that same environment. It’s almost like planting a vegetable garden. It starts out as a small seed. But it takes work to turn that seed into a plant. You have to take the time to water it, fertilize it, keep the bugs and animals away from it, and next thing you know by the end of the summer you’re giving away vegetables. With the work and attention you gave your garden it’s growing so quickly you can’t eat them all.

Having zero accidents is very much like that. It starts by each of us personally choosing to have zero accidents just for one day. That thought is your seed. Then tomorrow we make that same choice all over again. Then we just keep making that choice the day after that and the day after that. Before you know it we will all be part of a work environment that others look up to.

But just like your vegetable garden, it takes work. Once you choose to have zero accidents, you have to make a conscious effort to slow down and think about not only your actions but also the consequences before you start each and every task throughout the day. Be aware of your surroundings—look to see what’s in front of you and around you at all times when walking across campus, before you take the first step up or down the stairs, before you put your vehicle in drive, or before you pick up a piece of equipment. Wear your PPE and use it appropriately each and every time your job calls for it. If you have to pick up an item and you’re unsure of the weight, take a second and give it a little tug to test it before you grab it and go. If you see your coworkers working in an unsafe manner think about the consequences of not speaking up. I’d rather go home knowing I possibly saved a life instead of going home with the burden of knowing an accident happened that I could have prevented just by speaking up.

My choice is zero accidents, what is yours?

### JUNE SAFETY UPDATE

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