New Honors and a New “Green” Project as 2010 Closes

The Darden School Building Services team was nominated for the Fall 2010 Friend of the Student award, acknowledging their excellent work and the support they provide students. Part of the staff includes the 3-11 p.m. team members (L-R) Marvin Jackson, Latiesha Carrington, Shirley Collier, Bobby Robinson, Ron Swann, Supervisor Cordelia Jaudon and Teresa Gough. Not available for this photo were James Bledsoe, Rakisha Taylor, Lynn Green, James Lawson and Fannie Martin. Nomination for this prestigious award is an exceptional honor in itself, Director of Operations & Maintenance Jay Klingel noted. “The spirit of this award is to recognize people in the Darden community who the Second Year class feels have added the most value to our lives as students,” Andrew G. Crowley, Executive Vice President, Darden Student Association, said. “We would like to thank everyone in the Darden Community whose efforts are often unrecognized, even though their contributions make our days brighter and improve our lives.”

The Thomas Jefferson Chapter of Preservation Virginia/APVA awarded its 2010 Preservation Project of the Year award to the Office of the Architect and Facilities Management for the restoration of Pavilion X. The award was presented November 7 at the annual meeting of the Thomas Jefferson Chapter. Representing Facilities Management were Supervisory Historic Preservation Architect Joseph Lahendro and Carpenter Lead Greg Bugg of Project Services.

In announcing the award, Daniel Bluestone, Associate Professor and Director of the Historic Preservation Program of the UVa School of Architecture, noted that the Awards Committee “was particularly impressed with the depth of your research and the rigor of your analysis and the strength of your commitment to thinking in fresh ways about historic preservation in the Academical Village. Your work continues to provide an extraordinary model of stewardship, education, and heritage conservation.”

Landscape Division is carrying out the University’s largest single tree replacement effort in over 30 years, addressing the loss of trees to weather events, construction impact and natural causes.

Landscape Superintendent Rich Hopkins and Landscape Projects Supervisor Todd Romanac worked with The Office of the Architect for the University to identify trees lost, and to develop the appropriate plans for species and exact location.

Todd Romanac and Helen Wilson of The Office of the Architect make site visits to designate the actual placing of the trees throughout Grounds. Digging permits must be obtained for every tree or grouping of trees. Todd creates a computerized map to document the replacements’ locations and species which are typically the same as the original trees. As of late December, he had researched and ordered over 215 trees in more than 150 varieties from various nurseries to ensure top quality. Trees are delivered to a thickly mulched waiting area until Todd and Landscapers Wes Franklin, Mike Dillard and Kassim Hassan do the actual planting.
November 11: Thanks to Our Veterans

November 11 was Veterans Day. With most of Facilities Management gathering that day for our annual BBQ, we took the opportunity to recognize our colleagues for their military service and to say thank you.

HSPP: (seated L/R) Reginald Rose-Army, Steven Bunch-Air Force, Dean Lackey-Navy (standing L-R) Dudley Green, Marines; Aubrey Hipp, Air Force; McCormick Zone’s Dale Gilliam, Army; Larry Garton, Air Force.

Operations & Maintenance: (seated L-R) Linwood W. Marshall, Air Force; R. Gregory Bugg, Navy; (standing L-R) Mike Daddezio, Navy; Thomas Evatt, Army; James A. Copeland, Jr., Army; Ed de Bary, Army National Guard; Greg Madden, Army; Michael Clements, Army National Guard.

Energy & Utilities: (seated L-R) Happy Durham, Navy; Duane Hogge, Coast Guard; Kevin Miller, Marines; (standing L-R) Roger Glass, David Jones, Marines & Navy Seabees; Mark Roach, Marines; FP&C’s Kenn McDermott, Navy; James A. Jackson, Jr., Navy; Ryan Taylor, Air Force; Ed Brooks, Navy.

Operations & Maintenance: (seated L-R) Blair Hawkins, Army; David Roberts, Air Force; James Dowell, Marines; Roland Taylor, Army; Rufus Rush, Army & National Guard; (standing L-R) Joseph L. Jefferson, Air Force; Pat O’Gorman, Navy; Martin Sheedy, Navy; (Top) Richard Reuschling, Marines; Wayne Harlow, Marines; Marcellus Dent Jr., Army.


Special thanks to other Facilities Management employees who are service veterans but were unavailable for photos.

Many thanks to Major Bridget Kroger of The Judge Advocate General’s School for loaning the flag for this photo opportunity.

And special thanks to all U.S. Veterans and active duty service members.

Keith Woodson Photos
Bill Siebert retired December 17 after 10 years of service and many contributions as part of the team which is known as Utility Systems Distribution. From his first day here at UVA, his colleagues said Bill proved to be a real asset to his team, Facilities Management and the greater UVA community. He brought extensive experience to UVA where his work has been singularly marked by extraordinary contributions, achievement, and service. He received several recognition awards for notable contributions. In a letter of congratulations, Chief Facilities Officer Don Sundgren praised Bill’s positive attitude and “can do” approach, noting that Facilities Management had come to rely on his professionalism, knowledge, quality of work, and ability to meet tight schedules and deadlines in a cost effective manner.

Joseph R. Jackson (center front with his wife Katherine and surrounded by his colleagues) retired December 17 after more than 33 years of service to the University. He joined Buildings and Grounds in 1973 as a temporary employee; in 1974, Joseph moved to Housekeeping where he was promoted to supervisor. In 1982, he was inducted into the University’s first class of Apprentices and graduated in 1986 as a licensed electrician. Since then, Joseph “likely worked in every building on UVa Grounds,” Don Sundgren noted in a letter of congratulations. For several years, Joseph worked with the electrical retro fit crew changing out ballast and fluorescent tubes, a project which earned the University several awards for energy conservation from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Energy Star Program. Joseph also received recognition in 2004 for installing new lighting in the Baseball stadium’s practice area in very cold conditions and getting the project completed before the spring season.

Perspective  Fourth Quarter 2010
The Annual Fall BBQ: Celebrating Service to the Community & Welcoming New Team Members

November 11 was perfect for Facilities Management to celebrate a successful conclusion to the Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign (CVC) with a festive BBQ. Thanks to the hundreds of Facilities Management employees who donated just over $19,600 to CVC!

We were happy to share the event with UVa Housing Division staff who would be joining Facilities Management’s Operations & Maintenance (O&M) on January 3. (Read about that in Mike Merriam’s article on page 8.) The following photos show a few of our almost 1,000 colleagues enjoying the food and camaraderie.
HSPP’s New Maintenance Program Expedites Room Repairs

HSPP Zone 1 has developed a streamlined routine maintenance program for ICU and acute care rooms, according to Mark Utz, HSPP Deputy Director for Operations. Scheduling repairs takes careful coordination and flexibility: as soon as the room is available, HSPP crews are dispatched to find and correct all the issues with the room. And a room’s availability is not determined until the morning the patient is discharged but HSPP Zone 1 has rooms repaired, cleaned and back in service by 3:30 that afternoon. The team effort from many different departments across the medical center has enabled this process to be successful.

Repairs for the ICU rooms are managed by Carpenter Supervisor Otis Hackett, Mason Plasterer Supervisor Sherwood Gibson and Painter Supervisor Kenny Williams and their employees. Richard Barbour’s Zone 1 maintenance staff also responds to complete preventative maintenance (PM) for the room. These older ICU rooms need more repairs because they have not been recently renovated. More cabinet repairs are needed, along with painting and flooring repairs. The team also maintains the medical gas outlets as part of the repairs.

For Acute Care rooms, Mason Plasterer Mike Meade and Carpenter “Mac” Gowin coordinate with other Zone 1 maintenance staff to complete preventative maintenance on available rooms. Renovation crews also coordinate and install new computer brackets and power locations for EPIC (Electronic Medical Record).

What Health System administrators are saying about this team approach:
ICU room cleaning and repairs went well... The room looks great. I really appreciate all the effort and attention that has been given to this. We are truly making a difference for our patients. Thanks to an amazing team effort. - Scott M. Cronquist, MSN, RN, NEA-BC Administrator, Adult Inpatient & Emergency Services, UVa Health System

Other Events:
Supporting Our Community, Celebrating the Season

On December 3, thanks to generous support from Facilities Management and friends at the Cardiovascular Research Center, 125 toys, $250 in cash/checks and three bicycles were donated to the annual Toy Lift. Brenda Buttner, Tim Gilmer and Martin Rush packed the gifts that will go to needy children in Central Virginia.

Among the donors who supported Blood Drives at Facilities Management this Fall were HVAC Supervisor Felix Crawford and Jason Floyd of Operations & Maintenance, and Sarita Herman of the Resource Center.

Right photo: The Annual Shop Holiday Lunch December 16 was festive as ever with the good company of retirees such as Tommie Collier (second from R) and his grandson. Helping to set the feast table were (L-R) Painter Michael Houchens, Darlene Webb of E&H, Roofer George Prokopie and Brenda Buttner of Operations & Maintenance. Hardly anyone seemed to notice the snow falling outside at the time.
Compliments from Customers...

To Editha Galos who does a fantastic job for us every day in the Brown Science & Engineering Library. She has worked hard to make sure our library is well-maintained, clean and ready for the 4,500+ students who enter our library each day. Editha always gets her job done quickly, efficiently and thoroughly. Her work ethic is amazing. If ever we have a request, she does it promptly and cheerfully. We are incredibly fortunate to have her on the housekeeping staff in Clark Hall. --Kathryn D. Soule, Ph.D., Coordinator for Outreach & Public Service, Charles L. Brown Science & Engineering Library

To Spike Weeks and Bruce Jackson of Construction Project Management: Compliments to you on the absolutely wonderful job with the recent installation of new carpeting in our office. The expediency of the work allowed us to resume normal operations and bask in the new look of our office in only two days. --Nicole L. Marrs, Office/Program Coordinator, Carter G. Woodson Institute for African-American and African Studies

To HVAC Tech Scott Harrison for his efforts to improve the operation of the steam boiler system at Aurbach Research Building. For some time, we have had problems with two specific steam boilers and solutions seemed complicated and costly. Scott has taken it upon himself to make a difference. He was able to envision a better way to stabilize and support the linkage system on these boilers, and because of his special skill set, also able to fabricate the bracket required to hold everything in place. This work was completed on the first boiler as a test case last week. This change has made a huge difference in the operation of the boiler. He plans to make the same changes to the second boiler. If the improvement in operation of the boilers continues, the $8000 rebuild should not be needed. Scott, and people like him who go the extra mile to make things better, are who make Facilities Management and the University in general a great place to work. --Mark Conner, Supervisor HSPP Zone 4

To Mario Biazon and Jannie Fincham for their quick response with our leaking water cooler and wet carpet. It was much appreciated. Many thanks! --Pamela M. Hoover, Department of Environmental Sciences, Clark Hall

To Construction Project Manager Supervisor Spike Weeks, Construction Project Manager Dale Newton, Historical Facilities Maintenance Cost Center 4, Maintenance Plumbers Cost Center 26 and Maintenance Electricians Cost Center 27 for their great work on the upgrades in Morea House. It has been a wonderful updating of this historic home. Sorry the showers were such an ordeal, but the new installations are much better and worth the hassle (easy for me to say since your guys had to endure the hassle). Compliments, too, for the wonderful attitudes and professionalism the Facilities Management crew displayed. Everyone was polite and considerate.... It was a great experience, and I don’t think most people who live through remodels can say that. --Brad Brown, Associate Professor, McIntire School of Commerce

To General Services Supervisor Todd Romanac and crew members Tim Gilmer, Martin Rush and Greg Madden: As always, the crew did a great job – please thank them profusely on my behalf. I am more grateful than I can say. --Josephine Bigelow, Property & Facilities Specialist, Office of University Development

To Building Services team member Kim Morris: Normally when Kim cleans my office, I will leave so I won’t be in the way. Today, while she was cleaning, I returned early and was astounded to see her cleaning my chair mat. I immediately told her I could do that but she said, “No, I always clean the mats.” I truly feel that she went above and beyond to clean my office. She is such a pleasant person, always greeting everyone with a smile. Kim is a true asset to have. Many thanks for all that Facilities does! --Rayshon Tibbs, ITC Human Resources Analyst

To Victoria Briggs, Tyrone Hughes, Melvin Piet, Michael Robinson, Louise Tolliver, Supervisor Jimmy Sayre and Housekeeping Zone Manager Reggie McGhee: Commendations on a job well done with the floor cleaning in the Center for Biological Timing. We realize that we are probably the most demanding lab with the strictest time restraints, yet you never fail to complete our requests in a most timely manner. We appreciate all that you do in helping us keep our laboratory areas clean. You are a great asset to Facilities Management. Your work does not go unnoticed. --Denise T. Holmes, Menaker Lab Manager
Bernie Farish of the General Services Crew died October 25, 2010. Bernie received many outstanding performance awards for his excellent work including service during the infamous December 2009 blizzard. During his career with General Services, Bernie was often complimented for his dependable judgment on complicated moves ranging from rare art exhibits to expensive astronomy equipment and other costly items. In 2006 during the Madison Hall flood recovery, Bernie’s good attitude, common sense and hard work prevented further damage. He was complimented for his assistance with UVa’s first Energy Awareness Day in 1996. Bernie stayed current with his safety training and certifications for various equipment and did excellent work, performing all tasks ‘in the best interest of the customer,’ a colleague said. In 2005, Superintendent Richard Hopkins wrote, “Bernie is one of our best. A steady worker, he looks for ways to improve work methods.” Bernie had worked at UVa through Albemarle High School’s work-study program since 1976 in food services and later as a trades helper. Compliments dating back over 30 years described Bernie as conscientious, pleasant and cooperative. “Bernie was always here when we needed him the most,” General Services Supervisor Todd Romanac said. “He always stayed late for special events and he was one of our most dependable employees for nighttime snow removal. We will miss his experience and skill in moving large equipment and extremely difficult items, but we will also miss his sense of humor and friendship.

Noted with Regret

Congratulations on Professional & Educational Achievements

HSPP Zone 1’s Kevin Henderson earned his HVAC master’s license in October. Kevin is a 2009 graduate of UVa’s Apprenticeship Program.

HSPP Carpenter Phil Kleinheinz, who is working toward his Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies through UVa’s School of Continuing & Professional Studies, was recognized in November for his 3.94 grade-point average and inducted into the Golden Key International Honour Society (open to students in the top 15 percent of their class) and awarded one of two $1,000 Golden Key scholarships. That was soon followed by his second scholarship from the Bernard Osher Foundation, worth $1,600. Both scholarships will help pay for books and tuition for the spring semester. Read more

Facilities Management’s November 10 graduates of Essential Work Skills were Victoria Briggs, Marcellus Drakeford, Melissa Eldridge, Nellie Hoffman, Catherine Miles, and Mary Ragland of Building Services; Alex Jackson and Ibrahim Mapre of Landscape; and William Myers of Recycling. Essential Work Skills Program is a series of 10 classes designed to help employees develop the skills and competencies necessary to be successful at the University of Virginia. Successful completion of the program earns the employee a certificate of achievement and a one-time, base salary increase of $600 per year. Active participation in classes is expected. More information is available here on UHR’s website.

HSPP Completes Innovations and Renovations for Safety

At the recommendation of the Facilities Management Safety officials, wooden ramps for access to machinery on Jordan Hall roof were recently replaced with sturdy galvanized metal ramps designed and built by HSPP Renovations staff Tom Dean (left) and Brandon Garrison. In the adjacent photo, they are shown making final adjustments to the new railings which were added to meet OSHA regulations. Safety Officer Mark Breeden noted that the design and materials make the roof access safer, particularly when mechanics have to navigate the area during snow or rain. This is just one of several safety projects built by the HSPP Renovations staff.

Perspective Fourth Quarter 2010
Operations & Maintenance Reorganization, Consolidation

By Mike Merriam, Associate Director for Maintenance

There are two dramatic changes taking place within Operations & Maintenance: The first involves reorganization, the second a consolidation.

Reorganization

On December 6, a new maintenance zone was created to serve the University’s Central Grounds. Maintenance zones consist of the customers and buildings in a distinct geographic area, typically containing around 1 million square feet of built space. The types of work done by zone workers include plumbing, electrical, minor carpentry and painting, and heating/cooling service. By dedicating a workforce to a particular zone, services can be provided more efficiently, and a relationship of ownership and trust is fostered.

This new Central Grounds Zone extends north to south from the Rotunda to the South Lawn complex and east to west from Hospital Drive to McCormick Road. Within it are the most historic buildings on Grounds as well as the most modern, and the activities that take place there are central to the mission of the University. From anthropology at Brooks Hall to environmental science at Clark Hall, the buildings themselves are as diverse as the programs they contain.

Leading the Central Grounds Zone is Ryan Taylor, a former project manager with Facilities Planning & Construction and a graduate of UVA’s civil engineering program. Before coming to work at UVA, Ryan served as a major in the US Air Force with responsibilities for air base facilities. Joining Ryan are two veteran supervisors, Darrell Napier and Gary Harris, and newly promoted supervisor Randy Spencer. Darrell has been supervising a crew of carpenters, masons, and painters specially trained in and dedicated to the preservation of historic structures within the Academical Village. Gary is a veteran HVAC supervisor who, along with his crew of mechanics, has experience with many of the buildings within the new zone. Randy has 20 years in the electrical trade, 10 of them here at UVA where he has demonstrated the technical and leadership skills this zone requires. Their combined zone workforce of 25 trades professionals will be centrally located in the Amphitheater.

Consolidation

On January 3, 2011, the maintenance and housekeeping employees of UVA’s Housing Division (HD) will be joining Facilities Management (FM). This workforce of 116 experienced, dedicated professionals will become part of our 1000-plus family, bringing with them an affection for their six thousand residents and an extensive knowledge of over two million square feet of dorms, apartments, and houses.

Leading this group is Burt Joseph, Housing’s Associate Director of Facilities, and Maintenance Zone Superintendents Doug Demuth and Jeff Leake. Their leadership team includes two maintenance supervisors, five housekeeping supervisors, and separate supervisors over a paint crew, an access control group, and a supplies store. Rounding out that team are two service desk coordinators, a fire safety officer, and a workplace safety coordinator. The goal of both organizations is to carry out a consolidation with as little change in work processes as possible. Fortunately, the vast majority of HD employees who will be transferred to FM already work within an organization that reports to Burt Joseph. With few exceptions, these men and women will continue to work for the same supervisors and superintendents as before. They will also continue to work in the same facilities, report to and work out of the same offices and shops, use the same work order and time reporting systems, and use all the same tools, equipment, vehicles, and uniforms as they had before the changeover. There will be changes behind the scenes that involve finances and organization designations, but these will have little or no impact on individual employees.

Associate Director for Maintenance Mike Merriam will lead the group; Burt Joseph will report directly to Mike as part of Operations & Maintenance (O&M) headed by O&M Director Jay Klingel. Everyone at Facilities Management and Housing Division is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that this consolidation will bring in the new year.

Here’s another benefit to the consolidation with Housing:

Brydie Ragan, who managed training initiatives for Housing, has joined FM Human Resources & Training team. She will be handling the responsibilities of Training Administrator for FM, including responsibility for many of our existing training programs such as GED/ESL and Trades Recertification as well as possible new training opportunities.

Brydie brings many skills and extensive experience related to training and education, which she gained while working in both corporate and college environments. She worked in higher education as a student Learning Specialist and Interim Learning Center Director at Penn State University. Brydie has owned a design and communications business, and had marketing and training positions in the computer industry. If you have training needs, ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact Brydie directly at 3-8720 or by e-mail bar6c@virginia.edu.