The Battle Building, which celebrated its grand opening June 14, is the newest, and largest, addition to the UVA Health System in the last 25 years. The building houses the new UVA Outpatient Surgery Center and all of the UVA Children’s Hospital outpatient clinics under one roof. There are over 33 children’s specialty clinics, including therapies, infusion, urology, dentistry and orthopedics. “The planning and design of the Battle Building was such that it stressed bringing care to the patient rather than the patient going to care,” according to Senior FM Project Manager Mashal Afredi Hartman, noting that these specialty clinics were previously located in five different geographic locations and families had to travel by car to get to each clinic. The Outpatient Surgery Center, which is open to patients of all ages, will replace the current surgery center and will have more than twice the amenities and operating rooms. The Battle Building project – which started design in late 2008 – has involved staff from various university divisions, including UVA Health System, Emergency Management, University Building Official and employees from multiple departments within Facilities Management. Over 1,000 people have worked on the project since the summer of 2008 – including approximately 400 people from across UVA who participated regularly in informing the design and over 600 people who were direct consultants or contractors on the building, according to Mashal. The Battle Building is named for Mrs. Barry Battle and her late husband Bill Battle, who have been very active participants with the UVA Children’s Hospital Committee for over 30 years.
At the June 25 Apprentice & Education Recognition Ceremony, UVA officials, Facilities Management employees and their families and friends gathered in Alumni Hall to recognize the accomplishments of 36 staff members. Chief Facilities Officer Don Sundgren spoke to the crowd, congratulating the group for their hard work and emphasizing the importance of staying safe on the job. Later in the ceremony, the 2014 Apprentice Graduates welcomed the new group of Apprentice Inductees into the program by shaking their hands and offering words of encouragement. Pictured (left) is Electrical Apprentice Graduate Paul Norford congratulating the inductees, from right to left, Orlando Watkins (Plumber), Dawn Catlett (Plumber), Matthew Taylor (Plumber), Jared Martin (HVAC), Chauncey Johnson (HVAC), Ryan Washington (HVAC), Christian Cavanaugh (Carpenter), Vu “Andy” Nguyen (Carpenter), Trevor Harlow (Electrical), Chelsea Short (Electrical) and Dwayne Wood (Electrical).

The 14 apprentices graduating in 2014 include, from left, Matt Herndon (Carpentry), Cody Borrelli (Electrical), Les Givens (Plastering), Mariah Kurpel (Plumber), Dexter Breeden (Plumber), Aaron Davis (Plumber), Spiro Jokic (Electrical), Brandon Williams (HVAC), Paul Norford (Electrical), Mark Bowman (HVAC), Dustin Griffin (HVAC) and Daisy Dejesus (Plastering). Graduates who could not attend include Chris Toney (Carpentry) and Joseph Brinson (HVAC).

Six colleagues were recognized for earning degrees from various universities during the ceremony. Shown here are, from left, Facilities Management Human Resources & Training Director Rebecca Leinen, UVA Vice President for Management and Budget Colette Sheehy, Director of Health System Physical Plant John Rainey, UVA Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer Susan Carkeek, Randy Speight who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Western Governors University, Charlottesville City Schools Adult Learning Center Program Coordinator Susan Erno, Philip Kleinheinz who earned a Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies from UVA, Chief Facilities Officer Don Sundgren, Jeffrey Ferguson who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Averett University, Michael Gibson who earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Averett University, Director of Project Services Mark Stanis, Forrest Johnson who earned a Master of Public Health Preparedness from Penn State College of Medicine, Shaun McCready who earned a Master of Science in Education & Human Development from George Washington University and Director of Energy & Utilities and Acting Director of Operations & Maintenance Cheryl Gomez.
Apprentice & Education Recognition Ceremony 2014

GED & ESL classes have been a long-standing tradition at Facilities Management thanks to the support from Facilities Management Human Resources & Training in collaboration with UVa Human Resources. Shown here, from left, UVa Vice President for Management and Budget Colette Sheehy, Charlottesville City Schools Adult Learning Center Program Coordinator Susan Erno, Abdalla Mohamed who earned his GED, Chief Facilities Officer Don Sundgren, Virgie Chambers who earned the Thomas Jefferson Adult Education and Career Award, UVa Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer Susan Carkeek and Director of Energy & Utilities and Acting Director of Operations & Maintenance Cheryl Gomez. Honorees unable to attend include Lois Jones who earned her GED and Voices of Adult Learners essay competition winners Mary Jasper for her essay “A Thank You Is Enough” and Joseph Ribero for his essay “Dates are Sweet.”

Projects in Progress

Rugby Road Renovations

The Rugby Road Office Building construction project is an example of Facilities Management employees across multiple departments working together. This effort is UVa’s largest in-house construction project to date with an expected completion date of January 2015. On May 28, staff from Project Services and Energy & Utilities were performing a variety of tasks at the building, which previously served as faculty and graduate housing and is being renovated to create office space. Over the past few months, teams have worked on the following tasks: pouring the basement slab, plaster repairs, roughing in the mechanical, electrical and plumbing lines and completion of the elevator shaft and the roof HVAC dormer, according to the Construction Project Status Reports released by Project Manager James Zehmer and Construction Administration Manager Steve Ratliff.

Those working on the Rugby Road renovation in late May include (clockwise from top right), Mason Plasterer Jason McGann, Masonry Worker Lance Rothgeb and Mason Wilbert Critzer; Senior Instrumentation & Control Technician Mike Rosson and Instrumentation & Controls Technician Rona Rose; Trades Utility Senior Worker Bonnie Barnett; and Electrician Paul Norford and Electrician Lead Kyle Jennings.

Photos by Betty Wooding

Perspective Second Quarter 2014
Ruffner Hall – home to the Curry School of Education – recently underwent an 18-month renovation completed in June. The 85,000 gross square foot, four story building received mechanical, electrical and plumbing upgrades, as well as replacement of the roof and most interior finishes. Various modifications to the building interior will achieve ADA compliance. In addition, the building’s interior corridor (previously housing office space) has been reopened and a new entrance has been created that opens to the courtyard at Bavaro Hall. “The intent is to improve the overall space use in Ruffner Hall for current and future academic programs, improve the traffic flow between Ruffner Hall and Bavaro Hall and create a better sense of community for people to work, meet and socialize,” according to Project Manager Lynn Rush and Senior Construction Manager Richard Sergi.

For updates on FP&C projects, visit the Facilities Planning & Construction website

Summer Projects Around Grounds

Masonry workers assist with the creation of new windows at Garrett Hall that will add light to offices at the front of the building. Mason Senior Glenn Tolbert and Mason Plasterer Daisy Dejesus (above) collect bricks to be installed around the window frames, while Mason Assistant Matthew Proffitt (below) installs a piece of angled steel to hold these bricks in place. The project also includes the creation of skylights and new flooring, ceilings and lights, according to Pat Tedesco, who is serving as project manager.

Electrician Assistant Kyle McCauley (above, left) digs a trench for cables that will serve new street lamps to be installed in the Dell Bank Raingarden (above, right). The raingarden, located near Ruffner Hall, will serve as a parking lot with special landscaping and drainage features to allow rainwater to filter back into the water table, reducing stormwater runoff, according to documents about the project. Dale Newton is serving as project manager.

Electrician Benji Boatwright (in blue) chats with contractors from Tradesmen International about plans for the renovation of Thornton Stacks, which has most recently served as a study space for students in the School of Engineering and Applied Science but was originally home to the school’s library. The room will receive upgraded lighting and seating, as well as the creation of collaborative work spaces with TV screens and white boards, according to a story in UVA Today. The project manager is Shannon Barras-Espie.
One June 26, the entire University of Virginia community participated in a state wide effort to reduce electric demand called the 2014 UVa Saves Hour, according to Sustainability Outreach and Engagement Manager Nina Morris who helped coordinate the effort. This program, also known as the Demand Response Program, is designed to help prevent electric grid emergencies during the peak electric demand times in the summer months. It is a practice run so that in case of an energy emergency, UVa will be prepared to reduce its consumption from electric utilities. From 2-3 p.m. on June 26, the university was able to reduce its electricity consumption by 12 megawatts by turning off unnecessary equipment and switching several heating and chilling plants and certain buildings to generators. All employees contributed by switching off nonessential items at their work spaces including fans, lights, cell phone chargers and printers. This year’s electricity savings was one megawatt greater than the amount conserved during last year’s exercise. “We have increased the goal every year for UVa Saves Hour,” Nina said. The goal for 2015 will be set at a later date.

UVa School of Nursing Dean Dorrie Fontaine (left) and Dr. Randy Canterbury (right), senior associate dean for education at UVa School of Medicine, spoke at FP&C’s third quarterly Spark Session.

FP&C’s third quarterly Spark Session featured guest speakers from the School of Medicine, the School of Nursing and the Faculty & Employee Assistance Program. The event took place in the Learning Studio of the Medical Education Building and included a tour of the Simulation Space at the Nursing School. Dr. Randy Canterbury, senior associate dean for education at the School of Medicine, started the presentation by speaking about the meeting space and the Medical School’s work to change its curriculum to better prepare its students for their work environments. Dorrie Fontaine, dean of the School of Nursing, spoke to the group about compassionate care in 21st century health care.

Noted with Regret

Richard Stulting, who worked at FM for 36 years, died June 13, 2013. Richard worked as a plumber steamfitter at Health System Physical Plant. “Your contributions have helped make UVa one of the nation’s most noted historic sites as well as academic and health system models,” Deputy CFO Rick Rice wrote in a letter at the time of his retirement.

David Watkins, who worked as a construction project manager for FP&C Health System, died May 9. During his time at FP&C, he was particularly proud to have overseen construction of the Emily Couric Cancer Center. “He was highly respected and liked by all who worked with him,” CFO Don Sundgren wrote in a letter recognizing his service. “David served us well and we are grateful for his energy and dedication.”

Delma Shifflett, who worked as a painter and mason plasterer, died on June 2. Delma retired in 1999 after 23 years at Facilities Management. “Mr. Shifflett’s expertise was important to the maintenance and renovation of the columns, walls and exteriors of historic and highly visible sites throughout the university,” according to a newsletter article about his retirement.

Goldie Baber, who retired in 1990, died May 16. Goldie started working at Facilities Management in 1968 and at the time of his retirement he served as the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Supervisor.

Sanford Gardner Sr., who worked at Facilities Management for 28 years, died July 19. He started at UVa in 1968, retiring from his position as Highway Equipment Operator C in 1996.

Sign Up for GED/ESL Classes

Interested in General Education Development (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes? Sign up continues through August. Classes run from Sept. 15-May 14 and take place during working hours so employees must request their supervisor’s approval.

Questions? Call HR&T at 243-0573 or stop by the office at 575 Alderman Rd., Leake Building, Room 125.

Required placement exams take place on these dates:

- **GED Class Placement Exam**: September 10 from 2-3:30 p.m. at O’Hill Forum.
- **ESL Class Placement Exam**: September 11 from 2-3:30 p.m. at O’Hill Forum.
Celebrating Your Dedication to the University

40 and 45 Years of Service
Virgie Chambers (August 1973) and Larry A. Brooks (February 1969)

35 Year Employees

30 Year Employees

25 Year Employees

Employees with 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 years of service were saluted June 9 at the John Paul Jones Arena. Facilities Management employees attending the event included, (from left) Carpenter Robert Campbell and HVAC Engineering Technician Larry Dorrier and their guests; Fiscal Technician Senior Christine Eppard and Plumber Sandy Gardner; and Housekeeping Supervisors Michael Fitzgerald and Judy Kingrea posing with one of the classic cars on display.
Congratulations to 132 Employees for 2,490 Years of Service

45 Years
Operations & Maintenance
Larry Brooks

40 Years
Operations & Maintenance
Virgie Chambers
Michael Crawford
Robert Early

35 Years
Energy & Utilities
Thomas McRay
Barbara Schroeder

Health System Physical Plant
Steven Pease

Operations & Maintenance
Theodore Buck
Ernestine Burruss
Robert Campbell
Walter Dorrier
William Eppard
Sanford Gardner
Phyllis Gough
Robert Gray
Michael Johnson
Rufus Rush
Claude Shifflett
Gary Shifflett

30 Years
Finance
Christine Eppard

Health System Physical Plant
Josh Beverly
Robert Siira

Operations & Maintenance
Roger Deane
Douglas DeMuth

Sanafe Hocker
Mark Madison
Allison Pipkins
Thomas Quarles
Ernest Scott
William Twigg
Leonard Weeks

25 Years
Facilities Planning & Construction
William Martin

Health System Physical Plant
David Morris
Reginald Rose
Mark Stinnie
John Trainum
Keith Tyler

Operations & Maintenance
Robert Bugg
Michael Fitzgerald
Victoria Hefflin
Peggy Napper

20 Years
Energy & Utilities
Mikel Clements

Facilities Planning & Construction
Stephan Nelson

Health System Physical Plant
Dennis Acree
Larry Garton
Harry Marshall

Information Systems
Michael Gray
Gary Richardson
Wei Sun

10 Years
Facilities Planning & Construction
Charlotte Dickerson
David Fiero

Energy & Utilities
Nicholas Bartley
Dustin Buck
Adam Proffitt
Jonathan Ragland
Virginia Sanford

Human Resources & Training
Stephanie Burnette

Facilities Planning & Construction
Stephanie Burnette

Operations & Maintenance
Darryl Barnes
Robert Breckenridge
Howard Bryant
Scott Burns
Baocun Chen
Gregory Clements
Alton Crawford
Denis Morris
Steven Swingler
James Wright

15 Years
Energy & Utilities
Lee Meadows

Facilities Planning & Construction
Kimberly Breeden
Stephen Payne

Health System Physical Plant
Mark Evans
Hugh Garrison
Douglas Rush

Information Systems
Michael Gilbert
Huilan Li

Operations & Maintenance
Donnie Armstrong
Joseph Banawoe
Victoria Briggs
Anthony Campbell
Michael Canellas
Thomas Carey
Sallie Carter
Franklin Chapman
Carolyn Dudley
Simenesh Gebreselasse
Duane Gough
Travis Henderson
Mira Macakanja
Robin Martin
Troy Miller
Kathy Moon
Lawrence Morris
Sandra Morris
Gulmaky Najrabi
Jeremiah Schwartz
Jamie Shifflett
Jeffrey Shifflett
David Simpson
Rodney Smith
Jason Stanton
Mary Steppe
Shawn Tindall
Brian Tinnell
Roland Von der Muhll
Frederick Woodson

Photo by Betty Wooding
Housekeeping Lead Worker Larry Brooks shows off his gift and a root beer float during the Annual Service Awards on June 9.
Best Wishes for a Long & Happy Retirement

John Stewart of Operations & Maintenance retired May 18 after 30 years as a landscaper. Pictured is Landscape Supervisor Chris Ward (right) presenting John a plaque honoring his service. Since 1981, John has ensured UVA Grounds were in top condition. “During snow storms, John could always be counted on to work through the night ensuring roads and parking lots were clear for staff and students the next morning,” said Chris. “John’s positive attitude and willingness to take on any challenge will be missed and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service.”

Sidney Taylor of Operations & Maintenance retired May 18 after 36 years. Sidney started out as a painter in 1978 and moved to the roofing crew when the paint shop was dissolved. Sidney was well-known and well thought of at Facilities Management, according to Roofer Supervisor Shannon Wood. He did a lot of mechanic work on the side and at one point or another he has helped just about everyone in the department with a car problem, according to Shannon. “When he was not working here or there his passion is trout fishing. Any spare time that is where he is going to be – always with his best friend Sage his Golden Retriever who usually ended up with more fish than Sidney did,” said Shannon.

James Copeland of Operations & Maintenance retired on June 27 after more than 34 years. James started at UVA in 1979, joining the first class of the Apprenticeship Program in 1982. After taking electrical classes at PVCC and graduating from the program, James served as an electrician working on many of the most high profile renovation projects, including the Colonnade Club. James’ work helped UVA win several awards from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Hugh Garrison, Jr. of Health System Physical Plant retired July 13. Pictured is Hugh’s wife Laura Garrison, a Customer Service Representative at Facilities Management, congratulating him on his 16 years of service. Hugh, who first started in 1998, served as an electrician senior. Over the years, he has received recognition for his keen eye for detail that has prevented catastrophic failures and for working early mornings, nights and weekends to meet challenging deadlines and to guarantee critical operations remained in service during severe storms.

Thor Evans of Facilities Planning & Construction retired June 29. Since Thor started as a supervisory senior project manager in 2006, he directed and managed a significant group of Health System Capital Projects, including the Old Medical School Anesthesiology Laboratory Renovation, the MR-4 Research Magnet Installation, the Ivy Translational Research Building Planning Study and numerous others. “Thor’s outstanding project management expertise, attention to process and detail, and strong leadership are recognized as serving him and the organization exceptionally well during his tenure,” FP&C Health System Division Director George Southwell wrote in a congratulatory letter.

Johnny Johnson of Work Management retired July 25. Johnny started as a facilities inspector in 2011. During his years of service, he performed facility inspections with a critical and thorough approach, which resulted in many safety related repairs and documentation of crucial deficiencies. This information helped better inform both the Deferred Maintenance program and planning for capital renovations. His recommendations were sought out on many projects, from concrete settlement and pavement issues, to masonry concerns. “[Your positive] attributes combined with your personable character and humorous tales of life experiences have made a lasting impression throughout the university,” Maintenance Programs Manager Shaun McCready wrote in a letter recognizing his retirement.

Retiring Soon?

If you are planning to retire or resign, contact Facilities Management HR&T at 982-5895 or stop by the HR&T Office at 575 Alderman Road, Leake Building, Room 124. See more at the HR&T website.
Best Wishes for a Long & Happy Retirement

Rufus Rush of Project Services retired July 27 after more than 31 years. Rufus started as a housekeeping supervisor in 1979, later joining the Asbestos Abatement crew as a plumber steamfitter and eventually being promoted to asbestos supervisor. During his retirement party, Specialty Trades Superintendent Mike Gibson presented Rufus with a photo frame wrapped in paper stating “No Danger, No Asbestos!” Over the years, Rufus has been involved in the abatement of many miles of piping insulation in the various steam tunnels around Grounds and Blue Ridge Hospital and the reconstruction of the Pavilion balconies.

Betty Wooding of Human Resources & Training retired July 27 after 27 years. Presenting Betty with a special edition of the newsletter Perspective with the headline “Betty Has Left the Grounds” is HR&T Director Rebecca Leinen. Betty first started out as a part-time editorial assistant in 1986 and eventually came on board full-time. Betty has told the story of the people and projects of FM through various capacities including the annual report, the quarterly newsletter Perspective, the bi-monthly flyer Fast Facts, wall displays, posters and brochures, which have won significant awards from the Virginia Press Women’s Association. In addition to photographing the many accomplishments of the department, Betty also served as part of the press pool during visits to the university by multiple U.S. Presidents and government officials.

Brad Wood of Energy & Utilities retired on July 27 after more than 35 years of service. Brad started out working at UVA as a store keeper helper from 1973-1975 and then later joined the university as an electrician in 1981. Over the years he has worked with the HVAC, Fire System, Electrical Distribution and Chiller Plant crews. “Of particular note is the way in which you and the rest of the team responsible for the North Grounds plant managed to keep those old chillers operating year in and year out. From custom parts for starters to piling on the putty, even the oldest of chillers are still making cold water,” Director of Energy & Utilities Cheryl Gomez wrote in a note recognizing his retirement.

Justin Callihan Named Outstanding Contributor Award Winner

Chiller Plant Engineer Justin H. Callihan is a 2014 recipient of the Leonard W. Sandridge Outstanding Contribution Award. Selected from nominations from the Academic Division, Medical Center and UVA’s College at Wise, the 11 winners attended a luncheon with the University Board of Visitors on June 6 where each received a $1,000 and a gift.

Since Justin joined UVA in 2008, he has worked to improve the reliability and energy efficiency of the university’s chiller plants, ensuring UVA is fully functional while stewarding our energy resources. Total energy consumption of the plants has been reduced by approximately 20 percent over the past two years, resulting in a savings of over $1 million annually. This reduction is largely a result of the initiatives Justin has led to upgrade equipment, replace controls and optimize the sequence of operations for the plants, according to comments written in letters of nomination for the award.

“While Justin has deep technical knowledge, skill and expertise, it is his gift as a leader that truly enables him to achieve such dramatic results. His ability to engage every member of the chiller plants team and to gain their trust and respect is truly exemplary,” according to a nomination letter. “He has offered something that only a few take the time to offer – namely, knowledge sharing. He empowers individuals to understand how things work and he teaches them to do things on their own... it’s a great example of leadership, education and mentorship, which are all vital for the workforce of the university to continue at the top level,” another nomination letter stated.

Read more at UVA Today.
Compliments from Customers

To Bushiri Salumu, Mary Steppe and PeeWee Morris: On behalf of the Horwitz Lab members, I want to thank the facilities crew for the wonderful work they did stripping and refinishing our floors. It was a pleasant surprise each morning to see what a meticulous and excellent job they did! We have received several compliments on how great the lab floors look and that would not have been possible without them. Please let each of them know we truly appreciate all their hard work and it does not go unnoticed. – Jessica Zareno, Lab Specialist II / Purchaser, Dept. of Cell Biology

To Edison Manampa and Viola Niyungeko: I just wanted to let you know what a great job I think you all did on the Biochemistry Office floors. The floors had a lot of smudges from all of the foot traffic and all the smudges are gone and the floors look like new. I don’t remember them ever looking so clean and shiny in the past six years I have been in the lab. – Lisa Gray, Laboratory Technician 2, and Debbie Sites, Program Administrator, Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics

To Barbara James: We would like to let you know how much we like our new housekeeper! She is very friendly and has been doing a fantastic job. Thank you so much! – Elizabeth Nelson, Laboratory Specialist, Dept. of Cell Biology

To Lobsang Tashi: Mr. Tashi is very nice and has been doing a wonderful job cleaning the lab on the 5th floor in Jordan Hall. Recently he polished the floor and everyone was very impressed with the great job he did. The polished floor made the lab look great and my lab members kept telling me the clean floor seemed to make working in the lab more enjoyable. – Chien Li, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pharmacology

To Facilities Management: I would like to thank you for the timely response to my request for assistance in cleaning the steps of the Rotunda. When I arrived there to set-up for an event, I discovered the steps and Lawn littered in broken glass, clothing and debris. Within 30 minutes, a crew arrived and helped pick up all of the trash, hosed down the stairs, cleared out the waste bins and even provided us with an additional waste receptacle which they returned to collect after our event. They were efficient and friendly and had everything back in order by the time our first guests arrived.

– Sarah Brown Rothschild, Director of Constituent Relations, UVa Medical Alumni Association and Medical School Foundation

To Wanda Snead, Wanda Anderson, Larry Brooks, Debra Hamm, Susie Jones, Norman Hughes, Darleen Houchens, Deneen Morris, Ernestine Burruss, Val Knapp and Mike Drake: I know how busy Facilities is at the end of the semester and around graduation so I would like to thank the men that blew away all the pollen from the trees that everyone was tracking into Gilmer Hall. This really helps to keep the floors clean. Many thanks to the service desk who helps with our calls all the time. I want you all to know that each one of you is appreciated for your patience, help and kindness. – Vivienne Spauls, Front Office Coordinator, Dept. of Psychology

Building Services State of the Union & Award Ceremony

At Building Services’ July 24 annual State of the Union event and “This Is How We Do It!” Award Ceremony, Associate Director Vibha Buckingham and Manager of Training and Development Sandra Smith recognized employees for their hard work over the past year. Chief Facilities Officer Don Sundgren and Director of Energy & Utilities and Acting Director of Operations & Maintenance Cheryl Gomez thanked the group for their efforts to ensure that all visitors get a good first impression of the buildings on Grounds. Staff receiving awards at the event included: Charles Agee, Abdul Amisi, Wanda Anderson, Divin Bwiseze, Sallie Carter, John Carey, Robert Early, Roland Gboley, Wee Wee (Sherwanda) James, Mary Jasper, Dedrick Johnson, James JJ Johnson, Roxie Kingston, Milton Mozie, Derrick Munchembe, Peggy Napper, Allen Peters, Sonny Rea, Connie Rodriguez, Mary Stewart, Mary Taylor, Robert Taylor and Fred Woodson. In addition to recognizing individual team members’ accomplishments, the program included a State of the Union address that highlighted past and present organizational-wide successes and upcoming plans for future initiatives. For 2014, the team celebrated improved quality inspection scores across all zones, the launch of installing GS-42 procedures in most academic buildings and the soon-to-be released new customer-service centric website.

Next year’s plans include more intensive team/supervisor development, assembling and training a new “SWAT” (Speed With All Tasks) team to address critical needs quickly, and taking on a greater leadership role in the national green cleaning arena.
Facilities Planning & Construction Director Annette Cyphers hosted an Electrical Stand Down Kick Off on July 16 to promote safety awareness, specifically electrical risks, and safety diligence through open dialogue about expectations and accident prevention. The event kicked off a series of stand downs on all active projects during the month of July where all workday activities are halted and workers gather to discuss safety issues. The goal of the stand downs is to establish a safety culture where precautions are seen as a priority and all employees feel empowered to stop work on a project if they feel an unsafe condition exists. Chief Facilities Officer Don Sundgren spoke to the audience – made up of Facilities Management staff and contractors – about the importance of accountability, commitment and expectations in relation to safety in an effort to make UVa the safest place to work. Officials emphasized that all accidents are preventable with some of the leading causes including stress (including lack of sleep or fatigue), lack of communication and inadequate planning. “It’s the responsibility of everyone to notice how your coworkers are working today. Don’t be afraid to tell your supervisor or ask how the person is feeling, because it could save your life,” says Safety Program Director Brian Shifflett.

The Facilities Management Diversity Team – which is committed to promoting a welcoming community that celebrates diversity – recently finished its analysis of the results of a survey that was completed by FM employees in April. The survey focused on our treatment of employees and our work to improve opportunities for all. The majority of respondents said they believe that FM does a good job creating an environment where if they were to experience harassment or discrimination, they would feel comfortable asking for help, and where inappropriate jokes and comments are not tolerated. The survey results also showed that almost a third of respondents felt that FM could improve its treatment of all employees with fairness and respect and its work to seek out multiple voices and perspectives about how we work. (The full survey results can be seen in the pictured graphic.)

The Diversity Team was first created in December 2013 to continue the efforts started by The Diversity Momentum Action Team and to foster greater respect and understanding of diversity within Facilities Management. Want to make FM a more diverse workplace? Submit your ideas by e-mail to HoosDiverse@virginia.edu and find out more information on the Diversity Team website.
Employees Celebrate Citizenship

Two custodial service workers recently celebrated obtaining U.S. citizenship. Pictured above, from left, Lobsang Tashi (who is originally from Tibet) receiving his certificate of citizenship on July 4 at Monticello; and Lobsang and Simenesh Gebreselasse (who is originally from Ethiopia and became a U.S. citizen in 2009) enjoying a July 11 gathering.

Facilities Management employees were treated to an Ice Cream Social & Car Show on June 19. Staff members in attendance included, clockwise from top center, Plumber Apprentice Caitlin Murtaugh, Plumber Lead Thomas Evatt and Plumber Supervisor Lee Bryant; Project Services Assistant Director for Construction Bree Knick and Program Support Technician Betty Bowman; Associate Director of Power and Light Sathish Anabathula and his family; and Housekeeping Worker Mary Ragland, Housekeeping Supervisor Phyllis Gough, Custodial Services Worker Swantain Reaves, Housekeeping Supervisor Wanda Lucas and Custodial Services Worker Dawa Tamang.

Save the Dates

August 18: FM Town Hall Meeting
Aug. 18-Oct. 11: UVA-WorkMed Biometric Screenings
August 26: UVA classes begin
September 1: Labor Day Holiday
September 10-11: GED/ESL Placement Exams (see p. 5)
October 7-8: Leadership Forum
October 9: FM Employee Appreciation BBQ