Lighting of the Lawn Unites Community

In preparation for the 14th annual Lighting of the Lawn ceremony, Facilities Maintenance staff — including Central Grounds Zone Superintendent Ryan Taylor, Electricians Austin Ricketson, Dave Roberts, Jeff Shifflett and Kirk Soderland, and Roofers George Prokopic, Jon Marston and Duane Taylor — installed more than 12,000 lights and seven 150-foot rope lights on December 1. Student volunteers assisted with preliminary sorting, moving and tying of the lights and with the installation of lights along the Lawn balconies and on the Pavilion columns. The 132 strings of lights and rope lights are connected by hundreds of yards of cords linking 18 different zones. During the December 4 event, the University community enjoyed music and treats prior to the illumination of the lights, which included a light show set to music that was created by an engineering student and a drama professor.

Final Phase of Alderman Road Residence Project

Alderman Road Residence Building 6 is part of the multiphase project started in 2006 to replace the 1960s-era Alderman Road area residence halls. The building — which is expected to be complete in the summer of 2015 — will house student rooms, lounges and study spaces for meeting and recreation, including office space for Housing and Residence Life staff. The building’s roof was recently completed with work continuing on window and storefront flashing, exterior brickwork and student room wall board. Future activities include chilled water piping tie-in and the installation of elevators, stairs and mechanical equipment. Senior Project Manager Kate Meyer and Supervisory Senior Construction Administration Manager Richard Sergi are both involved with this project.
Projects in Progress and Recently Completed

Rugby Road Renovation

The Rugby Road Office Building renovation project, which first started in December 2013, will create office space for University faculty, Central Grounds Maintenance and conference spaces. Recent work on the site includes sanitary line tie-in, plastering on the second and third floors, pouring of the concrete steps, patio base, front sidewalk and asphalt drive, and roof work and attic MEP installation.

The renovation will maintain many historic aspects of the building, including the windows and original built-in bookshelves. The target date for a temporary certificate of occupancy is the end of March 2015 with some exterior work continuing into the spring.

Historic Preservation Project Manager James Zehmer and Supervisory Senior Construction Administration Manager Steve Ratliff are managing the project.

HSPP Quickly Repairs Flood Damage

On the morning of Sunday, November 2, Health System Physical Plant staff jumped into action to address a flood in the hospital’s Endoscopy Unit/Digestive Health Center. A significant repair and cleaning effort by both HSPP and the Environmental Services (EVS) team restored much of the area damaged by the leak by Sunday evening.

“This work effort over the past 24 hours by HSPP and EVS was remarkable and needs to be commended as one of the most outstanding displays of organization and teamwork I have seen,” wrote Dr. James Amato, the hospital’s chief of clinical ancillary services. When the hospital staff arrived on Monday morning, Carpenter Supervisor Otis Hackett and the HSPP crew that had worked over the weekend were putting the finishing touches on the repair and it was only minimally apparent that a flood had occurred, according to Dr. Amato.

“It’s a miracle that we start the day down only two recovery rooms and the clean scope room and [we] should be 100% back in service at the end of the day,” he wrote in an email that morning.

The flood was the result of restoring water to the area after the back flow preventer replacement project was completed. An unrelated plumbing valve failed when the water came back on, because the space was unoccupied at the time a significant amount of water leaked into the area.

Old Cabell Hall Roof Replacement

A roof replacement project at Old Cabell Hall recently started and is expected to be complete in April 2015. Scaffolding surrounding the building was first set up in early December.

The multi-faceted project will replace a total of 15,300 square feet including low-slope EPDM, steep-slope slate shingle and flat-lock metal roofs along with built-in gutters.

Senior Project Manager Shannon Barras-Espie is managing the project.
Projects in Progress and Recently Completed

Hospital’s Green Roof

The University of Virginia Hospital’s new green roof includes a large amount of vegetation and plantings, providing many benefits over a traditional roof. In addition to its visual appeal, the vegetated roof — which sits above the hospital’s main lobby and was completed in October — reduces the building’s environmental impact and over time it will reduce operating costs.

The design of the vegetation was rooted in both the healing properties of nature and the terrain of the Charlottesville area. The roof reduces energy consumption by keeping the building warmer in the winter, through improved thermal properties, and cooler in the summer, by reducing what is known as the “heat island effect.” The green roof also cuts down on storm-water runoff through the absorption of rainwater into the soil and the condensate from the hospital air handlers will be captured and used in the roof irrigation system to further reduce runoff.

There are currently close to 10 other vegetated roofs across Grounds with plans for additional projects in the future. Senior Project Manager Will Moore and Construction Administration Manager Nate Brown worked together on this project.

Wilson Hall Renovation

The Wilson Hall renovation, which started in July, includes upgrades to the entire building and a partial renovation of the first and second floors.

Overall improvements include modification to the HVAC and Building Automation System control systems, new sprinkler and security systems and new interior lighting. A new wheelchair accessible entrance is being created on the first floor to provide easier access to Jefferson Park Avenue.

Senior Project Manager Amy Eichenberger and Construction Administration Manager Charles Durrer are managing the project.

Noted with Regret

Max Coleman, who worked as a housekeeping worker for Building Services in the Southwest McCormick Road Zone, died November 23. Max worked for Facilities Management for over 20 years, first joining the University in September 1994. “Max was a good employee, he always knew what was going on in his area, and treated the University like it was his home,” said Housekeeping Supervisor James Sayre.

Photos by Jennifer Watson (top) and Nathaniel Brown Jr.
The design of the hospital’s new green roof — pictured completed in top photo and in progress in photos below — was inspired by the local landscape, with sedum-covered pyramids mimicking the area’s mountains, ornamental grasses creating a pattern similar to farmland and local rivers acting as the inspiration behind the roof’s winding “river,” which is filled with blue glass aggregate.

Project Services Electrician JR Jackson (left) checks out newly installed electrical conduit on the first floor of Wilson Hall; the walls of a new wheelchair accessible ramp (right) are in the process of construction.

Landscapers Clear Leaves and Brush

Throughout the fall, the Landscape team worked to clear roadways and sidewalks of falling leaves and brush. Landscape & Grounds Workers Fred Averill and Robert Hutcherson are pictured clearing leaves along McCormick Road, left, and in front of O-Hill Dining Hall in early November.
Best Wishes for a Long & Happy Retirement

Bill Farish of Facilities Maintenance retires December 28 after over 35 years. Bill served as the Arts Zone Precinct Superintendent since 2012, first starting his career at FM as a utility serviceman in 1979, just a month after high school. He was among the first class of graduates of the Apprentice Program and went on to work as an HVAC mechanic, an electronic technician and a master mechanic assigned to Campbell Hall as a one-man zone. In 2006, Bill became a supervisor of a newly established maintenance service team that became everyone’s go-to crew for tough jobs on a tight schedule. Bill’s personnel file is filled with commendations for work above and beyond the call of duty, Associate Director of Maintenance Mike Merriam wrote in a letter congratulating Bill on his retirement.

Jesus Gaona of Health System Physical Plant retires December 28 after over seven years. Jesus served as a trades utility senior worker on the HSPP Renovations team. Jesus worked on numerous projects over the years, including providing electrical assistance on the complete renovation of unused lab space in Cobb Hall as well as responding to emergencies in the Health System. Jesus received special recognition for his work on an emergency project in 2011 to ensure proper disposal of hospital waste based on Department of Environmental Quality requirements.

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.

Mary Garrison of Building Services retires December 28 after over 14 years. Mary worked as a housekeeping worker in the Michie North and South buildings for the majority of her time at U.Va. “It was a blessing the day I walked through those doors. These people are the greatest, they are the best of the best,” Mary said of her fellow building occupants. “Mary is an outstanding employee who shows dedication, commitment, and honesty not only towards the University body as a whole, but also her fellow building occupants whom she has over the years built a great relationship with. We all wish Mary a healthy and happy retirement,” said Housekeeping Supervisor Keith Lewis. Mary plans to spend her retirement caring for her home, gardening, baking new recipes and enjoying her grandchildren.

Congratulations to Our Champions!

U.Va.’s Office of Equal Opportunity Programs (EOP) recently recognized three FM employees as EOP Champions. HR&T Director Rebecca Leinen was honored for her outreach practices to recruit non-traditional applicants to the skilled trades, including her work to highlight women in the trades at FM. Systems Control Center Manager Nina Green and Senior Project Manager Mike Vanderweide were recognized for their work with the University of Virginia’s Military Veteran Employee Working Group, along with fellow advisory group members Kyle Bowman and Benjamin Huggins, for their work to form a liaison program for new employees who are veterans, help UHR with recruitment and improve the culture on Grounds for faculty and staff who are veterans.

Alderman Road Zone II Housekeeping Supervisor Ben Lane has been named a Respectful Workplace Champion through University Human Resources’ Respect@U program. He was nominated by one of his colleagues due to his outstanding efforts to achieve a respectful workplace. He has been praised for his consistent willingness to complete tasks on behalf of the team, his ever-present positive attitude and his courteous communications. “I am confident that your efforts have resulted in a more pleasurable, fair and collaborative working environment for your colleagues,” wrote U.Va. President Teresa Sullivan in a note of congratulations.
New Sustainability Grant

The Office for Sustainability recently launched the From the Grounds Up Sustainability Grant, a new annual award that is open to current University of Virginia students, faculty and staff for projects that directly contribute to the University’s sustainability goals. Projects will be evaluated based on their level of direct impact on Grounds, feasibility, innovation, replicability and scalability.

The grant does not require student involvement. Facilities Management staff members are encouraged to apply. Projects with a return on investment are preferred but not required. Projects will be supported by $50,000 funded by Facilities Management and the Committee on Sustainability.

While projects costing more than this amount may potentially receive full funding, the grant may also support multiple smaller projects. All projects must be implemented by the end of December 2015.

Applications – which can be found on-line – are due by email to Andrea Trimble at atrimble@virginia.edu by January 20, 2015. For more information or questions, email Andrea or visit the Office for Sustainability website.

Diversity Team to Release 2015 Calendar

The FM Diversity Team’s 2015 calendar will again feature the holidays celebrated in all of the different countries representing the heritage of our diverse employee population. If you have suggestions of holidays to include in the calendar, contact June Bates at jmj7b@virginia.edu.
Compliments from Customers

To Mark Stanis and Project Services: I write to express my sincere thanks to the Facilities Management team for helping us plan and construct the memorial to Hannah Graham. The entire process happened in a very short time frame, and when we reached out to Mark for his thoughts and suggestions on available materials, he and his team truly went above and beyond. As you know, this has been very difficult for students, faculty, staff, and the Charlottesville community. Student leaders felt that a place for reflection and commemoration would provide an avenue for healing to begin. Mark helped us visualize what this place might look like and ultimately, with a team of carpenters, constructed the octagonal chalk walls that were placed at the Hume Fountain this fall. They prepared the walls in the days prior, and then were here early one Sunday morning to assemble the structure. None of this would have been possible without them. It has been a pleasure to work with Mark and the team through this process, and I wanted to ensure you were aware of their efforts well above and beyond the call of duty.
— J. Marshall Pattie, Associate Dean of Students, Office of the Dean of Students

To Wanda Snead and Norman Hughes: I wanted to thank you for having the carpet cleaned in my office and the nearby hallway in Albert Small Building Room 102. As you know we have had issues with carpet stains since there was a leak some time ago in the building. Norman Hughes did an exceptional job eliminating the stains on the carpet. He was able to get rid of the discoloration and the staining marks. I wanted you to know my group and I really appreciate your efforts and the efforts of Mr. Hughes.
— Faye Cline, Grants Administrator, School of Engineering and Applied Science

To Eugene Chambers: I wanted to write about the exceptional service we have received in the past previously from John whom has moved on to Hospital Security and now the same level of service we are receiving from Eugene Chambers at Upper Carruthers. On behalf of the Carruthers Hall Managers, I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to him and Housekeeping. Don’t steal him though. — Eric N. Denby, Director, Department of Procurement and Supplier Diversity Services

To Brenda Buttner: In recent months, we have hired several new faculty, remodeled some areas at 400 Ray C. Hunt Drive, and relocated staff. Often I needed to get items moved on very short notice to accommodate furniture delivery, contractors, phone installs, etc. Brenda Buttner has been wonderful in meeting these needs by coordinating with your moving crew on our behalf. July, August and September were incredibly hectic, but with her help, we were able to have the space available for painting, deliveries, etc., and get our new and relocated faculty situated as soon as possible. The crews that have been sent over have all been fantastic as well. I just wanted to let you know how very much we appreciate how Brenda goes above and beyond. She provides exemplary customer service on a daily basis, which enables those of us in the field to do our jobs. She’s a definite asset to Facilities and to us, too! — Mary-Leigh Thacker, Director of Finance & Associate Administrator, UVA-Orthopaedic Surgery

To Jim Comer and Todd Swanson: I am writing to commend Jim and Todd for taking the initiative to fix an old clock in the marble entry way, over one of the main entrances at Gilmer Hall. This clock has not been functional in many years. It took them a while but they actually got it working which is helpful to the hundreds of students that go in and out of Gilmer Hall. My desk looks out on to this lobby and these front doors. In a busy world when people have no time to report good deeds, I wanted to make the time to thank them. Thank you kindly. — Vivienne Spauls, Front Office Coordinator, Department of Psychology

To Mary Steppe and Mike Birckhead: I’m writing to express my deep appreciation to you and your team for the great job on our lab floor in Jordan Hall 7224. It is sparkling! It makes a huge difference to come to work with a clean floor. I’d like to particularly thank Mary for her great work on the floor and her great work overall. She does an outstanding job and also brightens the lab by her presence.
— Daniel A. Engel, Professor, Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Cancer Biology

To Nellie Hoffman: I just want to commend Nellie for the above and beyond job she has done in the past several weeks with Lisa being out. One day she was the only housekeeper in the building for a good part of the morning and yet she still managed to clean our restrooms and empty the trash and vacuum where needed. One recent morning she gave my office a thorough cleaning that it had not had in years and our restrooms are sparkling. The students and I greatly appreciate all that she has done to keep our offices and restrooms sparkling clean and sanitary. — Mary White, Secretary to the Honor & Judiciary Committees, Newcomb Hall
Facilities Management is honoring its first two employees to complete the Housekeeping Career Path – David Peterson and Ron Swann. The Housekeeping Career Path, which was first established in 2011, has four stages. Each stage includes information on the work skills, competencies, knowledge and experience needed for professional growth and advancement in that field. At the completion of each stage, an employee advances within their current position without having to compete for a vacancy.

David Peterson, who has been with FM for over eight years and currently works in Thornton Hall, feels that the Career Path program is an excellent opportunity for employees. “You gain not only in knowledge but in the pay scale,” he said. He found one of the program’s classes on communication particularly beneficial for both his time at work and his personal life.

Ron Swann, who has worked at U.Va. for almost five years and is located in the North Grounds Zone, is very proud of his work to complete the stages of the Career Path. “Once I took classes, I became more aware of the resources available to better yourself,” he said. Ron says that the teachers of the classes were very supportive and he found the computer and communication classes especially helpful.

Questions about the Career Path? Call HR&T at 243-3414 or stop by the office at 575 Alderman Rd., Leake Building, Room 118B.

Essential Work Skills

Fourteen FM employees successfully completed Essential Work Skills, a 10-course curriculum designed to develop skills and competencies for success by enhancing communication skills and understanding workplace operations. Our colleagues honored at the November 17 Essential Work Skills event were:

- Divin Bwiseze
- Justin Clements
- Daisy Dejesus
- Idris Hassan
- Anne Henley
- Cheryl Johnson
- Connell Opie
- Shane Racer
- Jonathan Racey
- Pamela Richardson
- Duane Taylor
- Ricky Thomas
- Ruben Trujillo
- Angelique Watkins

Leadership Essentials

One FM employee graduated from Leadership Essentials on November 18. Leadership Essentials is designed to give supervisors the basic knowledge, skills and abilities needed to succeed as a supervisor at U.Va. Congratulations to:

- Peggy Napper – Housing Custodial

Project Services Staff Attends Training Sessions

Production Engineer Sally Fields recently attended an Arc Flash Hazard Analysis training conference in Houston, Texas. The conference was presented by the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Engineering Professional Development and provided training to help ensure safe working environments in electrical distribution systems.

Project Planner/Analyst Joe Gitz and Construction Project Coordinator Amy Moses recently attended a full-day Means of Egress course at the Virginia AIA’s Architecture Exchange East conference in Richmond.

The course provided an overview of the fundamental means of egress requirements in the 2012 International Building Code.

Amy Moses also recently passed the Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design (LEED) Green Associate test and is preparing for the LEED AP BD+C test.
Community and Special Events, Save the Dates

Students Tour Heat & Chiller Plants

During the Charlottesville Business Innovation Council’s annual Tech Tour on October 9, a group of high school and middle school students visited the Main Heat Plant (photos above). Heat Plants Manager Kent Knicely and Plant Engineer Pete Kowalzik (in blue hard hats) hosted the group, speaking to the students about energy choices and the use of technology to support daily operations. The students took turns peering through a window on the outside of one of the boilers (top right). Another group visited the East Chiller Plant (photos at left), where Associate Director of Chiller Plants Justin Callihan spoke about the technology involved in cooling the University’s buildings. The students examined a part of the automatic tube cleaning system (bottom left) which is used to continually clean the chiller condenser and improve efficiency.

FM Supports Toy Lift

Service Desk employees (left) Deneen Morris, Ernestine Burruss, Teresa Dillard, Val Knapp and Brenda Buttner, show off the collection of donations from FM staff for Charlottesville’s annual Toy Lift that provides holiday gifts for less fortunate children in the area. FM staff loading up the toys for delivery include (right) Elevator Assistant Mechanic Brandon Good, Elevator Mechanic Kevin Lawrence, General Services Operator Martin Rush and Sign Shop Supervisor Warren Wood. In conjunction with the Cardiovascular Research Center, donations totaled 108 toys, three bicycles and $618.

Kellogg Housekeeper Recognized by Students

Custodial Services Worker Angelique Watkins, who works in Kellogg House, was recently recognized by the U.Va. student group the Luther Porter Black Male Initiative. Angelique was among a group of U.Va. employees who were invited to the December 5 Women’s Work dinner at Ern Commons. A resident advisor at Kellogg House wrote that he invited Angelique because of her diligence as a worker.

Save the Dates

Dec. 24-26: Christmas Holiday.
Dec. 31-Jan. 2: New Year’s Holiday.
Jan. 18-29: Community MLK Celebrations
Jan. 19: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday.