Message from the AVP

I hope you have been enjoying another beautiful Northwest summer with your friends and family. While this is a great time to utilize your well-earned vacation time, Facilities Services staff are still working hard to take advantage of campus downtime and catch up on projects while many of the UW students are away from campus.

A quieter campus for others means a busier work schedule for Facilities Services. Now is the time that the Building Services group gives the classrooms a deep cleaning by reconditioning the floors, cleaning the chairs and taking care of numerous custodial details that are difficult to address during the fast-paced school year. Many of the trades employees are also heavily scheduled in the summer months to attend to repair and preventive maintenance on the University’s buildings and complex heating and cooling systems, for example. Throughout FS, staff are hard at work planning and preparing for the next school year.

After experiencing such extraordinary summer weather, it is hard to imagine yet another autumn season is right around the corner. The first football game already took place in the iconic new Husky Stadium, and we will be welcoming back our students later this month. Time moves quickly! I wish you all a safe and happy autumn.

Biofuel for the Recycling Fleet

Just in time for the start of the fall semester, the UW Recycling & Solid Waste team has introduced two new garbage and recycling trucks to their fleet. Both trucks will haul over 1,000 tons of recyclables each year, and have replaced previous vehicles that have been in use for the past 12 years. In addition to streamlining the waste collection process by reducing a portion of trips to the transfer station, their engines will run solely on a biodiesel blend. Special thanks to Fleet Services for their help and support in the purchasing process.

Congrats to Transportation Services

The Association for Commuter Transportation (ACT) has awarded their Marketing and Outreach: University Award to Transportation Services for their effective U-PASS Powered by ORCA communications campaign.

The UW has also recently earned a BizCycle Silver designation due in part to Transportation Services efforts to promote bicycling on campus through events and bicycling infrastructure. BizCycle is an initiative of the Cascade Bicycle Club. Read more at: http://blog.cascade.org/2013/08/bizcycle-silver-uw. Way to go!
Our Vision: Facilities Services is a world-class organization providing exceptional service anywhere, anytime to enable discovery and excellence at the University of Washington.

UW Garners Sustainability Kudos

Once again this year, the Princeton Review has named the UW to their annual Green Honor Roll as one of 22 institutions out of 836 reviewed to receive the highest score. Sierra Magazine has also named the University to their “Cool Schools” list for the sixth year in a row, at number 12 out of 162 universities and colleges.

Facilities Services plays a significant role in these recognitions of the UW’s sustainability track record. Rankings examine areas FS is involved in, such as the UW’s energy and water consumption, transportation programs, grounds management practices and waste management, which rely on the day-to-day actions and long-term vision of FS staff. Congratulations!


FS Training Academy: Customized Computer Training

Members of the Building Envelope Oversight Team recently had success learning to create media-rich reports with the help of customized training from the FS Training Academy. The Building Envelope Oversight Team, which was created as the result of a Lean launch in September 2012, is responsible for documenting building envelope safety concerns and submitting them to the legislature for priority state funding. In August 2013 shop leads on the team needed to document their work using pictures, captions, arrows and text, but hadn’t had the opportunity to learn or brush up on the computer skills needed to accomplish the task. The FS Training Academy was able to fill the need and provide customized training for the group. The participants were able to learn new skills while working on their report during classes. But they haven’t stopped there — the group has continued to attend ongoing training after realizing how mastering computer skills, such as using advanced features of Microsoft Word, has enhanced their ability to demonstrate the need for work on buildings.

“Our small group has really benefited from the customized training we have recently been receiving through the Facilities Services Training Center,” says Jackie Harris, Maintenance Supervisor II for Shop 18. “Not all of the trades people who work in Facilities Maintenance & Construction are what you would call ‘tech savvy’ — me included — but with the help of Mary Jo Blahna and Clayton Brainerd, a class was developed especially for us that has taught us to create documents that include text and photos sized to fit the page! This will help us to communicate more effectively and professionally with our clients and coworkers as well as others. Learning in such a beautiful space only made the process more enjoyable.”

Contact the FS Training Center at fstrain@uw.edu or 206.685.9452.

Leave Use Reminder

Please remember that contract classified staff can retain an annual leave balance of up to a maximum of 240 hours by their anniversary dates. Annual leave over 240 hours at the time of a contract classified employee’s anniversary date will be forfeited.

A contract classified employee with a high annual leave balance may choose to donate his or her leave to another state employee who is approved to receive shared leave donations if the shared leave donation form is completed well in advance of the donating contract classified employee’s anniversary date. Please be mindful that donating shared leave will not be approved if the donating contract classified employee is attempting to donate his or her annual leave at the last minute, in attempts to not lose it by his or her anniversary date.

If there are questions, please contact your FS Human Resources Specialist directly.

FS on the Web:
www.washington.edu/facilities

Newsletter Editor:
Breona Gutschmidt, Communications & Design Specialist
Organization Resources & Relations
breona@uw.edu