Facilities Gators and Kubotas

Gator: (maintaineous vehiculas)

Submitted by: Brian Schuster

Size: Approximately 5’ high and 7’ in length
Color: Green with yellow spots and a black top
Habitat: Central and Northern Newark Campus
Diet: One to two adult HVAC Technicians daily, supplemented by various tools and equipment as necessary.
Population: Two—numbers may increase pending further evaluation.
Status: First introduced to the UD Newark campus in the spring of 2006, the Gators have adapted quickly to their environment and workload. Both vehicles are used by the HVAC Shop to transport technicians, tools and equipment to various work locations on campus. The installation of a cab has allowed the Gators to be used during poor weather conditions. Although they are licensed for travel on public roads, they are primarily used for moving short distances on campus grounds in and around the Maintenance Center. Preliminary feedback and evaluation indicate the Gators are functioning well and are here to stay.

Special kudos to Don Cox for designing and fabricating ladder racks for the Gators. The craftsmanship is excellent, and the racks look like they came right from the manufacturer.

Kubota RTV 9000

Submitted by: Mike Loftus

What is the Facilities definition of a Kubota? Well “Kubota” refers to the Kubota RTV 9000 Utility Vehicle (BIG BROTHER TO THE GATOR). One of the newest additions to the Grounds Services equipment inventory, the RTV is a versatile grounds maintenance vehicle that is utilized all over campus. It is shared by all crews; the RTV is used in a multitude of ways, including irrigation repair, turf repair and maintenance projects, general transportation, and collection of campus barrels. It is equipped with a snow blade and cab to allow the crews to utilize it as a multi-season vehicle. The Kubota RTV is extremely beneficial to the snow removal operation on campus. It is small enough to fit on city sidewalks and powerful enough to perform snow removal on larger pedestrian areas.

University Scheduled Closings

2006-2007

- University offices closed from 5:00 p.m., Friday December 22, 2006 and will reopen on Tuesday, January 2, 2007
- Monday, January 15, 2007
- Monday, May 28, 2007
- Wednesday, July 4, 2007

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Facilities “Spotlight” On You

Implementing Quality Customer Service

Dear Bruce,

I would like to thank you and your wonderful staff for helping make our 30th Annual Coast Day a success. As we all remark each year, Coast Day just wouldn’t be possible without the effort, support and participation of your entire group.

As usual, Dale and his crew did an absolutely outstanding job in preparing the Lewes Campus for the event. Their tasks were performed expertly and professionally, and every year it amazes the Marine Advisory Service staff that you’re able to operate almost independently. Through many years of experience, Coast Day has become almost “second nature” to the maintenance and facilities staff, and they take initiative and action when needed. Additionally, your group is extremely well-mannered and polite when responding to the demands of exhibitors on Sunday morning—they obviously perform very well in stressful situations!!

Again, I thank you and your staff for your assistance in preparing our campus for Coast Day, and for helping to ensure that everything ran smoothly on October 1st. On a personal note, I am especially appreciative of the extra effort you and Dale made to help me get the oyster tonging demonstration trailer loaded and hitched after the event. I wouldn’t have made it to Solomon’s Island and back without your help!!

Sincerely,

Wendy Carey

Steve,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent service that your custodial technicians provided early Monday morning at the DuPont Hall clean-room flood. The prompt, professional and courteous service was exceptional. I wanted you to know that this quality service is appreciated by everyone and it should not always be taken for granted. Please pass this gratitude on to Haikeem Stokes, Kim Blumenschein, Mike Blyskal and Nancy Holmes for a job well done.

As you know, this is not the most pleasant way to start work after a nice holiday break, but the dedicated service provided by your personnel helped prevent any significant damage to the sensitive laboratory equipment inside of the clean-room.

Thank you and I look forward to working with you in the future.

David Levandoski

I wanted to drop you a line about Jerome Lott. I cannot speak for the office workers upstairs, but he has been doing a fantastic job in my labs, keeping them in tip-top shape. He brings any problems to my attention so they are dealt with properly. He is always willing to pitch in and help out, especially when we have tours coming through the labs and also situations like the flooding we had the other day. He is a very pleasant person to work around…..always smiling and good natured. I know that sometimes hard-working people like Jerome are overlooked, and I just wanted to let you know that he is appreciated.

Philip Roach

I am a PhD student working for the School of Education. I really appreciate that we have Derral Wilkerson working for us in Willard Hall. I am very happy to know such an honest man. I lost my bag the other day. I had my driver’s license, credit cards, student card, family photo, and some cash in the bag. I don’t care about the cash, but the credit cards and driver’s license are too important to lose. I looked for the bag high and low at home and the office. I could not find it, and I could not even remember where I lost it. I was devastated. When I was going to call the credit card company to cancel my cards, I saw Derral. I said to myself that probably I lost my bag in the classroom. In that case, there might be a chance that Derral found it. I asked him if he found a black bag in room 215 where I had a class the day before. Honestly, I did not have much hope when I asked him the question. Derral turned out to be my lifesaver; he told me that he did find a bag in room 215.

I appreciate his honesty. The reason why I am writing is that I think honesty is a virtue. I hope that by praising someone’s honesty, we can spread the virtue to more people.

Weiyi Ma

I wanted to be sure that it was noted that Quenna Neal’s help recently in the Operations Center has again helped us out tremendously. With Quenna’s extra effort, the Operations Center staffing went uninterrupted when both dayshift dispatchers were out sick this past week. Quenna’s efforts should be an example to others. I, as well as others, really appreciate Quenna’s help.

Dave Heckman
Facilities “Spotlight” On You

Congratulations—Doug Isakoff

Doug Isakoff, Certified HVAC Technician, is the recent recipient of the HVAC Certification from the State of Delaware Department of Labor Division of Employment & Training. He received his framed certification and “carrying” card from Department of Labor representative Kevin Calio. This well-deserved certification recognizes Doug within the State of Delaware as well as 26 other states.

Doug has been employed within the HVAC trade of UD Facilities since 2001. During his previous employment career, he served 4 years in the Navy as a Boiler Technician, worked for the DuPont Company for approximately 18 years as a certified Journeyperson Powerhouse Mechanic. During the 1990s, while working during the day as a Powerhouse Mechanic, he participated in the formal evening RSES class Program in order to acquire academic knowledge of the HVAC trade.

Doug appreciates the HVAC Certification: “I want to express my thanks to all involved for the chance, the help, and the (HVAC) knowledge I have been given at the University of Delaware.”

AFSCME Local 439

Officers:
Tom Zebley, President—Grounds Services
Tom Hubbard, Vice President—Custodial Services
Ed Coon, Sr., Secretary—Dining Services
Linda Hammond, Treasurer—Dining Services

E-Board:
April Stokes-Williams, Dining Services
Charlene Butler, Dining Services
Lillie (Nithie) Carn, Custodial Services

Trustees:
Justine Webster, Dining Services
Diane Muckle, Custodial Services
Laura Spangler, Transportation Services
What’s Happening

Facilities Planning & Construction

FP&C Projects on the boards:

• The Russell Complex Renovation will consist of upgrading mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems as well as safety improvements to ensure compliance with current building codes. The renovations will be phased to minimize loss of bed space.

• A new two-story Admissions and Enrollment Service Center building will be built at the corner of Winslow Road and South College Avenue. Undergraduate Admissions, Financial Aid, and Registrar’s offices, which are now located in Hullihen Hall, will be relocated to this new site to provide more space and accommodate prospective students and parents on campus.

• The Institute of Energy Conversion (IEC), requires engineering and architectural design to upgrade the mechanical and fire protection systems as well as refurbish to the building envelope.

• The Academy Building includes an exterior window replacement scope of work which will remove and dispose of lead painted windows. The building will also have a totally new HVAC system.

• Alison Hall is in need of an HVAC system to replace the existing one installed in the early 1970s. Installation of a new fire protection system is also being considered for this project.

• The Laird Residence Hall, Phase III is a 600-bed residence hall to include semi-private baths, floor lounges, and resident assistant rooms. The scope of this project includes a 4,000 square-foot fitness center and an artificial turf recreation field. Construction is estimated to start March 2007.

FP&C has five new projects with construction scheduled:

• Construction on McKinly Lab Plaza will have a waterproofing system designed to correct the multiple leaks that will include upgrading the skylights. New brick pavers to enhance the Plaza's appearance are included in the design.

• Located in Purnell Hall, a 1,800 square-foot area will be converted into the Financial Technology Center resembling an actual trading floor. The Center will contain 45 seats equipped with dual monitors and access to live market data. A research room with five to eight workstations will also be included. Construction is tentatively scheduled for June 2007.

• Located in the General Services Building, an approximately 5,000 square-foot space is being converted to house General Accounting and Plumbing Services. The renovations will relocate existing furniture and create offices in the General Accounting area for the Director, staff, and auditors to include a conference room with other areas for copying, filing, and reception. The Plumbing Services space will include a manager’s office, shop area, storage rooms, and a meeting/lunch room. Construction began October 2006 and is scheduled to be completed January 15, 2007.

• The establishment of the Manure Storage Facilities, located on the University of Delaware’s farm, is in response to the Delaware General Assembly passing of a nutrient management law. The building will have specialized equipment to process the dairy manure into re-usable sand, organic solids, and liquids. Improved storage of separated components and silage to reduce contamination of ground water is included in the scope.

• Winter session of 2007 is when the Trabant Ceramic Tile Renovation project is slated to begin. The schedule includes replacement of the floor tile located in the eating area, servery, and adjacent hallways. The space will be repainted, wood work refinished, and new tables and chairs purchased. Work will also be done during spring break and summer session for completion in the summer of 2007.
What’s Happening

Facilities Planning & Construction

Student Multimedia Design Center

“The University is establishing a Student Multimedia Design Center for students to create and edit multimedia-enriched course projects individually and in groups and to work with other students and faculty to develop communication skills involving the use of multimedia.” UD President David P. Roselle.

Carroll Shmitt is the Project Manager for the new Student Multimedia Design Center located in the lower level of the Morris Library. The area formerly housed the Library’s microfilm and map collection which were relocated in advance of the project; construction was from July through November. IT-User Services will install the computing software through winter session in preparation for a spring semester ‘07 opening.

The new Multimedia Center will be a centralized, full-service state-of-the-art facility. The Center will provide assistance for improving presentation and communication skills as well as provide technical assistance for creating educational multimedia projects. Four studios for small groups to rehearse, record, and review presentations along with a classroom for hands-on faculty lectures and/or the presentation of workshops related to multimedia were created. There will be a concierge-style service desk for multimedia equipment to be checked out with short demonstrations about the use and software when needed, and assistance about selecting the appropriate resources for projects.

For more information on the Student Multimedia Design Center including a PDF of the Space Plan, visit www.udel.edu/smdc/

Brown Laboratory

Walt Roland is the Sr. Project Manager for the renovation of the north and west wings of Brown Laboratory. Brown Lab, named in honor of H. Fletcher Brown, was first built in 1936 and houses teaching and research laboratories of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Planning started summer of 2004 for the 80,000 square foot project which includes an infill in the building’s courtyard, where a 4,000 square foot magnet hall will be installed between the north and south wings. Construction is proceeding in two phases to allow for ongoing teaching and research in the chemistry department. During the Brown Lab renovation, use of temporary swing space in Lammot duPont Laboratory, Drake Hall, and Alison Hall is used for classes.

“The project will effectively gut the West and North wings of the building. All new electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems will be installed. The space will be reconfigured to meet the current teaching and research needs of the department. The challenge is to do the renovations while the rest of the building is occupied” stated Facilities Planning and Construction Sr. Project Manager Walter Roland.

Phase I will be completed in early January and the tentative completion date for Phase II is December 2007. For more information on Brown Laboratory renovations, visit www.udel.edu/chem/renovation/
What’s Happening

The Carpenters’ Central Campus Challenges
Submitted by: Mark Mankin

What do you do for an encore when ten buildings received comprehensive renovations almost ten years ago that included all new cosmetic finishes, roofs, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems, as well as selected new furniture for rooms and public areas? What happens is the ground shifts from putting a band aid on the outstanding issues, to working everyday to maintain the functionality and appearance of all that has been transformed from old to new.

In the Mall Project, which started the summer of 1997 in Smyth, Brown, and Sussex, the plan was to update residence hall buildings that were first constructed from 1912-1957. However, given that some small things would just get missed the first time around, and the effects of wear and tear from the residents would undermine even the best laid plans and finishes, the continuing upkeep was bound to provide opportunities and challenges along the way.

This fall, the Housing Carpenters have been meeting the challenge by finding new ways to build on what was first conceived years ago, while also adding new touches to enhance what was done previously. In Smyth, Cannon, and New Castle, new custom-made TV stands are replacing some old cabinets that date back to when some will recall the University Guest Apartments that were located on the top floors of Christiana West. The stands were designed and built by the Carpenters and complement the finishes in the lounges.

They make already functional rooms adjacent to the laundry even nicer “hang out” spots for residents waiting for their clothes to dry. In addition, new 27” TVs were purchased and installed on the stands that are from Best Buy and included a Corporate Business discount that saves Facilities money over purchasing retail. The old stands, no longer having a use in the Housing system, are being donated.

In Harter, a building that missed the Mall Project when it received a major renovation in 1990, the Carpenters rebuilt and replaced the counter tops in a small kitchen off the main lounge. The area is now more comfortable and functional for the residents and received high praise from the Hall Director and students when finished. They also renovated areas in the laundry room and around the TV by designing and building new structures to fit above the washers and dryers as well as shelving below the TV.

As a result, it’s up to the team of Geoff Squier, Dave Guhl, Bob Keesee and Lester Haynes to work everyday to maintain the furnishings and furniture that keep the residence halls comfortable and functional for the 7000+ residents that use our 70+ buildings as their home away from home.
Facilities HR Services recently performed an audit of the bulletin boards within the Facilities organization. Custodial Services, Academic was victorious with Katy Dunford and Sandee Miller’s key station receiving the honorable mention ribbon and Steve Ashby and Sharon Melvin’s key station taking home the 1st place trophy. Congratulations to the Central/Center Zones and the South/Southwest Zones.

Facilities Retiree Recognition Plaque
Alicia Downers name was omitted from the article regarding the retirement recognition plaque. Alicia stained the plaque and we want to recognize her contribution and hard work which helped make the plaque special.

Thank you, Alicia.

Staff In-the NEWS

New Hires......
Jonathan Basner
Tom Keating
James Kennedy

Retirees......
Gale Bragg
Curtis Conner
Robert Jordan
Dorothy Morgan

Safety Corner
The Department of Occupational Health and Safety website: www.udel.edu/ohs
The Safety Beacon—Newsletter published by DOHS www.udel.edu/ohs/newsletter

May Your Holiday Be Safe and Joyful!
Happy New Year!
See you in

Our next issue — April 2007
If you have any information that you would like to have published in the next edition, please contact us. Deadline is: Monday, April 2, 2007.

Caring Partners
Linking Caregivers with Services
www.caringpartnersde.org
Identify Theft
www.consumer.gov/idtheft/

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Thank you, Alicia.