Remembering Bernie

Submitted by: Robin Elliott

Bernie established a connection with Delaware Technical and Community College to hire students enrolled in the Fire Protection Engineering Curriculum as interns and provided them with ample opportunities to obtain real-life work experience. The intern program has been incredibly successful for both the University as well as the students who participated. Students that have been through the program have gone on to positions such as the City of Newark Fire Marshal, Instructors at Delaware Tech, leaders in the State Fire Marshal’s office, and as a Fire Protection Specialist within our very own department.

It is only fitting that we recognize the incredible impact this individual made on our department, the University and so many persons he touched. Our thanks go to Bernie Alexander for a lifetime commitment to others and making a difference in all that he did.

It is with mixed emotions that we dedicate this issue of the Facilities E-News to Bernie Alexander. We are relieved to know that he no longer suffers from ALS, but are sad that we have all been deprived of many more years of his guidance and friendship.

Bernie started with OHS November 2, 1987 as our Fire Marshall/Fire Protection Engineer. He came with a wealth of fire protection and safety experience from his education at Delaware Technical and Community College as well as expansive work experience at the City of Newark as their Fire Marshal and PSEG assigned to the Salem Nuclear Generating station. Bernie made great improvements to the Fire Safety Program, taking it from a program which basically monitored fire extinguishers to a proactive and comprehensive institutional fire protection program. His improvements included setting procedures in place for open flame permits, determining occupant loads, and the re-design and posting of award-winning building evacuation plans. In addition, one of the most influential aspects of the program he developed was the Greek Housing inspection procedure.
Facilities “Spotlight” On You
Implementing Quality Customer Service

Ida Brinkley, Tom Hubbard, Martha Reyes and Rosetta Waller, Custodial Services

Wednesday’s storm and late opening obviously put a huge strain on University staff to get sidewalks cleared and the steps of buildings cleaned. I witnessed many problems, but was extremely impressed with the wonderful work that Ida, Tom, Martha and Rose did on our building, beginning their work while the freezing rain was still coming down. No other building on the green was cleared as quickly or as carefully as Wolf Hall was, and it is all thanks to these hard-working staff. The occupants of Wolf Hall have always been well cared for, but I wanted to be sure you knew of their extraordinary efforts on a very difficult day. It is greatly appreciated.

Dr. David W. Smith
Department of Biological Sciences

Gene Taylor, M & O

I wanted to pass along a job well done and thank you to Gene Taylor. I placed a service call for a broken lock on one of our filing cabinets which Gene responded to almost immediately. After replacing the filing cabinet lock, Gene could have gone on his way, but he took the time to show us where the lock had broken from use and assured our Chair the lock had not been tampered with in any way. His extra few moments of customer service meant a great deal to us for which we are grateful. Thank you, Gene!
Tina Kosinski
Entomology & Wildlife Ecology

Joann Watts, Custodial Services

I wanted to make you aware that Joann was such a conscientious member of our team to ensure the smooth move-in of the A&S Undergraduate Academic Services unit into the 2nd floor north wing of Mitchell Hall. She proactively found garbage pails for each office, tried several different methods to get the office doors clean, scheduled her work around the renovation and move-in schedule, vacuumed after several different renovation tasks, etc.

She made my job easier, and it was my pleasure to work with her!

Maria L. Taylor
Planning & Construction

Robert Marley, M&O

Robert’s attention to detail was instrumental in identifying a serious fire safety deficiency at the Vita Nova kitchen. During inspection with Radius FP, he took it upon himself to test gas valves on the Gaylord Hood and Duct assemblies and found two that were not operating properly. He also identified two duct dampers within the Gaylord System that were failing to close properly.
The Gaylord system is unique in that it combines fire suppression via sprinklers and incorporates the shutdown of dampers upon sprinkler activation. Without the dampers closing, fire would have been able to travel up the duct and reach the roof surface without abatement.

I appreciate his efforts in taking the actions he did, and providing the needed expertise and knowledge when contact service technicians come on campus. This is typical of the quality of Robert’s work since I came on campus just about a year ago.

Kevin McSweeney
Occupational Health and Safety

Rich Noonan, Custodial Services

I wanted to personally thank you for the incredible job you did yesterday clearing the walkways at the Early Learning Center so our families could safely bring their children to/from their cars to the center. You went far and above the call of duty—I counted at least three times during the course of the day that you were outside in wicked sleet to complete this task! I also appreciate you following up this morning by putting more ice melt on the walkway.

Karen L. Rucker
Early Learning Center
We lost our heating system over at the MMF, which is the chemical waste management facility. In preparation for this weekend’s inclement and predicted cold weather, I met with Rudy and Steve to see about getting supplemental heat in the MMF to prevent the freezing of the sprinkler system and water lines. Rudy and Steve were able to get the laboratory air handler, which only operates when the walk-in fume hood is on, to run independently, as well as, they were able to trouble-shoot the heating coils that were also not functioning. As a result, we will be able to provide enough heat to the building to prevent any sprinkler / water lines from freezing. Rudy and Steve were extremely helpful, professional and pleasant to deal with. I am aware of the current demands of HVAC Services and am very appreciative of the fast response and excellent service they provided.

Please be sure to let Rudy and Steve know that their outstanding efforts did not go unnoticed.

David Levandoski
Occupational Health & Safety

Implementing Quality Customer Service

Pat Harsha, Custodial Services

A note of appreciation for how Pat has stepped up in the past several weeks, taking care of his duties in Drake and additional duties to cover vacancies in Brown. We have literally seen him everywhere, taking trash out, cleaning floors, buffing floors, assisting the new Brown technicians, and more. Pat’s proactive approach and his constant communication are HIGHLY valued here in Chemistry and Biochemistry.

David Murray
Chemistry and Biochemistry

I echo Dave’s appreciation as well. Patrick has been doing a wonderful job this past week in training the two new custodians. He also brought them by for introductions. In addition to the excellent job he does each and every day, Patrick is also very pleasant, always exhibiting a positive attitude.

Diane Quig
Chemistry & Biochemistry

Ken Wassmer and Andrew Urban, M&O

As always your guys have saved us. I REALLY appreciate this. I wanted them to know how much it is appreciated.

Kate Pohlig
Department

The above note was sent because the contractor who has the maintenance contract on the Pool Pack Air Conditioners found a bad control board in response to a service/distress call. The factory was contacted and the board has a 40-week delivery time. This board controls all of the functionality of the system components. Ken and Andrew, from the Building Automation Shop, stepped in and took over. They removed the board and evaluated the components on the board. Both Ken and Andrew have good electronic backgrounds. They were able to locate a bad diode on the control board that was causing the system transformer to short out, replace it and get the unit back on line. It appears now to be functioning all right. Ken and Andrew really stepped to the plate. They really pulled us out of the fire with the major swim meet at Carpenter.

Thank you for a job well done!
Facilities Planning & Construction—Interns 2007

DANE STOKES

Major/Minor: Civil Engineering
Graduation Year: 2007
Future Endeavors after Graduation: Working as a Civil Engineer for a land-development firm, Nave Newell, in King of Prussia, PA
Interests / Hobbies: Sports: basketball, softball, football, volleyball, wakeboarding, surfing and snowboarding; going to the beach
FP&C Projects worked on: Laird Campus Phase I & II; Christina East Towers carpet and paint renovation, multiple rental houses including 146 Dallam and 20 Hillside; multiple renovations including re-carpeting the ELI and CCM

COLLEEN KANE

Major/Minor: Civil Engineering
Graduation Year: 2009
Future Endeavors after Graduation: possibly grad school, definitely working—to pay off loans
Interests / Hobbies: Playing sports (basketball, volleyball, softball), shopping, music, the beach, the Eagles and college basketball
FP&C Projects worked on: Not too many so far, but over the summer I will be working with Marci on the new dorms at Laird Campus, and the West Tower re-painting and carpet replacement.
Additional Comments: Fall 2006 Deans List

PATRICK QUIRK

Major/Minor: Mechanical/Civil Engineering
Graduation Year: May 2007
Future Endeavors after Graduation: Getting a full-time job in an engineering field
Interests / Hobbies: UDel Club Baseball Team, snowboarding, going to the beach, hanging out with friends
FP&C Projects worked on: Penny Hall classroom renovations, 208 Haines St. renovation, various minor construction and floor replacement projects
Additional Comment: Working at FP&C has been an interesting and exciting internship. I’ve worked with great people and gained a lot of experience in the construction industry.

KYLE CLEVENER

Major/Minor: Civil Engineering/Economics
Graduation Year: 2009
Future Endeavors after Graduation: I would like to pursue a career in the structural engineering field. I am not sure if I want to go into the design side or construction management side, but I hope my experiences here will help me figure that out.
Interests / Hobbies: Snowboarding, football, baseball, rooting for the Eagles and Phillies, playing guitar, and drawing
FP&C Projects worked on: Not many yet, but I should have plenty of carpet replacement jobs under my belt soon.
Additional Comments: Fall 2006 Deans List

PAUL QUIRK

Major/Minor: Engineering Technology
Graduation Year: 2009
Future Endeavors after Graduation: Hopefully get a good job in the project management field
Interests / Hobbies: Football, baseball
FP&C Projects worked on: 5 Courtney Street
Additional Comment: I’m looking forward to this opportunity, I have working here at FP&C. I know it’s a tough job and takes a lot of responsibility. I’m prepared to take on any challenges that come my way, and look forward to a great summer filled with work.
Facilities Planning & Construction

Joe Filippone—Plans Room Technician

Joe has been working within FP&C for 6 years and he is majoring in Civil Engineering. His main responsibility is to keep all University CAD floor plans up to date. He is also responsible for maintaining the plans room upstairs, producing other CAD related drawings such as evacuation safety signs for new and renovated buildings, and to keeping the building square footage database up to date. His goal is to continue working at the University full-time until he earns his degree.

Facilities Bldg. Maintenance & Operations

"Reaches out to the UD Community"

Gene Taylor, Locksmith, was invited back to the University of Delaware’s, The College School in order to share information about the locksmith trade with the organization’s Director, Dr. Jeanne Geddes-Key, and of course, the children. He provided a “show and tell” demonstration of how a door lock mechanism actually works. His demonstration included presenting a couple of large-size lock manuals, emphasizing to the children the importance of reading, especially when you have to research how to repair and/or replace locks. The photographs reflect the children’s interest in his demonstration, and their eagerness to learn more about the topic is reflected by them raising their hands and taking turns to ask many questions.
What’s Happening

Please Welcome...

New Hires......
Kristen Alexander, Lock & Hardware
Rhonda Coleman, FP&C
Gilbert Hines, Custodial
Tyra Webster, Custodial

Hearts Up!
Hold the Date!
September 9th
American Heart Walk

For more information, please contact Patty Fogg at X1102.

Congratulations...

Retirees......
Larry Truslow, Electronics

University of Delaware President-elect Harker announces two senior staff appointments:

Patricia Wilson and Scott Douglass

Have a Happy and Safe Memorial Day Weekend!

Check out the link below:
www.udel.edu/PR/UDaily/2007/may/senior052307.html

Safety Corner

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

Our next issue — July 2007
If you have any information that you would like to have published in the next edition, please contact us. Deadline is: Monday, July 9, 2007.

Facilities HR Services, GSB Room 112, Attention E-News
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Patty Fogg, telephone 831-1102, pfogg@udel.edu
Leslie York-Hubbard of OH&S, telephone 831-6366, lesliyh@udel.edu

We’re on the Web!
www.facilities.udel.edu

It OUT!
OUR JULY ISSUE
“A Blast from the Past”

Please submit any pictures you have and we will have a Who’s—Who’s Contest!