

THE FACILITATOR

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2009

ONE DAY WITH THE UNIVERSITY'S UNSUNG HEROES

GREEN TIP:

Set your computer and monitors to sleep and power down when not in use. Doing so can save nearly half a ton of carbon dioxide and more than \$60 a year in energy costs! For help activating your computer's power management settings, contact Gordie Bennett at 974-7780.

638,736,000 pounds of steam; 29,095 tons of coal; 759,667 therms of natural gas. They are all impressive numbers, but can most people comprehend their implications? Darryl Ford can; he has to, as the Superintendent (for the past 20 years!) of UT Knoxville's sole source of heating and cooling, the Steam Plant.

Operating 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, the Steam Plant runs primarily on coal—roughly 160 tons of it every day. Coal fires heat three of the plant's four boilers to temperatures of up to 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit, producing high pressure steam that travels to every building on campus



Steam plant employees at work in the control room. The plant is automated and can be run entirely by computer.

through an intricate underground piping system with a length totaling nearly 11 miles. When temperatures drop into the twenties and teens, as they have this week, all three coal-fired boilers go on line, providing hot air and water to residents and employees. The plant's fourth boiler runs on natural gas, and a fifth boiler with the capability of burning either natural gas or fuel oil is currently being installed.

Because the university cannot (continued on page 2) operate without the Plant's services, holidays do not exist for its 26 staff members, who work around the

IN THE FACE OF TOUGH TIMES, A MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

With budget woes and a hiring freeze hanging heavy over the university, Facilities Services staff were able to set aside their worries and enjoy some respite and refreshment at the annual Employee Appreciation Breakfast.

Separate gatherings for first and second shift yielded excellent turnouts of staff who congregated in the Ray Mears Room on Wednesday, December 16th for coffee, pastries, and a chance to mingle and catch up with colleagues includ-



First shift employees share coffee and conversation.

ing Denise Barlow and Jeff Maples, Vice Chancellor and Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, respectively, for Finance and Administration. Remarks from Facilities Services Executive Director Mike Sherrell and Interim Chancellor Jan Simek closed out the festivities.

"This is a tough time, there's no doubt about it," said Simek. "But we're a family here at UT, and we will get through this."



Stay secure at work and at home! Check out <http://security.tennessee.edu/training.shtml> for training videos from the UT Information Security Office on their Security Awareness Campaign!

STEAM PLANT (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

clock in three shifts. This means that in addition to working Christmas and Thanksgiving, they cannot attend events like the Employee Appreciation Breakfast, despite the fact that it took place directly across the street.

It may be located just yards from Thompson-Boling Arena,

where thousands flock on a regular basis, but the Steam Plant is an isolated operation, and its employees rarely interact with other members of the campus community. “People don’t know we’re here until we’re not here,” explains Ford.

When asked to describe a time when they were in danger of *not*

being there, Ford mentions the eponymous Blizzard of ‘93, when he arrived at the Plant at 4 a.m. on a Saturday morning and did not leave until 10 p.m. the following Wednesday night. Along with a handful of other employees, he was helping to keep the university alive. Now that is a service the rest of us can truly appreciate!



The view of Steam Plant Hill.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS ❄️

John Logan—1/1
 Mike Sherrell—1/1
 Brian Day—1/2
 Roy Elder—1/2
 Bill Pace—1/3
 Veronica Huff—1/4
 Diane Jones—1/4
 David Sperling—1/4
 Edward Hibbert—1/5
 Jacob Njeru—1/5
 Brock Ellis—1/6
 Wanda Smith—1/7
 Randy Gentry—1/8
 Dewayne Doane—1/10

Fred Wolfenbarger—1/10
 Sam Miller—1/11
 James Blevins—1/12
 Roy Britt—1/12
 Eursal Payne—1/12
 Leo Pedigo—1/12
 William Fox—1/13
 Robert Clark—1/14
 Carrie Dixson—1/14
 David Bryan—1/15
 Stephen Follum—1/15
 Sanders Wood—1/16
 Thomas Brimer—1/18
 Patrick Pardee—1/18

Scotty Richards—1/18
 Matthew Snow—1/19
 Sammy Wolf—1/19
 Flora Baker—1/20
 Ronald Sands—1/21
 Amanda Hinds—1/22
 Michael McCann—1/22
 Jeromey White—1/22
 Billy King—1/24
 Vickey Miller—1/25
 Sherry Lane—1/27
 Charles Burch—1/29
 Wayne Samples—1/29
 James Childress—1/30

“People don’t know we’re here until we’re not here.”

- Darryl Ford,
 Steam Plant
 Superintendent

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS ❤️

Jeff Barnes—2/1
 Mark Henegar—2/1
 Christopher Lawhorn—2/3
 James Manley—2/3
 Dwight Beckham—2/4
 Christopher Cook—2/4
 Stacey Cooper—2/4
 Donald Sims—2/4
 Nolan Houser—2/5
 Mitzi Prowell—2/6
 Randy Love—2/8
 Jonathan Taylor—2/9
 James Horner—2/10
 William King—2/10
 Perry Longmire—2/10
 Bob Porter—2/10

Michael Atkinson—2/11
 Edward Mitchell—2/12
 Megan Hickle—2/13
 Dewayne Lane—2/14
 Robert Frick—2/15
 Beth Atkins—2/16
 Bob Caudill—2/16
 Dennis Frank—2/16
 Timothy McNish—2/16
 Caleb Cagle—2/17
 Nikki Woolsey—2/17
 Cassidy Lionheart—2/18
 Jack French—2/19
 Robert Matthews—2/19
 Ted Murphy—2/20
 David Ridings—2/20

Doris Cannon—2/21
 Mac Chamberlain—2/22
 Joel Rummage—2/22
 Roger Norris—2/23
 Willie Summeour Jr.—2/23
 William Traylor—2/24
 Robert Duncan—2/26
 Gary Haggard—2/26
 Barry Loveday—2/26
 Ronnie Couch—2/27
 James Sulfridge—2/27
 Roy Grimes Jr.—2/28
 Rick Johnson—2/28
 Ghenadi Popescul—2/28
 James Scott—2/28

COLD WEATHER GOT YOU DOWN? CAUGHT A CASE OF CABIN FEVER? NEED A HOLIDAY?

Then take a tropical vacation without leaving Knoxville! Join the Smoky Mountain Parrothead Club and party with a purpose! Come for good music and good times, then stick around to work with local charities! For more information check out Ray’s ESG on the 3rd Friday of every month between 6 and 10 p.m. or contact Jon Young.

UNIVERSITY LOSES A LOYAL EMPLOYEE

Buck Nelson passed away at his home on Sunday, November 16th at the age of 85. His wife of 63 years, homemaker Dorothy Nelson, passed away in a nursing home less than 24 hours later. The Nelsons were survived by son and daughter-in-law Sam and Pauline Nelson, grandson and granddaughter-in-law Craig and Michelle Nelson, and granddaughter Sydney Brooke Nelson.

Buck was hired to Facilities Services in 1947, and held a number of positions in the depart-

ment throughout his tenure. His titles included Carpentry Foreman, Assistant Structures Superintendent, Superintendent of Special Projects, and Assistant Director. After retiring on December 30th, 1988 with 41 years of service, Nelson returned to the department in January 1989 on a part-time basis, continuing to work until the Friday before his death. Nelson took pride in his length of service to the university, and often claimed to have worked longer than anyone else at UT.



Samuel L. "Buck" Nelson and Dorothy E. Nelson

STEVE COSTNER "ARRESTED" FOR MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY



GUILTY AS CHARGED:
Costner goes without a fight.

A police cruiser roared into the Facilities Services rear parking lot, pausing in front of the A/C Shop at 10:30 on an otherwise quiet November morning. The sight may have been disconcerting to some, but Senior Design Technician Steve Costner was ready. He had been waiting for nearly 30 minutes to be arrested!

The setup was part of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's annual "jailbird" fundraiser, in which volunteers are "arrested" and must post bail, a.k.a. the donations they've collected from their friends and colleagues. Fortunately, Steve's arresting officer did not take him to jail, but to The Butcher Shop restaurant in World's Fair Park, where Steve handed over his bail money and was promptly fed a tasty lunch!

Despite a failing economy and the distinct absence of annual pay raises, Facilities Services employees donated \$308 to the MDA. That is roughly \$100 more than is typically collected, demonstrating that circumstances are never too difficult to help a worthy cause!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"One kind word can warm three winter months."

- Japanese Proverb

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Retiring

Wanda Boyd—Service Aide, Assembly Center & Arena

Johnny Branum—Supervisor, Preventive Maintenance

John Helton—Electrician, Electrical Services

David Johnson—Craft Aide, Steam Plant

James Reagan—Senior Carpenter, Carpentry Services

Transfers/Promotions

Chris Blair—Locksmith to Senior Craft Specialist

Robert Frick—Maintenance Specialist to Line Installer/Mechanic

New Faces

Samuel Brown—Steam Plant

Michael Duncan—Carpentry Services

Reinhard Herding—Carpentry Services

Brittany Hurst—Building Services

James Jones—Building Services

Lewis Love—Preventive Maintenance

Jason Nichols—Building Services

David Parris—Preventive Maintenance (Arena)

Joyce Robinson—Building Services

VACANCIES

Approved and Being Advertised

Custodial Foreman—P/M (Arena)

Service Aide II (3) - P/M (Arena)

Waiting To Be Advertised

Executive Housekeeper—Building Services

Service Aide II—Assembly Center & Arena

Maintenance Specialist—Preventive Maintenance (A)

Service Aide II (3) - P/M (Arena)

Check out the Facilities Services web page!

<http://facilities.utk.edu/>

YOUR BI-MONTHLY "FIX" OF FACILITIES NEWS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

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T H E F A C I L I T A T O R

**"COATS FOR THE COLD"
 WARMS BODIES AND
 HEARTS**

In early November room 106 began to fill up with bulging garbage bags, at times making the doorway impassable. Fortunately the bags were not full of smelly garbage, but rather full of warm, soft coats. By November 14th the room was overflowing and employees in the Facilities Services Department had collected 47 coats for families in need.

The collection was part of the annual Coats For the Cold campaign, coordinated on campus by the College of Social Work. 285 coats in all were donated from UT Knoxville and brought to Prestige Cleaners for complimentary cleaning and repair before delivery to Knox Area Rescue Ministries and the people who needed them most. Many thanks to all who participated!

UPCOMING EVENTS: JANUARY

UPCOMING EVENTS: FEBRUARY

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 New Year's Day	2	3	1 Make Orange Green POWER Challenge Begins	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day
11	12 EPA Training, 1-5 Performance Review Training, 5-7	13 EPA Training, 8-5 University Center	14	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday, Traditional	16	17	15	16 President's Day	17	18	19	20	21
18	19 HOLIDAY MLK Birthday, Observed	20 RecycleMania Kickoff, 10-4 Pedestrian Mall	21	22	23 Performance Review Training, 9-11 Ray Mears Room	24	22 Washington's Birthday	23	24	25 Ash Wednesday	26	27 Exempt Staff Paychecks	28 Make Orange Green POWER Challenge Ends
25	26	27	28	29	30 Exempt Staff Paychecks	31							