

THE FACILITATOR

MARCH/APRIL 2009

A MAJOR MILESTONE FOR MARY SAFFELL

Chances are you know her, or at the very least have seen her around campus. As a foreman in Building Services and the department's resident messenger, Mary Saffell is constantly on the go. No matter how busy, however, she is always ready with a smile and a kind word for a friend. Everyone is Mary's friend, it seems, and after 30 years at The University of Tennessee it's no surprise.

Originally from Cartersville, Georgia, Saffell moved to East Tennessee at the age of 16. In 1979 she began work at UT when she was hired as a custodian by Bob Evans, and in less than two years worked her way up to foreman. A year after that Mary's duties were expanded to include messenger services, and she's been bustling around ever since.

On March 12, 2009, Mary Saffell will have 30 years of service with The University of Tennessee. She knew the date was looming, but didn't make the connection when a plain, brown package arrived at her doorstep



Saffell flashes her famous smile at the annual Facilities Services picnic on July 3, 2008.

last Wednesday.

"I told my daughter to bring it in and put it in the prayer room," she explains, laughing. "I thought, 'What is this?'" It wasn't until the next morning that Saffell opened the box. Inside was a gold watch—UT's requisite gift for 30 years of service. The watch is lovely and Mary shows it off, holding her wrist out proudly.

When asked whether, after all this time, she has any plans to retire, Saffell becomes thoughtful. "As long as I got health and strength," she says, "I guess I'll do like everybody and keep workin'."

One of her favorite work rituals is lunchtime in Building Services, where employees gather in the front room to eat together. She describes it as "a really special time."

"My favorite thing is the people," Mary says, smiling. "I really am a people person."



Special thanks to Chip Rayman and Gordie Bennett for their contributions to this issue, and to Gordie for coining The Facilitator's new tag line: "Your 'Fix' of Facilities News at The University of Tennessee"!

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"If we had no winter, spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."

- Anne Bradstreet

OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRAINING STILL AVAILABLE DESPITE REDUCED FUNDING

Due to impending budget cuts, The Facilities Services Department will no longer pay for the employee training and development classes offered by Employee and Organizational Development, a division of UT's Human Resources Department. Facilities Services employees may continue to take classes, but will be required to pay registration fees out of pocket. Fees can range anywhere from free to \$250, depending on the level of training and/or certification, with

computer courses typically costing \$75. However, certain types of training will continue to be offered free of charge to non-exempt employees.

Non-exempt employees may apply to the Career Development Fund to take a limited number of Employee and Organizational Development's computer courses at no cost. The Fund will cover up to \$200 worth of classes per year for non-exempt employees. Subjects covered in EOD (CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

TRAINING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

computer classes include Micro-soft Word, Access, Excel, Publisher and Dreamweaver.

Guidelines on applying to the Career Development Fund can be found at <http://www.tennessee.edu/cdf>.

In addition to computer courses, Employee and Organizational Development offers a variety of personal and professional development trainings

and certifications. Topics include creating a respectful workplace, building conflict management skills, conquering workplace negativity, and memo & business letter writing.

Employees can request to attend training sessions during normal working hours by filling out an Application For Training form, to be submitted to their direct supervisor. All

forms must be signed by both the employee's direct supervisor and Facilities Services Executive Director Mike Sherrell. Forms can be obtained from Veronica Huff in room 107.

According to Human Resources Policy HR-28, all UT employees are encouraged to complete a minimum of 32 hours of job- and career-related training each year.



Congratulations to Recycling Coordinator Jay Price for completing the UT Leaders: Lighting the Way part one certification. The 32-hour program prepares employees for supervisory responsibilities and demonstrates commitment to continuing education and job enrichment.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS



William Ownby Jr.—3/1
 Gary Stinnett—3/1
 Cas Cox—3/2
 Bradley Hanson—3/2
 Sally Hickman—3/3
 Donna Norris—3/3
 Timothy Hanson Jr.—3/4
 Allen Lane—3/5
 Michael Werley—3/5
 Phyllis Woods—3/6
 Randy Faubion—3/8
 Dennis Miller—3/8
 Gary Robertson—3/8
 Travis Scott—3/9
 Harley Finley—3/10
 Joshua Scott—3/10
 Frank Bunner—3/11

Gary Duncan—3/11
 Thomas McConnell—3/11
 Michael Capps—3/13
 Rodney Jackson—3/13
 Willard Pippin—3/14
 Juanita Gunter—3/15
 James Bean—3/16
 Terry Ledford—3/16
 Tiffanie Casteel—3/17
 Reinhard Herding—3/17
 Christopher Lewis—3/17
 James Scarbrough—3/17
 Frank Wren—3/18
 James Rowland—3/19
 Todd Curnutt—3/20
 Michael Click—3/21
 Michael Day—3/22

Jon Young—3/22
 Danny Pritchard—3/23
 Jimmy Blair—3/24
 April Beard—3/26
 Robert Jenkins—3/26
 Chen Li—3/26
 Marie Lemons—3/27
 James McClellan—3/27
 John Smith Jr.—3/27
 Wayne Cowden—3/27
 Patricia Noe—3/28
 Darrell Williams—3/28
 Ray Jones—3/29
 Jerry Winkle—3/29
 Paul Martin—3/30
 James Russell—3/30
 Stanley Spencer—3/31

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



Paul Hinshaw—4/1
 Verna Lynn Spencer—4/1
 Donald Taylor—4/2
 Stephen Waggoner—4/2
 Donnie Patterson—4/3
 James White—4/3
 Brian Beeler—4/4
 Steve Costner—4/5
 John Rogers—4/5
 John Seivers—4/9
 Christopher Webb—4/9

William Gann—4/10
 Deborah Miolen—4/11
 Larry Stalans—4/12
 Billy Stalans—4/13
 Robert Jones—4/15
 Edward Wendel—4/15
 Lisa Byson—4/17
 Randy Hamilton—4/18
 Richard Hutsell—4/19
 Tony Newman—4/19
 Tracy Ridings—4/19

Ian Sutherland—4/20
 Eugene Iannaccone—4/21
 George Hutchins—4/23
 Wanda Case—4/24
 Jeremy Nicely—4/25
 Charles Birchfield—4/26
 George McGhee—4/26
 James Newman—4/27
 James Nipper—4/28



A special happy birthday to Steam Plant craft assistant Harry Burnette! Harry's birthday was February 11th, but was not mentioned in the January/February newsletter. We apologize, and hope it was great!

FACILITIES SERVICES GEARS UP FOR SPRING SEMESTER EVENTS

When the weather warms up, the campus community emerges from a months-long hibernation. E-mail inboxes are flooded with event requests, and it is time for Facilities Services to quite literally “spring” into action.

Between planting flowers and landscaping, hanging banners, supporting student activities, preparing for graduation, and an onslaught of environmental events, spring is one of the department’s busiest and most exciting times of year. Major events include RecycleMania, a ten-week campus-wide recycling competition; the Make Orange Green POWER Challenge, a month-long conservation



Recycling Coordinator Jay Price in front of “Mt. Trashmore” at the 2008 RecycleMania kickoff.

competition between residence halls; Earth Month, a series of seminars and activities culminating in Earth Day on April 22nd; and Destination Imagination, a creative problem-solving competition where 16,000 students from all over the world descend on the UT campus.

When asked about the impending activities, Sustainability Manager Gordie Bennett said “We’ve been very busy, but very fortunate to receive so much enthusiasm and support. It’s wonderful to see people so excited to Make Orange Green!”

GREEN TIP

If you’re going to be away from your desk for more than 15 minutes, turn off your computer screen. Doing so can save 50% of the energy the computer would have consumed in your absence!

VACANCIES

Being Advertised

Electrician & Electronics Technician—Steam Plant
 Senior Steam Plant Operator (2)—Steam Plant
 Executive Housekeeper—Building Services
 Service Aide I (3)—Building Services
 Service Aide II—Assembly Center & Arena

Custodial Foreman—P/M (Arena)
 Service Aide II (12)—P/M (Arena)

Waiting To Be Advertised

Assistant General Maintenance Craft Worker—Steam Plant

PERSONNEL CHANGES

Retiring

Gordon Brooks—Superintendent, Building Services
 Gerald Perry—Senior Sheet Metal Worker, Air Conditioning Services

New Faces

Linda Bright—Preventive Maintenance (Athletics)
 John Honto—Preventive Maintenance (Athletics)
 Christopher Lawhorn—Preventive Maintenance (Athletics)

Transfers & Promotions

Rocky Allmon—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Ethel Brown—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II

Cathy Carl—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Stacey Cooper—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Shelia Foltz—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Mitzi Green—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Lisa Hayes—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Megan Hickle—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Jarvis Hines—Craft Aide I to Craft Aide II
 Hazel Norris—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Emily Tackett—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II
 Nikki Woolsey—Senior Secretary to Administrative Support Assistant II



Did you know?

Tom Harbin, Jennifer Hatcher, Ed Maples, Hazel Norris, Tracy Ridings and Emily Tackett all got their start working as custodians for Gordon Brooks! When Gordon retired in January after 28 years with Facilities Services, he truly left his mark on the department. Now that’s a legacy to be proud of!

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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With suggestions, corrections and comments, contact:
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Research Building Listservs Are Now Online!

Facilities listservs have been created for a number of major research buildings on campus. The purpose of the listservs is for Facilities Services to communicate information about construction, renovation, outages and other important updates that may affect the work or research of building occupants.

Listservs are currently available for the following buildings: Biosystems Engineering and Environmental Science Lab (BEES), Claxton Complex, Dabney-Buchler Hall, Dougherty Engineering, Earth and Planetary Sciences, Ellington Plant Sciences, Ferris Hall, Food Safety and Processing Building, Ag Campus Greenhouses, Hesler Biology Building and Greenhouses, Jessie Harris Building, Kingston Pike Building, McCord Hall, Neyland Drive Biology Annex, Nielsen Physics Building, Pasqua Nuclear Engineering, Perkins Hall, Plant Biotechnology, SERF, Stokely Management Center, TANDEC, Walters Life Sciences and White Avenue Biology Annex.

To post to a listserv please visit <http://listserv.utk.edu/archives/index.html> or contact Ali Virtanen at avirtanen@utk.edu.

THE FACILITATOR

UPCOMING EVENTS: MARCH							UPCOMING EVENTS: APRIL						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Inventory Completion Deadline	3	4	5	6	7				1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4
8 Daylight Savings Begins	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10 HOLIDAY Good Friday	11
15	16 Spring Break Week Begins For Students	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20 Spring Begins	21	12 Easter 	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 RecycleMania Ends	19	20	21	22 Earth Day 	23	24	25
29	30	31 Performance Reviews Due					26	27	28	29	30 Exempt Staff Paychecks		