The Facilities Services Department is teaming up with students and faculty from the UT Knoxville College of Engineering (COE) to investigate the potential for supplementing cooling tower water with rainwater captured from the roof of Hesler Hall. If successful, the concept could become an innovative water-saving strategy for the Knoxville campus.

As part of the project, rainwater will be redirected from a downspout on the west side of Hesler Hall to a 275-gallon ground-level storage tank alongside a nearby chiller building. Once transferred to the storage tank, the rainwater will be pumped up to the cooling water basin of a cooling tower. Controls on the pump and tower will limit the amount of rainwater that enters the basin and ensure that pumping is done as efficiently as possible.

Facilities Services staff and COE faculty and students will be monitoring the quality of the rainwater prior to using it in the cooling tower. This precautionary measure will help to avoid any issues of corrosion, scaling, or fouling that may arise due to poor water quality.

The success of the project will judged according to a number of factors, including the quality of the rainwater, the quantity of potable water saved, and equipment costs.

When available, updates on the project will be posted in The Facilitator.

**UNIVERSITY ADOPTS NEW SMOKING POLICY**

The University of Tennessee has adopted a new system-wide smoking policy. The policy (SA0900-Smoking) is being implemented in compliance with the Tennessee Non-Smoker Protection Act. The policy, which applies to all University officials, employees, students and visitors, includes the following prohibitions:

- Smoking is prohibited in all buildings owned or operated by the University;
- Entrances to all University buildings are designated as smoke free, and smoking is prohibited within twenty-five (25) feet of all doorways, windows, and ventilation systems of all University buildings. All designated smoking entrance signs on buildings will be removed and all cigarette urns will be removed or moved at least 25 feet away from buildings;
- Smoking is prohibited in all motor vehicles owned, leased, or operated by the University;

University employees should report violations of the policy to their immediate supervisor, or the staff person responsible for the facility where a violation occurs. Violations also may be reported to the University-Wide Institutional Compliance office (974-4438) or the State Comptroller’s Fraud Hotline at 1-800-232-5454.

The smoking policy can be found on the University policies website: [https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=34,140536&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_policy=SA0900](https://my.tennessee.edu/portal/page?_pageid=34,140536&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL&p_policy=SA0900).

For more information, contact HR at 946-8847.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

STREAMLINING OF PROCEDURES UNDERWAY

To help Facilities Services operate more effectively and provide better service to the campus community, Associate Vice Chancellor Dave Irvin has begun to streamline the Department’s procedures.

For example, Mr. Irvin has revised the approval procedures for the Department’s purchasing documents (PDs). Effective October 24, 2011, PDs with estimates under $2,500 (including STOCK orders and the M project for tools) can now be approved by the shop head or their designee. Previously, PDs with estimates of $2,000 and above required additional administrative approval.

If you have ideas for improving the Department’s effectiveness, please share them with your supervisor. Alternatively, suggestions may be submitted confidentially via the employee comment box next to Facilities Services room 107. This box is regularly emptied and its contents are shared with Mr. Irvin.

POSITION OPENINGS

As of 11/7/11, Facilities Services was advertising the following position vacancies. For more information, call HR at 974-6642.

- Engineer II - Capital Projects Mgmt
- Sr Steam Plant Operator - Steam Plant
- Asst Gen Maint Craft Worker - Steam Plant
- Electrical & Electronics Tech - Steam Plant
- Steam Plant Mechanic - Steam Plant
- Control Specialist II - Air Conditioning Services
- Painter - Carpenter Services
- Craft Assistant I - Carpenter Services
- Sr Electrician I - Electrical Services
- Service Aide II - Building Services (2 positions)
- Service Aide I - Building Services (5 positions)
- Custodial Foreman - Building Services
- Lawn Aide I - Grounds/Transfer & Hauling
- Sr Maintenance Worker - Prev. Maint. (Arena)
- Service Aide II - Prev. Maint. (Arena)
- Service Aide II - Prev. Maint. (Athletics; 5 positions)

The winners of the 13th Annual Chuck Thompson Awards were announced at a ceremony held on Wednesday, November 9 in the Ray Mears Room located in Thompson-Boling Arena. Two awards were given at the ceremony, one to Don Cross for his outstanding crafts work through the Carpentry Shop, and one to Preventive Maintenance employee Hazel Norris for her excellent customer service and clerical support.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Thompson, son and daughter-in-law of former Assistant Director Charles F. (Chuck) Thompson established a $15,000 endowment with the University in the 1990s. The income from this endowment is used to fund the Chuck Thompson Awards for two non-exempt employees of the Facilities Services Department.

In 2012, Dave Irvin plans to implement and expand the Facilities Services employee recognition program. Mr. Irvin wants to give ‘kudos’ to individuals and offices who go above and beyond the call of duty, serving our customers and/or contributing to the success of the Facilities Services and the University.

While the exact details of this ‘kudos’ program are still to be worked out, Mr. Irvin would like for it to become a Facilities Services tradition in line with the Chuck Thompson Awards and other longstanding employee recognition programs.

Stay posted for more information about the ‘kudos’ program!

GREEN TIP: BRING YOUR OWN MUG

Have you heard about The Mug Project? Launched by UT Recycling and Volunteer Dining in August 2011, this program provides substantial discounts to customers who fill up their reusable mug, bottle or cup (24 oz. or under) may purchase fountain sodas and drip coffees for only 99 cents. In addition, Volunteer Dining is offering a 15 percent discount to customers who fill their reusable beverage containers with specialty coffees (e.g. Starbucks coffee and cappuccinos).

Campus dining locations participating in The Mug Project include Starbucks, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Quiznos, Pizza Hut, McAlister’s, Smokey’s, Café at the Arena, Subway, Sbarros, Mabel’s, KFC, Petro’s, POD Markets, and residence hall convenience stores.

Paper and Styrofoam cups cannot be recycled on campus and take considerable amounts of resources to manufacture, ship, and dispose. The goal of The Mug Project is to keep 100,000 disposable cups out of the trash by August 2012. Over 10,000 cups have already avoided a one-way ticket to the landfill. So, grab your mug and start enjoying the savings!

NEW STUDENT EMPLOYEES

Daniel D. Pape recently began a full-time internship with Ted Murphy and the Grounds/Transfer & Hauling office. Daniel is a student from Purdue University studying Landscape Architecture. Daniel has just one semester to complete upon his return to Purdue in fall 2012.

Caycee Ellis recently joined the Office of Sustainability as a part-time Student Assistant. Currently a fourth-year student at UTK, Caycee is helping Gordie Bennett develop and refine campus environmental stewardship programs. Her position is funded by the Student Environmental Initiatives Fund.

UT Recycling recently hired two UTK students: Recycling Assistant Andy Pigg (see left photo) and Composting Assistant Patrick Call (right photo).

Please welcome these students to Facilities Services!
Please welcome the following employees to Facilities Services:

- Simpson, Sydney B
- Billington, Michael S
- Reed, Joyce
- Hannum, William J
- Ayala-Fuentes, Carlos
- Smith, Christopher T
- Forbes, Mamie L
- Mehone, Harlis A
- Breeden, Joseph E
- Couch, Christina M
- Capps, Jacob B
- Hopkins, Robert J
- Chapin, Joshua D
- Clark, Jeffrey H
- Gentry, Ethan B
- Morris, Bethany M
- Rexroad, Brian L
- Gress, Jack
- Psar, Radovan
- Edwards, Ryan

Employees interested in joining UT’s flexible benefits plan or participating for another year should sign up during this year’s open enrollment period, which ends November 30.

The flexible benefits plan is an important part of UT’s overall benefits package. It allows employees to pay certain predictable medical and dependent care expenses, such as co-pays, with pre-tax dollars. Employees with high out-of-pocket expenses for medical and dependent care can establish reimbursement accounts to plan for these expenses and take advantage of substantial savings.

Employees who already participate in the flexible benefits plan and want to continue enrollment must re-enroll each year. Questions about the flexible benefits plan should be directed to the UT Office of Payroll at 974-5251.

Send questions, comments, and suggestions for future editions of The Facilitator to:

Gordie Bennett
Facilities Services Room 208C
Phone: 974-7780
Email: gbennet5@utk.edu