

# **Division of Facilities**

## **Newsletter**



## **How We Beat the Heat!**

In case you were wondering...It's hot outside.

Those of us lucky enough to grow up in our beloved Kansas climate are well educated in the ways of our harsh mid-summer temperatures. When forecasts warn of temperatures rising to a hundred degrees or more, many of us are grateful that our jobs are in an air-conditioned office. However, for many of our Facilities employees, functioning in triple digit temperatures is just part of the job as they work to keep our campus running smoothly. Here are a few things our dedicated colleagues do to beat the heat inside and out.



### **GROUNDS & LANDSCAPING**

Many of us see a temperature reading of 100 degrees as a signal to save yardwork for another day. However, our Grounds & Landscaping team are not able to postpone much when there are over 2,300 acres of campus to care for. Jacki Toburen, who runs the day-to-day operations of our crew, works to ensure her team stays safe while getting the job done. Part of their crew arrives at 6am to work on bigger projects in the cooler parts of the day but working in the hot sun is inevitable. Here are a few tips they use to make it through:

- Wear sunscreen and re-apply every two hours
- Wear a wide brimmed hat
- Wear clothing with a tight weave
- Wear sunglasses
- Stay hydrated, drink lots of fluids
- Take breaks in shaded areas
- Wear a dampened scarf around your neck



New landscapers (novice or professional) who have not been 'conditioned' to be in the sun for long periods are the most at-risk group for heat exhaustion. So be cautious! The professionals on our team are acclimated to working in extreme-weather conditions. For those of us who do not work in the heat every day, it is best to start out working in the sun for shorter periods and gradually increase work sessions over time.

## STEAM & CHILLED WATER PLANTS

While our landscaping crew is visibly facing the heat in our front yards, we have another group working behind the scenes who also face heat-related risks in order to keep the rest of us cool.

Employees from the Steam Plant and Chilled Water Plants face risk of heat exhaustion daily. Several employees have uniform requirements (such as long sleeve shirts and pants made out of specific materials) that make it more difficult to stay cool during the summer months. They are



also often working in enclosed spaces, such as underground tunnels, to keep things on campus working as they should. Several labs on campus are "climate-sensitive", meaning that temperatures must remain constant to ensure precision of experiments and research. Our Power Plant team works to ensure these places stay at the temperatures they need to be while keeping the rest of us cool and comfortable.

Because so much of our campus depends on the steam and chilled water plants to be working smoothly, our power plant crew can't put off a crisis for a cooler day. Tim Brunner, Plant Manager, understands the importance of keeping all the moving parts functioning while enforcing strict policies to keep his power plant employees safe.

*"When we are running tunnels and the weather is hot outside I like my guys to do 20 minutes in and 20 minutes out. I only allow tunnel work for 4 hours a day during the summer unless it is an emergency. If that happens, we set up fans and man it in 20-minute shifts to get the problem taken care of. Heat is one of the worst safety issues we deal with because not everyone takes heat the same. A lot of the time, you don't know you are overheated until it's too late."*

**-Tim Brunner, Plant Manager**

Working in the heat is a necessary evil for several members of our Facilities family. It takes great commitment as well as caution to ensure Wildcat country has the physical conditions needed to move forward in our goals of providing excellent customer service and becoming a top 50 research university by the year 2025.

**Thank  
You!**

So, the next time you look out a window and see a member of our facilities team 'emerge' from a manhole or out in the scorching sun trimming a tree...take a deep breath of that cool air and make a note to tell them "thank-you" for everything they do!

## Suggestion Box...

- **"With more units now located in Dykstra, would it be possible to evaluate the women's restroom conditions in consideration of more frequent use?"**



*After gathering feedback from staff, there are some opportunities for improvement of the women's restroom. The custodial crew has just re-finished the floor (and it looks great!) and work orders have been placed to repaint the walls and partitions, install updated fixtures, evaluate the exhaust system, and finish it all off with a deep clean. It should be looking good in the near future!*

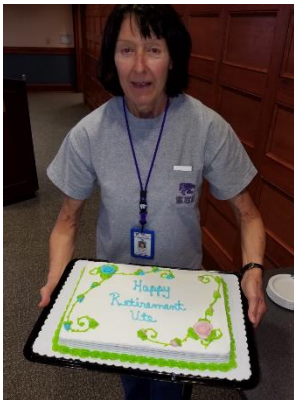
# KUDOS!

**"KUDOS!" to our Grounds crew for a job well done!** Many of you may have noticed that the corridor from Wefald Hall to the main campus (along the south side of Ackert Hall) had become a safety concern, particularly at night. Students walking to and from campus had to travel a long stretch of an overgrown natural area that limited their visibility. **Rob Slattery** (Utility Worker) took the lead on the clearing and cleanup of this hill area. After Rob removed the honeysuckle thicket, **Bob Odle** (Agricultural Technician Senior) applied a pre-emergent weed control to limit the regrowth of unwanted plant material. **Delmar Westover** (Agricultural Technician Senior) lead the mulching crew, who applied approximately 100 yards of mulch to finish off the project. The result? A cleaner, safer corridor for all of us to enjoy.



*Thank-you Grounds Crew for all you do!*

# Happy Retirement!



*(Ute enjoys a reception  
To celebrate her retirement)*

Our Facilities family wants to say "Happy Retirement!" to Ute Cruz! Ute has been working as a Custodial Specialist for facilities since November of 2000. She began working on the Anderson Hall crew for four years before moving over to the crew for Hale Library where she has been for the last 12 years. In addition to being known as a hard worker who is very conscientiousness about her work, Ute's friendly demeanor and caring attitude will be missed by us all. We wish her all the best!

*(Ute poses with her fellow  
crewmembers for Hale Library)*



# WELCOME TO OUR TEAM!



**Daniel Williams** was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He will be working for Beverly Price.



**Michael Seymour II** was hired as an Electrician Senior for Building Maintenance Zone 2. He will be working for Mike Paph.



**Justin Bauer** was hired as a Building Systems Technician. He will be working for Tim Brunner.

# **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

**JUNE 4<sup>th</sup> – CHRISTOPHER SLATTERY**

**JULY 6<sup>th</sup> – ARAMINTA WASHINGTON, SANDRA BOLIN, & JEFF SIMS**

**JULY 7<sup>th</sup> – ALLAN LEIKAM**

**JULY 9<sup>th</sup> – DONNIE SILVA**

**JULY 11<sup>th</sup> – CLIFFORD ANDERSON & CHARLES JACKSON**

**JULY 12<sup>th</sup> – CODY SMITH**

**JULY 14<sup>th</sup> – FRANCIS (JOE) BROCKISH**

**JULY 18<sup>th</sup> – TIMOTHY JOHNSON**

**JULY 19<sup>th</sup> – JAMES CAMPBELL & GYPSY SNYDER**

**JULY 21<sup>st</sup> – RONALD PARKS**

**JULY 22<sup>nd</sup> – JEFFERY FUSSELMAN & AMANDA WORTHY**

**JULY 23<sup>rd</sup> – KELLY GUILFOYLE & DANIEL PLUMMER**

**JULY 24<sup>th</sup> – JAMES VESTA JR.**

**JULY 26<sup>th</sup> – MARYLOU NELSON & DEREK MACY**

**JULY 28<sup>th</sup> – RANDY EVANS**

**JULY 30<sup>th</sup> – BEVERLY PRICE & CHRISTOPHER HAYDEN**

**JULY 31<sup>st</sup> – JUSTIN SCHLEGEL**



# **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

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**AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>** – GARRETT HEATH

**AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>** – GREG FIEF

**AUGUST 4<sup>TH</sup>** – STEPHEN GREINKE, GAYLA ANDERSON & RUTA UY

**AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup>** – THERESA CLARK

**AUGUST 6<sup>TH</sup>** – MORRIS OLSON & JOY KNUTSON

**AUGUST 8<sup>TH</sup>** – NATHAN SUMNERS & DELMAR WESTOVER

**AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup>** – SUN JOHNSON

**AUGUST 10<sup>TH</sup>** – DALE RIVETT

**AUGUST 12<sup>TH</sup>** – LAWRENCE RUSH & JASON GLESSNER

**AUGUST 13<sup>TH</sup>** – PAUL WOODYARD

**AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>** – DARRIN VANDORN

**AUGUST 15<sup>TH</sup>** – RENE SMALLDRIDGE & GARY WEISHAAR

**AUGUST 16<sup>TH</sup>** – ROLLIN COBERLY

**AUGUST 17<sup>TH</sup>** – SCOTT WEST & PATRICK HODGSON

**AUGUST 23<sup>RD</sup>** – DORON STRODE

**AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>** – ROBERT LEARNED & CAROL WENDLAND

**AUGUST 26<sup>TH</sup>** – MIKE PAPH & DON NANNINGA

**AUGUST 29<sup>TH</sup>** – ARDEN POLTZ

**AUGUST 30<sup>TH</sup>** – RALPH RITCHIE & THERESA FINLEY

