

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.



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!

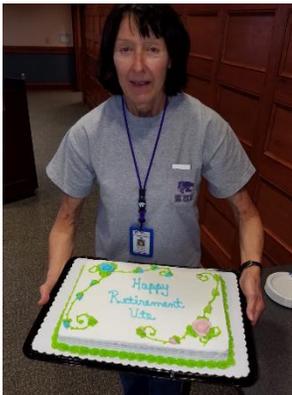
KUDOS!

"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 4th – CHRISTOPHER SLATTERY

JULY 6th – ARAMINTA WASHINGTON, SANDRA BOLIN, & JEFF SIMS

JULY 7th – ALLAN LEIKAM

JULY 9th – DONNIE SILVA

JULY 11th – CLIFFORD ANDERSON & CHARLES JACKSON

JULY 12th – CODY SMITH

JULY 14th – FRANCIS (JOE) BROCKISH

JULY 18th – TIMOTHY JOHNSON

JULY 19th – JAMES CAMPBELL & GYPSY SNYDER

JULY 21st – RONALD PARKS

JULY 22nd – JEFFERY FUSSELMAN & AMANDA WORTHY

JULY 23rd – KELLY GUILFOYLE & DANIEL PLUMMER

JULY 24th – JAMES VESTA JR.

JULY 26th – MARYLOU NELSON & DEREK MACY

JULY 28th – RANDY EVANS

JULY 30th – BEVERLY PRICE & CHRISTOPHER HAYDEN

JULY 31st – JUSTIN SCHLEGEL



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST 2ND – GARRETT HEATH

AUGUST 3RD – GREG FIEF

AUGUST 4TH – STEPHEN GREINKE, GAYLA ANDERSON & RUTA UY

AUGUST 5TH – THERESA CLARK

AUGUST 6TH – MORRIS OLSON & JOY KNUTSON

AUGUST 8TH – NATHAN SUMNERS & DELMAR WESTOVER

AUGUST 9TH – SUN JOHNSON

AUGUST 10TH – DALE RIVETT

AUGUST 12TH – LAWRENCE RUSH & JASON GLESSNER

AUGUST 13TH – PAUL WOODYARD

AUGUST 14TH – DARRIN VANDORN

AUGUST 15TH – RENE SMALLDRIDGE & GARY WEISHAAR

AUGUST 16TH – ROLLIN COBERLY

AUGUST 17TH – SCOTT WEST & PATRICK HODGSON

AUGUST 23RD – DORON STRODE

AUGUST 25TH – ROBERT LEARNED & CAROL WENDLAND

AUGUST 26TH – MIKE PAPH & DON NANNINGA

AUGUST 29TH – ARDEN POLTZ

AUGUST 30TH – RALPH RITCHIE & THERESA FINLEY

