

# F. M. News

K. S. U., Division of Facilities

Newsletter: October 2013



Unleashing your potential

## *Obstacles are the stepping stones of success*

By Harvey Mackay

A man was walking in the park one day when he came upon a cocoon with a small opening. He sat and watched the butterfly for several hours as it struggled to force its body through the little hole. Then it seemed to stop making any progress. It looked like it had gotten as far as it could, so the man decided to help the butterfly. He used his pocketknife and snipped the remaining bit of the cocoon.

The butterfly then emerged easily, but something was strange. The butterfly had a swollen body and shriveled wings. The man continued to watch the butterfly because he expected at any moment the wings would enlarge and expand to be able to support the body, which would contract in time. Neither happened. In fact, the butterfly spent the rest of its life crawling around with a swollen body and deformed wings. It was never able to fly.

What the man in his kindness and haste did not understand was that the restricting cocoon and the struggle required for the butterfly to emerge was natural. It was nature's way of forcing fluid from its body into its wings so that it would be ready for flight once it achieved its freedom. Sometimes struggles are exactly what we need in our lives.

If we were allowed to go through life without any obstacles, we would be crippled. We would not be as strong as what we could have been. And we could never fly.

History has shown us that the most celebrated winners usually encountered heartbreaking obstacles before they triumphed. They won because they refused to become discouraged by their defeats.

My good friend, Lou Holtz, football coach of the University of South Carolina, once told me, "Show me someone who has done something worthwhile, and I'll show you someone who has overcome adversity."

Beethoven composed his greatest works after becoming deaf. George Washington was snowed in through a treacherous winter at Valley Forge. Abraham Lincoln was raised in poverty. Albert Einstein was called a slow learner, retarded and uneducable. If Christopher Columbus had turned back, no one could have blamed him, considering the constant adversity he endured.

As an elementary student, actor James Earl Jones (a.k.a. Darth Vader) stuttered so badly he communicated with friends and teachers using written notes.

Itzhak Perlman, the incomparable concert violinist, was born to parents who survived a Nazi concentration camp and has been paralyzed from the waist down since the age of four.

Chester Carlson, a young inventor, took his idea to 20 big corporations in the 1940s. After seven years of rejections, he was able to persuade Haloid, a small company in

Rochester, N.Y., to purchase the rights to his electrostatic paper-copying process. Haloid has since become Xerox Corporation.

Thomas Edison tried over 2,000 experiments before he was able to get his light bulb to work. Upon being asked how he felt about failing so many times, he replied, "I never failed once. I invented the light bulb. It just happened to be a 2,000-step process."

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, elected President of the United States for four terms, had been stricken with polio at the age of 39.

Persistence paid off for General Douglas MacArthur. After applying for admission to West Point twice, he applied a third time and was accepted. The rest is history.

In 1927 the head instructor of the John Murray Anderson Drama School, instructed student Lucille Ball, to "Try any other profession. Any other."

Buddy Holly was fired from the Decca record label in 1956 by Paul Cohen, Nashville "Artists and Repertoire Man." Cohen called Holly "the biggest no-talent I ever worked with."

Academy Award-winning writer, producer and director Woody Allen failed motion picture production at New York University (NYU) and City College of New York. He also flunked English at NYU.

Helen Keller, the famous blind author and speaker, said: "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved. Silver is purified in fire and so are we. It is in the most trying times that our real character is shaped and revealed."

**Mackay's Moral:** There is no education like the university of adversity.

Harvey Mackay is the author of the New York Times #1 bestsellers *Swim With The Sharks Without Being Eaten Alive* and *Beware the Naked Man Who Offers You His Shirt*. Both books are among the top 15 inspirational business books of all time, according to the New York Times. In total, Harvey's books have sold 10 million copies worldwide, been translated into 37 languages and sold in 80 countries.

There's a little truth behind every [justkidding]  
A little curiosity behind every [justwondering]  
A little knowledge behind every [idontknow]  
And a little emotion behind every [idontcare]

## Who is New...

September 3, 2013:



Fred D. Bammes was hired as a temporary Procurement Officer I. He is still working for Tim Poell in the Storeroom.

Joseph A. Verschelden was hired as a temporary Buildings System Technician. He is working for Allan Leikam at the Vet Med complex.



September 9, 2013:



Wade W. Simnitt was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He is working for Mike Price on the Custodial night crew.

September 30, 2013:



Annette Finkeldei was hired as an Agricultural Technician Senior. She is working for Joe Myers on the Grounds Maintenance main campus.

September 16, 2013:

Shawn Wilson was promoted to a G.M.R.T Senior. He is working for Mark Fronce on the Grounds Maintenance main campus irrigation crew.



10-1 Rick Renner, Christina White, Lori Poeske

10-2 Thomas Burke, Tony Stevens

10-3 Diana Hollingshead, Dan Engelbert

10-5 Hulan Jack

10-6 Vince Petre, Mike White, Mark Taussig

10-8 Travis Quigley, Kerry McDonald

10-9 Todd Neipert

10-11 Penny Funkhouser, Greig Olney

10-12 Steve Williams

10-13 Janice Whaley

10-14 Warlito Borbolla

Ryan Swanson was hired as the Associate Vice President for Campus Planning and Facilities Management.



- 10-16 Frank Witt, Peggy Grater
- 10-17 Ryan Holle
- 10-18 Mandie Christensen
- 10-19 Stacy Mahan
- 10-20 Roger Hinkle
- 10-22 Candice Lane
- 10-24 Rod Hodges
- 10-25 Larry Lee
- 10-26 Roger Hageman
- 10-27 Michael Reasoner
- 10-31 Janice Rood, Joel Groninga, Lynn Salsbury

***"I would rather sit on a pumpkin, and have it all to myself, than be crowded on a velvet cushion."***  
*~ Henry David Thoreau*

## Caught in the Act of Doing Good!

## KUDOS

To Evans Pittman, Custodial Services, Bluemont Crew.



Director of Facilities Services, John Woods, received the following letter:

Dear Mr. Woods,

I write to commend the performance of Evans Pittman, a member of your custodial team that services Bluemont Hall. I am beginning my eighth year at KSU and am consistently impressed with the diligence, hard work, and demeanor of our custodial staff. However you should know that from the perspective of my colleagues in Bluemont Hall, Mr. Pittman is a real standout.

In addition to being consistently pleasant and helpful, Mr. Pittman takes tremendous pride in his work. Under Mr. Pittman's supervision, the floors in Bluemont Hall have never looked as good as they do right now. Mr. Pittman went above and beyond minimum expectations to ensure our students would come back to school this semester to a clean environment. He took great care in prepping the floors, removing stains and scars, and waxing. Several of my colleagues noticed and commented on his work.

It has been said that having integrity and character means doing the right thing even when no one is looking. In my opinion, Mr. Evans Pittman is a man of great character and integrity and an asset to our custodial team at Kansas State University.

Sincerely,  
 Thomas S. Vontz, Ph.D.

Thank you Evans for the good work and thank you Thomas for taking the time to write.

*If you treat an individual as he is, he will remain how he is. But if you treat him as if he were what he ought to be and could be, he will become what he ought to be and could be.*

*~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe*



### *My Piece of the Picture...*

Adam Ukena, Administrative Assistant, works at Dykstra Hall in the Training and Safety Office. Adam has worked at Facilities for about six months.

Adam helps enter the training into the Access worker's database, sends out the van training that is held at least once a month, keeps track of training records and Job Hazard Analysis, creates and sends out Lafene Physicals for asbestos and respirator, designs and produces ID's, and creates the New Hire Orientation booklets. He mainly works with Sandra Hoffman and Lynn Salsbury and thinks they are fun to work with.

He feels he contributes to the success of the training office by helping with any computer and other troubleshooting needs. Adam also helps his co-workers stay caught up around the office which requires a lot of multi-tasking.

The three best things he likes about the job are the "co-workers, meeting other workers from other departments that come through for ID's, and the atmosphere."

A "positive change" would be more room in the office or at least more desk space.

Adam likes video games, sports, technology, enjoys reading, and has recently been riding a bike for exercise. His nephews have started riding their bikes with him as well.