When I think of soup, I think of my grandmother. She loved to cook, and food and love were one and the same to her. When she cooked, she wasn’t just making a meal. She was pouring out the love in her heart and sharing this love with her family. When we ate her food, we loved her back. And no soup, no matter who made it, ever tasted as good as hers. Her love made the difference.

I’ve discovered that who stirs the pot has an impact on what’s in the pot. For example, did you know that some wine experts can determine the personality of a winemaker simply by tasting the wine? There is a common challenge experienced by chefs and restaurants I call the “stirring-the-pot phenomenon.” The challenge they face is consistency, because no matter how carefully different chefs follow the same recipe and do everything exactly the same way, the final product always varies a little bit. It seems we can’t separate who stirs the pot from what’s in the pot.

The same is true in business and in every aspect of life. Every day you are stirring the pot of life, and the most important ingredient you can put into your soup is you. Your love, optimism, trust, vision, communication, authenticity, appreciation, and passion make life delicious, and the relationships you create at work and at home determine the substance and quality of your soup.

The amount of love and energy we invest into our business, team, organization, and family determines the quality of it. The love we share in raising our children, developing employees, teaching students, coaching players, or servicing our customer impacts the outcome. When we care about our customers, they feel it. When we stir the pot at work with optimism and passion, our customers and colleagues notice. Just as wine reflects the personality of the winemaker, our lives and careers and businesses reflect the energy that we put forth.

In my work with countless businesses, professional sports teams, hospitals, and school districts, I’ve seen firsthand how one person who grabs the spoon and decides to stir the pot can make a difference. One person who decides to bring out the best in others by sharing the best within themselves can transform teams and organizations. Taken from the new book, SOUP — by Jon Gordon

Who is New...

April 5, 2010:

Thomas W. Filippino was hired as a permanent Administrative Officer. He is working for Loleta Sump as the supervisor of the Central Mail Services.
April 26, 2010

Kerry McDonald’s position was reallocated to an Administrative Officer. She is still working in Support Services for Loleta Sump.

May Birthdays

5-1 Fred Bammes, Mary Willoughby
5-3 Will Hirsch, Gary Kilner
5-4 Doug Soash, Mike Seymour II
5-5 Galen Hageman
5-6 Dale Billam
5-7 Nancy Morel
May 9th Mothers Day
5-9 Nicole Sloan, Kenny Windholz
5-12 Jesse Fernandez, Richard Smith
5-14 Diana Manns
5-16 Pat Boss
5-17 Andy Bunel
5-19 Tina Williams
5-21 Renee Leask, Randall Linstrom
5-22 Jim Lytle, Mark Loberg, Ralph Hudson
5-23 Rene Doherty
5-24 Dave Soupene
5-25 Lyle Herring
5-26 John Brown, Larry McCoy
5-27 July Dugan
5-31 Kris Fulkerson

Retirement!

Connie Moseler
Central Mail Supervisor, retired
February 7, 2010.

Ralph McHugh
Grounds Department.
retired April 1, 2010.

My Piece of the Picture…

Lori C. Poeske has worked as a Custodial Specialist since June 2008.

She has been working at Anderson Hall for the last year, on the first floor where the Presidents office is located. She enjoys the beautiful historic building with the gorgeous wooden staircases and “Wildcat” emblem on the rug.

The three things she likes best about her job:
1. She enjoys getting up everyday to come to work. 2. She likes her crew, each with different personalities and behaviors, but they all try to get along and have fun. 3. She enjoys working at Anderson Hall. Students and building users are very nice to her as is her co-worker, Jackie.

She would like to see some competition between all the custodial crews in keeping their

“A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself.” 
Joseph Campbell
buildings clean. If it was well organized, it could, “pump up the crew moral”. Prizes could range from Pizza Parties to gift cards for movies, stores, restaurants, or other incentives.

Lori believes she and her co-worker, Jackie, contribute to Kansas State University’s beauty, by keeping Anderson Hall clean and safe for the students and other building users. She believes they are doing their part by keeping the building clean and picking up trash outside of the building. She said “They keep the students and building users happy.”

Most people don’t know that Lori was a Preschool Teacher for almost 20 years. She really enjoys her job as a “Custodial Specialist”. She has met a lot of nice people and is proud to be working at KSU.

Thanks, Lori, for sharing your “Piece of the Puzzle” with us.

Facilities received the sad news about Ronald D. Salladay, who died Sunday, April 25, 2010. Ron worked here at Facilities as a Senior Plumber. He was recently recognized for his 35 years of dedicated service.

Ron loved fishing, hunting, camping, spending time at the lake and in the mountains. He especially loved being with his family and his beloved dog: Kylee. He was a very hard worker and took pride in living life his way.

Survivors include his wife: Donna; daughters: Rona and Lisa, their families and many friends.

Private Memorial Services will be held at a later date. There will be no visitation. (Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home)

Submitted by the Plumbing Shop

Classified Employee Recognition Ceremony

The State of Kansas recognizes and honors employees who have worked 10, 20, 30, and 40 years. Kansas State University recognizes and honors employees who have worked 5, 15, 25 and 35 years. The 33rd Annual Classified Employee Recognition was held April 28, 2010.

Employees receiving 5 years recognition:

Joe Brockish, Howard Clark, Dustin Durr, Evin Niedfeldt, Stanley Ostmeyer, Travis Quigley, Jimmy Sester, Robert Sweet, Darrin VanDorn, Tina Williams, and Mary Willoughby.

Employees receiving 15 years recognition:

Kevin Harrison, Joseph Myers, Janet Schooler, Lynn Schwandt, Lyndle (Rob) Slattery, Eugene Williams and Clifford Anderson.

Employees receiving 25 years recognition:


Honoring those who retired in 2009:

Linda Arbuthnot, Linda Brodersen, Margaret Jensen, Jackie Johnson, Lawrence Powell, Delilah Reece, Daniel Reves, Son Tran, and Joseph Zerby.

Employee of the Year Award:

Rene Doherty, Administrative Officer at Facilities in Salina.
Congratulations to all employees.

Caught in the Act of Doing Good!

Kudos to Sharon Slack, Vet Med.

Have you ever wondered who keeps the KSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital clean and neat on a daily basis? Who puts the clients’ minds at ease about the care of their beloved animals by making our treatment areas and halls well ordered and sanitary? Who takes out refuse generated daily by the hospital? Who cleans up those little “oops” that Rover made on the lobby rug? Who keeps our hallways safe for bustling two-legged and four-legged traffic? During daylight hours these questions can be answered in the form of one dedicated employee; Custodial Specialist Sharon Slack.

Sharon really epitomizes the “Special” in her job title every day in the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. She always has a warm “Hello!” for everyone as she makes her daily rounds. Sharon is always interested in seeing to the well being of her fellow employees, clinicians, students, and clients. She is willing to take on any task no matter how large or small, to make the day flow smoothly for the rest of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital staff. Often she is called away from routine tasks, breaks, or lunch to take care of some job which others found too onerous to perform. At these “crisis” times, Sharon is always cheerful and quick to resolve the situation. If the job proves too big for one person, Sharon quickly drafts other custodial staff members with whom she shares a great rapport.

During her over 30 years of service with Facilities at Kansas State University, Sharon has spent 24 of those years employed at the KSU Veterinary Medical Complex. This record of service illustrates her unceasing attention to the daily details of keeping the facility clean and the staff satisfied. There is not a nook, cranny, or space in the complex that Sharon is not familiar with from a cleaning standpoint. She is always willing to lend a hand to fellow custodial workers who have just been hired at the KSU Veterinary Medical Complex. Her years of experience make her a fount of knowledge for those learning “the ropes” about the finer points of keeping the complex clean. I am sure even Dean Richardson could learn things about the College of Veterinary Medicine from someone with Sharon’s tenure.

Sharon is truly a very “Special” member of the KSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital staff. It is my sincere hope that after reading these brief paragraphs you will have earned a greater appreciation for not only Sharon, but for all of the KSU Facilities Staff and the tasks they perform which keep the university running on a even keel. I hope that this spotlight will illustrate for Sharon the high regard we find for her contributions in the continued tradition of excellence at the KSU Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital.

Thank you, Rob and Lesa Reves @ Vet Med, for the article and the picture you submitted.
The Grounds Department has been very busy this month. We spent most of April getting ready for 20,000 visitors for Open House and the Spring Football Game Celebration. We will spend the next few weeks getting ready for Graduation.

With spring arriving, we are spraying for weeds, fertilizing, mowing, weed whipping, pruning, watering, sweeping streets and sidewalks, picking up lots of trash and much more. Also starting is the annual bed planting. You will see flowers popping up in most of our beds from now until graduation. There will be some beds that will take on a new look this year. They may have shrubs, perennials, or even vegetables in them. We are doing this to reduce our maintenance costs of the annual beds.

We had two employees leave us in the last month. Ralph McHugh retired and Valerie Marchesi got a job at Housing Maintenance. We will miss them both, but we are going to be able to hire these two positions. So we will be interviewing candidates in the next few weeks.

We are so very grateful to the employees that we have in our department. They have stepped up and accomplished the tasks that they are assigned in a time of fewer employees and smaller budgets. The Grounds Department is a wonderful department with wonderful people!

Facilities Recycling had a display set up at the K-State Union for Earth Day. Pictured above is student worker, Harry Spencer.

"Just as we cannot blame others for destroying the environment, so we cannot look to others to protect the environment. Responsibility for both begins at home."  
Paul Griss, The Daily Planet