

F. M. News

K. S. U., Division of Facilities

Newsletter: December 2013



Unleashing your potential

What is Christmas to you?

Sure it's the 25th day of December. But deep inside, what Christmas is to one person may not be the same to another.

At this time of year a lot of folks think of the birth of Christ and St. Nick or Santa Clause; some think of Hanukah and others Kwanzaa, all depending on your culture and how you were raised, however, I suppose it all boils down to what Tevye said in the movie, *Fiddler on the Roof*, "Tradition!"

What is tradition? Merriam-Webster says, "A way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular group, family, society, etc., for a long time."

Tradition is very important for families as it creates good feelings and special moments to remember. Family traditions give every member of the family a stronger sense of belonging. It is about relationships. Since family traditions are something you do together, they strengthen the bonds you have between each other, creating a stronger sense of belonging to the family. Family traditions offer your family a sense of security.

Sometimes there can be divorce or death in a family, leaving a void in what used to be tradition. That is a time to create new traditions, even if it is painful.

So as we enter into this special Christmas Season, plan some family traditions and memory builders with your families and friends. Remember those who don't have family and include them; and shut-ins who can't get out; remember those who have no home or no family. Put some money in the kettle for the bell ringers, a card in the mail to thank the mail carrier, librarian, daycare employee or whoever touched your life so kindly during the year. Let this be a time of giving. The gift of giving will bring rewards for all. It does not need to be expensive or time consuming. W. C. Jones said, "The joy of brightening other lives, bearing each other's burdens, easing other's loads and supplanting empty hearts and lives with generous gifts becomes for us the magic of Christmas."

The Gold Wrapping Paper

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper. As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!" As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her. But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full." The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold. ~ Author Unknown ~



Congratulations to the Winners!

In support of the All-University Campaign, any Facilities employee who donated to the All-University Campaign had their name placed in the drawing; with the chance of two employees winning a paid day off. The drawing was completed November 22, 2013. Hye Suk

Stoddard from Custodial Services and David McMullen from Planning were the prize winners. The winner and their supervisor will work



out the details. If you have any questions, please contact Loleta Sump or any Facilities All-University Campaign volunteer.

Who is New...

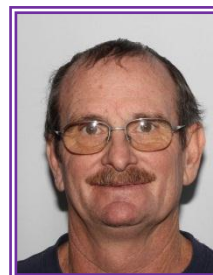


November 4, 2013:

Jody A. Barry was hired as a Custodial Specialist. She is working for Charlotte Morgan on the Custodial day crew.

November 18, 2013:

Thomas P. Terzi was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He is working for Christina White on the Vet Med Custodial night crew.



November 25, 2013:

Randall Hobbs was hired as a Utility Worker. He is working for Joe Myers in the Ground Maintenance department.



12-1 John Chubb

12-2 Deena Barger, Jonathan McBee, Cherry Rosenberry

12-3 Wendy Moore

12-6 Chris Holliman, Augustine Gonzales

12-7 Matthew Smith, Youn Wong Kwon,
James Manns

12-8 Steven Jones, David Bainter

12-9 Hye Stoddard

12-10 Michael Stoddard

12-11 Darlene Jones

12-13 Adam Ukena

12-14 Quentin Rawlins, Daniel Bostrom

12-17 Nora Downie, Son Kutei, Dean Fine,
Dennis Brady

12-19 Lex Pearson

12-21 Patrick Lancaster

12-22 Isaac Williams, Christopher Falley

12-24 Linda Pfaff

12-25 Christmas!

12-26 Bernard Brehmer, Tyson Cott

12-27 Lynn Schwandt, Sally Avery

12-29 Christopher Coyle, Paul Terzi,
Henry Billings, Kyle Hodges

"There is no ideal Christmas; only the one Christmas you decide to make as a reflection of your values, desires, affections, traditions."

~ Bill McKibben

I am not alone at all, I thought. I was never alone at all. And that, of course, is the message of Christmas. We are never alone. Not when the night is darkest, the wind coldest, the world seemingly most indifferent. For this is still the time God chooses.

~Taylor Caldwell



Caught in the Act of Doing Good!

KUDOS

Quentin Rawlins,
Custodial Services
Manager.

In early November, Kerry McDonald in Dykstra's main office, wrote, "Yesterday they trimmed the crepe myrtle bushes in front of Dykstra 109 so we can see out. (Thanks Delmar!) I was teasing the Grounds workers that now they needed to clean the windows. Quentin Rawlins overheard me and, even though I said I would do it myself, he went and got paper towels and a spray bottle and cleaned them. Now I can see out the windows and can see the trees changing colors. It's wonderful!" Special thanks for all employees who do the little extra things to make everyone's life nicer! Thanks, Quentin and thanks Kerry.



KUDOS



Sarah Davis
Procurement Officer I
Facilities Storeroom

Anita McDiffett, from Grain Science and Industry, wrote, "The purpose of this email is

to acknowledge the great work that Sarah Davis in the Facilities Storeroom has done for me and the Feed Science group in the Department of Grain Science and Industry. As you may know, we recently completed our new O.H. Kruse Feed Technology Innovation

Center and had our dedication on Friday, Oct. 11. We were able to build this new facility mainly due to the generous donations of equipment manufacturers in the feed and grain industries.

To show our appreciation to these donors, plaques were made by Sarah's group. This was started around this time last year for plaques to be taken to the International Production & Processing Expo in Atlanta last January. In the past month I have asked Sarah to make at least ten new plaques, made a few small changes to several of them, and made several large changes to others. No matter what changes were requested, big or small, the plaques were always ready when needed. No matter how many additional ones I requested, the plaques were always ready when needed. Knowing that Sarah would take care of these plaques let me concentrate on other things that needed to be done for the dedication, and, for that, I am extremely grateful."

Sarah's supervisor, Kris Fulkerson, replied back to Anita, "Thank you for your kind words, Anita. I know full well the value of Sarah's contribution to Kansas State and have received several written compliments on her service. I do appreciate that our customers think highly of her service and we are lucky to have her here."

Thank you, Sarah for your quality of work and your good work ethics. Facilities has in the past received comments about the great job you do meeting their needs here on campus. Special thanks to Anita for her nice comments and for Kris's reply.

Aristotle said, "Quality is not an act, it is a habit."

Retirement. .

Congratulations to David Debusman, Special Projects Coordinator with Campus Planning. Dave started in this capacity on March 8, 1995. His last day of service was November 30, 2013. We wish him well in his retirement.



FYI

Many times negative work habits are emphasized in an effort to improve behavior. Unfortunately when there is a highly qualified productive worker, as they are not a problem in the work place, this behavior, although noticed, goes unrewarded. K-State recognizes the value of a quality worker and their behavior and in a way to help supervisors or other employees facilitate this, have posted information on their web sites.

K-State Classified Award of Excellence:

This university-wide award was established to recognize exemplary performance and contributions of classified support staff members who consistently excel in their positions and demonstrate integrity and a strong commitment to the mission and values of Kansas State University. The purposes of this award include:

1. Publicizing the positive attributes and contributions made by classified staff;
2. Rewarding and recognizing individuals who achieve excellence; and
3. Encouraging a high degree of consciousness regarding excellence in the workplace for the entire campus staff.

Classified Employee of the Year Award and Recognition Program Guidelines:

The program provides an employee award and recognition system authorized by K.S.A. 75-37, 105. The program is designed to recognize an employee's contribution to the objectives of Kansas State University through excellence in performance and service.

Employees of the Year are selected based on either:

- A notable event or achievement that is significant in scope, effort or impact on department operations or service to the campus community, or
- Execution of duties of the position far beyond the service level commonly expected by the employee's customers that is of great benefit to, or reflects highly on, the department and or the university.

The award should indicate achievement well beyond the norm. In general, the minimum required level of achievement should not be so high as to be unattainable by employees who are generally recognized as performing in an outstanding manner, nor so low that the award loses significance by being easily attainable.

Classified Employee Opportunity Fund

Classified Employee Opportunity Fund donations are made to help classified employees with academic achievement, work expenses not funded by their department or to reward outstanding leadership.

President's Award of Excellence for Unclassified Professionals

The purpose of these awards is to foster excellence in the workplace by rewarding and recognizing unclassified professional staff who achieve excellence and/or make exemplary

contributions to the mission and values of K-State through service as a team player, exceptional productivity, creativity or innovation, distinguished accomplishment, and/or leadership.

For more information on the guidelines, who is eligible, and how to submit employee's information for possible awards, check out the following web-sites:

<http://www.k-state.edu/hr/awards.htm>

<http://www.ksu.edu/class-senate/awards/award.html>

Facilities extend our deepest sympathies to Chip Cooper and his daughters, Candace and Jaedn with the loss of his wife and their mother. Jennifer L. Cooper passed away November 9, 2013.

Happy Birthday to Dr. Ed Rice!

A Birthday Party was held November 21st in celebration of his Birthday.



On a Personal Side:



Peggy Grater was awarded Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honour Society on November 10, 2013. Dr. Chwen Sheu, Department Head of Management, was also given this honor. A plaque and pin was awarded to Peggy for her "above and beyond", to make sure transportation was provided when the Golden Key needed it. Golden Key values are: Integrity, Collaboration, Innovation, Respect, Diversity, Excellence, and Engagement. Peggy works at Facilities' Motor Pool.

Welcome to the World, Austin Wainwright!



November 19th 2013 Austin arrived and was greeted by parents, Kyle and Nicole Wainwright and grandparents Don and Tammy. Don is the Electric Shop Supervisor.

My Piece of the Picture...



Mandie Chrsitensen, Room Scheduling, works at Dykstra Hall in the Support Services Office.

Mandie has worked in Room Scheduling since September 24, 2012; however Mandie says "I don't count the days or months just the great memories and experiences."

Mandie schedules all General use classrooms on campus including Bosco Plaza. She has been cross-trained in Key Control. She says that she seems to know everyone because she works with all, if not most departments on campus.

Her position contributes to the success of the organization and campus by "ensuring general use classrooms and space on campus are used safely and to their full potential."

When asked what the three best things about her job are, she said "the people, all the events, and that there is never a dull moment."

A positive change she would like to implement is to make sure everyone leaves with one positive thing about their day, it makes work more enjoyable.

When asked what most people don't know about her, she said "I went to nursing school."

Thanks Mandie, for sharing your Piece of the Puzzle with us.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is the time for home."
~ Edith Sitwell