Quest for Excellence

Unleashing your potential

A few ways to improve yourself for 2014!

#1 Learn to manage your time better.

#2 Make sure you use sunscreen.

#3 Give up Smoking

“Mind if I light up?”

#4 Start a blog.

“That’s why I avoid Brie.”

#5 Learn to eat healthier.

“What happens in swimwear, stays in swimwear.”

#6 Try to lose the weight.
#7 Start saving for the future.

#8 Listen to your Mother.

#9 Stick to your exercise.

#10 Do your part to help the Environment.

#11 Cut down on drinking.

#12 Try to keep a positive attitude.

#13 Help people in need.

*Taken in part from Readers Digest online.*
My Piece of the Picture…

Casey Lauer
Energy & Environment Department Director

Casey has worked for Facilities for 3 ½ years.

He was hired to develop a program that will save on energy and operational costs. He said he has great staff, who are smart, dependable and he can rely on them.

When asked to list the three best things he liked about his job, he said, “1. I’m always working on something new…variety. 2. People - I look forward to the interaction with people in varying roles at the University. 3. The role that the energy & environment program has evolved into is exciting. I love coming to work, knowing that we make a significant difference in the well-being of the University and in the lives of the people we work with.”

If Casey could make a “Positive Change” to his department, he said, “I would change the cell phone policy. I would gladly pay out of pocket to make personal calls on my work phone in order to avoid having to carry two cell phones.”

When asked how he thought his position contributes to the success of our organization and campus, Casey said, “We are very bottom line driven, which also has inherent benefit on society and the environment. It’s the triple-bottom-line approach: People, Power, Planet.”

Most people don’t know that Casey would hunt for a living if he could. He said, “It is more than a hobby, it’s a passion and I look forward to involving my 4 year old son as he matures.”

Thanks, Casey for sharing your piece of the puzzle.

Who is New...

December 2, 2013:

Steven Hoard was hired as a Welder. He is working for Michael Paph in the Plumbing Shop.

Craig McConkey was hired as an Electrician Senior. He is working for Donald Wainwright in the Electric Shop.

Roger Schneider was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He is working for Stephanie Brecheisen on the Custodial day crew.

Scott Wilburn was hired as an Agricultural Technician Senior. He is working for Joe Myers on the main campus Grounds Maintenance crew.
December 9, 2013:

Colette Remsbecker was hired as a Custodial Specialist. She is working for Steve Greinke on the Custodial night crew.

Joshua Mackay was hired as a Custodial Specialist. He is working for Steve Greinke on the Custodial night crew.

Bryson Wheeler was promoted to Facilities Specialist. He is working for Larry McCoy in the Plumbing/Construction Shop.

December 13, 2013:

Tina Williams was hired as a temporary Custodial Specialist. She is working for Warren Berg on the Custodial day crew.

Every morning I get up and look through the Forbes list of the richest people in America. If I’m not there, I go to work. ~ Robert Orben

January Birthdays:

1-1 Victoria L’Ecuyer, Timothy Garibaldi
1-3 Barb Larson
1-4 Darrell Betzner, Terri Wyrick
1-5 Don Engelken, Sheila Brown
1-6 Bill Spiegel
1-9 Jerry Bohnenblust
1-11 Kathy Henry
1-12 Alex Schump, Janet Weeks
1-16 Evelyn Negron
1-17 Bryson Wheeler
1-19 David Bammes
1-21 Steve Anderson
1-23 Jack Carlson
1-25 Travis Homeier
1-27 Burt Pearson, John Woods
1-30 Roy Joosten, Ken Mullin

"There are two seasonal diversions that can ease the bite of any winter. One is the January thaw. The other is the seed catalogues." ~ Hal Borland
Kudos to
Tony Whetstone

Tony is a Facilities custodian based at Beach Museum, working on Barb McNutt’s crew.

Recently the Facilities Services received this complimentary letter.

Dear Supervisor,

Tony Whetstone is a very important member of the team at the Beach Museum of Art. He devotes so much time and energy to his work – coming in early, staying late and even checking in on his day off – that it seems he is here all the time. He is dedicated to the appearance of our beautiful building, as well as monitoring all of the essential factors such as climate control, lighting, snow removal, etc.

Technically, Tony is a Division of Facilities employee, but he cares for the Beach Museum like it is his own. Not only do the floors shine, windows are clean, fixtures are polished, but anyone who meets and know Tony realizes that his heart in in his work. He is a perfectionist who is constantly striving to make the Beach Museum a better place to visit. When Tony takes on a task, you can be sure it will be done the right way.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our pride of Tony!

Cindi Morris
Assistant Director for Operations
Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art

We thank Tony for the dedication to do his best in his work, and to Cindi Morris for her nice letter.

Kudos to
Tyson Cott

Tyson works for Grounds West on David Stuhlsatz’s crew.

While Mandi Christensen was in the storeroom getting supplies for Support Services, she had unexpected help. She wrote, “Tyson helped move an extremely heavy dolly loaded with boxed paper. I didn’t even have to ask him to help he just offered as he saw Shelia struggle with it down the aisle. I could have hurt myself if I did it myself.”

Thanks Tyson for your kindness and willingness to assist and thanks Mandie for submitting Tyson for this award.

Kudos to
Edwin Asebedo

Edwin works at Central Mail. On a day before Christmas, Mandie
Christensen, observed Edwin “helping a postal customer who was having difficulty understanding a customs form in English. He stayed with her and helped her all the way through the form and never once showed any frustration” Mandie submitted Edwin for this award.

When Edwin received his award, he had some reservation in accepting it. He said he was only doing his job and if any recognition was given, it should go to all the staff at Central Mail. He wrote this response:

Thank you for the opportunity to receive this award but I would also like to acknowledge the rest of the Central Mail staff, starting with Anne Murphy. She is the first in and the last to leave; she has operations, and takes care of the billing, and also makes sure our operations run smooth. Russell Thompson does the same, spends time away from his family to deliver mail to Jardine and Claflin. He also is our resident Hazardous Material expert. Next is Barb Larson who not only does address corrections for the University but also delivers all of the registered mail to the University. Rose Hamilton and Mo Olson, our two new employees, have contributed to the daily operations which we couldn’t get completed without them. Not forgetting Tammy Powers and Sophia, at the Contract Post Office, who give excellent customer service. We have two retired postal employees who handle our Jardine mail. Our Administrative Officer, Jay Henning, who does not micro manage and supports us to get the job done. I would like to also thank the customers of Kansas State University. Semper FI, Edwin Asebedo

PS Thank you Mrs. Bammas for the cinnamon rolls.

Thanks, Edwin and Mandi.

Congratulations go out to Sarah Davis, Facilities storeroom. Printed in K-States Purchasing Office’s monthly “Purchasing Post” was the following article:

Sarah Davis, Procurement Officer II with K-State Facilities Storeroom, is the Kansas Association of Public Purchasing Professionals 2013 Manager of the Year. As Storeroom & Inventory Manager, Sarah has taken the lead role in keeping the operation afloat while the department deals with budget cuts, unfilled positions, etc. Sarah graduated from K-State in 2000 but actually started working in Facilities in 1999. Sarah is also active in KAPPP, serving as secretary for the board for the past 3 years & been re-elected to a 4th term.

Kudos to you Sarah!

Retirement...

Charlotte Morgan, Custodial Manager over the Bluemont and Anderson Crew, retired December 31, 2013. Charlotte started working for Facilities March 2, 1982, completing 31 years, 9 months and 30 days of service.

Anayansi “Nancy” Morel, Custodial Supervisor at the Bluemont complex, started her career on November 17, 1979. She had 34 years, 2 months and 15 days of service when she retired December 31st.
Thank you both for your service and best wishes for a happy retirement.

On a Personal Side:

Last year was a very busy year at the Dale Bogg’s home. Dale got a new title, Grandpa, as Lincoln Mitchell Boggs arrived in August. Lincoln’s parents are Mitch and Elise Boggs. Their names may sound familiar, as both worked for Facilities while students at K-State. The family now lives in Salina, Kansas where Mitch is using his degree in education, teaching 8th grade Social Studies. In December, Mitch received his master’s degree here at K-State. Below is a picture of Mitch at his graduation.

Dale also has kept up a family tradition started by his father, Jasper Boggs Jr. Jasper made a chair for each of his grandchildren. Here is a picture of Dale, his grandson Lincoln, and the chair Dale made for Lincoln. What a wonderful legacy!

Many of our readers know Roger Hageman, Utilities supervisor, at the Power Plant. In our 2012 December issue of FM news, there is a picture of Roger with he and Patty’s two grandchildren. Sadly, misfortune struck their home. Roger and Patty’s daughter Tara was diagnosed with a tumor in her back. Long story, short.. After surgery to remove a four and half inch tumor and lots of treatment, prayer and support from coworkers, Tara is much better. Below is a picture of coworkers from Utilities showing support for “Team Tara”. Below that, is a Christmas card and letter from the family.

Tara and I want to thank you for your prayers and support during our family’s time of need this year. Through your support, we were able to stay strong and grow closer together as a family. We are looking forward to welcoming our newest little blessing in this spring. May you and your family have a blessed holiday season!
Tara has been doing well with her recovery, really turned a corner about two weeks ago! As the surgical pains begin to reside, pregnancy pains are beginning to kick in! Her active lifestyle continues to be on hold, so she and the girls are already becoming a bit stir crazy. Might make for a long winter!

The tumor was Grade II, but BENIGN! After baby boy has arrived, a full body MRI will be done, with contrast, to look for other residual tumor cells in her spine and brain. Through it all, we have felt truly blessed this year and have never been more thankful for the amazing friends and family we have in our lives.

With Love, Brandon, Tara, Payton, Reese and Baby Converse