Not sure about the rest of you but I have Spring Fever. This Winter has seemed cold and long and I am more than ready to take on the allergies, if it just means I am not cold anymore!

Even though we have been cold, as an organization we have continued to hum along. While our budget position has been precarious this year in the long run I think we will be ok. Our implementation of AiM, the replacement system for Facility Focus is well underway and on time for a June 10, 2011 “go live” date followed by 30 days of using both systems before we pull the plug on Facility Focus. Thank you to all involved in this process. As you know we are working on plans to take over maintenance responsibilities for West Hospital and Biotech I, so despite campus E&G construction slowing down our responsibilities continue to grow. Just as in the past three years our benchmarking against our peer institutions shows us performing well in the areas of grounds and maintenance and well ahead of the pack for custodial. Thanks so much for your efforts to serve the customer, it is certainly paying off.

Greg Dunaway, Director of Business Operations left us for a promotion to Director of Facilities Services and Planning at John Tyler Community College. We wish Greg the best. Claudia Mangum has agreed to be Interim Director of Business Operations. Please give her your support as she gets up to speed and comes around to visit with departments.

Lastly, I continue to encourage all of us to incorporate Sustainability into all we do. Green Building Operations and Maintenance certification work for the Rice Property continues and our goal is to incorporate these principles in all that we do. Thanks again for all you do, I am proud to be a part of the FMD PPD Team.

Message from the Executive Director

Ed Bennett

BIG Thanks

To all PPD Essential Employees and Personnel for your hard work in making the Snow Removal season a huge SUCCESS!

THANK YOU

Above: Grounds & Zone Crew working
Energy Dashboard & EnergyCap

The Utilities Department has recently implemented two new tools to aid in the monitoring, tracking and conservation of the University’s utility use.

First, we recently set-up an Energy Dashboard. This allows anyone to visit the site and see the real time electric use in our largest energy using buildings. Some of the features include a breakdown by square footage, the ability to convert electric use to a greenhouse gas equivalent, the ability to compare buildings on a use per square foot basis and the ability to track consumption over time. To view the dashboard go to www.energy.vcu.edu and follow the link to the dashboard.

Second, we have implemented a web based tracking software, EnergyCap. This is comprehensive tracking software that allows us to track all utilities including: water, natural gas, steam and electricity. Using this tool the utility department is able to track energy consumption over time and to better forecast and budget consumption, and verify the savings when we do an energy improvement project. This also allows us to better report energy use to the Zones and other departments to aid them in managing the university’s resources.

Article written by: Carl Beckelhiemer

VCU Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

VCU has installed two Level 2 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations. One is located on the Broad Street Deck and the other one is located on the N Deck.

Level 2 supplies 240V, like what an electric dryer or oven uses. It goes through a box and a cord that improves safety by waiting to send power to the plug until it’s plugged into an EV. Level 2 allows for a wide range of charging speeds, all the way up to 19.2 kilowatts (kW), or about 70 miles of range per hour of charging.

Level 2, standard electric vehicle charging equipment provides an AC charge where an electric vehicle owner can receive either a boost in their state of charge in 1-3 hours or a complete charge in 4-8 hours, depending on the vehicle, voltage and state of charge of the vehicle.

Above: Dan Coake demonstrating the new Level 2 Vehicle Charging Station on the Broad Street Deck.

Above: Level 2 Vehicle Charging Station on the N Deck.
Rain Garden

VCU’s first Rain Garden, located in front of Harris Hall One-Stop, is a place to relax and enjoy a small oasis of natural beauty in the middle of campus. Flowering native species were installed in the Rain Garden on February 18, 2011. The purpose of a rain garden is to provide an aesthetically pleasing yet effective method for capturing runoff from impervious or paved surfaces. The runoff would normally make its way along these surfaces until it runs into a storm drain and eventually the James River & Chesapeake Bay. Plants are able to capture the runoff, filter it and retain it in the soil, reducing the amount of toxic runoff to everyone and everything downstream.

Provided by: VCU Life Sciences: Center of Environmental Studies

RecycleMania

Starting on Jan. 23 through April 2, 2011, VCU is participating in some tough competition with colleges and universities throughout North America to see who has the best recycling programs. RecycleMania is a friendly competition and benchmarking tool for college and university recycling programs to promote waste reduction activities to their campus communities. During a 10-week period, schools report recycling and trash data, which are then ranked according to who collects the largest amount of recyclables per capita, the largest amount of total recyclables, the least amount of trash per capita, or have the highest recycling rate. With each week’s reports and rankings, participating schools watch how their results fluctuate against other schools and use this to rally their campus communities to reduce and recycle more. Be a responsible Ram and recycle wherever VCU recycling containers are available. Everyone can make a difference and your participation is key to our success.

Provided by: VCU Department of Environmental Conservation
**Sustainability News**

- Check out the new & improved VCU Goes Green website; [http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu](http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu)
- Take the VCU Sustainability Pledge; [http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/takeaction/pledge/index.html](http://www.vcugoesgreen.vcu.edu/takeaction/pledge/index.html)
- More H2O Water Bottle Filling Stations are being installed around campus
- VCU Sustainability Committee is meeting on March 22, 2011 to share the subcommittees progress
- April 22nd; Earth Day Celebration on the Commons Plaza from 11:00 – 4:00 pm
- VCU Cary Street Gym Awarded LEED Gold Certification for Sustainability
- VCU received an A– on The College Sustainability Report Card for 2011
- Light bulbs in several VCU buildings were replaced with low-wattage alternatives to help save energy on campus
## Outstanding Achievement Award

Fayez Dajani  Jeff Grimm

## Spot Award

Eileen Truax  Karen Goff  John McNeil  Melissa Parrish  James Bibbs

## Customer Compass Award

Bobbi Jo Jackson  Margaret Kelland  Tom Hobson

## PPD News & Announcements

- Welcome all new PPD employees, including: Shauntee McKeever who is a new QA Inspector.
- Robert Brown, QA Inspector, will retire as of March 31, 2011. Thanks to Robert for his hard work here at VCU and we wish him the best.
- Welcome Claudia Mangum, Interim Director of Business Operations, to PPD. She has replaced Greg Dunaway who pursued a position outside of VCU.
- AiM—please make note of the following dates for the rollout; May 23–June 10.

## Important Dates

- **March 15–20**: Spring Break
- **May 3**: Last Day of Classes—MP Campus
- **May 4**: Reading Day (no class)
- **May 5–13**: Final exams—MP Campus
- **May 6**: Last Day of Classes—MCV Campus
- **May 9–13**: Final exams—MCV Campus
- **May 21**: Commencement

## Letters of Appreciation

Hi Ed,

The guys came by today and were able to adjust most of the weather-stripping on the exterior doors to block out the winter breeze on behalf of all the folks sitting near those doors, I wanted to pass along our thanks to you and the guys for resolving it—very much appreciated!

Regards,
Mike Flanigan  Virginia Commonwealth University

Re: Ed Hartless' Group

Hi Bev.

Just a quick note to forward some feedback I received last night regarding the newly installed filtered water system in the Lyons A Level. I attended a meeting last night with about 20 dental and dental hygiene students. After the meeting, several of them stood by the fountain to fill their water bottles before leaving for the evening. As I walked by, I asked them if they liked the new machine. In unison, they all responded, “Yes!” Additional comments included, “It so rocks!,” “Best thing y’all have ever done for us!,” “This thing is awesome!”.

So, a BIG thank you to you for thinking of us and providing the funding for it. The students LOVE it!

Rebecca
Rebecca Pousson, RDH, MBA
Executive Associate Dean
VCU School of Dentistry

Rebecca

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Rebecca
Rebecca Pousson, RDH, MBA
Executive Associate Dean
VCU School of Dentistry
The Tree Topping Story
Pictures speak louder than words
A Message from Paul Thrift in Grounds

1. March 2001, time to top those crape myrtles so they will bloom this year. Right? Wrong! Follow these two trees, of identical size before March 2001, as they show what topping really does for a tree.

2. While the leaf buds have opened fully on one tree, the other is struggling because most of its leaf buds were cut off a month ago. It has to use its stored energy to produce new twigs and leaves.

3. June 2001, trees should be in full leaf. Ready to bloom. Well, one tree is, the other is still working on those leaves and twigs.

4. OK, time to bloom. Oh wait, one tree is still trying to replace those missing leaves. Knowing it should bloom it manages to eek out a few flower heads.

Pictures taken by Urban Forestry Staff of the City of Charlotte, NC
The Tree Topping Story
Pictures speak louder than words
A Message from Paul Thrift in Grounds

5. October 2001. Well, the work is over for this year. Except that the topped tree didn’t get back to its original size. So it still needs more leaves and twigs. Well, there’s always next year. Crapes are survivors!

6. New year, new possibilities. Any good crape should be able to recover and bloom after a year, right?

7. One year after the original cuts were made and the tree still hasn’t recovered. More time is needed. And notice the shape of the topped tree, it will need corrective pruning to restore its natural shape.

8. OK, it’s been a year and a half. What is wrong with this picture? Nothing, it’s just the simple truth that topping harms trees. Some trees, like crape myrtles eventually recover. Some don’t. Don’t abuse your trees. If you want to top something, make it your lawn.

Any newsletter contributions can be sent to Melissa Parrish; maparrish@vcu.edu