

# Physical Plant

## From the Executive Director

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### Physical Plant Mission:

The Physical Plant Department is dedicated to providing timely, quality workmanship and service delivered in a cost effective manner to support the University's mission.

### Physical Plant Goal:

To be the facilities maintenance and service provider of choice to our customers.

As I write this it is April 5<sup>th</sup> and it does not yet feel like spring has fully sprung to me! I am hopeful it is around the corner though.

Please accept my thanks for the superb response and great teamwork with all the weather events we had this year. While we did not have a "big" one it seemed like we were always on the verge of something much worse then we actually got...a nice way of saying the weather in Richmond is hard to predict. Thanks again though for being prepared and ready. You are a great team to work with.

As we move into the last quarter of this fiscal year we look good from a budget perspective. We have a new building to operate which brings challenges and a new function to man-

age in Scheduling and Conference Services. Our support to Parking & Transportation has been excellent and I appreciate the flexibility of everyone as we have figured out the best way for us to provide excellent service. Our metrics and benchmarks continue to look strong and our customer service numbers are also looking good.

Some of you may not have read the latest communication from the President. He emphasized that we are facing challenges as state funding continues to decline. As a result we need to rely more and more on private funding, and find internal efficiencies and areas where we can combine services and reduce costs. We have a number of initiatives underway in our area that would do just



that. We are looking at ways to reduce our vehicle fleet, minimize time away from work sites, purchasing goods and services more efficiently and investigating areas to ensure we are using the right mix of in-house and contract labor. Finally, thanks for all you do. You are team I am proud to be a part of.

## Summer Celebration

This year's summer celebration will be

# June 20th

Please look for more information over the next few weeks!

## Upcoming Dates & Events

PPD Summer Celebration	June 20
PPD Policy Review Meeting	June 26th
End of the Fiscal Year	July 1
Independence Day (University Holiday)	July 4
First Day of Fall Semester	August 22
Labor Day (University Holiday)	Sept. 2

## Awards

Stephen Fore—Outstanding Achievement Award

Carl Beckelheimer—Outstanding Achievement Award

Dave Cooper—Outstanding Achievement Award

Talliah Elder—SPOT Award

Sean Brasch—Recognition Award



**Congratulations to all, and thank you for your hard work!**

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Mark Powell, Superintendent of the Franklin Street Zone, on graduating from the AP-PA Institute for Facilities Management.

In order to graduate, students must complete all four core areas and are awarded a plaque recognizing their achievement.

Photo: Jerry Helton, Mark Powell, and Bev Beaver at the APPA Institute awards banquet.



## Thanks & Recognition

It has been and continues to be a pleasure working with **Jeremiah (Ware)**. I have been at the University since June 1997 and over the years have had to contact Jeremiah regarding equipment we wanted to surplus. I have never had a complaint about the surplus process. Jeremiah is very quick and efficient during the tagging phase and removal of the equipment has been swift.

- From Deborah Branton, Vice President for Research's Office

Congratulations to **Kathy Mottley** on completing the requirements for certification as a Virginia Contracting Associate!

On Monday of this week, I placed four separate facilities requests and was so impressed to receive an \*immediate\* response from your team. Within an hour or two, **Robert Gentry** was in our store assessing and addressing three of the four items. He did an exceptional job quickly evaluating our problems and providing great feedback on them -- it was clear that he is personally invested in his work and that he truly cares that things are done properly. About thirty minutes after he arrived, someone else showed up to assess the fourth. **Emma Minor** also dropped in to check on us a few times. All of this happened in what I am sure is a busy time of year (and probably a busy time of the week) for you. Thank you for developing such a kind and responsive team, and for exceeding any expectations that I could have had.

- From Jay Phinizy, Asst. General Manager, Barnes & Noble @ VCU

I just wanted to take a minute to tell you what a nice job **Lewis Bailes** does in the Re-Use Warehouse. I've been down there several times to find surplus items for my three Divisions and he and the staff are always extremely helpful.

The warehouse is neat and organized and Lew does a great job of making the right suggestions to address whatever problems I bring him. We all work so hard around here to make sure patients and students get taken care of and I thought it would be nice to let you know that one of your staff really does a great job!

- From Kit Mulloy, Department of Internal Medicine

Just wanted to say thanks for the excellent work you did repairing the damaged wall in my office. You were professional (about working so as not to interrupt my work) and efficient. I very much appreciate all your efforts!

- Regarding **Hubert Andersen**, From Karen Rader, Millhiser House

These guys, **Mark (White)** and **Jim (Hinkle)**, deserve all the praise I can give because they are here when they say, they come in and work diligently until the job is complete, and do their work without disruption to the clinic flow. They are accommodating and offer suggestions to get the job done in the best way possible.

This is why I ask that my work be sent to your shop. Continue to do the great work that you do and again thank you.

- From Sandra Edmonds, Child Development Clinic

## Sustainability & Recycling News

- In February, Virginia Commonwealth University captured the inaugural Campus ConseRVA-tion Nationals energy challenge, defeating the University of Richmond after three weeks of friendly competition.
- In January, the 38th VCUPD Police Academy ran the 40:00 minute trash/recycling run through VCU, Carver and the Lower Fan as part of their fitness challenge. When the forty minutes was up, Team 1 had collected 226 pounds of garbage with Team 2 collecting 163 pounds. Add that up and it is 389 pounds of garbage off of the streets of Richmond/VCU.
- On April 10, VCU received the 2013 Governor's Environmental Excellence Award Honorable Mention
- On April 18, VCU received the Green Building Leadership Awards Public Sector Leader Award



Think Green: Check out the guide on the VCU Goes Green website for additional info.

You can also check out our Sustainability department on facebook and twitter to stay up to date on all sustainability campus events.

## VCU & Local News

- Eleventh Street between Broad and Marshall streets will close from June 17 to Aug. 30 to allow for construction for the new Children's Pavilion at the Children's Hospital of Richmond at VCU on the MCV Campus.
- As part of the Click It or Ticket seat belt enforcement campaign, VCU Police will hold an administrative checkpoint on Saturday, June 1, from 11 p.m. to 3 a.m. in the 700 block of West Main Street.
- Human Resources presents "How to Retire with the Virginia Retirement System" for VCU employees in McGuire Hall Annex, Room B-20 on Wednesday, June 12, 2013.

**For future newsletter contributions, please send them to Deirdre at [dacollins@vcu.edu](mailto:dacollins@vcu.edu).**

**Thank you!**