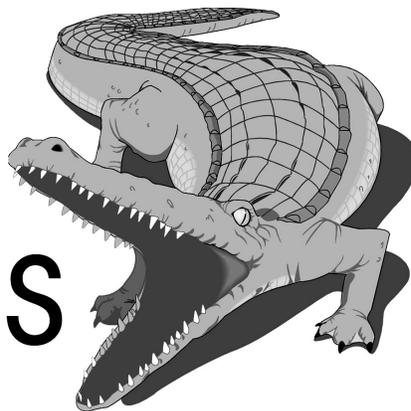


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Gatortales

From the Physical Plant Division of the University of Florida

Vol. XXI, Number 9

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UFCC Coverage

Stan King Retires

Gators Give In A Million Ways

by Pam Walker

The University of Florida Community Campaign, themed "Gators Give in a Million Ways," kicks off September 26 and runs through October 7, with the goal of reaching the \$1 million dollar mark. This is a wonderful opportunity for each of us to join others in helping to fund the critical services extended by the 76 charitable agencies supported by UFCC. These organizations work every day to support and improve the lives of people in North Central Florida. Services range from providing low-cost medical and dental services for low-income residents to sheltering abused women and children. They may also fund research to ease suffering from diseases like diabetes, cancer and Alzheimer's or extend end of life care for our elderly and ill.

Once you receive it, please take a moment to complete your pledge card and return it

to your department representative. Supporting the UF Community Campaign couldn't be easier with payroll deduction. You can even specify the agency you'd like to receive your donation. PPD's UFCC committee has worked hard to think of ways to encourage our staff to participate. This year, the committee will place the names of all PPD employees who pledge at least \$1.00 per payday into several drawings to win \$25.00 gift certificates to local businesses including - Lowe's, Wal-Mart, and several restaurants. This is just the committee's way of saying "Thanks for helping others"!

Did you know that a donation of \$1.00 a pay period can provide 1,000 in-

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Raising The Temperature

Paul Huntley, of Systems Department, maneuvers one of three giant UFCC thermometer signs into place at the corner of SW 13th Street and Union Road. The sign was one of three that were put up on campus in a joint project between Systems and Facilities.

Employees who helped complete the project included Huntley, Larry Ramsey, Keith Feagle, Jeremy Tetstone, Paul Friese, Brian Kelly, Chuck Rolling, Leon Cauthern, Tracy Smith, and Buddy Vaughan.

PPD And UFCC: Close To Home

Most PPD employees are aware that the University of Florida Community Campaign is a great way to support charitable organizations, such as the United Way and the American Cancer Society. However, what many do not realize is that in order to be eligible for UFCC funds, these organizations must provide services in Alachua County or the surrounding counties of Bradford, Columbia, Clay, Gilchrist, Levy, Marion, Putnam, Suwannee and Union. This ensures that your donations will be used primarily to help fund charities and services in your local community.

Many of these same local organizations have ties to members of the UF Physical Plant organization. Gatortales sat down with several PPD employees to learn about their personal experiences with some of the many charities and agencies that are part of the UFCC's fundraising effort.

Irene Thomas, Program Assistant, Central Stores

The Ronald McDonald House of Gainesville is where Irene chooses to volunteer her time. Ronald McDonald House provides comfort and lodging to families from out of town whose children are undergoing major medical treatments.

Irene said, "Every year my church, Cross Creek Baptist, prepares two full-course meals which we serve at the Ronald McDonald House. All the churches in Gainesville take their turns providing this service. Besides cooking and serving the food, we also visit with the parents and stay with them during the meal to provide support and counseling if they would like – basically we're there to lend an ear and try to help take their mind off the situation they're going through at that time."

As well as the meal, Irene's church also organizes soda can tab drives. "Those little pop top tabs on soda cans, the children at our church collect them and we have a big plastic house container that we fill up and donate," she said. The donated tabs are recycled for 35 cents a pound, and Ronald McDonald House uses this money to help pay for treatment costs for sick children.

"The Ronald McDonald House is just a wonderful organization, and deserves your support," said Irene. "And I would also encourage anybody who has some extra time on their hands to just call down there and find out if there's any way you can volunteer to help – I can guarantee you that it will be a very rewarding experience."

Ronald McDonald House of Gainesville official website: www.rmhgainesville.com

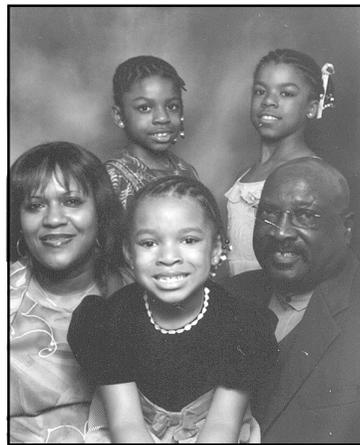
Valerie Peoples, Custodial Supervisor, Building Services

Valerie always dreamed of being a mother and raising her own family. Unfortunately, she suffered through several miscarriages, and had begun to wonder if she'd ever get that chance. That's when the Children's Home Society of Florida entered the picture. The Society is an organization dedicated to finding foster homes for displaced children, and to helping parents who wish to adopt these children.

Valerie said, "I had worked with CHS for about a year, just as a volunteer, before I became involved with the adoption process. I wanted to be able to have a family, but I wanted to be comfortable with the process and understand everything that was going on. CHS was wonderful – they conduct a background check on all prospective parents, and they send you to a class which walks you through what you can expect. I was able to meet my girls beforehand, and to visit with them for several weeks in order to get to know them better before any decisions were made."

In 2002, Valerie legally adopted her three daughters, Artesia, Ariana, and Artiana. "I was so proud and so happy!" she says, smiling. "I mean, I finally had a family, finally had children of my own. And I could not be more pleased with the way things worked out, or more proud of these three beautiful little girls."

The Children's Home Society pays all legal fees associated with adoption, as well as providing a monthly stipend for foster parents and adoptive parents. They also provide health insurance for the children, and a college tuition fund for qualified high school graduates. "It's just a wonderful, wonderful organization," says Valerie. "If you have any questions about adopting a child, or becoming a foster parent, these are the people that you need



The Peoples family, clockwise from left: Valerie, Ariana, Artesia, George, and Artiana.

to see."

Children's Home Society of Florida official website: www.helpfloridachildren.org

Nick Florentine, Project Manager, PPD Architecture/Engineering

Nick has personal experience with the kindness and compassion of Hospice of North Central Florida. He tells his story: "My wife, Erika, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January of last year. The doctors at Shands said if she took radiation treatments, we could limit the pain and maybe extend her life until June. The otherwise that went with that was that she would probably only make it to March. With the help of Drs. Toskes, Marsh and Zlotecki, we decided on a regimen of radiation therapy, with no chemotherapy."

"Even with the radiation treatments, Erika's pain grew worse and worse. She was no longer able to get relief from pain killers



Irene Thomas

taken by mouth, and pretty soon the patches failed as well. Our family physician, Dr. Gaines, recommended that we turn to Hospice. We have a good Hospice Center in Palatka, but they weren't equipped to handle developing a drug program of the kind that would keep Erika relatively pain free, yet not drugged so much that she couldn't function. They sent her to the center here in Gainesville where Dr. McCollough fitted her with a drug dispensing pump and developed a dosage for her. The Palatka Hospice staff, Dr. Findlater, RN Smith, and CNA Hills cared for Erika at our home."

"You will recall that she was given a prognosis of June; she died in October at our house the morning of the 23rd. That was to the credit of Hospice. The care she received from Hospice kept her alive and functioning right up until the moment she died. I know, I was with her at that moment when she folded her hands on her chest, closed her eyes and took her last breath."

Hospice of North Central Florida official website: www.hospicecares.org



James Brown

James Brown, Custodial Worker, Building Services

James is a volunteer youth basketball coach with the Boys and Girls Club of Alachua. The Boys and Girls Club provides children the opportunity to participate in specially designed programs. James said, "The Club is basically a place for kids to go after school and during the summertime, where they can participate in sports, afterschool programs, and other activities. There are football, basketball and baseball leagues, and kids can get help with their homework from tutors, as well."

"When I was younger, I used to go to the Boys and Girls Club all the time," he continued. "Now I like to give back to the organization by working as a coach. Last year I got to coach my younger cousin's team, and that was a lot of fun."

There are three locations in Gainesville, and James said all ages are welcome, from 6-18 years old. He says that he feels the Boys and Girls Club is a very deserving organization for donations. "You know, I think this is just a great program to give kids an opportunity to do something constructive with their time. The Club helps kids with their schoolwork, with their mental and physical health,

keeps them out of trouble, and just generally offers some great opportunities."

Boys and Girls Club official website: www.myboysandgirlsclub.com

Victoria Hudson, Senior Clerk, Health Science Center

For the past four years, Victoria has been volunteering with both St. Francis House and the Interfaith Hospitality Network. These organizations work to feed, clothe and shelter homeless and displaced families.

Victoria said, "I go around to different yard sales and find cheap clothing, and I get my friends and co-workers to donate old clothes of theirs that can be given to folks at these shelters. I also volunteer at the shelters and help cook meals and that sort of thing. I first got involved in caring for the homeless when I was doing a census several years ago at a Salvation Army event - I was so deeply affected by the stories that I heard that I went home and got all my late husband's old clothes, and I came back and handed them out to as many people as I could. One man was just so happy to have a new pair of jeans and a western-style shirt, he could not stop smiling - a week later he came back and told me that he wore those clothes to a job interview and he got hired, and he just thanked me over and over again."

"I would encourage anyone who wonders about donating to St. Francis or IHN, to just go down there and spend a day, or an hour, or whatever you can spare, volunteering," she said. "You will understand how well every penny of those donations is being spent. I mean, simple things you just can't imagine, that we take for granted, are huge luxuries to these people. You will see how much just a pair of jeans, and a new shirt, can turn a person's whole life around."

St. Francis House official website: www.stfranchishouse.org

Interfaith Hospitality Network of Gainesville official website: www.ihngvl.org

(Note: To make a donation to IHN, you must designate it as a specific organization that you wish to donate towards in the appropriate section of your UFCC pledge card.)

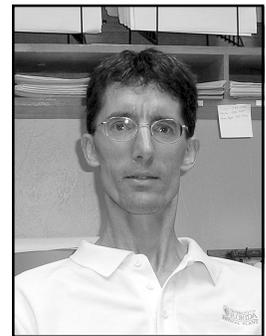
Erick Smith, Urban Forester, Operations Engineering

Erick is a volunteer with the Gainesville Harvest organization, a network of volunteers who pick up donated food from local restaurants and grocery stores, and drop the donations off at local shelters, soup kitchens, and organizations which feed the hungry.

"The purpose of Gainesville Harvest is to redistribute food, basically - there's a crazy amount of food, good food, edible food, from restaurants, supermarkets, sorority kitchens, you name it, that just goes to waste every day," he said. "We are the bridge between people who donate and people who can use those donations. I've been doing this about eight years, and about once a week - I go and pick up stuff from the Albertson's on 13th Street, and drop it off at the Thelma Boltin Center downtown. There's a network of about 250 volunteers here locally, with one central director, who coordinates everything."

While the Harvest network is primarily made up of volunteers, Erick said that donations are very much appreciated and put to good use. "I think this is an excellent cause to contribute toward," he said. "With this organization, a little bit goes a long way. They can take a small amount of money and do amazing things with it."

Gainesville Harvest is located at 703 NE 1st Street, Gainesville.



Erick Smith

September Communication Breakfast Recap

OB started off the breakfast with the announcement that replacements have been found for former department heads Bob Bell and Theotis Callaway. Eric Cochran will be the new Associate Director of Operations, replacing Bell, and Derrick Bacon will be replacing Callaway as Assistant Director of Building Services. Look for interviews with Cochran and Bacon in next month's *Gatorales*.

The UF Community Campaign is kicking off on August 26, and Mr. O'Brien encouraged all PPD employees to help make it a



Joe Bright, Joe Shaw, and Norman Long received a TOPGUN award at the Sept. breakfast, for their work in keeping the wastewater treatment plant running smoothly while supervisor Chuck Fender was out.

success. He said, "I am sure that all of us here have been touched by, or know someone who has been touched by, one of these organizations which the UFCC is helping to fund. This is a wonderful opportunity to be able to share a buck or two and help others down the road."

Superior Accomplishment Award nominations have opened, and will run through October 30. OB encouraged all supervisors to nominate deserving employees for these awards.

Gator Fridays have been extended to include all Fridays during the football season. PPD employees are allowed to dress casually on these days.

OB mentioned the recent gasoline shortage in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, and encouraged employees to be energy conscious and look for ways to save energy. "If you see wasteful usage, report it," he said. "If you see lights on that don't need to be on, turn them off. PPD's electric bill is rising all the

time, and extra funds are in short supply, so let's all see what we can do to reduce energy consumption."

The merit raise for union employees has been approved by the Board of Trustees. OB said that supervisors are currently in the process of submitting qualified employees for increases.

Question and Answer

Q: I had heard that Gov. Bush mentioned going to a 4-day workweek for all state employees in order to help save gasoline, is that true?

A: There has been some discussion about that – there are some benefits to that idea but then again classes here go on five days a week, and we have to provide service five days a week. I'm not sure that we'll ever adopt that plan completely. One thing, though, which has been mentioned is carpooling for out-of-town employees, and I would encourage all our people to do that.

Q: If Homecoming is a ½ day holiday from 1-5, how will that be adjusted for different work schedules like the overnight shift?

A: We have been discussing that and though we don't have a 100% solution right now, we will get it taken care of before the holiday.

Q: Will the new merit raises be retroactive to January 28?

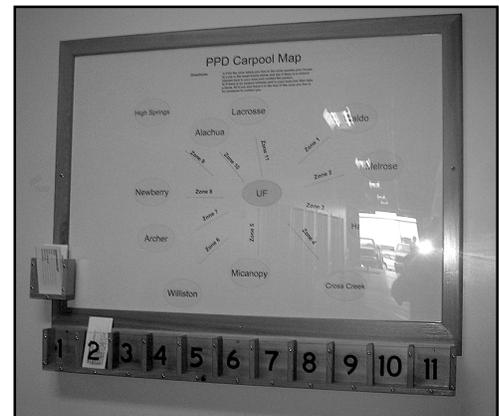
A: Yes, they will.

Q: Is it true that the university is thinking of canceling TEAMS and making everyone USPS again?

A: When UF "separated" from the state system, and TEAMS was created, the assumption was that the old union contracts were over. However, the recent ruling by the Public Employee Relations Committee states that those contracts are still applicable, and this is a ruling that could potentially do away with TEAMS and return UF to our old USPS/A&P system. No one is sure yet that that will happen, though.

Q: Will there be another Christmas bonus this year?

A: No, we received that bonus last year because we didn't get a raise. This year, we got the 3.6% salary increase, and we hope to continue receiving similar increases each year.



A carpool board (with map) has been set up in Bldg. 702 to help lower gas bills for commuting employees.

UFCC Cont. From Pg. 1

dividuals with diabetes risk tests through the American Diabetes Association; or provide 2 mental health therapy sessions for an abused child at the Child Advocacy Center; or provide 13 hours of dental or medical care at the Alachua County Organization for Rural Needs (ACORN) Clinic which serves residents in Alachua, Bradford, Columbia, Union and other counties in North Central Florida. There are many other examples of ways that your donations can help. For more information or to see the list of agencies, visit www.ufcc.ufl.edu

Don't miss out on an opportunity to provide assistance to people in our own neighborhoods. . .



September OB'Gram: Consider Supporting UFCC

This month's edition of Gatortales talks very seriously about some of the agencies who receive support from the University of Florida Community Campaign (UFCC). I want to thank each of our employees who volunteered to be interviewed about their participation in these programs. There are over 900 employees at PPD, and all of us at one time or another have either benefited from programs supported by the UFCC ourselves, or certainly we know someone who has. Perhaps you have volunteered to help at a local organization the way Irene Thomas has helped at the Ronald McDonald House.

Because we know the organizations in the UFCC are dedicated to assisting the people who live in our neighborhoods, I hope you will consider supporting the campaign this year.



Last Of The Meter Readers

PPD Energy Mgmt. Coordinator Jeff Johnson, left, is shown presenting outgoing Senior Clerk Stan King with a certificate of appreciation for his 17 years of service with PPD.

Since the University has moved to electronic readings on all electric meters, Stan was the last remaining official meter reader on staff.

Congratulations Stan, and good luck in your retirement!

Physical Plant UFCC Representatives

Front row, left to right: Irene Thomas, Nick Florentine, Pam Walker, Nong Owens, Jackie Doby.

Second row: Donna Bloomfield, Valerie Peoples, Kenya Greene, Leila Cantara (UF Business Services Division UFCC coordinator).

Third row: Jim Beck, Brenda Wright, Dolly Warner, Ken Gotay.

Back row: Mark Ivanowski, Matt Graham, Caron DeWitt, Jean Sweitzer (College of Dentistry representative), Bernie Rieg.

Not pictured: Steve DeRobertis, Phil Seay, James Carsey, Dave Garzon, Jon Priest, Glenn Hayes, Sharon Holmes, Jay Lancaster, Danny Grant, Betty Standridge, Joe Rogers, Donna Agerton, Sherry Martensen, Charles Cochran, and Harold Barrand.





All About PPD Employees...

August Employees of the Month:

New Employees

- Melinda Augustus, Building Svcs.
- Lan Cao, Building Svcs.
- Earl Carter, Building Svcs.
- Jerome Cookesly, Systems
- Derrick Dampier, Grounds
- Lee Eagle, Building Svcs.
- Charles Henry, Building Svcs.
- Tameka Howard, Building Svcs.
- Dwayne Jones, Systems
- Marsha McNish, Building Svcs.
- Carla Oliver, Ops. Engineering
- Johnnie Plumber, Grounds
- Donald Short, Systems
- Hoa Tran, Building Svcs.
- Tam Troung, Building Svcs.
- Vickie Woody, Building Svcs.

Promotions

- Bill Mikulski, Facilities



Kevin Drye
Building Svcs.



Mark Lampp
Systems



Aaron Munnerlyn
Health Center



Evelena Richards
Building Svcs.



Joseph Rogers
Facilities

Not Pictured:

Angela Carter,
Building Svcs.

Mary Ann Daniel,
Building Svcs.



Congratulations!



Correction:
Richard Runyon was incorrectly identified as Facilities Employee of the Month last issue; instead he was Facilities Employee of the Quarter.

2005 PPD UFCC Goals and Events

- Increased sense of community involvement
- Site visits with PPD employees to better explain UFCC and its mission
- 50/50 drawings weekly, with "Mega 50/50" drawing to be held Oct. 18 (contact Jackie Doby @ 2-7899 for more information)
- Drawings for gift certificates for all employees who donate \$1 or more per payday
- 4-Man Scramble golf tournament on Nov. 11 (contact Chuck Hogan @ 2-1155, ext. 412 for more information)