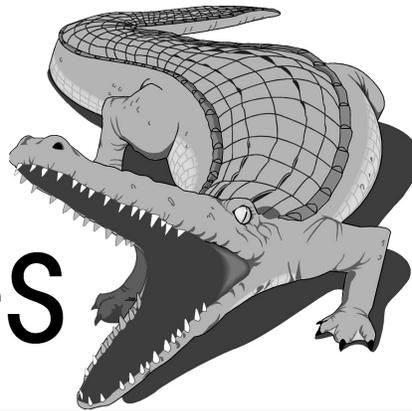


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# Gatortales

*From the Physical Plant Division of the University of Florida*

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## ***Eric Cochran Named Associate Director Of Operations***



Physical Plant's new Associate Director of Operations is a familiar face to PPD employees. Eric Cochran has taken over the position (formerly held by Bob Bell) after three years as the Assistant Director of the Health Science Center.

"I'm looking forward to this new challenge," Eric said. "I think the two major goals that I have for PPD Operations are to continue to ensure correct campus maintenance, and to refine what we already have in place. By that I mean making sure that our current processes are running thoroughly, while exploring and implementing new ideas and policies which will improve our overall performance."

Eric was born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida and received his B.A. degree in political science from the University of Florida in 1979. After college, he joined the U.S. Navy to begin working in the field of mechanical engineering. While in the

**See COCHRAN Continued On Pg. 3**

## ***Building Services Welcomes New Assistant Director Derrick Bacon***

After a short vacancy following the departure of former Assistant Director Theotis Callaway, Building Services has new leadership. Derrick Bacon has taken the reins of that department as the new Assistant Director of PPD Building Services.

Derrick comes to PPD from UF Laundry Services, where he had served as Director for the past year and a half. He is originally from Jacksonville, and received his B.S. degree in criminology from Florida State University in 1985.

"I've lived in Jacksonville most of my life," he said. "I got my degree and started working as a probation officer, but that job didn't pay very well. So I took a job as a financial counselor at University Medical Center, which is now Shands Jacksonville, but I ended up getting laid off! I wanted to get back into the system at Shands, so I began working in the ER there. After a while I was offered a position as a Housekeeping Supervisor. A year later I was promoted to Housekeeping Manager. During this time I was in charge of two different housekeeping shifts, quality management, the recycling efforts and pest control. I was also a coordinator of Shands' Hazardous Spill Team and served as chair of the Hazardous Waste Committee. After several years in the housekeeping department I was asked to manage the Shands laundry department. It was during my tenure as Shands' laundry manager that I became an Aramark employee."

In 2004, Derrick moved to Gainesville in order to take a position as Laundry Director at the University of Florida. However, just a year and a half later the Shands Health Care system decided to go with another laundry service provider. "At that point I got online and started looking for a new job," said Derrick. "I found the Assistant Director of Building Services position and applied, and Mr. O'Brien and the search committee here gave me an opportunity to take the position."



**See BACON Continued On Pg. 3**

# October Communication Breakfast Recap

Mr. O'Brien started off the meeting with a discussion of energy conservation at UF and how important it has become. He said that the University is about to put a "full court press" on conserving resources because of the increased price of fuel for vehicles and heating. OB said that he believes that the United States will have to seriously consider alternate sources of energy, such as nuclear plants, in the next ten years. In the meantime, here at Physical Plant he is asking employees to do everything possible to eliminate wasted resources. As part of the conservation effort, PPD electricians have been going through buildings on campus and removing some light bulbs in hallways where they are not absolutely necessary, to help cut down on electrical usage. OB said, "Energy conservation is something that we all should be taking very seriously at this time."

The UF Community Campaign has ended for this year, and OB said that PPD participation in the campaign was outstanding. The number of employees donating to the campaign was up over 30% and the total amount of contributions was up over 50%. OB said, "PPD has always been one of the significant contributors to this event, but this year we took things to a new level. I want to thank everyone who donated and let you know that your efforts say very, very positive things about our organization."

The East Campus of UF, off Waldo Road, continues to grow – PPD's A/E department recently completed renovating a building which now houses the Bridges staff. The staff has already occupied the building, and it will have its official dedication on November 30. OB also said there are plans to house a community teaching classroom in that area.

Question and Answer:

Q: Has the university finished purchasing the old Bell South building?

A: Yes, the sale is complete. Right now the plan is to move the Human Resources staff from their offices in the stadium to this building. This will make parking and access for employees much easier.

Q: Are there plans for a full-time mechanic to be stationed on the East Campus?

A: That will be something to consider as that area continues to grow, but at this time there aren't any such plans.

Q: How are the Employees of the Month selected for different departments?

A: There's no specific process – criteria that are taken into account include performance, attitude, and teamwork. Usually supervisors handle the nominations, and anyone is eligible to be nominated.

Q: Do you think that in the near future we will be adjusting the heat/cool set points on campus?

A: We are working on keeping our HVAC systems at optimal efficiency – however, I don't foresee us changing the temperature points at this time.

Q: Will the new Building Services Assistant Director (Derrick Bacon) be having group meetings with the staff?

A: He's just getting acclimated to his new job and responsibilities right now, but yes, he plans to begin meeting with groups of employees at their places of work in the near future.

Q: Why aren't inter-department transfers allowed without a promotion in Building Services?

A: Well, this is our largest department with 500+ people, and at any given time there are approximately 30 or so vacancies. It's not conducive to a stable work environment to have people moving back and forth between positions all the time. If someone is unhappy with their current work situation, then obviously we'll work with them and try to get that settled, but our policy dictates that we don't allow inter-department moves without promotions.

Q: Will a central fleet be established soon at UF?

A: Yes, discussions are underway right now on that subject. The plan is for PPD to own all campus vehicles and lease them to university departments as necessary. This will allow us to control maintenance, reduce the number of vehicles on campus, reduce gasoline usage, and free up parking spots.

Q: Will the rising cost of living lead to an increased across the board raise for UF employees?

A: That money comes from the legislature, and to date I haven't heard anything new. President Machen is very supportive of merit increases, however – so I would encourage everyone to continue to contribute their best effort in order to enhance your candidacy for a merit increase.



**PPD Electrician Glenn Corbitt removes a fluorescent lightbulb in Griffin-Floyd Hall, as part of PPD's efforts to reduce energy use across campus.**



## ***OB'Gram: Annual Turkey Shoot Is Coming Up***

It's November already! Time to start planning for the holidays. PPD will hold our annual Turkey Shoot on November 16<sup>th</sup>. The targets will be set up by Building 700. Since the turkeys we shoot at are on the backs of the targets, you don't have to be an expert hunter to win in this contest. The outcome is all luck! Prizes will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place for men and for women. This event is always fun so I hope everyone will stop by to take a shot with Tom Best's BB gun.

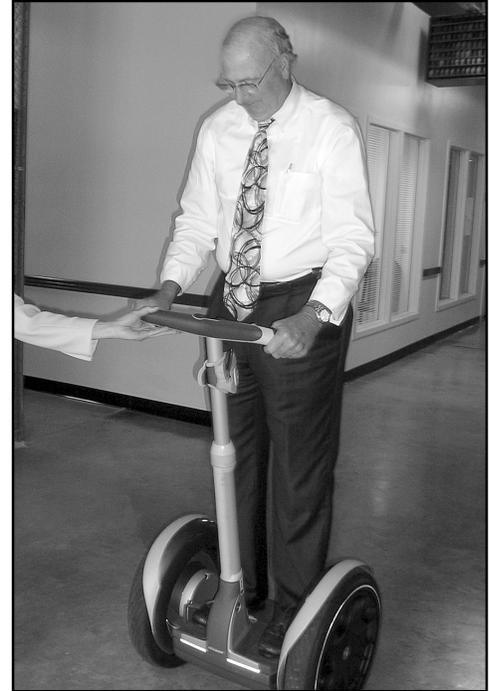
I also want to congratulate everyone at PPD who participated in this year's UF Community Campaign. The volunteers here at Physical Plant who worked on this committee made a special effort to get information out to our employees about UFCC. Participation in this program by our staff increased 32% over last year's figures.

Donations to UFCC agencies provide services to many people in North Central Florida and we should all be proud that PPD employees are being so generous.



***Above: Dan Walker, Nancy Ellison, Mike Richarme, and Nancy McCollough show off their Halloween costumes.***

***Right: Dave O'Brien tries out a Segway electric scooter in the halls of Building 702. OB said we are looking at Segways as an alternative to gasoline-fueled vehicles.***



### ***COCHRAN Cont. From Page 1***

service, Eric received a postgraduate degree in national security and strategic studies from the Navy War College.

After a 21-year career in the Navy, he retired with the rank of Commander. He then accepted a position in PPD Architecture/Engineering as a Facilities/Utilities Planner, before being promoted to HSC Asst. Director two years later.

"I really enjoy working at PPD," he said. "I like the campus environment and I like the people we have here. We have such a diverse group of employees and all of them have that can-do attitude, and that's a huge key for a successful organization."

### ***BACON Cont. From Page 1***

As PPD's largest department with over 500 employees, Derrick said he sees a lot of good things, and a lot of potential, within Building Services. "So far I've been impressed with the training and information that our employees receive," he said. "We have a lot of good people here. I want to help give our department a new focus, a new direction in customer service. I want our employees to be more pro-active in meeting our customers' needs. We have five hundred sets of eyes out there, and I want us to start noticing and addressing problems even before our customers have a chance to call in a work order. My background in healthcare has taught me to observe very strict standards of cleanliness, and I think those standards are what we should be striving for here in Building Services."

Derrick and his wife, Shelia, who works with Alachua County ARC helping special needs adults, make their home in High Springs. Their son Christian is a freshman on football scholarship at Lafayette College in Pennsylvania. Their oldest daughter Hope is a senior at Santa Fe High School, and eleven-year-old Joi attends sixth grade at High Springs Middle School.

The new Assistant Director says he'll be a familiar figure to PPD employees. "I want to be very visible on campus – I want to get out there to be available to our customers and also to meet the employees and supervisors. As I said, I've been impressed with the Building Services department so far and everyone has been very warm and greeted me with friendship. This is a professional, customer-focused environment, and I'm very happy to be a part of Building Services and Physical Plant in general."



# All About PPD Employees...

## September Employees of the Month:

### New Employees

- Lonnie Akins, HSC
- Lynn Borelli, Building Svcs.
- Michael Burke, Building Svcs.
- Branche Chiadikobi, Grounds
- Steve Fryman, Facilities
- Ernest Hale, Jr., Building Svcs.
- Jeffrey Haynes, Building Svcs.
- Ashley Jacobs, Resource Mgmt.
- Pearlie Johnson, Building Svcs.
- William Krause, Facilities
- Be Le, Building Services
- Francisco Oquendo, A/E
- Christopher Tedder, Facilities
- Tiffany Wright, Building Svcs.
- Zindora Young, Building Svcs.



**Jackie Coleman**  
Building Svcs.



**Lennon Fisher**  
Building Svcs.



**Carolyn Holsey**  
Building Svcs.



**Rick Mitchell**  
Facilities



**Bill Munden**  
Health Center

**Not Pictured:**

**Bernard Boykin,**  
Building Services

**Bill Hopper,**  
Systems

### Promotions

- Eric Cochran, Operations

## Employees Of The Quarter



**Jay Beckenbach**  
Arch./Engineering



**Mary Ann Daniel**  
Building Services



**Hilda Frankum**  
Resource Mgmt.



**Willie Hill**  
Support Staff



**Fronz Macy**  
Grounds



**Rick Mitchell**  
Facilities



**Bill Munden**  
Health Center



**Mike Williams**  
Systems



**Congratulations!**