



# Gatortales

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

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## *PPD, Sustainability And You*

As it moves forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the University of Florida is putting an increased emphasis on sustainability. Sustainability can be defined simply as: "Being able to meet our current needs, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs as well." To this end, the University has created an Office of Sustainability to facilitate campus sustainability goals.

Physical Plant has always been a leader in the sustainability effort. Our recycling program has been in existence for sixteen years, and is one of the most comprehensive and productive programs in the country. PPD's Wastewater Treatment Plant supplies campus with reclaimed water for irrigation, and the cogeneration plant off Mowry Road uses reclaimed water as its primary source for creating steam energy. PPD's staff includes an Urban Forester, who oversees the health and safety of trees on campus, and an Energy Management Coordinator, who monitors and improves energy conservation efforts.

In addition to these efforts, there are many things that PPD employees can do, individually, to improve sustainability, both on campus and at home.

At work:

- Turn off unnecessary lights during the day, and turn off lights when you leave your

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## *Turkey Shoot Winners*



**These dead-eye shooters emerged victorious from a group of 200 participants at the Annual PPD Turkey Shoot. Winners in the men's division were (left to right): Sam Fisher, HSC - 1st place; Chris Roberts, Facilities - 2nd place; and Derrick Dampier, Grounds - 3rd place. From the women's division, the winners were (left to right): Diane Gordon, Building Services - 1st place; Cynthia Reaves, Building Services - 2nd place; and Nong Owens, Business Operations - 3rd place.**

**Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all the volunteers who helped make this year's Turkey Shoot a success!**

# *November Communication Breakfast Recap*

Mr. O'Brien began the breakfast by mentioning that the UF Office of Sustainability has been created in order to help advance the University's sustainability goals. OB is on the committee which is currently looking for a director to oversee the Sustainability Office. He also asked all employees to remain watchful for energy waste, and to report it to your supervisors or to Work Management.

PPD is involved in the initiation of a new program to manage UF's vehicles. OB said the ultimate result of the program may be that PPD becomes responsible for managing all vehicles on campus and leases them out to other departments as needed. A committee of Physical Plant employees is currently working on developing an implementation plan.

November 30 marked the dedication of the new Bridges facility on the East Campus at Waldo Road. Mr. O'Brien said A/E did a great job on the facility, and that the master plan for the East Campus will involve additional growth over the next few years.

PPD recently received visits from a couple of other universities. Representatives from the University of Mississippi visited our Grounds Dept. and got tips on landscaping, while the University of Central Florida sent several representatives to view PPD's business practices. OB said that these visits are further evidence that UF Physical Plant employees perform excellent work.

Finally, the UF Community Campaign was a rousing success – donations were up over 50% from last year. Mr. O'Brien said that he wanted to thank everyone for their overwhelming generosity, and that it reflects very well on PPD as an organization.

Questions and Answers:

Q: What's the latest on TEAMS? Is the University going to do away with that classification?

A: The University is still looking at the results of the lawsuit involving the University of West Florida, and determining how that will affect us. But there are no plans to get rid of TEAMS at this time.

Q: Will USPS employees get four days of vacation pay at the holidays this year, like TEAMS employees?

A: No, those vacation days were offered as part of the incentive to switch from USPS to TEAMS. USPS employees will have to use their regular vacation days during the holiday period.

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## ***Holiday Safety Tips***

By Ron Hambrick, PPD Risk Mgmt. Coordinator

Many of us will be spending the busy holiday season shopping, traveling, hunting, or spending time with family and friends. Unfortunately, many accidents occur during the holiday season. For whatever the reason: people are focused on other issues, people are stressed and in a hurry, relatively more people are on the roads, additional hazards are introduced into the living environment, it is important to recognize these potential hazards and prevent an accident from happening to you. A few things that you can do:

- Don't drink and drive. Enjoy yourself and relax, but don't risk a DUI or an accident while intoxicated. If you are going to drink alcohol, select a designated driver, or take a cab.
- If you host a party, be cognizant of other people's demeanor and level of intoxication. Don't let them drive intoxicated. You may have shared liability. Offer to get them a cab or let them sleep over.
- If you travel, drive defensively – watch out for the other guy. Don't get in a rush, check your tires, always wear your seatbelt, and obey traffic laws.
- Be aware of food safety guidelines, including preparing, cooking times, serving times, and left-overs.
- Candles, fireplaces, and other open flame devices always present potential problems. Never leave open flames unattended or use in close proximity of other combustible materials.
- Purchase fresh Christmas trees and keep them well watered through the season. Remember to recycle your tree if that option is available to you.
- Only use holiday lights that are UL listed for their intended purpose. Do not use indoor only lights on the exterior. Never decorate a tree with burning candles.
- Work at home safely just as you would at work: Be careful on ladders, wear safety glasses, and hearing protection as necessary.
- If you purchase toys for children of friends and family members, be sure they are age specific and appropriate for the child in mind.
- Be sure to supervise small children at all times. The holidays are an exciting time for them and they may forget to pay attention and get into a hazardous situation.

Remember, the holidays should be fun and enjoyable, but they can often be stressful, too. Know what your stress level is and learn to back down and relax. Celebrate your achievements, delegate tasks to others, reach out and help others who are less fortunate, take charge of your thoughts, and do a little something for yourself... and don't forget your pets. Many new dangers lurk around the house that they may get into, including ornaments, open flames, plants, and holiday foods.

We here at PPD want everyone to safely return to work next year after having a happy and safe holiday season.

Additional Information: <http://www.pp.okstate.edu/ehs/links/holiday.htm>

[http://www.safecanada.ca/holiday\\_e.asp](http://www.safecanada.ca/holiday_e.asp)    <http://www.nsc.org/library/facts/holseasn.htm>



# Gram: 2005 In Review

by Dave O'Brien, Physical Plant Director

It is common practice at this time of year to reflect on our accomplishments. 2005 was certainly a banner year for PPD. We set our goals high and did not waiver. As the new year began, we were still recovering from the destructive hurricanes we experienced in 2004. A year later visitors to campus have no idea how hard PPD staff worked to bring this campus back to its pre-storm condition. We learned from that experience. Our departments really pulled together, and we will be even better prepared if we are ever faced with another storm season like that one.

In August, we were presented the APPA Award of Excellence. Only 30 other university facility maintenance organizations have ever received this prestigious award. I can't stress too strongly that this recognition reflects the hard work of everyone in this organization. APPA was impressed both with the quality of our work and the caliber of our workers. We should all be proud of our stature as a premier facilities maintenance program.

In the coming year we will continue to improve. UF is entering an exciting era where we will be focusing on conservation and sustainability of our resources. I believe that PPD will be very involved in these efforts. We will be looking to all our team members for ideas that will help us meet these new challenges.

So, I want to thank you for all you do for PPD and UF. I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and a happy new year!

## TOPGUN Goes To Tallahassee

Last month, representatives from PPD traveled to Florida State University to conduct a TOPGUN Customer Service Training seminar. The seminar was taught by Pam Walker and Allan Preston, and was offered to FSU employees through the Florida chapter of the Association for Higher Education Facilities Officers (FLAPPA). PPD Education and Training Coordinator Donna Agerton (who is also the FLAPPA Education Coordinator) set up the training session.

"FLAPPA's goal is to provide training for all levels of employees at physical plants here in Florida," said Donna. "At the FLAPPA annual conference in May, Pam Walker

had given a TOPGUN presentation, and then Florida State contacted me about offering that training to a group of their employees. We had a class of about 30 employees, from front-line employees, to supervisors, to directors and assistant directors. And they had a great time! Several people actually came up and told me that they had expected to be bored to death, but that they were very entertained by our presentation."

The presentation was so successful, in fact, that PPD has been asked to come back again. "We're scheduled to do two more classes at FSU in February," Donna said. "We're also scheduled to do a class at Palm Beach Atlantic University sometime in January. The TOPGUN training program is a very valuable resource and we're happy to share it."



**UF Physical Plant's Pam Walker teaches TOPGUN Customer Service Training to a group of Florida State employees.**



# All About PPD Employees...

## October Employees of the Month:

### New Employees

- Joseph Aiken, Health Center
- Derrick Bacon, Building Services
- Christina Cappagil, Central Stores
- Juan Cervantes, Grounds
- Handson Cohen, Building Services
- Trumaine Higgins, Grounds
- David Jamerson, Health Center
- Maria Johnson, Building Services
- Melanie Jones, Building Services
- Henry Mason, Health Center
- Chris Moore, Building Services
- Be Nguyen, Building Services
- The Nguyen, Building Services
- Willie Touchton, Jr., Grounds

### Promotions

- Sonya Mays, Building Services
- Dena Smith, Building Services



**Percy Acosta**  
Building Svcs.



**Douglas Hoffman**  
Grounds



**Beverly Hudson**  
Building Svcs.



**Mark Knabb**  
Facilities



**Joanne Reese**  
Building Svcs.



**Jack Slider**  
Health Center



**Tony Stefanowicz**  
Systems

**Not Pictured:**

**Natasha Burgman, Building Services**



## Congratulations!

### SUSTAINABILITY Continued From Pg. 1

office. Also, make sure computers and printers are turned off at the end of the day.

- Share vehicles whenever possible – carpool to meetings and training sessions.
- When you notice energy waste on campus, report it to your supervisor or to PPD Work Management (392-1121).

At home:

- Conserve energy by replacing regular lightbulbs with fluorescent bulbs.
- Clean and replace your A/C air filter monthly.
- Repair leaky faucets and pipes.
- Recycle cans, bottles and plastics, and buy products made from recycled goods whenever possible.

Sustainability is an important goal for UF, and it should be an important goal for employees as well. “This is something that’s becoming more critical every day,” said PPD Director Dave O’Brien. “We need to be able to take care of our resources now, so that future generations can enjoy the same quality of life that we do.”

(For more home conservation tips, go to the Office of Sustainability’s website at [www.sustainability.ufl.edu](http://www.sustainability.ufl.edu))