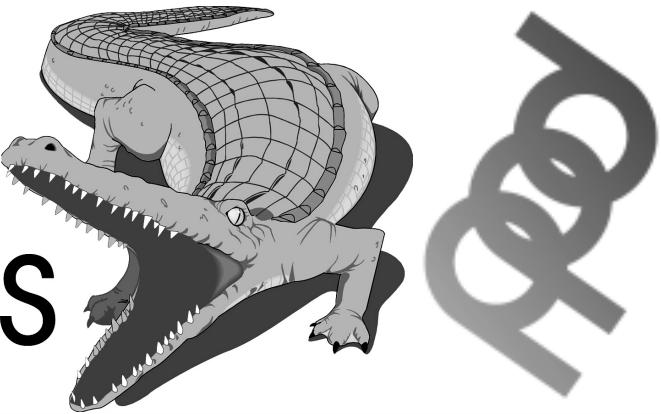


May 2007

# Gatortales



*From the Physical Plant Division of the University of Florida - [www.ppd.ufl.edu](http://www.ppd.ufl.edu)*

**Vol. XXIII, Number 5**

**Asst. Vice President**  
**Dave O'Brien**

**Editor**  
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## **Building Services Motto Contest**



**Asst. Director Derrick Bacon and the 42" TV for Building Services' motto contest winner**

with the old one ("Striving For Excellence"), but I wanted something fresh. At the same time, I wanted suggestions for the new motto to come from our front-line employees, and not just from supervisors. I want to stimulate ideas in the department from the ground up, and I want our employees to really think about customer service, and what our role is here at the University of Florida."

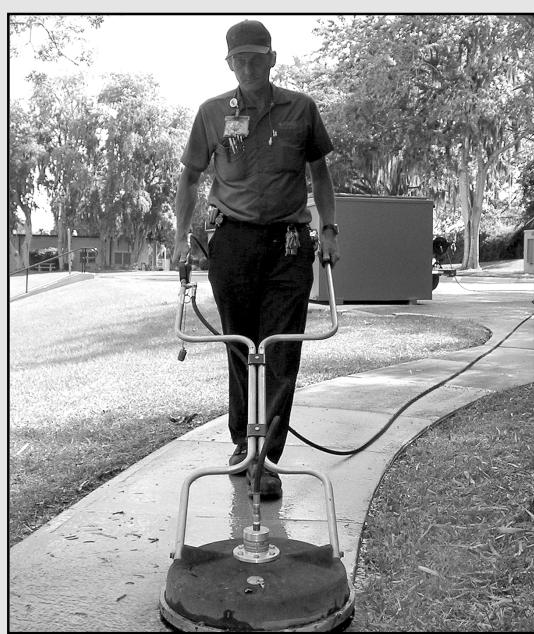
The new motto will be displayed on Building Services' website and customer service response cards, as well as other printed materials. In addition to the television, the winner will have their picture printed on the website, and in *Gatortales*. To submit your entries, email them to David Garzon at [dgarzon@ufl.edu](mailto:dgarzon@ufl.edu), or drop them in the suggestion box in Building 703, next to the training room.

"I'm very excited about the opportunity to get input on our new motto from all levels of our organization, and I think our employees should feel the same," said Asst. Director Bacon. "It's a great opportunity for them to have a voice in the way our department presents itself to the University community. And of course, someone is going to win a very nice TV."

PPD Building Services is currently holding a contest for its employees to submit ideas for a new department motto. The prize for the winning entry is a brand new 42" plasma TV, donated by Clean World, Inc. Employees have until June 8, 2007 to submit their proposed mottos, and the limit is two entries per person. The contest is open to all Building Services employees except Assistant Superintendents, Superintendent, Coordinator for Management Analysis, and the Assistant Director.

Asst. Director Derrick Bacon said, "My two-year anniversary at Building Services is coming up soon, and I felt that it was time to change our motto – there's nothing wrong

**Randy Lee of**  
**Building Services**  
**pressure-washes**  
**the sidewalk**  
**outside Main**  
**Street in prepara-**  
**tion for PPD's 11th**  
**annual Employee**  
**Appreciation Day.**  
**For more pictures**  
**of EAD 2007, go**  
**to page 2 (and for**  
**even more pic-**  
**tures go to PPD's**  
**website, at**  
**[www.ppd.ufl.edu](http://www.ppd.ufl.edu).**



# *Employee Appreciation Day 2007*

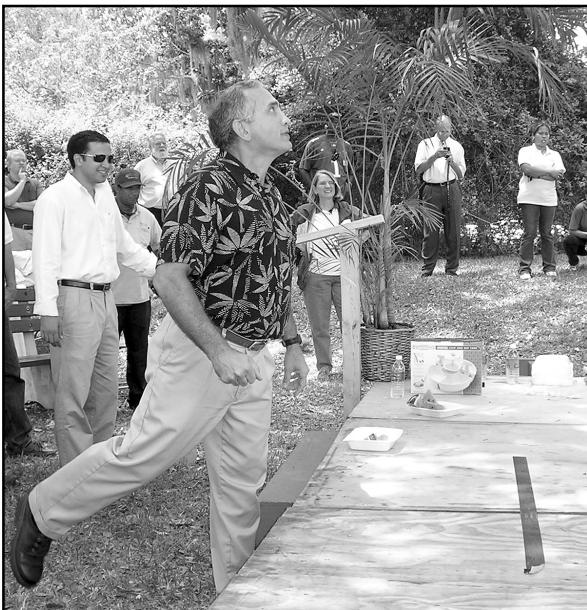
(for more pictures go to [www.ppd.ufl.edu/currentevents.htm](http://www.ppd.ufl.edu/currentevents.htm))



**James Carsey gets his blood pressure checked out at the Health Fair.**



**Greta Brown tries her hand at horseshoes.**



**Eric Cochran concentrates on his follow-through in the watermelon seed spitting contest.**



**Ray Fayo (right) of Motor Pool was the grand prize winner of a WalMart gift card, presented by PPD Assistant Vice President Dave O'Brien.**



**The County Fair Cook-Off winners were (left to right): Ruthie Noland (1st-Casserole), Bernie Rieg (2nd-Theme Dish), Barbara Joyce (1st-Theme Dish), Walter Williams (2nd-Cakes and 2nd-Chili), Dolly Warner (1st-Cakes, 2nd-Casserole, and 2nd-Pies), Matt Graham (1st-Chili), and Heath Gregor (1st-Pies).**

## **May Communication Breakfast**

Mr. O'Brien said that our Campus Cab taxi service is growing rapidly – we are now using three drivers to meet demand for the service. He also mentioned that flyers with information on the FlexCar program were distributed to students and their parents at Preview.

In the wake of the Virginia Tech tragedy last month, OB has attended several meetings regarding campus security and how it can be improved. One idea that was proposed at these meetings involved using loudspeakers and sirens at strategic points on campus to broadcast alert messages. OB said this system could be used for all types of campus emergencies, including natural disasters.

The new contractor in charge of cleaning Lake Alice is doing a fine job – Mr. O'Brien said the lake has not been this free of aquatic plants since several years ago.

A new parking garage had been planned for construction west of the Cancer/Genetics building, but a bald eagle nest was discovered in the area. Construction has been halted and a new location is being determined for the garage.

**See BREAKFAST Continued On Pg. 4**



## **Burch Completes Apprenticeship Program**

**After nearly four years of hard work, Maintenance Support Worker Erick Burch has completed the PPD Apprenticeship Program and received an A.S. degree in Electrical Engineering from Santa Fe Community College. Erick will now be promoted to Electrician in the Systems Department. Congratulations, Erick!**



**For more information on the Apprenticeship Program, contact PPD Training and Education Coordinator Sarah Hanson at 392-7898.**

## **Petrone Retires From Systems**

**A retirement party was held for Maintenance Specialist Frank Petrone on May 17, 2007 in the Systems conference room. Frank is retiring from PPD after just over twenty years of service.**

**"I plan to do a lot of traveling around the country," he said. "My wife and I are going to go to Virginia and North Carolina, and then out to the west coast for a while. We'll be pulling a trailer with my Harley, and I'm definitely looking forward to all the extra time I'll have to ride it."**

**Congratulations Frank!**



## **OB'Gram: Giving Back To Overseas Troops**

by Dave O'Brien

PPD does not slow down during the summer at UF. There are fewer classes scheduled, fewer students on campus, fewer cars on the roads, and all of these things work together to give us the chance to do what we need to do to keep the buildings and grounds in good shape. Likewise, our behind-the-scenes staff stay busy year-round, but they also find the time to do extra special projects.

Like so many American families, some of our PPD families have had sons, daughters, and siblings in the military serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. A couple of years ago, Ruthie Noland of Systems Dept. (a member of our Admin Support staff), headed up a program she named "Division to Division" and collected items to send to these troops who had ties to PPD to say 'thanks for what you're doing', and give them a little morale boost. In return, they promised to share with their fellow soldiers.

With the return stateside of the first recipients of the gifts, the program went into hiatus for a while. However, as the conflict in the Middle East has continued, PPD families again have loved ones who are in these countries. The administrative support group has picked up the challenge, and departments are participating in collecting and sending items to the troops. In January, the A/E Department, led by Nancy Ellison, collected for the brother of one of our employees. In March, Business Operations Department, led by Beth Farmer and Diane Warfield, forwarded boxes of books and cookies (among other things) to the sister of a PPD staff member. This month, Building Services Department, led by Joy Jeffcoat and David Garzon, are collecting to send to the son of a PPD employee.

Because this is a selfless thing to do, I want to say thanks to everyone who has participated so far by contributing money, time, etc. to this effort. Hopefully, when your admin support staff member asks you to help, you'll say 'yes'!

## New Employees

Michael Heard, Grounds  
 Jimmy Joiner, Grounds  
 Jesse McCloud, Grounds  
 Celia Rivers, Building Services  
 Beverly Rutledge, Building Services  
 Julie Scank, Grounds  
 Bin Tang, Building Services  
 Adam Weise, Systems  
 Rosa Williams, Building Services



**Congratulations!**

## All About PPD Employees...

### March Employees of the Month:



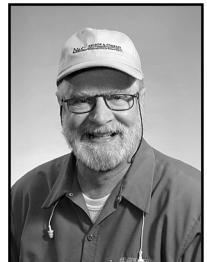
**Delores Bradshaw**  
**Building Svcs.**



**Gene Burkey**  
**Health Center**



**Randolph Cash**  
**Grounds**



**Charles Cochran**  
**Systems**



**Angela Neal**  
**Building Svcs.**



**Jessie Robinson**  
**Building Svcs.**



**Ronnie Wicks**  
**Building Svcs.**

## Employees Of The Quarter



**Gene Burkey**  
**Health Center**



**Mark Knabb**  
**Facilities**



**Susan Limpert**  
**Support Staff**



**Sherry Martensen**  
**Grounds**



**Chandler Rozeal**  
**Arch./Eng.**



**Dwayne Selpf**  
**Systems**



**Tony Trujillo**  
**Resource Mgmt.**



**Ronnie Wicks**  
**Building Svcs.**

### BREAKFAST Continued From Page 3

OB asked for feedback on last month's Employee Appreciation Day. The planning committee is always looking for suggestions – email your ideas and feedback to Mr. O'Brien, Pam Walker or Eric Cochran.

Question and Answer

Q: Has anyone been hired as Superintendent for HSC Building Services?

A: No, we have not filled that positon yet.

Q: Is PPD planning to cut any jobs as a result of rising gas prices?

A: No, there have been no discussions about that. I do ask everyone to try to use good judgement with state vehicles and drive only when necessary, to help conserve gas.