



PHYSICAL PLANT - CAMPUS SERVICES

UC Berkeley
2000 Carleton St
Berkeley, CA
94720-1384

COMMUNITY UPDATE

FEB-MAR 2009

message from the AVC

Chris Christofferson



First, I want to thank everyone for your support and help since I took on my new assignment a little more than six weeks ago. Our department, and the campus, are blessed to have a such talented and committed group of workers. My thanks also to **Bob Krambuhl** for his generosity and willingness to open up his calendar to include me in his daily schedule during the five months I served in my former role. Doing an assessment of the department during that time proved to be an incredibly valuable way for me to learn both the culture of the department and the incredible challenges that we currently face.

As you read this edition of our newsletter, please pay special attention to the information about the START program. The recent changes to the program are intended to make it as easy as possible to participate, by establishing a new minimum participation level—5% instead of 10%. This equates to about one day off without pay every four weeks. Our budget situation remains difficult, and we won't know how deep our cuts will be until we receive an approved plan sometime late in June. What we do know is that whatever savings result from our participation in the START plan will be counted as part of our required budget reduction—in a real sense, this is a program that saves jobs. Please give serious consideration to participating.

Thanks,

Chris Christofferson
Assistant Vice-Chancellor, PP-CS

campus news

START Program Update

Last year the University implemented a two-year **Staff and Academic Reduction in Time (START) Program**, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2010, to enable non-probationary career staff and academic appointees an opportunity to voluntarily reduce their working time and corresponding pay.

The START Program is a temporary, voluntary program in which eligible employees may be approved to reduce their working hours and corresponding pay between 5 - 50%. START participants, who must remain on pay status at least 50% of full-time each month while in the program, will continue to accrue vacation, sick leave and UC Retirement Plan service credit at their pre-START accrual rate.

Applications for a 5% reduction in time will be automatically approved, pending an approval of schedule by supervisors.

(continued on next page)

The PP-CS Community Update is published monthly, with special editions as needed.

*To submit an item or story, please contact **Trevor Bryant** at 3-2885 or email thbryant@berkeley.edu.*

campus news (continued)

START Program Update

Participating in the START Program enables FS to reduce costs and offset required budget reductions.

Represented employees in the following groups are eligible to participate in the START program:
CUE, ACBCTC, AFSCME and UPTE

Information about the START program and campus procedures can be found at the following web site address:

http://ohr.berkeley.edu/policy/start2009/start2009_uch_procedures.htm

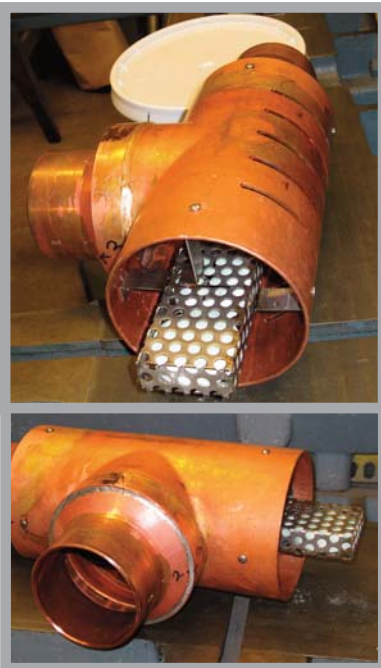
The START Contract Form has been revised and is available at the following web site address:

http://ohr.berkeley.edu/policy/start2009/START_U270_Contract_UCB.pdf

If you have questions about the START implementation procedures, please contact **Zandra LeDuff** (HR) at 2-2662 or **Maria Fong-Pedro** (HR) at 3-2956.

community news

PP-CS Team Designs Water Discharge Mechanism for Strawberry Creek



To protect the campus water main from rupturing due to pressure fluctuations, **Greg Rasmussen** (Sheet Metal), **Mike Berwick** and **Donald Dotson** (Utilities Operations) conceived, designed and fabricated a discharge manifold to relieve pressure on the main by releasing water into Strawberry Creek. When water pressure is excessive, the discharge valve opens and releases water to Strawberry Creek through the manifold.

There's a catch, of course, because our campus water supply contains chloramines. Chloramine, an alternative to chlorine, is a chemical compound (chlorine and nitrogen, to be specific) commonly used in low concentrations as a disinfectant in municipal water systems. While making the water safe for human consumption, it can be toxic to fish and other wildlife. Mitigating the chloramine levels in the water that would be released to relieve pressure on the main - before it reaches Strawberry Creek - was an important part of the challenge for Greg, Mike and Donald.

Inside the manifold that was manufactured by Greg, a cartridge containing "chloramine tablets" effectively neutralizes the chloramines as the water passes through. The cartridge can be easily replaced when the tablets are dissolved. Great work, Greg, Mike and Donald!



workplace improvement



BEAR Award Winner for January: Shaylah Rigmaiden



Shaylah with her son, Nasir

Shaylah Rigmaiden (Call & Business Center) was nominated for “an exceptional willingness to support her colleagues” during complicated shutdowns, as well as the many community-building projects within PP-CS that Shaylah was involved in.

Shaylah has since moved on from PP-CS, having been here for six years; her energy and commitment to the workplace will be missed.

BEAR Award Winner for February: Skip Calvo



Skip Calvo (PC&S) was nominated for his work over the last few months doing the purchasing of materials for the Lockshop. “Skip has really helped to change a problem area into one that is working pretty well - in fact, Procurement, Contracts & Storehouse (PC&S)

will be copying this program with other shops...our hats go off to Skip.”



Nominate a Colleague for Doing a Great Job with... a BEAR Award!

Every month, the PP-CS Workplace Improvement Team (WIT) awards a BEAR Award - and a \$50 gift card - to an employee whose valuable contributions to PP-CS, the campus, and their fellow workers went “above and beyond.” If you would like to recognize someone for their extra effort and support, you can nominate them for a BEAR Award in one of the following ways:

- 1) Place a note in one of the PP-CS Suggestion Boxes located around campus.
- 2) Call the WIT Hotline at 3-2308 and leave a message
- 3) E-mail your nomination to:
workplaceimprovement@lists.berkeley.edu.

FSIT Update

Facilities Services Information Technology (FSIT) staff are settling into new office spaces and working on new ways to make it easier for FS staff to request their services. A few updates from the team:

* Peter Tran, a Cal student, has joined Mike Daplas and Lawrence Felipe in providing helpdesk support to FS staff. Peter is currently working on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and the three staff are responding to service requests at all FS locations. Interviews are currently underway to hire a second student helpdesk assistant.

* David Perks is a graduate student who has also joined FSIT to work part time with IT projects. Currently, he is working with Joyce Martin in developing the new service request system. David's work space is at a cubicle in room 222 at the Promenade.

* Testing of a new FS-wide Service Request system is underway! A number of staff from throughout our organization are using the system in its pilot stage. A timeline for the final rollout of the system to all FS staff will be distributed in the next few weeks.

* Construction is expected to begin soon in room 240 of Carleton as space is remodeled to house the FSIT team. Construction details and anticipated impacts at 2000 Carleton will be shared in advance of the start of work.



commendations

I just want to pass on a big 'thanks' to **Dave Smith** (Stationary Engineers/Night Operations), **Art Simmons** (Electrical), **Dennis Barlow** (Lockshop), and **Mary Rose Czajka** (Plumbing) for their help in finding and identifying previously unidentified telephone and alarm lines. Through their efforts we have helped save PP-CS thousands of dollars annually, and have also helped ensure that we do not accidentally turn off a fire alarm line because we didn't know what the line was for. This is a big help to both **Ken Schmitz** (Support Services) and myself, and we appreciate their efforts.

Ralph Evans (Procurement)

I would just like to take an opportunity to thank each and every one of my colleagues who recently stepped forward to offer their support during a difficult time, with kind words as well as donations of their vacation time. I am deeply grateful to each of you, and am humbled by such an outpouring of support.

- Hadi Kamkar (Fire Prevention Services)

Thank-You to Brent Kindle and Robert Chavira (Roofing)

Sometimes we don't say "thank you" enough to our employees. I had a leak in my office which was coming through a side wall and getting worse every winter. Last week we were extracting water every thirty minutes until we finally got **Brent Kindle** (Roofing) involved. Brent assured us that the water could not be seeping through from the roof and had to be coming from some other source. To our surprise Brent was correct; we discovered that the water was pouring through and around an old conduit. Brent and **Robert Chavira** (Roofing) came back the following day to see if we had discovered the source of the problem and were concerned that although we found the problem we did not use the correct materials to fix the leak. Brent and Robert removed the materials we had used and did the repair as it should be done. He even came back today to complete the final repair. Thanks to Brent and Robert.

Willis St. Hill, Unit 2, RSSP

budget information

Town Hall Meeting with Chancellor at Wheeler Hall on Tuesday, March 24th

Dear Colleagues:

Following up on our recent messages to the campus community about the ongoing campus budget situation (<http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/budget>), we invite staff members to join us for a town hall meeting on Tuesday, March 24, from noon to 1 p.m. in Wheeler Auditorium. We will present an overview of the current financial situation and answer your questions.

We have reserved a large venue for this event to accommodate as many participants as possible. We encourage you to arrive early, as the auditorium holds 700 people, and seating will be limited to that number. A UC Berkeley ID will be required at the door.

For those who cannot attend in person, the town hall will be webcast live and archived for viewing after the event; details will be available soon at <http://webcast.berkeley.edu>. Managers are encouraged to allow staff time to attend the forum or watch the web broadcast from their desk.

While this is not the forum to answer questions about individual situations, we will welcome the input of the attendees and will have resource experts available to answer general questions about the budget, staff programs, and support services. We hope you will join us.

Yours sincerely,

Robert J. Birgeneau
Chancellor

Nathan Brostrom
Vice Chancellor, Administration

CALENDAR

Monday 3/23 - Friday 3/27 - Spring Break

Tuesday 3/24 - Town Hall Meeting w/ Chancellor (12-1pm in Wheeler Auditorium)

Friday 3/27 - César Chavez National Holiday



sustainability corner

2009 CACS Sustainability Awards

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACCS) promotes environmental management and sustainable development at UC Berkeley, and is charged with advising the Chancellor on matters pertaining to the environment and sustainability as it directly relates to the University.

CACS' goals are to engage the campus in an ongoing dialogue about reaching environmental sustainability; to integrate environmental sustainability with existing campus programs; and to instill a culture of sustainable long-range planning and forward-thinking design.

To formally recognize contributions to each of these goals, the Committee annually provides awards to faculty, staff, and students that have done outstanding sustainability work. Awardees are announced at the annual CACS Sustainability Summit in April.

Please help CACS recognize the good work being done on campus. Nominations can be made for groups or individuals and are open to the entire Cal community. There is a great amount of flexibility as to what groups or projects qualify, and creativity is welcome.

Nominations for the 2009 CACS Sustainability Award are due Saturday April 4th and should be emailed to Steve Maranzana at stevemar@berkeley.edu. Award winners in four categories (student, faculty, staff, and group) will be recognized at the Sixth Annual Sustainability Summit on Wednesday, April 22nd.

You can download the application at http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/awards/awardapp_2009.v2.doc

2009 Green Fund and TGIF Grant Applications Available

Have a great idea for how to make the campus more sustainable? Apply for the *Chancellor's Green Fund Grant* by April 4th. This grant enables members of the UC Berkeley campus community to undertake projects that will create a greener, more environmentally sustainable campus while saving resources and money in the process.

Awarded at the Annual UC Berkeley Sustainability Summit in April, the *Green Fund* provides one-time funding to projects led by students, faculty and staff which help move Cal toward environmental sustainability. This funding is given on a competitive basis. You can find more, as well as an application, at <http://sustainability.berkeley.edu/greenfund>.

Examples of projects funded in 2008 include purchasing an electric delivery vehicle for Environment, Health & Safety, adding waterless urinals and upgrading faucets in Etcheverry Hall, training groundskeepers to sheet mulch, and many more.

The Green Initiative Fund (TGIF) is a grant-making fund for sustainability projects on campus. About \$250,000 per year are available for grants; all students, faculty, and staff are eligible to submit project proposals. TGIF is funded by a \$5 per semester student fee. Projects must directly address environmental sustainability on campus, or in the capacity that on-campus activities influence sustainability off campus. All proposed projects must have a clearly-defined, measurable outcome. The minimum size of project grants is \$1,000. For more information, including an application, visit <http://tgif.berkeley.edu>. **The application deadline is March 31st, so don't delay!**

Cal Green Environment Team (CalGET)

Cal Green Environment Team (CalGeT) is a sustainability task force operating within PP-CS. Current members Sara Shirazi (Sustainability & Engineering), Bob Newell (Grounds & Environmental Services), Karen Lobo (Fire Prevention/Preventive Maintenance), Ali Mansour (Custodial), Ralph Evans (Procurement & Storehouse), Raul Abesamis (Energy Engineering & Technical Services) and Lisa Bauer (Campus Recycling & Refuse Services) are working on current and future efforts to improve campus sustainability.

Two new student interns, **Christine Chung** and **Taylor Zhou**, were hired to work on a range of tasks associated with CalGeT and campus sustainability, including outreach and education to both PP-CS and the campus about sustainability activities in which PP-CS engages. One project the interns are working on with CalGeT is developing a program to certify a number of campus buildings' Operations and Maintenance practices using LEED guidelines. Watch for more on this program in future Updates!

culture corner

Traditional Iranian New Year on the First Day of Spring

Nowrūz (with various local pronunciations and spellings) is the traditional Iranian new year holiday celebrated by Iranian and many other peoples in West Asia, Central Asia, South Asia, Northwestern China, the Caucasus, the Crimea, and in Albania, Bosnia, Kosovo and the Republic of Macedonia.

Nowrūz marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the Iranian year. It is celebrated on the day of the astronomical vernal equinox (the start of spring in the northern hemisphere), which usually occurs on March 21. In Iran it is also referred to as an Eid festival, although it is not an Islamic feast.

In association with the "rebirth of nature", extensive spring-cleaning is a tradition observed by almost every household in Persia. This is also extended to personal attire, and it is customary to buy at least one set of new clothes. On the New Year's day, families dress in their new clothes and start the twelve-day celebrations by visiting the elders of their family, then the rest of their family and finally their friends. On the thirteenth day families leave their homes and picnic outdoors.

Typically, on the first day of Nowruz, family members gather around the table, and await the exact moment of the arrival of the spring. At that time gifts are exchanged. Later in the day, house visits are paid.

Some Nowruz celebrants believe that whatever a person does on Nowruz will affect the rest of the year. So, if a person is warm and kind to their relatives, friends and neighbours on Nowruz, then the new year will be a good one. On the other hand, if there are fights and disagreements, the year will be a bad one. (from Wikipedia)



word of the month

in·ter·lop·er - (in'tər-lō'pər)

1. One that interferes with the affairs of others, often for selfish reasons; a meddler.
2. One that intrudes in a place, situation, or activity.

The picnic was interrupted by the uninvited interloper looking for a free meal.

- definition from Answers.com

If you'd like to submit a Word of the Month, please contact Trevor Bryant at 3-2885 or tbryant@berkeley.edu.

human resources

Revised 'Employer's Report of Incident' Form

University Health Services (UHS)-Workers' Compensation Unit has released an updated version of the 'Employer's Report of Incident' form. The newest version is easily identified by the dated footnote on both pages of the form (it should read 11/6/2008). Older versions of the form will not be accepted for submission to UHS, and any outdated forms will be returned to you for completion on the new form. Please note that to comply with the California Labor Code, Incident Report forms must be completed and submitted within 24 hours of the occurrence.

Please only send incident Reports to **Janice Slocum** in Human Resources, the official office of record for Employer's Incident Reports. As in the past, the Incident Reports must be accompanied with the PP-CS Injury Report and the Payroll Office Overpayment form.

Please contact **Janice Slocum** (HR) at 2-2986 if you have any questions.

SAVE the DATE!

PP-CS Service Award Reception

Thursday, April 2nd, 2009

1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

2000 Carleton St 246A/B

- refreshments will be served -