Renewable Energy Center opens to the public

On October 7th, 2011 the Renewable Energy Center had its ribbon cutting ceremony. Nearly 1,000 people were in attendance and approximately 350 tours were given in the course of just over 2 hours. In attendance were several dignitaries including Representative Chapin Rose, Senator Dale Righter, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, President for Honeywell Energy Solutions Group, and Director of the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. There were many congratulations to be given for all parties involved and we certainly thank all those that made the plant possible and shining that beautiful day. The Renewable Energy Center is now providing all the steam to campus and is anticipated to begin electrical generation in the near future. The steam turbine in the plant is slated to produce nearly 10% of the University’s electricity demand.

Submitted by Ryan Siegel, Campus Energy and Sustainability Coordinator

CMMS - just what does it mean?

A Computerized Maintenance Management System is a computer program that allows you to track the maintenance issues organized in one place. July we went live with an updated version of our CMMS. The name of the CMMS is MicroMain Facilligence. The system is completely web driven. Meaning all you need is a web browser like Firefox or Internet Explorer to access the maintenance information.

The CMMS allows the maintenance department to track work orders, time and parts. All the maintenance foremen can get into the CMMS and track all the work that they have finished. They can tell how many hours of work went into each building, what parts where put on each work order. Preventive maintenance can be scheduled and maintenance to stop problems before they can happen.

Central Stores uses the CMMS to track part and part information. All of our part information is in the CMMS. Part quantity manufactures, descriptions, and reorder points help organize and track the parts. Central Stores can track the life of the parts in their warehouses. Every purchase and every issue is tracked and accounted for.

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Starting in November work control will be opening up the request module to customers. Meaning high volume customers can submit and request work directly in the CMMS themselves. They simply go to our website and enter in the work they need.

The CMMS is the nervous system of the maintenance shops. We have just started and the system looks very promising.

Submitted by Aaron Allison

Eastern Illinois University
Aaron’s Alerts - Clouds are a Brewing......

Cloud here, cloud there, you may have heard about Cloud Computing. But what even is cloud computing? Cloud computing is doing everything you need in a web browser like Firefox or Internet Explorer. You can access and manage your email, listen to music, even watch your favorite movies all from a simple web browser. There is no need to install applications from disks. Some of the new cloud computing applications are Netflix, Amazon Cloud and iCloud. Netflix lets you stream movies over high speed internet for a small monthly fee. All you do is go to their website sign in and within seconds you are watching the latest TV show or movie. Amazon Cloud and Apples iCloud lets you upload your music to their services. Dropbox sync files with the internet to all your devices. Then you can access it from anywhere with a network connection. The new services even let you stream from your smart phones. Which means anywhere you get cell phone service you can access your music and files. We are quickly becoming a connected environment where you can access your files, movies and music from anywhere at any time.

Submitted by Aaron Allison, FPM - IT

Share your Holiday 2011

Facilities recently kicked off the 2011 “Share your Holiday” collection drive. This year’s designated recipients are the same as in years past.

FPM supervisors have received the annual letter. And by now have posted it for all to read.

As usual, donations can be given directly to any of the committee members, Mike Carter, Chris Childress or Deb Black. Or if you wish for your donations to remain anonymous, the Christmas box is available on Cathy Gray’s desk and will also be at the FPM annual Christmas lunch.

Last year, we received the largest amount ever, of $2,221.00! It is our hopes to meet or exceed last year’s donations.

Every year, it becomes increasingly important that we continue to help our fellow man. Too many people are unable to secure full time employment and are without the basic needs of life. Our donations are crucial in assisting others in their times of need. The committee thanks each and every one for their continued support of this worthy cause.

Share Your Holiday, Committee: Mike, Chris & Deb

Upcoming Events

November:
November 24, 2011– Thanksgiving Day

December:
December 25, 2011– Christmas Day
December 31, 2011 - New Year’s Eve

January:
January 1, 2012-New Year’s Day

Recent Retirees

7/31/2011-Greg Simpson, Paint Shop
8/31/2011 - Jim Craven, Mason
8/31/2011 - Bruce Sanders, Paint Shop
9/30/11 - Roger Hudson, BSW Foreman
October/November’s Quiz - Sure to be a THRILLER!

Without further ado - here is this issue’s quiz….

1. A ghost, reportedly haunts what building on campus?
2. Does that ghost have a name and what is it?
3. What is the urban legend concerning this haunting?
4. Who is this person and what is their real story?
5. Whose funeral was held in the Cracker Box Gym?
6. Whose funeral was held in Old Main?
7. What is engraved on Dr. Lord’s tombstone?
8. What kind of “costume” or “attire” were freshman required to wear that distinguished them from upper classmen, during the early years of Eastern?
9. A loud Hawaiian shirt might also be considered a costume. Who liked to wear one of these to every orientation potluck dinner, during his reign as president?
10. Lots of little girls like to dress up as a princess for Halloween, but who was the first Homecoming queen and what was the year?

July’s Quiz Winner is announced!

Last issue’s winner is Cathy Gray, Administrative Clerk at Facilities Planning and Management. Just because Cathy is a co-worker, that didn’t help. She worked a long time to find the correct answers! Even though she had to research the questions at various locations, she braved the elements to find the correct answers to all of the questions.

And you too, can be a winner - if you want to “dig” for the truth. Those hard sought out answers to our last quiz are as follows:


Bonus: “Gus Marsh” was a student’s pseudonym. This student phoned a Mattoon paper with a list of charges made by the revivalist Nichols, which they then published. The Charleston Courier denied the charges and “severely reproached” the Mattoon paper! “Mr. Marsh” was then marched to the campus lake and dunked by some of his fellow students. The St. Louis Democrat somehow mixed up the information and reported “Mr. Lord had been thrown into the Normal School pond by a mob of indignant citizens”! The student’s father then had the seven students responsible for his son’s soaking, arrested on the charge of a riot. The case was tossed out of Circuit court and our infamous Gus was also tossed out - being later dismissed from school by Dr. Lord and refused re-admittance.

Toy Drive and Non-Perishable Food Drive

As in past years, FPM is once again participating in the local food and toy drive.

The food drive boxes have been delivered, for collections of non-perishable food. Pick up will be Tuesday, November, 29th.

The Toy Drive boxes will be delivered soon. Donations of new toys will be accepted. Last year all boxes were overflowing with bounty! The food boxes were filled with varying choices of foodstuffs. The toy boxes were stuffed with toys of all kinds, from basketballs to baby dolls. And everything in between!

Let’s shoot for a repeat!
Thanking those that help us succeed - submitted by John Sigler

Like many areas on campus, FPM hires several students every year. These young women and men do work, lots of different kinds of work, for FPM; such as Whitney Hackler who worked on a new FPM webpage; Bryan Sparks that updated many of our outdated floor plans; Christopher Colson that last year worked at Lantz Arena and this year will be working at McAfee Gym, with the BSW’s; to Drew Iffert who will be in his second year working at Central Stores.

These young people’s work is invaluable to Facilities Planning and Management and our stated mission: “the unit strives to be a model of excellence for comprehensive state institutions of its kind, delivering effective and efficient services to Eastern Illinois University Community”.

The editorial staff at the PlanIt would like to take a moment and thank all the past, present and future students help us to be The Best That We Can Be.

Focus on Facilities — Making Steam!!

James Gilbert is a Stationary Fireman at the Renewable Energy Center (REC) and James takes great pride in the work that he and his co-workers do. The day I was there they had just started burning chips for a performance test. Our conversation was cut short when Mike Adair came in and told James that an alarm had malfunctioned and didn’t notify them that the feeder screw that propels chips onto the conveyor belt had stopped operating. This was a signal for James and his fellow co-workers to jump into action.

James is a 12 year veteran of the Heat Plant and REC. You can tell how much James enjoys his work and time spent working with the other workers at the REC. He takes a lot of pride in the fact that they have started something at EIU that will greatly benefit the University for years to come. He speaks glowingly of his fellow workers and takes great pride in the accomplishments of the team at REC.

Prior to working at Eastern James was the Utility Supervisor for the Federal Bureau of Prisons at Greenville. While working at Greenville there was a prison riot, something he is not too likely to face at the REC.

James lives in Westfield and is a graduate of Casey-Westfield High. James and his wife Trisha have 3 boys and 1 girl. They are the center of his life and he loves the time that he gets to spend with them. Hunting is the one thing that James takes time away from family and work to do. He is an avid hunter and takes great pleasure with the time that he gets to spend out enjoying nature.

Submitted by John Sigler

Images:
- REC Ribbon cutting, supplied by Ryan Siegel
- Calendar, retirement banner, food items— Clip Art
- Old Main, Lionel Sanders