A Message from the Vice President

It’s hard to believe another year is coming to an end; the holiday season is here! This was a crucial year for us as there were many departmental issues to resolve as a result of the integration. I am pleased to report, we can all be proud of our accomplishments in 2014. Many of the strategies we developed for our department, and the plans we presented for the University will be realized in 2015.

We are completing the roll out of the Physical Master Plan. In the new year, we will execute some of our recommendations, bringing improvements to all RU campuses.

Within Facilities, we evaluated work management systems, and each campus is using a different system. As a unit, it is imperative that we work within the same platform. As a service organization within the University, it is critical that we provide our clients accurate information about our statewide assets when called upon to do so. The AiM work management system, which Facilities has been using on the central campuses, is being installed on our other campuses. Currently, it is being used as a work request system, but will be used to collect and store facilities data going forward. This information—be it about space, utilities, or building condition—can be reported out as needed.

We are also working toward a single department email system in 2015 to help streamline communications within our group. Currently, for example, not everyone receives the department wide emails. In fact, if you are not receiving this newsletter or other emails electronically, please send your email address to VPFPC@facilities.rutgers.edu. We can update our distribution list while working toward our goal.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your hard work over the past year. I look forward to working with all of you in 2015. Your professionalism and input at every level is invaluable.

Please accept my best wishes for a healthy and happy holiday season. May your season be blessed with good cheer and time spent with loved ones.

Tony Calcado

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Retail Plaza: KITE + KEY OFFERS UP THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY

Are you looking for the newest technology from a Bluetooth winter hat to a 3D printer, and everything in between? Visit kite+key, the Rutgers Tech store, located in the Plaza at Livingston Campus.

kite+key carries all major brands and a full selection of accessories. You can purchase Dell, HP, Lenovo, Samsung and Beats to name a few. As an Apple Authorized campus store, kite+key also offers the entire line of Apple products at education pricing. "Our products are priced below retail. Apple provides a discount to students and faculty. As an authorized Apple campus store, our Apple items are automatically priced to reflect that discount", said Michael Pelardis, Associate Director, Economic Development, University Facilities. When kite+key has a sale, you can take advantage of even lower pricing. The store’s pre-Black Friday sale was on November 21 and it was packed with holiday shoppers.

The next sale is for faculty and staff and will be on December 11. No need to wait for a sale though. Stop in anytime to take advantage of kite+key’s everyday competitive pricing.

More than just a store, kite+key offers monthly “appy hours” where you can learn about the latest apps. Simply show up, and you can walk out with a $10 kite+key gift card. kite+key also teams up with other units within Rutgers to offer special promotions. “Recently we gave away 2 Fitbit scales in a partnership with Rutgers Recreation”, said April Leavy, Marketing Manager for kite+key.

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FULFILLING HIS PASSION FOR ART
CAMDEN EMPLOYEE ENJOYS SUCCESS ON CANVAS

Pedro Fuller started painting in 1974 in his native Nicaragua. At the time he was using oil based house paints, but his talent was obvious, and by 1976, he was enrolled in La Escuela de Belles Artes in Managua, Nicaragua, and starting to refine his style. Today, Fuller, a custodian for the Facilities group at Rutgers Camden, has sold his paintings for as much as $20,000...a far cry from dabbling in oil-based house paints!

Fuller, whose paternal grandfather immigrated to Nicaragua from England, hence the name "Fuller", loved to draw. "As a child, I spent all of my time drawing maps and became so good at them that I would amaze my teachers," he said. In 1979, Fuller immigrated to the United States. He continued his art studies from 1979 to 1983 at the Art Den Gallery in Westville, NJ and the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in Philadelphia, PA from 1981-1985. His instructors spotted his talent and unique style, which is influenced by Picasso and Van Gogh, but it is uniquely, Pedro Fuller.

"Picasso influences me as a mature painter," he said. "Every piece expresses something unique. I always give careful consideration to the way color and form work together." When asked where his ideas come from, Fuller says, "It's all in my head." Even the less abstract pieces are images that come to him. They are not preset as still-life models. They are in his imagination and then become art.

Fuller's work has been on display in many galleries and museums, and he has been commissioned to paint murals in private homes in both Spain and France. He starts by sketching his ideas on small pieces of paper—the size of a small index card—and then adds color. Then comes the large canvas, the paints, and, of course, the time needed to do the actual painting. Fuller tries to paint at least 3 hours a day and more on when he is off from his shift at Rutgers where he has worked for 17 years.

"People now recognize my work when they see it on display," he said, seemingly amazed at his own success. "Before I touch the canvas, I pray. I believe that is what has helped me paint and sell my work." Fuller explained that some museum and gallery exhibits are run like auctions. He recalled one instance where he was vying for a spot against 4,000 people. "They wanted one slide of the artwork, and then narrowed down the selection of artists to just a few. It is like a lottery system. I could not believe I was selected to exhibit."

Over the years Fuller has won numerous awards including first place of 3,000 entries in the Rutgers Camden, Juried Exhibit. Other Rutgers exposure includes an exhibit in the Mason Gross School of Arts in 2001, and one of his paintings was purchased and donated to the Rutgers collection on the Camden Campus.

Preparing for an exhibit can be time consuming and costly. Each painting has to be individually wrapped for transport. If you cannot transport it yourself, you must hire someone to do so. When Fuller sees people recognizing and admiring his work, it is worth it. And what is his reaction when he sees his work hanging on the wall of someone's home? "It's like, oh wow that's my painting," Fuller said.

Fuller often chooses his own frames and mounts his own paintings.

A work in progress, below, and close-up of the artist's palette at right.

Fuller admits he does not paint many scenes from his native Nicaragua. Above is an exception.

View an online portfolio of Fuller's work at http://www.artwanted.com/artist.cfm?ArtID=11556&Display=Med&DGID=0&Page=0.

Fuller was influenced by Picasso from an early age, as can be seen in the above paintings.

Pedro Fuller, who has been with Rutgers for 17 years, explains his style of painting.

Promotional posters from a 2013 exhibit at the Abud Art Foundation in Lawrenceville, NJ. Founded by Nicaraguan born neurosurgeon, Dr. Ariel Abud, the foundation promotes artists with Ibero-American ties.
MERGER BRINGS NEW COLLABORATIONS

A recent repair completed on the Rutgers Newark campus also shows the power the merger has had in fostering collaborations that would not have occurred pre-merger.

Andrew Witek, Director, Facilities Maintenance Services, Rutgers Newark, commended Ron Monsen, who is Chief Engineer of the Rutgers Newark central heating plant and also maintains the high temperature hot water lines on campus, and Ted Elonis who manages utilities maintenance on the central campus.

Witek said that both men were involved in the repair of high temperature hot water leaks. “Ron participated in finding the leaks, managing shutdowns, and the isolation of buildings and the central heating plant. Ted coordinated the crew and provided fantastic advice and support,” Witek said.

Kinn-Gurzo attains RA

Kudos go out to Mark Kinn-Gurzo, University Facilities Contract Services, who recently passed the Architectural Registration exams, seven in all, and is eligible to become a Registered Architect (RA). An RA has first completed his education, 5 years, from an accredited college, and then completes almost 3,000 hours through an intern development program.

Kinn-Gurzo has been with University Facilities for four years. He is currently working on the Center for Advanced Infrastructure Transportation (CAIT) Bridge Deck Testing Facility, A new multi-purpose room and fitness center at the Cook Douglass recreation center, and a stair renovation in Geology Hall. Congratulations Mark!

RETAIL PLAZA OFFERINGS: KITE + KEY

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Even if you are located on another campus, you can still take advantage of the competitive pricing and products from kite+key. kite+key will be launching a new e-commerce website where you can make purchases and have them shipped directly to you. The website is expected to launch early in the New Year. The store also conducts institutional business with many departments, including those in Newark and Camden. Departmental sales are handled by the Store Manager, Vito Vacca. Pick up the phone, 848-445-1127, send an email, kiteandkey@rutgers.edu, or just stop in, Vito and his team are always eager to assist.

There are over 200 Apple Authorized Campus stores in the United States. kite+key ranked in the Top 5 in branding and marketing for a campus store and management employees were invited to present at Apple in Cupertino in July. You can follow kite+key on social media, https://www.facebook.com/KiteandKey, https://twitter.com/kite_and_key, http://instagram.com/KiteandKey#/ and sign up to receive their newsletter, www.kiteandkey.rutgers.edu. Stay tuned for the store’s new website and for more great announcements.