University Facilities Unveils New Website

A NEW WEBSITE; HOUSING SETTLES IN

I hope you have had a chance to look around the new website, you will also read about it in this issue. It reflects nicely on the professionalism of our department.

The new site provides everyone within our department an excellent overview of all of the services we offer, but as a client facing site, we hope it clearly conveys who we are, the services we provide, and that our clients can have confidence in our ability to get the job done.

One link, in particular, now resides on our website: Students and Parents. At the time of the merger, it was determined that the maintenance of the Housing assets and its finances should be handled within Facilities. Residence Life would continue to manage the “lifestyle needs” of the students, i.e., building selection, room and roommate assignments, etc.

Housing is hardly a new area for Facilities. Up until 2000, we were charged with managing these buildings. We, therefore, are working from a position of strength and in-depth knowledge of these properties and confidence in the abilities of the staff charged with their upkeep. Henry Velez is capably handling the finances, and I am happy to report that Housing has nicely integrated into Facilities.

Finally, in this issue you will read about Gloria Tillery, who has quietly racked up boiler licenses. Gloria started as a secretary at the co-generation plant on RBHS Newark campus in 1995. She is set to get her Gold Seal in December. It is an inspirational story which demonstrates that there are opportunities open to all of us despite obstacles in front of us. We encourage self-improvement! Good luck Gloria.

Tony Calcado

Highlights

New Website............. 1
Nursing School redo... 2
Staff Spotlight......... 4
HR Courses............. 6
The School of Nursing originally had some space on the 10th and 11th floors of the SSB, consisting of four classrooms and administrative space. "Basically they utilized classrooms from other schools," said University Facilities Director, Project Services, Nicholas L Fabbroni. "In 2008 we did an 8th floor renovation to bring one of their clinics, the François-Xavier Bagnoud Center, into the SSB from its previous location in the Administrative Complex, but they still needed considerable classroom space."

After the 8th floor was completed, renovations began on the ground floor of the SSB to accommodate more classrooms and administrative offices. The 6th floor was identified as potential space for the nursing school, but first a major abatement was needed and the entire area gutted, which took a little more than a year. Once that was completed, the nursing school gained four more classrooms and IT tech space on the 6th floor. "In total, we increased their space by 34,000 square feet," said Project Manager, Matthew Peterson.

In its entirety, the new configuration results in the School of Nursing space on a portion of the GA level, all of the 6, 8, and 10th floors and a portion of 11. Everything ties together nicely with the same color schemes, floor tiles and carpet designs. In addition to the school's administrative offices on the ground level (GA) of the SSB, two new computer labs are also located on this level. Because the classrooms on the GA are street level, extra precautions were taken to ensure security, but not to diminish the feel of the rooms which need to reflect a modern, comfortable classroom environment. Privacy shades were used on the windows so that passers-by cannot see in. In addition, there is a glass break detector and security window protection film which will hold broken glass together should a window be shattered. "We did not want to put bars on windows," said Pamela Edwards, Program Support Specialist.

The newly renovated 6th floor has a new conference room and smart board. The computer labs on each floor were designed so that classrooms can be separated into smaller spaces or combined into one large space. "The sound proof separating wall has a white board on each side, so that when the wall is closed and two different lessons ensue, there is no ambient noise from either lab. Having the white board on each side of the separating wall, also allows for maximum use of classroom space," said Edwards. "We also wanted storage cubicles in each lab because many students spend all day in the labs, and the cubicles provide a nearby space to store personal items."

On the 10th floor, the students not only have a comfortable lounge area, complete with WiFi, but the highlight on this floor are the brand new simulation labs. "It is very exciting," said Debora L. Tracey, Clinical Lab & Simulation Coordinator, Rutgers School of Nursing. "We went from one room of just over 300 square feet of space to four simulation rooms, plus a demonstration room, giving us almost 1,600 square feet." Tracey explained that this not only increases resources for the nursing students but for inter-professional education with all the other schools.

The School of Nursing (legacy UMDNJ) and the College of Nursing (legacy Rutgers) officially combined on July 1, 2014, making Rutgers School of Nursing one of the largest nurse education programs in the country.
In mid-1990, Gloria Tillery was walking along Norfolk Street in Newark, returning from lunch to her job at the Essex County Courthouse, when a man—whom she later came to know as the supervisor of the RBHS Newark campus co-generation plant—standing outside the plant, called to her saying, "Hey, can you type?" Perhaps a little unorthodox, but you might say, unorthodox describes Tillery's career, so far. "I was thinking, 'What are you kidding?' My sister-in-law worked at the UMD hospital and I was working at Essex County courthouse in the family division. My sister-in-law kept telling me to apply to UMD. I was not happy in family court. Whether it was paternity cases or juvenile issues, Tillery was bothered by what she saw each day. "You have kids screaming, couples fighting. The judges were nice to me, but the work environment was crazy."

Prior to family court, Tillery spent 14 years in the fashion industry in a retail buying office. She was an assistant buyer in charge of plus size dresses. "I traveled and helped design clothing for full-figured women. I got the first advertisement for full-figured women into a major magazine, Vogue. "A fashion industry career would bring glamour and lots of travel, but with a young daughter at home, Tillery was reluctant to travel, and when the retailer moved out of state, she stayed behind and got a job in family court as a Court Recorder/Transcriber.

In her unusual first encounter with the Power Plant supervisor, Tillery did apply for the job of secretary and had to take a typing test. "The woman in Human Resources who administered the test told me the faster I typed, the higher my salary range would be. The first time I took the test I typed about 60 words a minute. I went home and cut all my nails. The second time I took the test, I typed 80 words a minute."

Having passed the test, she was officially hired as a secretary in the power plant in 1995. Unfair to take on extra work, she rose from secretary to management assistant. All the while, she was getting to know the language of the boiler operators and life in a cogeneration plant.

In 2007, the supervisory staff changed and the new director suggested she go to boiler school. "He told me I kept excellent records and files. I knew what a butterfly valve was and a gate valve, and all of the terms the guys (in the plant) would bring glamour and lots of travel, but with a young..."
Mortensen Hall

The striking celestial-like ceiling in the Choral Room of Mortensen Hall resulted in an award for its design. The Princeton Review profiled Robert E. Mortensen Hall, which opened one year ago. The 24,000 sq. ft. facility accommodates the Mason Gross School of the Arts, named for former Rutgers University president, Mason Welch Gross, and dedicated in 1979. Gross, who died in 1977, had envisioned establishing a center for the fine and performing arts. The school provides a place where artists can study, teach, create and perform together.

The Princeton Review article steeps praise on the building's design—“graceful glass and brick” and its functionality—“providing much needed rehearsal space, studios and offices, as well as two public gathering places.”

Senior Facilities Project Manager, Joan Sitler explained some of the challenges. "The design phase took a while. The building is an extension to the existing buildings and we had very little property to work with. We had to wedge it into this small patch of grass and reconfigure the roadway to make it fit." Sitler explained that during the design phase, they reconfigured the shape of the building several times to get as much square footage from the space they had to work with and to accommodate the desire of Mason Gross’ dean, George B. Stauffer, to have an all glass front facing the Raritan River. The result was an almost 24,000 square foot addition to the existing building, complete with dance studios, a choral room, rehearsal spaces and two public gathering spaces, including the popular eatery, Cafe S2. The exterior of the addition is brick and glass. “The glass provides a lot of natural light throughout,” said Sitler. “In fact, the upper level dance studios have fantastic views.”

One of the bigger challenges was to match the exterior brick on the new building to the brick on the existing buildings. "The original building was built in the 1970s. The brick had to match as closely as possible, and we also had to follow the roof lines of the surrounding buildings so that everything would have a cohesive look.”

The three story addition also features a recording studio which required special flooring and walls for sound proofing. An acoustician was, therefore, part of the mix of experts guiding that portion of the construction process. In addition, building dance studios requires a floor that has plenty of give. "It is a sprung floor system which is achieved by using many layers of wood,” Sitler explained. "The all-around creativity of the project from negotiating the best use of the parcel of land to seeing the stunning Choral Room ceiling unfold, made it not only challenging, but enjoyable, as well,” said John Shulack, Associate Vice President, Project Administration. Mortensen Hall is named for Rutgers Alumnus, Robert Mortensen (class of ’63). Below is a picture of a terrace—the Regina Heldrich Courtyard—which features a fountain donated by members of the class of ’63. Mortensen Hall is Phase 1 of an expansion proposal in and around the Nicholas Music Center. According to Sitler, the school hopes to add an opera house. "They are exploring funding options, and we will look forward to working with them again when the time comes.”

The entire Princeton review article can be found by linking to the publication at http://www.princetonmagazine.com/bach-bricks-and-bubble-tea-an-arts-complex-grows-at-rutgers.

--

The Regina Heldrich Courtyard.

Don’t shoot the messenger, but it really is time for the winter checklist, and based on last winter, University Facilities & Capital Planning is preparing for the worst case scenario.

“We have over 13,000 bags of ice melt,” said James Kocha, Warehouse Manager. “Last year we went through about 13,000 bags of ice melt and the year before that it was not quite 2,000 bags, so you can see the difference. We want to be ready for the worse case.”

While Facilities never ran out of ice melt or road salt last year, procuring it as the wintry season pounded us with one storm after the next, was becoming increasingly difficult. Other campuses and Housing were calling the central campus for supplies. “We want to procure early enough because supplies are likely to be tight again,” said Facilities Business Manager, Gabriel Jiminez.

In addition, other supplies such as shovels and ice cleats are checked and reordered if necessary, but the melting products are key. Outlying campuses and Housing continue to order their own supplies because purchasing has not yet been completely streamlined since the merger. All campuses, however, have supply piles, and Kocha feels there is enough on the over 200 pallets in the warehouse to help out other campuses and housing should the need arise. “Last year we delivered some bags to Camden and Newark picked up some additional supplies from us. We took that into account when ordering for this winter,” RBHS Newark uses an outside vendor to clean snow and therefore does not store large supplies of ice melt, but they keep enough for follow-up maintenance after the storm clean-up.

Dianne Gravatt has issued purchase orders for road salt. “We can only store minimal amounts on site in our storage areas due to storm water regulations. We will procure road salt as needed throughout the winter months.”

So batten-down, for what is a winter wonderland for some and is a nightmare for others to come, but winter is coming no matter what, Facilities is on the top of it, and in case we get a nice mild winter, there is no shelf life on ice melt, and covered and stored properly we will be ready for the next bad winter whenever it comes.

Don’t shoot the messenger, but it really is time to prepare for winter.

--

The striking celestial-like ceiling in the Choral Room of Mortensen Hall resulted in an award for its design. The September issue of Princeton Review profiled Robert E. Mortensen Hall, which opened one year ago. The 24,000 sq. ft. facility accommodates the Mason Gross School of the Arts, named for former Rutgers University president, Mason Welch Gross, and dedicated in 1979. Gross, who died in 1977, had envisioned establishing a center for the fine and performing arts. The school provides a place where artists can study, teach, create and perform together.

The Princeton Review article steeps praise on the building’s design—“graceful glass and brick” and its functionality—“providing much needed rehearsal space, studios and offices, as well as two public gathering places.”

Senior Facilities Project Manager, Joan Sitler explained some of the challenges. "The design phase took a while. The building is an extension to the existing buildings and we had very little property to work with. We had to wedge it into this small patch of grass and reconfigure the roadway to make it fit.” Sitler explained that during the design phase, they reconfigured the shape of the building several times to get as much square footage from the space they had to work with and to accommodate the desire of Mason Gross’ dean, George B. Stauffer, to have an all glass front facing the Raritan River. The result was an almost 24,000 square foot addition to the existing building, complete with dance studios, a choral room, rehearsal spaces and two public gathering spaces, including the popular eatery, Cafe S2. The exterior of the addition is brick and glass. “The glass provides a lot of natural light throughout,” said Sitler. “In fact, the upper level dance studios have fantastic views.”

One of the bigger challenges was to match the exterior brick on the new building to the brick on the existing buildings. “The original building was built in the 1970s. The brick had to match as closely as possible, and we also had to follow the roof lines of the surrounding buildings so that everything would have a cohesive look.”

The three story addition also features a recording studio which required special flooring and walls for sound proofing. An acoustician was, therefore, part of the mix of experts guiding that portion of the construction process. In addition, building dance studios requires a floor that has plenty of give. "It is a sprung floor system which is achieved by using many layers of wood,” Sitler explained. "The all-around creativity of the project from negotiating the best use of the parcel of land to seeing the stunning Choral Room ceiling unfold, made it not only challenging, but enjoyable, as well,” said John Shulack, Associate Vice President, Project Administration. Mortensen Hall is named for Rutgers Alumnus, Robert Mortensen (class of ’63). Below is a picture of a terrace—the Regina Heldrich Courtyard—which features a fountain donated by members of the class of ’63. Mortensen Hall is Phase 1 of an expansion proposal in and around the Nicholas Music Center. According to Sitler, the school hopes to add an opera house. "They are exploring funding options, and we will look forward to working with them again when the time comes.”

The entire Princeton review article can be found by linking to the publication at http://www.princetonmagazine.com/bach-bricks-and-bubble-tea-an-arts-complex-grows-at-rutgers.

Don’t shoot the messenger, but it really is time for the winter checklist, and based on last winter, University Facilities & Capital Planning is preparing for the worst case scenario.

“We have over 13,000 bags of ice melt,” said James Kocha, Warehouse Manager. “Last year we went through about 13,000 bags of ice melt and the year before that it was not quite 2,000 bags, so you can see the difference. We want to be ready for the worse case.”

While Facilities never ran out of ice melt or road salt last year, procuring it as the wintry season pounded us with one storm after the next, was becoming increasingly difficult. Other campuses and Housing were calling the central campus for supplies. “We want to procure early enough because supplies are likely to be tight again,” said Facilities Business Manager, Gabriel Jiminez.

In addition, other supplies such as shovels and ice cleats are checked and reordered if necessary, but the melting products are key. Outlying campuses and Housing continue to order their own supplies because purchasing has not yet been completely streamlined since the merger. All campuses, however, have supply piles, and Kocha feels there is enough on the over 200 pallets in the warehouse to help out other campuses and housing should the need arise. “Last year we delivered some bags to Camden and Newark picked up some additional supplies from us. We took that into account when ordering for this winter,” RBHS Newark uses an outside vendor to clean snow and therefore does not store large supplies of ice melt, but they keep enough for follow-up maintenance after the storm clean-up.

Dianne Gravatt has issued purchase orders for road salt. “We can only store minimal amounts on site in our storage areas due to storm water regulations. We will procure road salt as needed throughout the winter months.”

Don’t shoot the messenger, but it really is time to prepare for winter.
University Facilities’ Human Resources department has a number of courses available to help you improve and excel in your job. Everything from basic computer skills, to advanced computing to email etiquette, to becoming a better manager, are just a few of the topics covered in these training courses. In addition, Deborah Lewitter, Facilities Training Coordinator, is always open to hear your ideas about courses you would like to see.

“Training courses are available as part of your normal work day. Your supervisor must approve attendance at the classes to insure adequate work coverage,” Lewitter said. She added that she is also a resource for individuals who want to take university courses. “We can help people through the process of applying for courses within the Rutgers system. We encourage self improvement and we are here to help employees achieve their goals,” Lewitter said.

For information about the current course schedule please contact Lewitter at dlewitter@facilities.rutgers.edu or call 848-445-2845. Additional computer courses and University staff development workshops are also available.

This Fall, register for one or more of the following Facilities:

October 23:    Problem Solving I
November 18: Problem solving II
December 9:   Managing Stress

Watch your inbox for an e-mail with registration information, times, locations, and more!