Housekeeping Convention

FM Housekeeping Manager, Debbie Morris, and Housekeeping Supervisors, Diana Taylor, Donna Fink, and Heide Horne, attended the International Executive Housekeepers (Association (IEHA) Conference and Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada November 16 - 21. IEHA is a professional organization committed to a cleaner and healthier environment. They provide education, research and networking opportunities within the cleaning industry. The women attended manager-focused educational sessions regarding the science of cleaning, management skills and continuous improvement ideas.

Included in the trip was ISSA’s convention and trade show. ISSA, the Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association (formerly known as the International Sanitary Supply Association), is an international association of more than 6,000 companies in the professional cleaning industry. Members include distributors, manufacturers, manufacturer representatives, building service contractors and in-house cleaning professionals. ISSA presented a huge trade show of the newest cleaning equipment and supplies on the market. Also available were numerous educational seminars as well as three keynote speakers during their week long convention: John Floey, former Blue Angel; Tony Hsieh, CEO of Zappos; and David Blaine, magician.

Debbie Morris considered the trip a great experience. “IEHA and ISSA provided us with a wealth of experience, networking, trade shows and training sessions. The organizations are all about the custodian and making our jobs easier, safer and healthier. I am thankful to JMU and Facilities Management for graciously allowing us to attend this wonderful conference. The highlight for me was David Blaine. It was amazing the amount of practice, commitment, sacrifice, and research he put into each stunt he attempted. He spoke about being prepared and how failure is not a failure, but a lesson learned and to keep trying until you get it right.”

Banquet Committee:
- Lowell Miller won the January 50/50 raffle. Winnings were $73. Thanks to all who participated!
- Ice cream is available for sale all year in Work Control.
- Sandwich sales are the third Wednesday of the month at morning break and lunch.
- Valentine raffle tickets on sale through February 12. Drawing will be on February 13.
Capital Update  (from President Alger’s 1/14/14 email to university faculty and staff):

The Student Success Center & Health Center project continues to progress and is on track for a phased completion in late spring and mid-summer 2014. The Health Center will move into their facility March 10 - 14. The remainder of the departments will move in two phases: June 16 – July 1 and July 21 – August 1. Phase 1 will include Associate Vice President (AVP) for Student Success, Centennial Scholars, AVP Multicultural Awareness & Student Health, Community Service Learning, Disability Services, Learning Resource Center-Writing, Learning Resource Center – Math, Learning Resource Center – ELES, Judicial Affairs, Counseling Center, Information Technology, and Center for Faculty Innovation. Phase 2 will include Card Services, Financial Aid, University Business Office, Registrar, Orientation/Transfer and Career Academic Planning.

The university has leased a portion of the historic Ice House located in downtown Harrisonburg. The 28,000 square-foot facility will hold Outreach and Engagement, Office of Technology Transfer, University Communications and Marketing, the Small Business Development Center and several other College of Business outreach and grant programs. Renovations are currently underway and will be completed during the spring semester. This is an unprecedented opportunity for collaboration and engagement with the local community.

Regular contributors to the newsletter: Carlene Heatwole, Melissa Mayhew, Michelle Small, Deanna Glass, Julie Huffman, Carrie Grimsley-Comer, Kathleen Whetzel