



JMU Facilities News August 2014

John Ventura

John Ventura has been the Facilities Management Director of Operations for 14 years. He is responsible for the daily operations of University maintenance, landscape, housekeeping, recycling and waste management. Under his leadership, Operations has experienced tremendous growth and made exceptional advances, particularly in the areas of specialization, sustainability and safety.

Utilizing new technologies and extensive training, staff are more highly specialized and incorporate many non-traditional methods for managing buildings. Integrated Waste Management does not simply dispose of trash, but recycles a high percentage of it. Their efforts have been formally recognized several times by the Virginia Recycling Association. Landscapers do not just mow, weed eat and plant flowers. Many have pesticide and CDL licenses, operate highly technical equipment and are knowledgeable in the latest turf management and horticulture practices. Housekeepers are well trained on the use of various equipment and environmentally-safe chemicals. Overall, Operations staff are highly trained on the latest safety measures from ARC Flash (for work with electricity) to the safe operation of progressive equipment.



John feels that JMU's FM Operations is a leader among other universities. He credits this to his staff who constantly set the bar high and work together to take Operations to even greater heights. "Success at this level is determined by surrounding yourself with good people, from management to workers." It takes having employees with good work ethics and values, giving them the right tools, and treating them fairly. In turn, John's staff have been loyal, dedicated and highly productive.

As John prepares to retire, he recollects on his long connection with JMU. It was here that he obtained his undergraduate degree in Sports Management and later his masters in Student Counseling. His professional career at JMU began in 1984 when he was in charge of Warren Campus Center, PC Dukes and Grafton Stovall. In 1988, he transferred to Residence Life (ORL) where he managed all ORL facilities and worked extensively with Facilities Management to coordinate maintenance for these buildings. John accepted the FM Assistant Director position in 2000 in order to have greater exposure to the entire university and to experience new challenges.

These challenges as well as the strong relationships John has developed will be greatly missed. John will also miss the university environment, which he considers "unique". He has enjoyed interaction with all types of people, from students to faculty and staff, and the different perspective that brings. Also, there is always something to look forward to on campus whether it is graduation in the spring, football in the fall or basketball in the winter.

Presently, John looks forward to retiring at the end of this month, spending more time with his wife and grandson, and pursuing other professional interests. John, we wish you the very best and thank you for your dedication and service to Facilities Management and the University.

Announcements:

- ◇ JMU Facilities' HR Consultant, **Michelle Small**, has accepted an HR position at the University of Virginia. Her last day will be Friday, August 15. We greatly appreciate Michelle's service to her customers and wish her the very best!
- ◇ **JMU Facilities annual picnics to be held Tuesday, August 12**
 Day Shift: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. in the lower drum of the Festival
 Night Shift: 10:30 p.m. in the USB break room
[Your participation in fundraising makes this event possible!](#)
- ◇ The University's **modified summer schedule** ends August 15.
- ◇ **Important dates** related to the start of the fall semester:
 August 19 - 20: Residence halls open for freshmen
 August 23: Residence halls open for returning students
 August 25: Classes meet as scheduled
- ◇ **Faculty / Staff Picnic** will be Friday, August 15 from 5 p.m. - 8 p.m. on the lawn behind the Festival. If planning to attend, visit the [website](#) to "reply".
- ◇ The **Help Desk** has moved from the Frye Building to the fourth floor of the Student Success Center.
- ◇ Beginning August 1, employees who participate in the Tax Deferred Savings Program will have another option for saving for retirement by contributing to a **Roth 403(b) account**. Please see [Frequently Asked Questions](#) for additional information.

Home Football Game Schedule

Sept. 13, 4 p.m.

Sept. 27, 4 p.m.

Oct. 11, 12:30 p.m.

Nov. 1, 3:30 p.m.

Nov. 22, 12 p.m.

***JMU Facilities Birthdays for August***

Sharrie Bennett 8/2	Jack Losh 8/2	Lisa Dunivan 8/3	Terry Nesselrodt 8/3	Amy Sager 8/3
Mark Woods 8/5	Mary Morris 8/6	Robert Avey 8/7	Michael Dalmolin 8/7	Rick Dean 8/7
Daniel Smith 8/7	Alyssa Shifflett 8/8	Luke Via 8/8	Sherry Reed 8/9	Dennis Kiracofe 8/10
Brian McAvoy 8/10	John Nelson 8/10	Margaret Delawder 8/11	Bob Weaver 8/11	Angela Branson 8/13
Dorothy VanFossen 8/14	Ricky Lucas 8/15	Cathy Miller 8/15	Bob Shanholtz 8/15	Linda Hedrick 8/17
Jerry Myers 8/17	Timothy Troyer 8/17	Lee Paixao 8/18	Gett, Angelina 8/18	Janine Gray 8/19
Lowell Miller 8/19	Gib Whitmire 8/19	Jeff Fisher 8/21	Darrel Hensley 8/22	Gary McCoy 8/22
Travis Bussey 8/24	Chris Shifflett 8/24	Crystal Wright 8/24	Sandra Baugher 8/27	Brandi Huttner 8/28
Tammi Harris 8/28	Brian Clements 8/30	Candy Arbaugh 8/31	Kimberly Breeden 8/31	Barbara Myers 8/31