

JMU Facilities News

November 2015

Job Shadow Day

Job Shadow Day is a yearly event where eighth graders from the local middle schools come to JMU to learn more about a career field in which they may be interested. This year the Landscape Department, the Power Plant, the Warehouse, and HVAC shared their knowledge and experience with these young adults.

Teens visiting the Turf-side of Landscape got a chance to see the Sports Park and the football stadium and learn about different types of grasses, how to make patterns in the grass and how to groom synthetic turf. They also got to see an array of landscape equipment, learn about snow removal, and discuss the diversity of landscape jobs. Sports Turf Supervisor, Patrick Puffenbarger, was able to share the importance of staying in school and how hard work pays off. He said it is one thing for young adults to hear this mantra from a teacher, but it becomes a reality to them when they hear it from people in the career field.

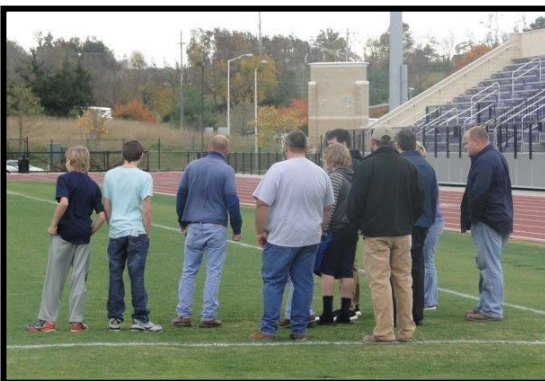
The Horticulture side of the Landscape Department took students to the greenhouse behind Memorial Hall where they learned about the cultivation of plants and had an opportunity to start spider plants. Lead Worker, Carolyn Armentrout, had the teens help with clearing out a flower bed and installing new plantings. Students were really engaged and asked a lot of great questions.

Warehouse Manager, Chad Ellinger, gave students a tour of the Warehouse and showed them the type of items that are stocked, how they are categorized, and the process for expediting Housekeeping supply deliveries. In addition to taking the group to show the Student Success Center, Chad took them around the University Services Building to give them the opportunity to see some of the FM shops that the Warehouse serves.

Students visiting the HVAC Shop spent the majority of their time in the Performing Arts Center with HVAC Supervisor, Chris Keagy, who showed them everything from mechanical rooms to cooling towers and air handlers. Students received an unexpected treat when a theater employee showed the students a beautiful and elaborate theatrical set he was currently working on discussed how HVAC (air flow) can impact sets in terms of curtain and dry ice vapor movement. Chris feels that Job Shadow Day is an excellent opportunity for to promote the trade that he is passionate about as well as the opportunities it provides.

Power Plant Supervisors, Vic Wise and Steve MacRae, shared with students the function of a Power Plant and gave them tours of both the main and East Campus plants. Given the complexity of their jobs, Vic and Steve did an excellent job of communicating things in a way that the students could comprehend. These young visitors were greatly impressed by the sheer size of the plant equipment and the amount of energy that the plants supply to campus.

In addition to providing these students with career-specific information related to their own areas, the FM Job Shadow hosts shed light on other FM areas and how they all work together to maintain university facilities. Many of the chaperones, who are non-FM JMU employees, were amazed and impressed to learn about what you, JMU Facility employees, do every day!



Landscapers with students in the football stadium



Chris Keagy with students in the Performing Arts Center



ESPN GameDay!

ESPN GameDay coming to our campus was a big deal. It was great to get such compliments and support from the folks in Administration and Finance such as we did. So many others from ESPN, faculty/staff, students and alum on campus have echoed their comments and I wouldn't attempt to say it any better than they did; except to say that I agree wholeheartedly.

The effort and results put into all that took place for that event was a shared victory for the institution, but also for Facilities Management across the board. Every area in FM played a critical role in what is sure to be one of the most successful events this school has ever held. The cooperation, planning, and execution of GameDay from our end was flawless and deliberate.

For me, the best part is that the end result was a direct reflection of all of us at our absolute best; but it was also a reflection of what I see us do every day.

I would like to pass on a big thank you to everyone in facilities along with my own expression of gratitude for everything you did that week for this event, but also for the great work you do every day. Our efforts in FM play a critical role in making it possible for JMU to prepare students to become educated and enlightened citizens who will lead productive and meaningful lives. For me, that is an even bigger deal.

Congratulations to everyone in FM and thanks again!

Craig Short

Director of Facilities Management



Please welcome Benjamin "Bennie" Wheelbarger as the Garage Supervisor. He brings over 15 years of experience in the automotive maintenance field as well as an associates degree in Automotive Technology from Blue Ridge Community College.



JMU Facilities Birthdays for November

Derek Knott 11/1	Todd Shifflett 11/3	Dewey Smith 11/3	Robert White 11/3	Mike Anderson 11/4
Mynor Moore 11/5	Mary Gibson 11/6	Brittany Payne 11/6	Tom Diehl 11/7	Hollis Loy 11/7
Diana Taylor 11/7	David Winegard 11/7	Jason Burnett 11/10	Michael Campbell 11/10	Madison Eppard 11/10
Deborah Lehman 11/10	Scott Auville 11/11	Mark Hill 11/11	Eric Sours 11/11	Brent Harlow 11/14
Paul Layman 11/14	Sofiane Mouloua 11/14	April Andes 11/15	Dana Drumheller 11/15	Ashley Hensley 11/15
Ricky Dove 11/16	Matt Black 11/17	Dale Chestnut 11/17	Pamela Showalter 11/17	Geneta Trumbo 11/17
Scott Jones 11/18	Phyllis Lohr 11/18	Juli Lambert 11/21	Kevin Arehart 11/22	Dale Glass 11/22
Melissa Roach 11/22	Jordan Smiley 11/22	Karen George 11/23	Kevin Lessington 11/23	Jacob Letzelter 11/24
Richard Birtchet 11/25	Chris Dickerson 11/25	Dan Mead 11/26	Bethany Miller 11/26	Fred Tate 11/26
Mark Campbell 11/27	Kaki Carter 11/27	Jerry Dovel 11/27	Emma Martin 11/27	Matthew Jefferson 11/28
Teri Kitta 11/28	Stephanie Loker 11/28	Melissa Conley 11/29	LaVern Dillard 11/29	Quentin Madden 11/29