



# Community Newsletter

Meet the newest member of the Emergency Services team—Page 3

## Three Decades of Service Comes to a Close

Hundreds of UOS employees gathered in the Blackstone Courtyard on June 22 to bid Acting Vice President for Administration/Campus Services Tom Vautin farewell. Tom retired from Harvard on June 30 after more than 32 years of service. The event featured live music and plenty of delicious food courtesy of Harvard University Hospitality and Dining Services. Tom was presented with a number of special gifts including his own commemorative stamp from Mail Services and a beautifully framed placard highlighting Tom's illustrious Harvard career from beginning to end. When asked what his immediate plans are, Tom said "one word, decompress!" Well, you've earned it. Congratulations Tom on a job well done!



Employees socialize in The Blackstone Courtyard and wish Tom farewell



(l-r) Jeffrey Smith, Gary Kassabian, Shirley Vautin, Tom Vautin, Joe Griffin, John Nolan, Mary Maloley, Doug Garron, Maureen Kotlas



The Nate Aronow Trio

## Be The Eyes & Ears of Safety

Preventing injuries on the job is a top priority for UOS. However given the enormous geographic area covered by our custodians, electricians, plumbers, maintenance operators, and all other UOS workers—and given the many hazards they encounter daily—it's often difficult for those charged with keeping employees safe, to know about all possible safety concerns. For this reason, several Safety Suggestion Boxes will be installed around the University within the next week to improve the flow of communication between the front-line workers and the safety decision makers.

Employees who notice any unsafe condition should fill out one of the brief forms attached to the boxes—this can be done anonymously. Safety issues will be prioritized and corrected as soon as possible. The boxes can be found at:

- Blackstone South—Main Kitchen
- Canaday Hall—FMO area in the basement
- Quincy House—FMO area
- 155 North Harvard Street—garage break room
- Central Utilities Plant at 1 Oxford Street—near FMO Landscape Services area

If you can't get to one of the Suggestion Boxes, a webpage for reporting safety concerns has also been developed—[http://heath.uos.harvard.edu/safety\\_committee](http://heath.uos.harvard.edu/safety_committee).

## Join the UOS Tomato Tournament!

Who can grow the biggest tomatoes? That's the question some folks from E&U are hoping to answer this summer. A group led by Electrical Inspector and Compliance Coordinator Paul Dunphy planted tomato seeds inside a hanging bag in the Blackstone Courtyard. Now they are hoping to inspire some friendly competition by encouraging others to plant their own. "If all goes well, we could use the tomatoes during one of the UOS barbeques," explained Paul. The planting kits are inexpensive, simple to set up, and can be purchased at any garden store.



(l-r) Evelyn Freeman, Susy Bunanta, Paul Dunphy, and Joshua O'Neill

## New Emergency Planning Coordinator Brings Front Line Experience

It wasn't long after college when Nick Hambridge found himself smack in the middle of one of the largest humanitarian disasters in U.S. history. As an AmeriCorps volunteer, he was on the streets of New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, handing out emergency meals to residents trying to cope with the destruction. "I would drive through neighborhoods where every home was destroyed, boats were in trees—there was even a commercial fishing boat on a highway about a mile inland," explained Nick. "People were left with nothing, it was unbelievable." Nick's career in emergency services was born.



*Nick Hambridge joins Campus Services as Emergency Planning Coordinator*

Five years later, Nick brings his experience and knowledge to Harvard as the Emergency Planning Coordinator for Campus Services working under Director of Emergency Services Gary Kassabian. In this position, he'll collaborate with the University's 40+ Local Emergency Management Teams (LEMTs) to develop and maintain their emergency response plans. Nick will also play a key role in developing Harvard's Sheltering and Family Assistance Plans. Plus, he will oversee emergency communications tools like WebEOC and the high-speed notification system—Dialogic.

Just prior to joining the Harvard community, Nick was acting director of emergency services at the Boston chapter of the American Red Cross. "During my time at the Red Cross, I was able to learn a great deal about the importance of implementing a coordinated response, which is not always easy to do when you have multiple agencies or departments working on the same problem," said Nick. "Given Harvard's decentralized structure, one of my goals is to ensure that the various schools and departments have the resources they need to work well together during an emergency." In addition, Nick said he will also place a great deal of emphasis on providing quality customer service—which is key to our overall success.

"Nick is a great addition to the Emergency Services team," explained Gary. "His expertise will undoubtedly have a positive impact on Harvard's ability to respond to emergency situations."

So if you see Nick around campus, be sure to stop and say hello.

## CommuterChoice Strikes Gold

Harvard was a big winner at Boston's 2010 Bike Friendly Business Awards. The University, represented by the *CommuterChoice* Program, won a Gold Award for promoting and encouraging biking on the Allston campus. This includes the comprehensive Departmental Bike Program through which employees have free access to bikes for quick trips around campus.

Manager Kris Locke and Associate Director of Parking Services Jim Sarafin were given the award by Mayor Tom Menino who has embarked on a significant campaign to transform Boston into a world-class bicycling community. For more information on alternative transportation options, visit: [www.commuterchoice.harvard.edu](http://www.commuterchoice.harvard.edu).



Celebrating 10 Great Years!  
**CommuterChoice**

## Retiring Custodian Plans Trip to Homeland

Custodian David Celestin retired this past month after more than 21 years of service. During his time at Harvard David worked all over the campus, but was most recently assigned to the Main Yard area. As for his plans in retirement, David will visit his homeland of Haiti in the near future. Thank you David for all your hard work and dedication.



*(l-r) Marie Garcon, David Celestin, and Marie Louis*



*The Main Yard custodial crew in Wigglesworth for David's retirement party*

# The UOS Diversity Council

Strengthening Our Community

*It was a busy month for the UOS Diversity Council. Check out these events!*

## The UOS Softball Showdown

The weather could not have been better for the 1st Annual UOS Softball Showdown. Nearly two dozen employees gathered on the varsity baseball fields under blue skies and bright sunshine. There were quite a few home runs, close calls, and strikeouts. The games moved rather quickly thanks to the one swing format. Which team won? It's tough to say since the teams did not have names. What's important is that the event built camaraderie among employees who typically don't mix and mingle. That's one of the primary goals of the UOS Diversity Council.



*Players take the field!*



*Tom Kumasaka crosses home*



*A confident Jason Edic calls his shot*



*Jay Woodman at the plate*



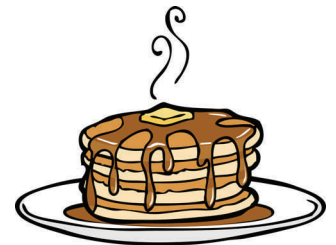
*George Yeomelakis cracks a line drive*



*Philip Kreycik races to beat the throw*

## Kicking Off the Day at the Pancake Breakfast

Blueberry, chocolate chip, or good old fashioned plain—there was a flavor for everyone at the Diversity Council's New England Pancake Breakfast. On June 10, more than 60 employees feasted on hot pancakes, sausage, coffee, and other breakfast treats in the Blackstone South cafeteria. Christine LeBlanc and Gordon Reynolds slaved over the griddle, churning out delicious flap-jacks. While many others such as Mike Moriconi, John Clougherty, and Mike Kaufmann made sure the coffee flowed and the bagels were stacked high. The event was such a success and another breakfast is in the works.



*(l-r) Dave Tibbetts and Mark Roberts*



*(l-r) Mike Moriconi, John Clougherty,  
Paul Malagrifa*



*(l-r) Katheryn Gullifa, Maureen Kotlas*

*Executive Vice President Katie Lapp issued the following open letter to the Harvard community on June 22.*

Dear Colleagues:

As FY-2010 wraps up, I wanted to give you a preview of our goals for the year ahead, make sure you know about a change in our organization, invite you to a brown bag lunch and alert you to some seasonal fun on and around campus.

#### **Toward a Common Culture**

Earlier this month, a group of about 60 senior managers and leaders in EVP (dubbed the “Extended Leadership Team”) gathered to share their [goals for the year ahead](#), and to discuss challenges and strategies in the areas of risk management and talent development—two important focus areas.

Sharing goals should help inform goal setting for the performance management process. Clearly, high-level goals need to be translated into something more meaningful and specific for each person, but I did want everyone to see the big picture of what we are trying to accomplish in the year ahead.

Many noted that the meeting was the first time a cross-functional central administrative leadership team had been convened in their time at Harvard. Others commented that it was a valuable first step in building a culture of communication, collaboration, cross-functional coordination and creative problem-solving.

Creating this spirit in EVP is more important to me than any individual agenda item or topic we could have discussed. In the words of one colleague, "This was a great first step in bringing us together as one proud and united team." I hope that gatherings like this can happen at every level and in every corner of EVP.

#### **Leadership/Organization Changes**

As you may know, Chris Gordon, the chief operating officer of the Allston Development Group (ADG), has announced he will be stepping down this summer after five years at Harvard. Thanks to Chris’s leadership and the talented team in ADG, much has been accomplished: master planning concepts for eventual campus growth in Allston; the first phase of the Allston Science Complex; progress on the Charlesview apartments; and the establishment of vibrant community gathering spaces such as the [Harvard Allston Education Portal](#) and the planned Allston Library Park.

Going forward, we will create a group that unifies the campus planning, capital planning and project management functions of the Allston Development Group (ADG) and the University Planning Office (UPO). We have begun an accelerated national search for a vice president to lead this new, integrated department, which will be called Harvard Capital Planning and Project Management.

On the topic of leadership changes, please join me in welcoming Lisa Hogarty, our new Vice President for Campus Services, who started yesterday. As I mentioned last month, Lisa will oversee University Operations Services, Harvard University Hospitality and Dining Services, Harvard Real Estate, the business affairs of Harvard Magazine, Strategic Procurement and ID Card Services. She will also lead the central Incident Support Team, which coordinates Harvard's response to emergencies.

#### **Hearing from You**

Monthly brown bag lunches have proven to be a great way for me to meet many of you, talk together informally, and hear what’s on your mind. Last month, our discussion touched on:

- what’s happening in Allston (intense focus on commercial leasing of [quality tenants](#) and [continued deliberation about our long-term future in Allston](#));
- suggestions for making the commute to work easier and more environmentally sustainable;
- fun ideas for morale building (ice cream was mentioned frequently!)

Want to join the conversation? Bring your lunch and your questions to our next meeting, Friday, July 16, noon to 1 p.m., 124 Mount Auburn Street, CWD/Room 3314. To reserve a spot, e-mail [evp@harvard.edu](mailto:evp@harvard.edu).

#### **In Closing**

While summer may bring a little more quiet to those in EVP who feed students and visiting reunioners, it seems to bring less quiet to those who must close the books, spruce up the dormitories, or mind the store for colleagues who are taking some well-deserved vacation. Even if you can only get away for a day or a lunch hour, different forms of summer fun, many with Harvard employee discounts, are listed on the [Outings & Innings](#) website. On-campus [farmers' markets in Cambridge and Allston](#) offer fresh, locally grown produce and flowers, as well as artisan-made foods, baked goods and crafts. And, the newly-opened [Harvard Allston Field and Fairway](#) at 168 Western Avenue offers two batting cages, two golf-swing cages, and an outdoor 18-hole mini-golf course. All recreation activities are free and will be open to the public on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Sincerely,

Katherine N. Lapp