



# Community Newsletter

*The People of UOS—Page 2!*



## UOS Rings in the Season of Giving with the Annual Toy Drive!

Dozens of children are enjoying a much happier holiday season thanks to the generosity of UOS employees. Throughout the month of December, piles of gifts were donated through the annual UOS Toy Drive which benefits two worthy causes: The Home for Little Wanderers and Toys for Tots.

“This year’s Toy Drive was very successful,” said Director of Emergency Services Gary Kassabian. “It’s not too surprising either because year after year, UOS employees always come through to help others who are in need.”

The Toy Drive is organized by the UOS Diversity Council, which for more than ten years has been fostering respect, improving understanding, creating camaraderie, and helping others. Thank you to all who participated.



Toys overflow from one of the collection bins inside Blackstone South



Gary Kassabian and Mike Moriconi sort through the dozens of gifts donated by UOS employees

## UOS Safety Leader Honored with Prestigious Award

Creating safer environments for UOS employees and the Harvard community is not an easy task, yet Garrett Burke of EH&S was recently honored for doing just that. Garrett, the associate director for occupational and construction safety, was given the Volpe-Eagan Safety Award for his unquestionable success in advancing safety and health across the University.

“I was truly surprised when I was told I would receive this award,” said Garrett.



Garrett Burke receives the Volpe-Eagan Award from Mary Vogel of the Construction Institute

“It’s an honor to be included with so many other safety professionals who have won the Volpe-Eagan Award.”

Garrett may not admit it, but getting to this point required a great deal of innovation and creativity. In 2007, Garrett took charge of the newly formed Construction Services Group (CSG) with a mission to prevent injury, illness, environmental impact and property damage during all construction activities. To turn this mission statement into reality, Garrett assembled a team of top-notch safety professionals and developed the Construction Environmental Health and Safety Requirements Manual - which outlines procedures for accountability, training, injury prevention, and communication. By 2008, these requirements were adopted throughout Harvard – a true safety milestone for the University.

*(Safety Award continued on page 3)*

## Scenes from the UOS Holiday Social



(l-r) John Mansfield, Erin Hoffman, & Kevin Whalen

Tis the season to celebrate. Employees gathered on Tuesday, December 22 for the UOS Holiday Social in the Blackstone South cafeteria where they loaded up on cookies, brownies, eggnog, and other sweet treats. There were even free prizes. Dan Alden, Betsy Shortell, Kris Locke, and others won Dunkin’ Donuts gift cards while Joe Migliosi scored the Mini GPS Locator.

*More Photos on Page 5!*

# The People of UOS

Did you know that UOS employs more than 700 people and most of them work in various locations all around the University. We would like to take some time to highlight the employees who are on the front lines everyday performing important work and interacting with our customers and the greater Harvard community.



*Winthrop House Custodial Crew Chief Elias Cruz has worked at Harvard for 13 years. He was born in Puerto Rico.*

**What's your typical day like?** I supervise three custodians to make sure all areas are clean and safe for students and staff. I also assign cleaning responsibilities and work closely with the building management to make sure they're pleased with our service.

**What part of your job do you like the best?** I really enjoy working with the students. I also really like responding to emergency situations. It gives me the satisfaction that I've done something good for our department and the University.



*Dan Young, an FMO HVAC Worker and lifelong Cambridge resident, has been employed by Harvard for 27 years. In addition to FMO, Dan also worked at Harvard Printing for many years.*

**What's your typical day like?** I make sure that the heating hot water loops and cooling towers in more than 100 buildings all contain the proper amounts of anti-corrosion chemicals. This helps make sure that the pipes work properly and don't corrode.

**What part of your job do you like the best?** The part I like best about my job is that no two days are ever the same. There's plenty of variety.

**Is there a project you've worked on over the years that you're particularly proud of?** When I worked at Harvard Printing, every year we would print the diplomas and programs for commencement. I really enjoyed doing that—to be able to contribute to such an important event for the University.

## UOS in the news

Environmental Management Engineer Mohamed Omar recently wrote an article for various web-sites on the Copenhagen Climate Conference. Specifically, Mohamed described the need for African nations to shift the debate so that their interests are considered in any decisions on curbing global warming. Here's an excerpt:



*Mohamed Omar offers ideas for African nations negotiating Climate Change policies*

*As African leaders shepherd to Copenhagen to attend the 15th Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, they will face international climate negotiations that have been largely framed along the lines of emissions caps and growth of the industrialized North versus Brazil, Russia, India and China (BRIC) - an economic block recently described by Goldman Sachs as having greater economic potential than the former G6 in US dollar terms by 2050. This raises two challenges for African negotiators. First, what would be an effective approach to reframing the climate debate with Africa in the mix? Second, what policy options and instruments are available to African negotiators in Copenhagen? Answering both these questions will strengthen Africa's position in Copenhagen, and its capacity to adapt to climate change and potentially develop green economies. Some African leaders have been sounding bold lately in reshaping the debate, while others are more conciliatory. The Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Mr. Meles Zenawi, who is leading group of African nations to the COP 15 in a keynote address to the special session of the African Partnership Forum (APF), hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) this past September in Addis Ababa said, "We will use our numbers to delegitimize any agreement that is not consistent with our minimal position," further adding: "If need be, we are prepared to walk out of any negotiation that threatens to be another rape of our continent."*

To read the full article cut and paste the following link: <http://www.uos.harvard.edu/ehs/environmental/climate-conference.pdf>

(Safety Award continued from page 1)

Has it been successful? Take a look at this statistic: Harvard’s injury costs have dropped from a high of \$7 dollars - per \$100 dollars of payroll - to just over \$1.

This success is rooted in a series of principles Garrett embraced early on. They are: the University must make safety considerations when soliciting bids and awarding contracts; contractors must have support and resources from Harvard to improve performance; project teams must collectively assess safety challenges prior to the start of work and establish controls to mitigate risk; and performance must be continually assessed. These concepts provided the foundation for two more projects that have distinguished Garrett as an effective safety leader.

First was the creation of the Contractor Safety Assessment Program (CSAP) in 2008. All contractors bidding on Harvard projects must enroll in CSAP which assigns them a rating based on their safety performance. The program also provides the tools necessary for contractors to assess and, if necessary, improve their safety programs. To date, more than 470 contractors participate in CSAP.

Second, with help from Senior Safety Engineer Gary Cunningham and Construction Safety Manager Jason Edic, Garrett developed a course to educate owners, designers, and trades people about the safety implications of decisions made during a building’s design and construction. The week long course, launched this past winter at the School of Public Health, was so successful that Garrett, Gary, and Jason have been asked to teach it again. In fact, the course received the highest “participant rating” in the history of the Center for Continuing Professional Education (CCPE).

“We’ve certainly made great progress, but we’re far from finished,” added Garrett. “We’ll continue to develop and implement programs that make Harvard safer.”

Congratulations to Garrett and his entire team for helping make Harvard a model for safety and health.

## VPA Goes *Green*

December 11 was Green Day in VPA. Nearly 200 employees visited the VPA Green Fair held in the Dudley House Common Room. The event showcased how UOS, Harvard Real Estate Services (HRES), Harvard University Dining Services (HUDS), and Harvard Magazine support sustainability. HUDS provided food with locally grown ingredients and HRES showcased their efforts to improve energy efficiency within their buildings. UOS highlighted more than 15 programs and projects including: building energy audits, alternative fuels, efficiency improvements within the Blackstone Steam Plant, and energy saving initiatives within the University’s laboratories. Special thanks to all who participated and attended.



The VPA Green Fair



(l-r) Dave Harris and Wayne Carbone



Mary Streeto and Michael Kauffman



Dining Services provided plenty of great food

# Farewell Joe!

More than 100 people gathered at the Faculty Club on Tuesday, December 8 to wish Former Environmental Health and Safety Director Joe Griffin good luck in his retirement. Guests enjoyed live music and great food, while Joe endured some good natured ribbing during several tribute speeches from Tom Vautin, Garrett Burke, Audrey Wang from the Office of the General Counsel, and former EH&S employee Sean Reagan. Best of luck Joe!



Joe Griffin's retirement party at the Faculty Club



Tom Vautin reflects on Joe's time at Harvard



(l-r) Eileen Pernokas Flood, Tom Kumasaka, Lara Adams, and George Yeomelakis



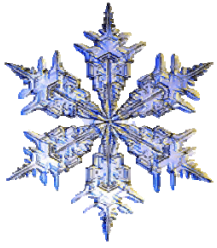
Guests enjoyed live music



Betsy Shortell and Paul Malagrifa



Kim Pessoni, Mark Roberts, Jason Edic, and Ming Chow



# More Photos from the UOS Holiday Social



The UOS Holiday Social



(l-r) Mark Muniz, Fred Thomes, Tom Goodwin, Jessica Smiddy



Dan Alden (right) won a Dunkin' Donuts gift card



Maura Power and Stefanie St. Germain



(l-r) Ken O'Connell, Marco Giampa



Paul Dunphy, Jason Luke, & Val Nelson