



PPD News

Physical Plant Department

PPD Trades Inspector explores Artistry with Metal and Stone *by Rachel Stone*

Inside this issue:

Maintenance Training 2

Workout Room Update 2

UNM Marketing Banners 2

Kudos 3

Blooming Campus 3

Direct Deposit Security 3

Upcoming Events 4

It's been said, "Give me a child until he is 7 and I will show you the man." This quote has been attributed to Aristotle and was quoted in a popular documentary film titled [7 Up](#). It suggests that maybe we don't drastically change as we age; our likes, dislikes, personality - they might already be formed by the time we are age seven, bringing these characteristics with us into adulthood.

Phred Dixon grew up in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and always created art as a child. He made jewelry and loved to draw, and spent a lot of time admiring animals and the great outdoors. Now, Dixon is the trades inspector for the Physical Plant Department (PPD) at The University of New Mexico (UNM), but still finds himself doing the same things he did as a child.

"I've always created art, even when I was doing plumbing work at a very young age and working in law enforcement as an adult," Dixon says.

Dixon was a "military brat" who grew up in a plumbing shop, learning skills such as welding, metal working, the basics of plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC). Learning these skills in his youth, Dixon describes as a major benefit in his life as an adult.

"The things I've learned in my past has positively impacted my future and has been such a blessing," he said.

In 1994, Dixon was able to reestablish a metal welding shop at his home after he discovered that he couldn't find artwork that reflected his personality and tastes. This prompted him to begin creating his own artwork using metal and stone. The first piece he created, was a candleholder wrapped around a Gemini stone.

When Dixon was able to join steel and stone for the first time, he said it was a defining moment that he will never forget.

"I just couldn't believe that I made something so beautiful from something so crude. It amazed me!" Dixon says.

Dixon describes his art as ever-evolving and that it has always helped him stay grounded and centered, especially when life was the hardest.

"For most of my adult life, I worked in law enforcement. At times, that career was very violent and filled with anger and misery. Art gave me comfort, happiness, and a foundation in my life. Ever since I could remember, I've always felt grounded to stone and steel. If you think about it, they are the foundation to everything we touch most days, so using these materials just made sense to me."

Low-carbon based steel and nature's own river agate stones are Dixon's canvas to create unique floral displays and candleholders. He says the materials "speak to him" and tell him what it wants to become, then he molds it into a beautiful work of art.

Dixon has plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in art studio at UNM where he can continue to grow as an artist. He also hopes that his art can continue to inspire himself as well as other people.

Dixon says, "Art has always been therapeutic to me. I am a metal and stone artist. I always have been, and always will be."



An example of the low-carbon based steel in its crude form before it is transformed into a beautiful piece of art. Photo credit: Phred Dixon



Dixon's art comes in all shapes and sizes, incorporating the elements of steel and stone. Photo credit: Phred Dixon



Phred Dixon in his workshop. Photo credit: Phred Dixon

PPD Maintenance employees receive ongoing training

Over 70 PPD employees from Maintenance & Planning have received specialized training this year (FY 16) on a variety of topics: customer service, first aid/CPR, blood borne pathogens, electrical troubleshooting, heating and refrigeration, pump repair and maintenance. Later this year, all structural techs will receive training in stucco repair, a skill highly sought after on the UNM campus where virtually every building has a stucco shell.

“PPD has been doing this for the last three years, and will continue to do so for our maintenance employees as long as the budget allows. It is an invaluable investment in our staff,” says Billy Hromas, manager of PPD Facilities Maintenance.

PPD provides this training for all employees who require licenses as described in their job descriptions, and helps technicians stay current with their licenses by fulfilling CEU requirements. Customer service training is a yearly session to continuously improve the department’s customer relations.

Hromas says, “PPD is a service-orientated department, so we value having a team of folks who can deliver quality work in addition to exemplary service for our UNM customers.”

These trainings were offered through [UNM Continuing Education](#), [Employee Health Promotion](#), and [TCP Trainco](#). PPD has invested an average of \$56,000 each year for the last three years in order to provide this training to its employees.

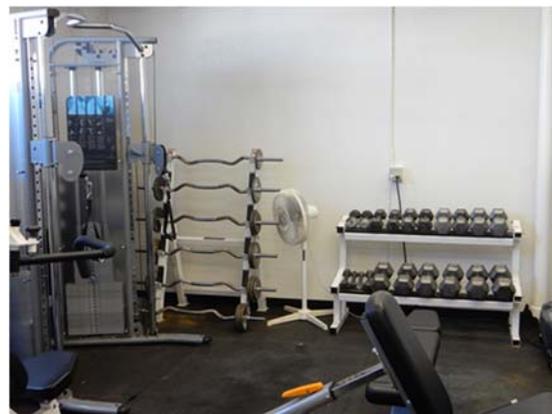
Service Building Workout Room Update

The Service Building workout room is now open for business with a few limitations. The wall mirrors have not been installed yet, but will be in the coming weeks. Also, the new leg extension/curl machine is not assembled yet, but there are still many other options ready to use in the workout room: stationary bikes, elliptical, the universal, cable crossover, dumbbells and barbells, and the treadmill.

PPD and PDC (Planning, Design, and Construction) have collaborated to purchase, at a very low cost, some equipment in order to update the quality of the room and to encourage more use amongst staff in the Service Building. Employee wellness is a core value within Institutional Support Services (ISS) and is being demonstrated by this initiative.

A special thank you to Michael Reid, manager with PDC, and Tracey Briggs, supervisor for the UNM Wellness Program, for readying the room.

If you have questions about this project, please contact Michael Reid at 220-6256 or mreid@unm.edu.



PPD installs new banners on UNM’s Main Campus



As part of the University branding initiative, the Physical Plant Department (PPD) have begun to install new campus banners on the various poles that line the campus streets and walkways. They began the installation on Tuesday, March 29th and should continue for approximately 10 days. Intermittent parking and lane closures on UNM’s surface streets are possible during this installation.

PPD requests that pedestrians and motorists use caution when the workers are on site to ensure everyone’s safety.

If you have questions or concerns about this project, please contact Willie West at 277-0615 or email at wwest@unm.edu.



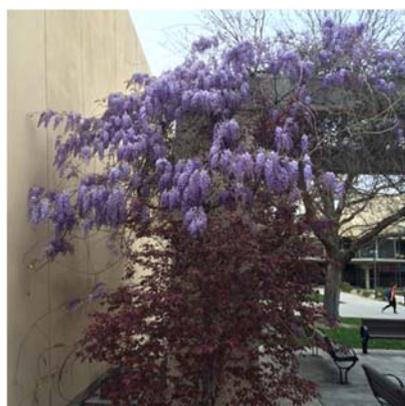
Kudos

Professor Yemane Asmerom with UNM's Earth & Planetary Sciences, has been named a Geochemical Fellow, and gives "kudos" to PPD Area 4 for supporting his work and research. To read the announcement of Professor Asmerom's distinction, please visit <http://news.unm.edu/news/asmerom-named-geochemical-fellow>. As part of this article, Asmerom says, "Additionally, I want to thank all the people who provide support and maintain our amazing facilities in the Department and UNM Physical Plant Area 4.

In response to this announcement, Vince Chavez, manager of Area 4, says, "It's the techs, David and Joseph, in Area 4 that should take all of the credit."

All of us at PPD support our University in a variety of ways. Learning and research are the spearheads of university life, and it couldn't be accomplished without the hard work and dedication of the facilities management staff at the Physical Plant Department.

The UNM Main Campus is in bloom



This is the time of year when the UNM Main Campus springs to life with beautiful blooms and colors.

If you spot a beautiful area on campus, please send your photos to Rachel Stone at racheld@unm.edu. The photos collected will be shared on PPD's Facebook page, as well as the *PPD News* newsletter.

A wisteria in bloom on UNM's Main Campus. Photo credit: Bryan Subr



UNM adds another layer of security to direct deposit information

UNM IT, Human Resources, and Payroll are proud to announce the re-release of online Direct Deposit on March 30, 2016 - this time with enhanced security via "Two-Factor Authentication" (2FA). 2FA is designed to add another level of protection to your personal data by requiring another form of authentication via a phone call or text message in addition to your NetID and password in order to make changes to your account.

ACTION REQUESTED: Even if you do not plan to view or update your direct deposit information, please do the following to set up your 2FA on or soon after 3/30/2016 to better secure access to your direct deposit information:

1. Click on the Staff tab on the front MyUNM page (no need to login)
2. Click on the Direct Deposit tile (with the piggy bank icon)
3. Log in with your NetID and password
4. Review the page and click Continue (right panel)
5. Log in again with your NetID and password
6. Follow the prompts to enroll your phone (you will receive a phone call from the automated system.)
7. Upon successful enrollment, you will see your current direct deposit allocation

(UNM IT recommends setting up at least 1 phone number with your account. However, enrolling 2 will help ensure you never lose access should you not be able to access one of the phones associated with your account.)

For more information, please see FastInfo 7456 (https://unm.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/7456).

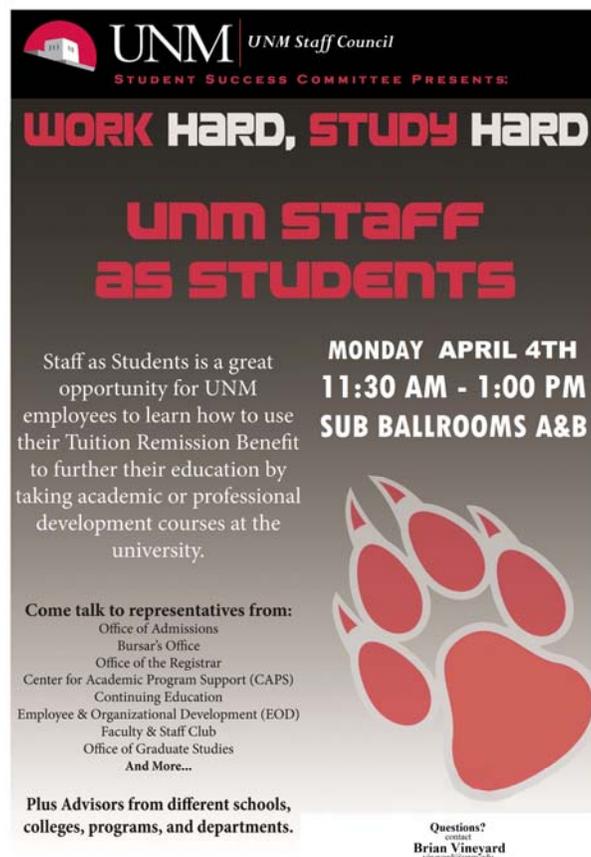
Promotions

Please congratulate Erika Alas on her promotion! Erika was previously a lead custodian with Main Campus Custodial Services, and has been promoted to a supervisor for Main Campus Custodial Services. Her new position began on February 6, 2016. Congratulations, Erika!!

Please congratulate Andrez Moya on his promotion! Andrez was previously a lead custodian with Main Campus Custodial Services, and has been promoted to a supervisor for Main Campus Custodial Services. His new position began on February 20, 2016. Congratulations, Andrez!!

Upcoming Events

- Faculty & Staff Appreciation Day April 1, 2016
- Veteran's Sound Off April 8, 2016
- HESS Spring Triathlon April 9 & 10, 2016
- International Festival April 14, 2016
- Relay for Life April 15, 2016
- Fiestas April 16, 2016
- Sustainability Fair April 21, 2016
- Earth Day April 22, 2016
- HSC Orchestra Concert April 22, 2016
- ISS Social & Happy Hour April 28, 2016
- Gathering of Nations April 28-30, 2016
- Arts Unexpected April 29, 2016
- Movie on the Field April 30, 2016
- UNM Finals Week Begins May 9, 2016
- UNM Commencement May 13 & 14, 2016
- Memorial Day– UNM Closed May 30, 2016



UNM UNM Staff Council
STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

WORK HARD, STUDY HARD

UNM STAFF AS STUDENTS

Staff as Students is a great opportunity for UNM employees to learn how to use their Tuition Remission Benefit to further their education by taking academic or professional development courses at the university.

MONDAY APRIL 4TH
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
SUB BALLROOMS A&B

Come talk to representatives from:
Office of Admissions
Bursar's Office
Office of the Registrar
Center for Academic Program Support (CAPS)
Continuing Education
Employee & Organizational Development (EOD)
Faculty & Staff Club
Office of Graduate Studies
And More...

Plus Advisors from different schools, colleges, programs, and departments.

Questions?
contact
Brian Vineyard
vineyard@unm.edu

THE PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT'S MISSION IS TO CONSISTENTLY DELIVER EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS AND EFFICIENT FACILITY SERVICES BASED ON SUSTAINABLE AND COLLABORATIVE OUTCOMES ALIGNED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S CORE MISSION.

THE PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT'S VISION IS THAT OUR COMMUNITY, STATE, AND NATIONAL PEERS WILL RECOGNIZE THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO'S PHYSICAL PLANT DEPARTMENT AS A LEADER IN CAMPUS SUSTAINABILITY AND FACILITIES STEWARDSHIP.

The University of New Mexico

Physical Plant Department

MSC07 4200

1 University of New Mexico

Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Phone: 505-277-2421

www.iss.unm.edu/ppd/



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Physical Plant Department

