Spring has finally sprung! The community is getting greener as the trees bloom and grass grows. That means emptying the gas tanks on your snow blower and filling up your lawn mower with gasoline.

This Quarterly has a lot of information that was presented in the March Town Meeting. Part is because it is important to say again, and part because the Town Meetings weren’t particularly well attended, which unfortunately means the information didn’t get shared with everyone involved. Town meetings are a vital source of information (in my opinion) and a useful communication tool. But there are people who choose not to attend them. I know that the timing of the meetings precluded some from attending, but perhaps others think the meetings are not important. I hope you will attend future Town Meetings, as repeating information in the Quarterly that I’ve already shared once is not a trend I want to repeat. To those of you who are supervisors, I hope you will role model attendance at these meetings as a way to show your staff that the information is valuable and the time is well spent. Otherwise, you are giving them the exact opposite message.

Now, on to what’s going on in our world . . .

Strategic Plan
We are now 3 years into the 5 year departmental strategic plan. This plan was developed by the department with a focus on five broad goals: 1) strengthening students’ residential undergraduate experience; 2) establishing a socially just community that infuses equity and inclusion into daily practice of staff and students; 3) providing dining services that meet the needs of our residential and university communities; 4) developing a 20 year facilities master plan; and 5) implementing a comprehensive talent management and succession plan that meets future organizational goals and workforce demands.

When we developed the goals and strategies we broke them into short-, medium-, and long-term strategies. Short-term means that the strategy was to be met within the first 18 months of the strategic plan. Medium goals were to be met within 18 to 36 months of the strategic plan. And long-term goals were to be completed from 3 to 5 years of the master plan. We also had short/medium goals and medium/long goals that bridged the gaps. Some things have changed since implementation of this strategic plan. We have had some staff turnover in key positions. We have decided to build another new residence hall. We have decided to have all students participate in LLCs at Iowa. That means that some of the strategies (called tactics) to meet these goals are no longer relevant. However, there are still plenty of relevant strategies.

So, how have we done? Of the 23 tactics that help meet the goals, 21 have been completed or are currently being worked on. We also have 26 metrics (how we will know we met the goal) in the plan. These are benchmarks that will tell us what we want to see at the end of the strategic plan. We are seeing results that show we are making progress toward those metrics. We have been particularly successful in implementing effective sustaina-
STAFF UPDATES

WELCOME TO OUR NEW EMPLOYEES

Administration
Tammy Showers (HR Generalist)

Custodial
Steven Archer (Custodian I, Currier)
Jeremiah Finley (Custodian I, Hillcrest)
Melissa Lesnet (Custodian I, Daum/Centerstone/Stanley)

Maintenance
William Flynn (Facilities Mechanic III)
Ricardo Gallegos (Environmental Systems Mechanic III)

University Dining (cont’d)
Benjamin Cremer (Cook I, Burge Market Place)
Kara Culjat (Foodworker I, Hillcrest Market Place)
Monica Reardon (Clerk III, Catering)
Cody Seitz (Cook I, Burge Market Place)

AND WELCOME TO THE SAME FACES IN DIFFERENT PLACES
Russell Frank, Custodian II to Supervisor, Custodial Services
David Von Holten, Chef/Assistant Manager at Hillcrest Market Place to Chef/Assistant Manager at Burge Market Place

(All information as 3/25/15)

WE’RE GLAD YOU’RE HERE!!!

DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT

It’s time once again to ask our new employees to share “something you’d like us to know about you”. Here are the responses we received.

Caitlin Alden
Banquet Supervisor
University Catering
Caitlin is originally from Inverness, Illinois. She came to the university in August of 2008 and joined the UH&D team on March 23, 2015. Caitlin had previously worked at the Sheraton Hotel, Hotel Vetro, and most recently the Blank Park Zoo in Des Moines, Iowa. At the Zoo, she was in charge of sales in relations to all weddings, meetings, baby showers, and company outings. She says she has a bit of an obsession with penguins and collects all penguin-related items. She is also an avid true-crime reader and always has a book on hand. Caitlin is currently planning her wedding, which will be held at the Planetarium in Chicago in 2016. She tells us that you will always find tic tacs at her desk. She is extremely excited to work for University Catering and all that is to come!

Ben Cremer
Cook I
Burge Market Place
Ben is from Ottumwa, Iowa. He first came to the university in August of 2008 as a junior transfer student, and joined UH&D on January 10, 2015. He has a 7 1/2 month old daughter named Aaliyah Jo, and enjoys every minute he gets to spend with her. He is a season ticket holder for the Iowa Hawkeye Wrestling team, and wrestled all through school (although not at the college level). Ben also likes to play disc golf and occasionally participates in tournaments. He graduated from

Want to know something about your new co-worker(s)? This is the place!

So Long To Our Retirees:
Mary Allison
Wayne Stafford
Lee Hagemeier
(See Page #4)

continued on page #3
Departmental Spotlight (cont’d)

the UI in the winter of 2010 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Communication Studies.

Kara Culjat
Food Worker I
Hillcrest Market Place
Kara is from Omaha, Nebraska. She came to both the UI and UH&D in March of 2015. She has three dogs: Molly, Elvis, & Gizmo. She loves to cook and travel. Kara’s whole family is huge Disney fans and they go to Disney World at least once a year.

Jeremiah Finley
Custodian I
Hillcrest
Jeremiah is from Iowa City, and joined UH&D on January 26, 2015. He enjoys fishing, camping, and organic vegetable gardening. Jeremiah says his whole family is from Iowa City, and he’s proud to be working here!

Bill Flynn
Facilities Mechanic III
Maintenance
Bill is from Keota, Iowa. He came to the UI in September of 2013 and to UH&D in March of 2015. Bill’s wife, Shelly, and he have two cute boxer dogs. He enjoys muscle cars, motorcycles, and snowmobiles.

Ricardo Gallegos
Environmental Systems Mechanic III
Maintenance
Ricardo is originally from Rock Springs, Texas. He joined both the university and UH&D on March 16, 2015. He was a member of the Navy for 14 years. After he retired from there, he went to school and through Local Union 125 became a Master HVAC Technician. Ricardo worked in the industry for 10 years before coming to the UI. Born and raised in Texas, he traveled many places with the Navy and ended up in Iowa in 2004, where he met his wife, Sara. They have four daughters, one son, and a granddaughter. He and his family enjoys camping, taking summer vacations to the Caribbean, and watching football.

Melissa Lesnet
Custodian I
Daum/Centerson/Stanley
Melissa is from West Liberty. She came to both the UI & UH&D on January 20, 2015. Melissa enjoys boating, planting her flower garden, and just being outdoors in general. She also enjoys her four grandkids (ages 8 down to 6 months). Melissa tells us she is a fun-loving, happy positive person and loves everyone she meets!

continued on page #4

We had eleven milestone anniversaries with the university from January through March.

Kelly Barchinger (University Catering) .................. 5 years
Kandy Drollinger (University Dining) .................. 30 years
Kenton Jones (University Dining) .................. 20 years
Kent Kaeser (Maintenance) .................. 20 years
Aileen Kloubec (University Dining) .................. 10 years
Gary Lemon (Custodial) .................. 5 years
Jo Marshall (University Dining) .................. 15 years
Jerlynn O’Brien (Custodial) .................. 5 years
John Unternahrer (Maintenance) .................. 10 years
Molly Whaley (University Dining) .................. 25 years
Rick Williams (Custodial) .................. 5 years

If you have articles, personal notes, FISH! Stories, or suggestions for The Quarterly, please tell your supervisor or Carrie Kiser-Wacker in the University Housing & Dining Administrative Offices, 4141 Burge Hall, 319/335-3000. carrie-kiser-wacker@uiowa.edu

See page #5 for photos of those who celebrated anniversaries in 2014 who were present at the recent UH&D Town Meetings.
DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT (CONT’D)

Monica Reardon
Clerk III
University Catering
Monica is from Oxford. She first started at the university in April of 2002, and came to UH&D on February 9, 2015. Monica tells us she had been working as a secretary (aka hub-of-it-all) in the Business Office since April 2002. She tells us that this year she transferred over to this “side of the river” when University Catering brought her on board. She was seeking new adventures for the next 13-plus years of her university career. She says that Catering has welcomed her with open arms and she is really enjoying her new position and all the new things she’s learning. Monica says she feels like she’s a fairly new Mom still; they have three growing boys: Caleb (8 years old) and identical twins Alex and Brody (5 years old). She says they certainly keep them on their toes at home and they’re just getting started with weekly extracurricular activities for them all. They currently attend swimming and gymnastics classes through the end of April, with Little League and soccer soon to follow. She reports that she’s been told it’s just a sampling of what’s to come and her thoughts on that are “Really!?! Oh boy, here we gooooo! Ha-ha-ha!” Monica says that between all the crazy in their lives, she likes to dabble in raised-bed square-foot gardening (which she says is an extended-family project). She also likes planting flowers with her Mom and says each year is a new planting adventure on the farm! Rainbow is her favorite color (because she loves color) and you’ll always find her with a smile on her face. Monica tells us she has a sunny disposition and a willingness to help out whenever she can. She can’t wait for this summer and all the new adventures that will come, both at home and at work. She ends her bio with Slainte!

Tammy Showers
HR Generalist
Administration
Tammy is from Moline, Illinois. She came to both the UI and UH&D on January 26, 2015. Tammy and her husband, Brett, have three daughters and a son: Kalin, Meg, Ashton, and Andrew. She is a graduate of the UI and is thrilled to be back in Iowa City working for the university. Tammy is an avid bicyclist, and she dreams of completing RAGBRAI someday. Her quirkiest experience occurred when she was vacationing in Daytona Beach and, while driving to the grocery store, took a wrong turn and somehow entered a parade procession which took her around the Daytona International Speedway before she could make her escape. She says that this experience taught her a lot about the ability to “roll with the punches” and enjoy things as they come!

Mary Allison (Foodworker I in the Hillcrest Market Place) has been a dedicated employee of the University of Iowa since her employment began in September 1996. She was always very helpful and stepped in whenever she was needed. She has been a pleasure to work with and we will miss her very much especially her smile. There are many student employees and student customers that loved interacting with Mary over the years. Her favorites were always the University of Iowa Swim Team members who she would frequently go watch compete. The swim team invited Mary to a swim meet prior to her retirement to recognize and thank her for her service. At that meet they presented her with a Green Bay Packer’s jersey, which she loved. In retirement she plans to relax, read a lot of books (surprise) and make a lot of trips to Wisconsin to visit her children & grandchildren. We wish her the best of luck for the future and thank her very much for her invaluable contribution to the Hillcrest Market Place in University Housing & Dining.

Marilee “Lee” Hagemeier (Facilities Mechanic III) worked at University Apartments for 25 years, filling different roles. She had her last position as a Facilities Mechanic since 1989. Her kind and personable interaction with the diverse population of students and staff at the apartments will be missed within University Housing & Dining. Good luck, Lee!

Harold “Wayne” Stafford (worked in UH&D as Supervisor, Custodial Services in Hillcrest Hall. Wayne began his university career on November 18, 2002, as a custodian in Currier Hall. He also worked as a Custodian II in the Grand Avenue residence halls and as Supervisor for Slater Hall and University Apartments. Wayne was very dedicated to his job and the residence hall students. His efforts helped ensure a quality living environment for the students. He will be missed in University Housing & Dining. Although Wayne says he will miss the job and the people he worked with, he is looking forward to spending time fishing with his grandchildren and not having to get up at 3:00 a.m. each day for the long commute to work.
MILESTONES FROM 2014

All milestone anniversaries from 2014 were included in the January Quarterly. Here are those UH&D employees who were available at the recent UH&D Town Meetings to have their pictures taken.

5 Years: Becky Paintin, Anthony Bettendorf, Jennifer Rodgers, Derek Johanns, Sean Moore & Jay Parsons

25 Years: Nancy Wittenberg, Roberta Voelkel, & Ginny Meade

15 Years: Ken Kane, Michelle Snyder, & Christine Steinbrech

35 Years: Colleen Shaull & Kay Harland

10 Years: Jo Gault, Steve Gault, Trish Knerr, & Von Stange
RecycleMania
RecycleMania is over, and final results are in. Unfortunately, we fell to fifth place in the Big Ten in the final standings. The addition of recycling heavyweights Rutgers and Maryland to the Big Ten proved too tough of an obstacle to winning our conference this year. Purdue and Michigan State also finished ahead of Iowa. The good news is, the U of I did increase its recycling rate from 34% last year to almost 37% for this year’s competition, so we are headed in the right direction. We will need to redouble our efforts next year if we are to stay in contention with the recycling leaders of the Big 10!

Organics Collection/Tiny Trash
Green Adventures LLC has initiated a pilot project to collect organic waste for composting on Stanley 7th floor. Several students on the floor have also volunteered to use tiny trash containers in their rooms on a trial basis. Thanks to Green Adventures RA Raud Kashef, Stanley Hall Coordinator Carson Dinger, Residence Education Coordinator Erin McFerrin and the Green Adventures LLC for helping to make greener residence halls!

PERSONAL NOTES

Amanda Bittorf (Marketing Specialist) and her husband, Peter, welcomed their son Louis into the world at 1:00 a.m. on February 25. Louis weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. Amanda says he enjoys doing all the things babies love to do (eat, sleep, and “other” natural things), and that they have all settled into the groove at home. Congratulations to the entire family!

Louis Bittorf

And we also have a little girl to welcome into the world! June Elizabeth Ahlf made her debut at 12:05 a.m. on April 13, 2015. She is the daughter of Alysha (Secretary II, Burge Hall Coordinator Office) and husband Justin Ahlf. June was 10 pounds, 3 ounces and was 21 1/4 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great!! Congratulations to the Ahlfs!
A SNEAK PEEK AT MADISON STREET RESIDENCE HALL

Here's something you missed if you weren't at one of the UH&D Town Meetings in March.
ble practices, incorporating technology into operations, integrating assessment of learning outcomes on living experiences, and extending socially just education for all staff and residents. Other metrics have also seen progress. Thank you for your help in bringing these goals to reality. You may not even know you are doing it, but the work you do helps move us in that direction.

Housing for Fall 2015

As we mentioned in the recent Town Meetings, we project to have the largest first year class in history this fall. We will have more beds in the system, thanks to opening Petersen Hall, leasing of two more off campus apartment buildings, and return of the first floor apartments in Mayflower Hall. We originally increased residence hall capacity by 610 beds for the fall of 2015. At the end of March, we had over 800 more applications than last year at this time. If that continues, we will have even more students in expanded housing than we did last year.

We are addressing the additional students in a variety of ways. We have added some additional beds through tripling some more rooms in Daum and Stanley. We have fewer returning students in the halls, which should help some. We will continue to place students in expanded housing in the fall. Finally, if necessary, we will close the application portal earlier if it looks like we will continue to see a lot of housing applications during the summer. Other strategies will be considered as they are vetted and make sense. What is clear is that we will have a very full housing system this fall (and next fall as well).

Visiting Scholars Program

At the Town Meeting we discussed a new initiative that will take 10 of our apartments in Hawkeye Drive and make them available for international visiting scholars. This program has been developed in partnership with International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), the Office of the Provost, and UH&D. The University of Iowa brings in over 250 visiting scholars each year, some of them for short-term stays and some for longer stays. With the rental market in Iowa City, flexible rental timeframes are difficult to get. Our ability to provide flexibility in lease dates will help our international visiting faculty.

These visiting faculty members will be able to lease a furnished 2-bedroom apartment for $750/month. They will have a flexible lease, and will be part of a more global community at Hawkeye Drive. We are in the process of purchasing furniture for the apartments. This program is intended to last for two years, at which time we will determine if we want to develop more space for the program or if the university will look at other options for housing our international visiting scholars.

That’s what’s on my mind for this edition. Until next time . . .

Von Stange, Ed.D.
Assistant Vice President for Student Life
and Senior Director, University Housing & Dining