



Winter 2011



# Facilitator

Newsletter of the U of S Facilities Management Division

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**FMD Communications**  
fmd.communications@usask.ca

www.facilities.usask.ca

UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

## Big Helpers for Little Angels

On August 15, Barry McEwan (Plumbing shop), Jerry White (Paint shop) and Chris Davies (P&D/Controls) hopped on a plane and left the warm temperatures of Saskatoon for even warmer temperatures in Haiti. You might think they were off on a relaxing guys' getaway—not so! They were going to volunteer their time and expertise to God's Littlest Angels (GLA), an orphanage in Ft. Jacques, near Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

GLA, established in 1994 by John and Dixie Bickel, is entirely donation funded. Land in Haiti is not cheap, so GLA has been renting the land it operates on for the past 17 years. And it's not all in one convenient location. The orphanage has houses for each of the age groups of kids in their care: the toddlers (infants to age three); girls three years and up; and boys three-years-old and up. There are also two schools, where they teach both Creole and English, as well as subjects like math and science. The goal is to eventually have all the GLA houses and schools located at their new site. GLA will save a tremendous amount when they won't have to pay monthly rent anymore.

Barry was the driving force behind this trip. He knew he had plumbing skills that would be necessary for the construction going on at the orphanage. He also knew that Chris had been involved with GLA in the past—he and his wife, Lea, took sabbaticals from their jobs and spent a full year there shortly after they were married.



From August 15–30, 2011, Barry McEwan (left), Jerry White (centre), and Chris Davies (right) volunteered their time and expertise to help God's Littlest Angels, an orphanage in Ft. Jacques, near Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

So, Barry approached Chris with the idea and proposed dates of the trip. It didn't take Chris long to say yes! Soon, Jerry was on board as well; he wanted to put his painting skills to good use.

Some of the projects they worked on while they were there: finishing work (hanging doors, painting, and plumbing) in new buildings that were designed to be more "earthquake proof"; an enclosure around a

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The FMD patio provides a place for staff to sit and enjoy their coffee or lunch.



Doreen Fyke and Cheryl Sedgewick (Room Scheduling) keeping the spirit alive at FMD



Evan Olfert - All he wants for Christmas are his two front teeth . . . (well, one, anyway!)



With Christmas only a few days away, it's natural to question where the year has gone and what we have accomplished at FMD. It's so easy to get caught up in our day-to-day activities that we often don't realize how much we've achieved. The completion of our third integrated plan (3IP) is a great example—what a huge accomplishment, and one that couldn't have been completed without your input. The next few years will definitely see many exciting initiatives come to life.

**F&A** has completed a number of projects in 2011. Here are just a few: the Utilities Report and Achievement Record (both available on our website); rates reviews for O&M and P&D; and several upgrades within IT, including the file server migration. They've also had a bit of a baby boom! Proud new parents include Mike Olain (Emerson), Doug Tremblay (Luke), and Geoff Beaugerard (Levi).

Evan Waite will join this group just in time for Christmas! Olena Schemenauer obtained her Canadian citizenship in November, and Mike Olain obtained his CGA (certified general accountant) designation. Congratulations!

The folks at **WSEP** have had a number of reasons to celebrate this year.

They've made great progress on some new initiatives relating to machine safety, hearing protection, and ergonomics. (Watch for more about these initiatives in the coming months.) They produced the inaugural issue of *Safety Matters*, a safety

newsletter for the campus community. The unit welcomed some new faces this year: Brad Hayes (occupational health & safety technician) and Michelle Heggstrom (biosafety consultant). And Andrea Smida received her registered biosafety professional designation from the American Biological Safety Association.

The world of **O&M** has been a moving and a shaking this year, too. With new leadership in place and new buildings coming on stream, this unit has accomplished so much it is impossible to whittle it down to just a few things. From title/shop name changes (millwrights, mechanical maintenance technicians) to the apprenticeship program being put in place (two positions—painter and sheet metal worker to be posted early in the new year) to the day-to-day operations, our skilled trades personnel continue to share their knowledge and expertise to ensure our campus is one of the best in the country.

Deferred Maintenance continues to be at the forefront of many projects for O&M, which led to Marc Desjardin switching units to take on the new maintenance planning manager role, and the hiring of Arthur Cradock as the maintenance planning analyst. Finally, with 12 retirements this year (many within O&M) and more already slated for 2012, this unit has seen and will continue to see many employees moving into new roles and new hires joining our crews.

We've all seen the activity going on at the **Heating Plant** and we've watched the physical changes that have taken place as part of the feed water upgrade project. Once completed, this new system will more than double the output of the current system. It has been a great collaboration between FMD engineering groups, the Electrical and Controls departments,

consultants, and the primary contractor. **Grounds** completed several landscape projects this past year. Perhaps the most visible for FMD staff is the FMD patio, located east of the main doors of the University Services Building. They've put in some great stone benches where we can sit and enjoy our coffee or lunch breaks in the shade.

Logistics Management reached a huge milestone recently when they realized a waste reduction commitment set out in the Second Integrated Plan. Watch for information about ways you and your unit can get involved as the university moves towards a single stream recycling program.

A large project for the **Electrical shop** this past year was the ITS Wireless project. They installed over 1,000 wireless points throughout campus in collaboration with ITS, and the project came in under budget and on time. We continue to excel at our regulatory obligations as well, and our fire system testing program has gone exceptionally well. The Lighting Retrofit program continues to shine (pun completely intended); it's near completion and also on budget.

FMD has completed an impressive number of projects this past year, but with over 24 major projects on the go and more coming on stream, **P&D** has been a beehive of activity. Just when you think we've hit the peak of construction activity on campus, one more project hits the radar. Darlene Machibroda also completed a personal goal this year: she received her architectural designation. Well done, Darlene!

The **PMO** office staff supported each other through some tough personal challenges this year, but they pulled together and kept their projects on track. They even took on a few larger projects when the call came. Evan Olfert, who joined their office in June, had a tough break playing hockey with the FMD hockey team—to his





What are you doing Al??



Summer Grounds Crew - What a summer it was!



People all over campus are starting to take sustainability to heart.



leg! Rumor has it that he could use a tooth for Christmas too . . . At least he doesn't need two front teeth! There has been some good news for the PMO crew this year, too: Vicki Gross had a son (Clark), Lynn Earle became a new grandma in the spring, and Leslie Pavier will be a grandmother any day.

Our **Controls** group is always working on new initiatives. Perhaps one of the most interesting this year is a new interactive tool that will display real-time energy usage. This tool will give the campus community an opportunity to see the impact their energy usage is having in a very real and immediate way.

Our commitment to **sustainability** continues to be at the forefront, with focus on the Climate Action Plan, Sustainability Commitment, and a new "one-container, no-sort" recycling program.

**IIS** has been busy getting ready to implement a geographical information system to replace the Micro GDS, which has not been supported for a few years. On the home front, Nazmun Nahar and her husband purchased their first Canadian home, and Marc Chaharyn got married in August.

**HR** has been working to improve their understanding of customer and staff needs, which will be useful as they finalize their newly developed communications and people plans and draft a customer relations plan for the division in the new year. They have a few new faces: Sheryl White (clerical assistant) was just recently hired to cover Joyce Armstrong's maternity leave, and Shannon Toporowski (HR analyst) joined the team in September. There have been some new beginnings: Naomi Bregenser and Glenda Boran both got married this past year. And Sherry Peters had an exciting adventure when her husband retired from the police force and they took a seven-week vacation this fall.

The **Leadership Advisory Team** (Lisa Leis, Cheryle Burbach, Robin DeRoo, Ron Abernethy, Michael Olain, Kathryn Theede, Jerry White, Wayne Turner, Jim Wong, Debbie Frattinger, Michelle Banman, Shannon Toporowski, John Nobel, and Colin Tennent) have been very busy this year. They worked diligently on their first topic—the apprenticeship program—by doing research and presenting recommendations to the Leadership Team in April. They provided input on 3IP, which resulted in a well-communicated plan, and they discussed the employee opinion survey and the people plan. They are currently providing recommendations for FMD's communication plan.

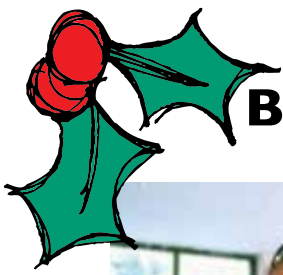
Our **social committee** has been busy planning BBQs, a golf tournament, and Christmas parties. They work hard to help make FMD a great place to work, but they could always use a few new members! Current members include Ron Abernethy (Plumbing shop), Jason Anspach (IIS), Kelly Rawlings (F&A), Ruth Gilmour-Hildebrandt (PMO), Vanessa Heffner (Room Scheduling), Kim Laybourne (WCC), Todd Seaborn (Mat Handling), Doug Sobry (Carpentry shop), Aaron Ward (Electrical shop), Arthur Cradock (Maintenance Planning), and Brent Ziprick (Auto shop). Please contact one of these members if you're interested in joining this fun group!

As we look back at 2011 and as 2012 edges closer, it becomes clear that we've accomplished a lot. Take a moment to appreciate everything we've done, at home and at work. There's a lot to be thankful for.

Wishing you all a wonderful, safe, and joyous Christmas season!

FMD Communications





# Big Helpers for Little Angels

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Jerry White with one of the "little angels" from the orphanage in Haiti where he, Barry McEwen, and Chris Davies volunteered this summer.

newly donated water treatment system; clearing trees to make room for the toddler house; repairing plumbing issues at

the existing toddler house; putting a roof on a gazebo to create a sheltered place to feed the large volunteer teams expected at GLA. (If you're a GLA volunteer, you don't go hungry. The guys said the food was amazing!)

GLA is very involved in their Ft. Jacques community. The residents know what good work the orphanage does, not only for the children, but for their neighbours, too. For example, while our FMD trio was there, GLA helped finish a house for a family of nine who had lost their house in the earthquake in January. The family members had been dispersed to the homes various of relatives and friends after the earthquake—space is so limited in Haiti that there was no opportunity for the kids to stay together—some were not even in contact with each other. Having played a

part in reuniting this family was an amazing feeling for Barry, Jerry, and Chris. Volunteer hours at GLA are long, but the rewards are huge. It's hard for the guys to describe how it felt to fall into bed exhausted each night, knowing what had been accomplished that day. When asked what the hardest thing they had to do during their two-week visit, Chris answered simply, "Having to leave."

On November 15, a fundraiser was held in Saskatoon for GLA and Dixie Bickel attended—a testament to the high regard the founders have for Barry, Jerry, and Chris. Over \$3,350 was raised, all of which went directly to the orphanage. Amazing!

If you are interested in more information about GLA, you can visit their website [www.glahaiti.org](http://www.glahaiti.org) or ask Chris, Barry, or Jerry for more information. A return trip to Haiti is certainly not out of the question. 🐼

## SEASON'S GREETINGS, AND BEST WISHES IN THE NEW YEAR

