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Epic Flood in Snyder Hall Met with Impressive Response

Over spring break, a water main burst in the Snyder Hall basement, causing massive flooding that affected essential equipment and life safety systems. Thankfully, no students (or their possessions) were harmed. Still, an immense effort was needed to mitigate the damage and restore building operations.

F&S colleagues rallied first to provide emergency response and then to help relocate 450 students, next to tackle the cleanup effort, and finally to revitalize the residence hall so it could successfully reopen for the fall semester. With more than 150 team members working on the project, it cannot be emphasized enough that everyone rose to the occasion, plying their expertise and experience in addressing this unprecedented event.

Many thanks to the team members who worked or volunteered on this project on behalf of F&S, campus, and the affected students and their families.

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Joseph Daly
Austin Eichelberger
Bradley Eichelberger
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Steven Griswold
Brett Harris
Riley Jones
Reece Klautt
Andrew McGraw
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Joshua Rushing
Michael Slade
Eric Tempel
Victor Vasquez

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DDC Electricians
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Dustin Pierson

Drivers
James Butler
Trawick Coleman
Jacob Gifford
Samuel Parrish

Electricians
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Cameron Finn
Kyle Kamradt
Clayton Meyer
Ross Rhoades
Dustin Seaman
Michael Siems
Jason Sollars
Todd Woods

Elevator Mechanics
Matt Arbogast
Carrie Iovito
Eric Koester
Ryan Perry
Ronald Pryor
Daniel Sweikar

Facility Information Resources
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Ironworkers

Rene Algiene
Brett Balsamello
Brendan Burton
Erik "Cable" Davis
Michael Paris
Thomas Roy

Machinists

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Jerry Donaldson

Operating Engineers

Stephanie Amabeli
Mark Stine
Jason Ward
Derek Wilsey

Painters

Derek Dubson
Gayle Vincent
Kevin Westray

Pipefitters

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Christopher Blair
Zachary Budde
James Coleman
Benjamin Fitzgerald
James Goff
Brian Greene
Troy Lewis
Robert Mills
Jonas Rodriguez
Daniel Sola
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Robert Fowler III
Brett Lewis
Terry Paris
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Sheet Metal Workers

Jesse Champion
Joseph George
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Randy Reinhart
Zane Richardson
Tyler Schweighart

Temperature Control Mechanics

Paul Barton

Transportation

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Duane Jackson
Michael Katterhenry
Justin Murphy
Shawn Nava
Monique Settles
Joshua Strawbridge
Marlo Wax
John Wilson

Utilities High Voltage Electricians

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Christopher Dietz
Michael Friedman
Larry Hays
Daniel Holstein
Brian Johnson
Cody Jones
Charles Stiner
Matthew Warren

Utilities Pipefitters

Matthew Alsip
Thomas McBride
Luis Michel
Robert Weller

Water Station Operators

Brian Barto
Adam Pannbacker

Building Heat/Frost Insulators

Woody Bagwell
Aaron Ketchum
Christopher McClellan
Anthony Shore
Eric Wyer

Building Service Workers

Corey Allen
Matthew Anderson
Ruslan Buravlev
Brian Carter
David Drish
Michael Hauserman
Jessica Huddle
Justin Jones
Delbert Kettelman
Saensuk Mokaphan
John Morris
Nathan Ounkham
Turhan Peacock
Joseph Perkins
Zachary Porter
Ashley Wheatley

Carpenters

Eric Hasselbring
John Schmidt
Matthew Tatman

Cement Finishers

Craig Harris
Zachary Lyons
Cole Spegal
Burton Vance
Robert Wickenhauser

Code Compliance & Fire Safety

Katie Sperl

Commissioning & Inspection

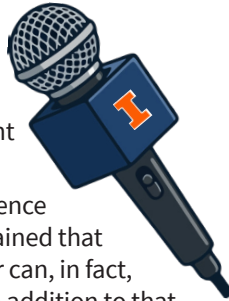
Clarke Albers
Cynthia Cope
David Lancaster
Levi Marriott
Douglas Winkler

Construction Laborers

Nathan Adamson
Michael Boatright

Media Relations and You: Helping F&S Tell Its Story

If a reporter reaches out to you directly and wants to ask you questions about your work, whether on a job-site or through digital communications, you may be automatically inclined to answer. Per the F&S Media Relations Policy, however, you should notify Customer Relations & Communications (CRC) first for review and vetting of the inquiry. Steve Breitwieser, manager of communications & external relations, emphasized this point at the recent Media Relations Training held at F&S.



Breitwieser, who has almost 30 years experience working in media—14 of them at F&S—explained that a seemingly simple question from a reporter can, in fact, need a complex and nuanced answer. But in addition to that, you may be unaware of the backstory behind the question, or there may need to be additional coordination with other campus units first. Running all media relations responses through CRC gives the opportunity for the division to

- Vet the reporter and the outlet the reporter works for
- Research previous answers and positional statements on the same topic to be consistent with past responses
- Draft a statement for review/approval by departmental/divisional leadership or identify the subject-matter expert to help address the inquiry

This might seem like a lot of effort, but Breitwieser explained that this process allows F&S to determine the best available approach to providing up-to-date and accurate information.

Having a media relations plan built on informing, answering, listening, planning, and actively collaborating can help in times when the media is treating you as a friendly source and even when things turn a little more adversarial. Being responsive builds trust and strengthens two-way relationships with media outlets that can benefit future story development and timing over the long-term.

F&S receives 30 to 40 unique media inquiries a year, and there are usually a dozen or more “involvements,” which Breitwieser explained include general research or background information for a story. Additionally, CRC usually has more than 25 external-facing news releases and announcements each year. One

frequent requestor is the “Kathy’s Mailbag” weekly column in *The News-Gazette*. On any given Friday, you may notice Breitwieser is quoted one or more times about various campus projects.

But his first question is always, “Is F&S the right respondent.” And sometimes the answer is no. Breitwieser noted, for example, that the “Mailbag” readers wanted to know about work related to the new scoreboard this summer. That is a Division of Intercollegiate Athletics project, so Breitwieser helped collaborate with the contacts in Illini Athletics to determine the right approach to responding to various project-related questions. Being helpful in this way can also be reciprocated.

One of the biggest challenges is when an inquiry “comes in hot,” needing immediate attention. Breitwieser noted that this can be especially complicated when organizations want answers by their deadline, team members are involved in urgent responses, or project work or planning is still evolving. F&S also operates under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, where communications to or from employees regarding university business are public records that may be subject to disclosure—another reason why addressing inquiries in a timely and forthright manner is critical.

A growth area in F&S Media Relations is the number of vendor marketing and communications. These also must be coordinated with CRC to address related campus policies. The basic idea is to “avoid the appearance of value-based judgments/maintain neutrality.” While CRC may consult with subject matter experts when telling F&S’ story, it is important that the message remains cohesive. This is ultimately the reason why F&S team members are asked to address media outreach to CRC. Breitwieser, Director of CRC Malikah Gordon, and Interim Associate Vice Chancellor Morgan White are the only ones permitted to officially speak on behalf of F&S without prior approval. If the scenario that opens this article occurs, please remind the reporter that you are not authorized to talk about the matter and direct them to CRC.

Keeping a clear media relations strategy provides many benefits to F&S. But your role is not limited to alerting CRC about inquiries, you can also feel free to pitch CRC about site visits, accomplishments, and other things that may be of interest to the local media. Learn more at <https://fs.illinois.edu/Employee/media-relations/>.

CCFD: Together, We Change Tomorrow!

We’re in the middle of the Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD), which runs until Friday, November 13. Thank you to everyone who has already donated! If you have not yet done so, it’s easy to support the charities you love through the CCFD program. Organizations seek to help animals, children, the environment, health outcomes, nonprofits, social justice, underserved populations, and so much more! You can donate via payroll deduction, a one-time gift, or a direct gift to the charity made within the CCFD period. Learn more about these options at <https://ccfd.illinois.edu/give/>. Remember small gifts add up, especially when combined with the donations of others.

Lunch to Support Crisis Nursery

Want a delicious way to donate locally? Participate in the annual Abbott Power Plant fundraiser for the Crisis Nursery, which

returns on the final day of the CCFD drive (November 13). You can order a fabulous lunch (pork chop sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, and a cookie) by emailing Jessica Headley, office manager of Utilities & Energy Services, at jheadley@illinois.edu by November 9. Checks should be made payable to Crisis Nursery.

Then on the 13th, you can savor your lunch at the Abbott North Trailer (1117 S. Oak St., Champaign), pick up your order there and enjoy it elsewhere, or ask for it to be delivered to your F&S workplace by including your name, address, and room or office number. All proceeds from your donation (\$30 suggested) will go to Crisis Nursery.



Noontime Knowledge Recap:

Why Do We Celebrate Women's Equality Day?

On August 26, Women's Equality Day, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosted a Noontime Knowledge session that explored why we celebrate this day. Participants viewed the film *Fighting for the Vote: Women's Suffrage in America*. The video outlined the more than seven-decade struggle to make the United States recognize women's right to vote.

After the Revolutionary War, the right to vote was granted generally only to "tax-paying, property-owning white men," Eleanor Holmes Norton, a Congressional Representative for Washington, DC, said, however, "the suffrage movement in this country was inevitable. Women were not going to sit there." Gloria Steinem, women's rights activist, added, "When I went to college, there was one sentence in my text[book]. It said, 'women were given the vote. . . .' It chose the wrong verb. Women weren't given the vote. **We fought for it.**"



Elizabeth Cady Stanton (left), Lucretia Mott (right)

The original women's rights movement grew out of the abolition movement. Two women, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, were abolitionists working with other women and men to end slavery in the United States.

When they attempted to speak or vote at an antislavery conference in London, England, in 1840, they were surprised to be denied purely because they were female. Naturally, as they continued to discuss the rights of Black people, they also began looking at their own rights.

Stanton, Mott, and others (often fellow abolitionists) convened the first women's rights convention in the United States in 1848. The convention issued a report, with each resolution voted on before inclusion. All passed unanimously except one: that women had the right to vote. It would not be the last time the women's movement disagreed on this.

After the Civil War, some women who had advocated for both abolition and women's rights were not happy when the 14th Amendment granted citizenship to "All persons born or naturalized in the United States," and said that the right to vote could not be denied "to any of the **male** inhabitants" who were both citizens and 21 years old [emphasis added]. Then the 15th Amendment tried to protect the rights of Black men to vote, decreeing the right to vote could "not be denied or abridged . . . on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

Some women felt they had been working on their right to vote for more than 20 years, so when abolition leaders like Frederick Douglass, a civil rights leader and former enslaved person, asked the women to accept the 15th Amendment and not try to get the women's vote included, they were incensed. In response, some of them, including Stanton, allowed their prejudices to show. They thought that as educated white women, they were more entitled to vote than formerly enslaved men. This and whether the path to voting should be national or go state-by-state set different women's groups at odds with each other.



The women's groups separated and came back together several times. And by the early 1900s, a new generation of women picked up the banner. They better understood how they could leverage the press to their advantage, and they began making inroads, but then World War I fractured the fight once again. Some women thought the focus should turn to the war effort. Many women joined the workforce in factories and elsewhere. Some of the more radical women, led by Alice Paul, suffragist and women's rights activist, however, upped the ante and used civil disobedience to bring more attention to their cause.

The different groups didn't agree on the path, but it was a combination of these things that forced President Woodrow Wilson to throw his support toward woman's suffrage. "We have made partners of women in this war," he said. "Shall we admit them only to a partnership of sacrifice and suffering . . . and not to a partnership of privilege and of right?"



Ida B. Wells with her children

When the war ended, suffragists made sure their movement could not be ignored. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn, a professor of history at Morgan State University, explained Ida B. Wells, for example, "mobilized the Black community by going door to door to get people to register to vote, and to support Oscar De Priest, who [became] the first Black congressman elected in the state of Illinois. And once he's elected, the women said, 'Okay, you

know who got you elected?'" They leveraged him and others in Congress to approve the 19th Amendment in 1919.

Then there was one last fight to get it ratified. The amendment needed 36 states to agree, and it came down to a single vote in Tennessee. With a tie in the Tennessee House, Harry Burn was expected to vote against it, but his mother wrote him a letter and asked him to cast his vote in favor of suffrage. He did, and the 19th Amendment became law when the ratification was certified on August 26, 1920.

Upcoming Calendar Dates

October 24
Tailgate Recycling: Illini
Football vs. Oregon

Through November 13
Campus Charitable Fund
Drive



Safety Month Success

June is National Safety Month, an observance dedicated to raising awareness about common health and safety risks and helping prevent workplace hazards and injuries. This year, the Utilities & Energy Services (UES) division participated in weekly trainings and corresponding quizzes that covered a range of crucial workplace safety topics. The team members took full advantage of this learning opportunity, with 98 percent of the group completing all four weekly modules, and 24 individuals achieving perfect scores on all four exams.

The 2026 Safety Month series kicked off with Week 1: Heat Stress, covering common hazards, controls, and best practices for preventing heat-related illness. The training emphasized the importance of recognizing heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Fortunately, these are preventable conditions. Scheduling frequent rests and hydration breaks, along with gradually building up heat tolerance, can effectively ward off heat stress.



Week 2 focused on the vital role of personal protective equipment (PPE). Participants were reminded to reference Safety Data Sheets (SDS) to determine the appropriate PPE when working with specific products. The module also emphasized inspecting PPE for damage before each use and

selecting gear that provides protection from the specific chemical, electrical, or thermal hazards present on the job.

Week 3 zeroed in on ladder safety. Key tips included inspecting ladder rungs and the base before climbing, maintaining three points of contact at all times (e.g., two hands and a foot or two feet and one hand), and properly securing ladders when working on uneven terrain. Furthermore, it is crucial to use nonconductive ladders, such as those made from fiberglass, when working near electrical structures.

The final training module fittingly focused on preventing slips, trips, and falls in the workplace. According to the National Safety Council, these are the second leading cause of workplace injury, accounting for an average of 25,000 accidents each day in the United States. Avoiding these can be as simple as cleaning up spills promptly and keeping walkways clear.

From heat stress and PPE to ladder safety and fall prevention, this year's National Safety Month training provided the UES team with practical tips and best practices that can be translated into the workplace. By staying informed, recognizing potential hazards, and putting safe practices into action, everyone can play a role in keeping the workplace safe.

Send your stories and photos to
fscustomerrelations@illinois.edu

Bringing People Together: Team Member Appreciation Picnics

The annual F&S Team Member Appreciation Picnics were a hit with the approximately 550 people who attended one of the three "tailgate" events in September. Team members enjoyed freshly grilled burgers and brats, salads and other sides, and ice cream from the Sidney Dairy Barn or iced slushies from Kona Ice under the big tent in Lot 31. Participants could try their hand at games like an Illini-styled stacking game. Morgan White, interim associate vice chancellor of F&S, also spoke with appreciation for all F&S accomplishments together.

Many thanks to the shops and individual people who served on the committee and volunteered to help the day (and night) of the events. Special kudos to Adrian Flowers, Andrew Graumlich, and Joe Perkins, who all went above and beyond to ensure great food and a great time were had by all.

Thank you!

Events Committee

Katie Balch
Adrian Flowers
Andrew Graumlich
Quentin Lusby
Joe Meeker
Rose Paul
Colleen Ruhter
Brad Trankina
Doni Walker,
Committee Chair

Volunteers

Steve Bainbridge
Cheryl Bicknell
Angela Cravens
LaRisha Exum
Jon Hasselbring
Todd Hawkins
Chad Kupferschmid
Jeremy Neighbors
Joe Perkins
Jim Sims
Macie Sinn

Katie Sperl
Tony Spurlock
Pete Varney
Jenny Watkins
Morgan White

Shops

BSW Moving Crew
Electricians
Grounds
High Voltage
Electricians
Transportation



Facilities & Services

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