



DISPATCH

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2025 Service Award Honorees

The F&S Service Awards recognize the dedication and contributions of the unit's team members. Congratulations to those who reached a service milestone last year. At the recent ceremony, we celebrated people who have helped move F&S projects and initiatives forward for five years, 35 years, and in five-year increments in between. Thank you for your excellent ongoing efforts on behalf of F&S and the university.

5 Years

Raul Aceves Cisneros
Corey Allen
Zach Ayers
Cheryl Bicknell
David Bramlett
Jordyn Brock
Connor Brown
Mike Brown
Michelle Busch
Reginald Carr
Mark Chesnut
Nicholas Cobb
Frank Colacicco
Reed Coleman
Trawick Coleman
Daniel Cummings
Ashley Daniels
Paul Foote
Chad Franks
Samuel Gillespie
Brian Greene
Justin Griest
Virginia Hall
Dustin Hasty
Gina Head
Thomas Hodgson
Forrest Hornbuckle
James Kinney
Dan Krile
Johnna Krutsinger
Ben Kuhlman
Erika Lee

Kim Master
Leslie Miller
Jason Morris
Dennis Nowman
David Odenweller
Sean O'Donnell
Luke Pannbacker
Turhan Peacock
Amber Perfetti
Bryan Powell
Sarhthak Prasad
Dustin Rhodes
Stacey Sanchez
Paul Schure
Derin Scott
Christopher Smith
Stacy Smith
Justin Stanford
Jeffrey Thompson
Dylan Tucker
Nico Vandever
Joe Villanti
Marlo Wax
Wade Wronke
Susan Zich

10 Years

Trent Beane
Gregory Carlson
Cynthia Cope
Ryan Crackel
Dennis Craig
David Drish

2025 F&S Team Member of the Year

Facilities & Services is proud to recognize LaRisha Exum as the 2025 Team Member of the Year for consistently demonstrating excellence, professionalism, and an unwavering commitment to serving others.

As a member of the F&S Human Resources' payroll team, LaRisha is known throughout the organization as a trusted resource and problem solver. Whether assisting with complex payroll issues, navigating system challenges, or supporting supervisors and employees through difficult situations, she approaches every interaction with responsiveness, expertise, and genuine care.

Over the past year, for example, LaRisha played a vital role in resolving complex payroll challenges associated with Utilities & Energy Services' transition to 12-hour shifts. Through innovative thinking, collaboration, and perseverance, she helped ensure employees continued to receive accurate and timely pay despite significant system limitations.

Thanks for helping make F&S stronger every day. Congratulations, *LaRisha!*



Patrick Duda
Corey Evans
Brian Finet
Dawn Flynn
Bryan Foreman
Gregory Hendrickson
Bryan Johnson
Stacey Kinney
Molly Mitsdarfer
William Ramert
John Smith
Kirsten Snyder
Michael Voorhees
Harry Wells
Al York
Charles Zech*

15 Years

J. Matt Arbogast
Benjamin Bangert
Paul Barton
Rory Dodge
Shawn Hadler
Russell Kern

Faustina Lazcares
Morales
Dana Miller
Ron Pryor
Nathan Reifsteck
Nicholas Strohl
Maria Thompson
Craig Wittig

20 Years

Terry Bagwell
Steve Bainbridge
Terrance Bialeschki
Frank Boland
Christopher Bromley
Michael Burge
Timothy Clifton
Doug Dahl
Steven Dalton
Brandon Ellison
Samuel Elson
Byron Ford
Andres Fradkin
Hilda Garcia

Greg Granadino
Jeffrey Graner
Tammara Greer
Todd Grimm
Jason Grooms
Jason Hart#
Kelly Hutcherson
Arnold Jeffers
Bradley Kelm
Jerald Knight*
Randy Long
Guadalupe Lopez*
Mark Lowry
Jolene Myers*
Charity Pye
Dawn Rambole
Randy Reinhart
Teresa Schalk
John Schmidt
Theresa Sibley
Williams
Jerome Wells
April Williams
Blake Withers
Todd Woods

Jeffrey Zellers
Bruce Zindars

25 Years

William Adams
JB Barber
Saleem Khan
Ra Niemah
Brian Rumble
Timothy Spannagel*

30 Years

Will Corum
David Scott*
Pete Varney
David Wilcoxon

35 Years

James Harper
John Schlittler

*Retirees #Deceased

Congratulations!

Team Member of the Month
2025 Winners!

February Chris Cook
August Bob Pollett
September LaRisha Exum
October Ted Burgin
November Chad Wahls
December Dave Lancaster

U. of I. Summer Forecast: 100 Percent Chance of Construction



What's a good indicator of summer for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign? If you ask that question of the campus community, you might get replies like these:

- Summer scholars throwing frisbees, playing cricket, or participating in other games on the South Quad
- Families coming together to watch a movie or band concert on the Main Quad
- Traffic signals switching into four-way-stop mode because of the lack of traffic on campus
- Student guides walking backward through campus while talking to prospective students and families about the Illinois experience

These are all good answers, but perhaps the best indicator of summer at the U. of I. is summer construction. This year, there are more than 40 active facility and infrastructure capital projects on the list. You can read about some of the highlights below or see them all at <https://fs.illinois.edu/summer-construction-2026/>.

Several large projects continue, including the Illini Hall Replacement and Altgeld Hall Renovation project. The Altgeld work will move into Phase IV, interior renovation and upgrades. The new facility on the site of the former Illini Hall will be the new home of the math and stats departments and will include an innovative data science center. The building will be at least LEED® Silver certified, in keeping with the university's commitment to energy efficiency and environmental sustainability. Work is also ongoing toward the south end of campus too, including at the Japan House addition (Ogura-Sato Annex) and the Doris Kelley Christopher Illinois Extension Center.

The College of Veterinary Medicine is building a home for the new Small Animal Clinic Oncology Center. When a beloved pet has cancer, it is extremely stressful for the human family members. The new addition is designed with this in mind and considers needs not usually required in more routine vet care. Among other factors, the center will have its own entrance, separate areas for patient drop-off and pick-up, and offer long-term parking for extended visits.

Some historic areas will see changes as well. The Observatory was constructed in 1896, and this year it will have a full replacement of the existing roof systems. The building will also get a new observation deck that will match historical railing components. The landscaping at the Morrow Plots (established in 1876) will be revitalized, and a new gate, befitting the historic nature of the oldest experimental agricultural field in the Americas (the second oldest in the world), will be added.

Other projects on campus include

- **Elevator Upgrades:** Multiple buildings, including the Engineering Sciences Building, Everitt Laboratory, Turner Student Services Building, and the Illini Union, and others, will see improved accessibility, safety, and efficiency when their elevators are modernized.
- **Restroom Renovations:** The Law Building, Morrill Hall, and the Florida Avenue Residence Halls (Trelease) are among the buildings getting restroom upgrades this summer. These include new fixtures and finishes, wall and toilet partitions, and updates for compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.
- **Roof Replacement Projects:** A new roof is on tap for the Student Services Arcade Building, and the Illini Union roof replacement project is winding down, with the scaffolding coming down from the north and south sides. Roof work will continue on the center portion of the Union roof through fall.
- **Life Safety Upgrades:** A new fire suppression system and upgraded fire alarm devices are going in at Talbot Laboratory, and the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts is getting an entirely new fire alarm system.

There will also be lighting upgrades, road and parking lot improvements, repairs to building facades, enhancements to heating and cooling systems, and more.

The Urbana campus is ever evolving. While F&S cares for and maintains its buildings and grounds year-round, it is often easiest to work during the summer when fewer people are on campus to be impacted by the construction activities. With such a wide and varied list of summer projects, people returning in August may be surprised to see how much work has been accomplished since May. Kudos to all involved at F&S for their efficient stewardship!



F&S at Work

Touch-a-Truck Returns

This summer, F&S is proud to sponsor and operate Touch-a-Truck events for area youth. On June 10, Campus Recreation held its first-ever Touch-a-Truck event in Lot E31. Team members from the F&S Transportation and Grounds crews were on hand to help answer questions and run the event. Children were invited to learn about emergency service vehicles, big trucks, and F&S machinery, including recycling trucks, backhoes, and lawn equipment. The kids were excited to not only see these machines up close, but also to climb inside, sit in the driver's seat, and honk the horns.

F&S is hosting its own Touch-a-Truck event on Friday, July 31, from 10 a.m. to noon, at the Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building (1304 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Urbana). Associate Director of Fleet Services Shawn Patterson explained that “elementary school-aged children and their parents are the target audience.” He also noted they usually have around 150 kids in attendance. Why so many? The popular activity provides an interactive experience for the kids that offers tactile learning, a community connection, and even career awareness—plus it's just plain fun!



Investing in Student Well-Being



When students return to campus after summer break, they'll be welcomed by a space dedicated to their well-being. Part of the fourth floor of the Turner Student Services Building has been transformed into the Connie Frank CARE Center, a centralized hub for nonemergency student case management.

The CARE (Coordination, Assistance, Response, and Education) Center connects students with resources to help meet basic needs, navigate physical or mental health challenges, and access support during difficult times.

The CARE Center is named in honor of Illinois alum Connie Frank (LAS '65), whose generous gift made this one-of-a-kind space possible. Working closely with F&S, Frank's vision for the center was brought to life. Engineering Services collaborated with Frank to envision an environment that strikes a balance between sleek, modern design and a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The Mill Shop produced custom cabinetry for a personal care closet. Construction Services executed the installations, which revamped the area into an inviting place accented with cool gray and burnt orange tones. The result is a fresh space where students can access comprehensive support to help them achieve their personal and academic goals, no matter what life may throw their way.

In response to seeing construction progress on the Center, Frank expressed her gratitude to F&S, saying, “I want to thank ... Erika [Lee], Eric [Peterson], Jason [Reynolds], and all the U. of I. staff who worked on this project. It is nice to see the center as the finishing touches are being completed!”

Noontime Knowledge Recap: DRES Can Help



Rehabilitation-Education Center, October 1966

The University of Illinois was the first post-secondary institution to provide support services to enrolled students with disabilities. Since 1948, campus has actively partnered with such students so that each person is able to participate in campus life to the

fullest. The foundation was laid under the auspices of Timothy Nugent and his Rehabilitation-Education Center, first at a U. of I. satellite campus in Galesburg, and then a year later on the Urbana campus when the satellite site closed. As the program grew, several name changes occurred, with the last one taking place in 2004, when the Rehabilitation Education Services became the Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES).

James Loomis, DRES access specialist, was the guest speaker at the May Noontime Knowledge hosted by F&S' Diversity and Inclusion Committee. His talk, “DRES: Supporting Students with Disabilities,” explained DRES' role on campus. In 2026, colleges and universities are federally mandated to provide support to students with disabilities, but Illinois was a trailblazer in this area, offering up resources long before the government required them to do so. DRES still keeps up with any federal or state changes.

DRES provides “academic adjustments, services, and supports to Illinois students with disabilities” and determines reasonable

accommodations for equal access, all while maintaining confidential medical documentation. During the most recent academic year, Loomis said they supported nearly 6,000 students, and 89 percent of that group have nonvisible disabilities. This is an important distinction.

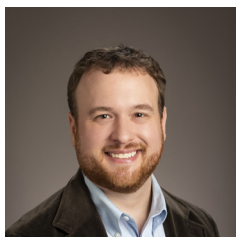
Visible disabilities may include mobility aids, such as wheelchair use, so it is easier to see that the person should qualify for services under the ADA. Debilitating pain, dizziness, learning differences, deaf/hard of hearing, brain injuries, asthma, ADHD, and many other nonvisible disabilities absolutely qualify students for services. Still, these people may face additional discrimination as the disability is not immediately apparent, and others may be quick to assume they don't need accommodation at all. DRES supports everyone, regardless of whether their needs are visible or nonvisible.

Students fill out an application and provide medical and other documentation (e.g., previous support plans from the student's high school) about their disabilities. Once the student shows they meet the requirements, the student is assigned an access specialist, like Loomis. Access specialists focus on certain needs, so one may deal mostly with physical limitations, and another may concentrate on learning differences.

What sort of accommodations will be put in place? It varies from student to student, but they will align with the student's needs. Some may need extra time on tests, some may need individual

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Jason Loomis

or group therapy, others may need ASL interpreters or academic coaching. Each student is unique, so each plan is unique as well. Loomis pointed out there were several things DRES cannot do. “Accommodations in college cannot fundamentally alter the the nature or objectives of a course,” he said. DRES students are expected to meet the same requirements as others for their classes or program of study. Additionally, adjustments cannot be preapproved before a student has even registered, nor can accommodations be applied retroactively to courses taken before the student signed up with DRES. Even in the rare case when a course substitution is considered, students generally still need to attempt the course

while using their other adaptations before such a change will even be considered.

Just as in the beginning, DRES knows it is important for students to take ownership of their own path. Timothy Nugent believed independence was important to a healthy and productive life. He encouraged students to try things and to work hard, even when accommodations were needed. DRES still believes that today. They guarantee equal access but not necessarily success. The students must provide the latter for themselves.

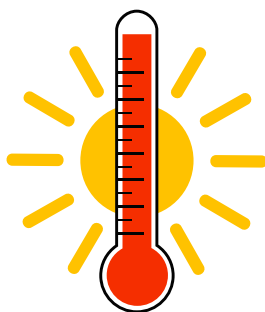
If you know a student who needs accommodations, point them to the DRES website at <https://dres.illinois.edu/>. It explains the services available and how to apply. Team members who may need work accommodations can reach out to the Office for Access & Equity. Learn more at <https://oe.illinois.edu/>.

Spotlight on Safety: We’re Having a Heat Wave

At the time of this writing, Central Illinois was in the middle of its first “Extreme Heat Warning” of the summer. Based on past summers, it will not be the last heat wave this year. Very hot days can put workers at risk, but when precautions are taken, the risk of heat-related illness is lessened. **Heat stroke is always a medical emergency.** If you or another team member shows signs of heat stroke, **call 911** right away!

Signs of Heat Stroke

- High body temperature (103°F or higher)
- Hot, often flushed red skin, but the skin may be dry or moist, depending on whether the cause is hot weather or strenuous exercise
- Fast, strong pulse
- Headache (may be throbbing)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Confusion, slurred speech
- Loss of consciousness, seizures



What Should You Do After You Call 911?

- Move the person to a cooler place.
- Stay with the person while you wait for help.

- Remove excess clothing that may be trapping heat.
- Circulate the air around the person (e.g., with a fan) to enhance cooling.
- Try to lower the person’s temperature, using cool, wet cloths or cool water on the skin and remaining clothes.
- DO NOT give the person anything to drink.

Prevent Heat-Related Illness Before It Is an Emergency

On extremely hot days, please take precautions:

- Drink approximately 1 liter of water or other cool, hydrating liquids* per hour.
- Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing.
- Take frequent breaks in cool locations.
- Avoid strenuous work during the hottest parts of the day.
- Watch for heavy sweating and/or decreased urine output
- People prone to heat-related illness, those with medical conditions like heart disease, or those taking medications that affect the body’s ability to stay hydrated or to dissipate heat should be extra cautious.
- Never leave anyone in a parked car.
- Check in with others.

**The Tool Room stocks Sqwincher, which is an electrolyte mix, and the West Hallway has an ice dispenser.*

Summer Celebration at Beckman

The Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology opened in 1989 as a world-class research center on campus. It has a long-standing relationship with F&S to provide in-house crafts and trades for improvement projects. Most recently, F&S wrapped up the renovation of 14 research labs, three non-lab spaces, and additional enhancements that totaled \$14.8 million in upgrades. Jason Reynolds, job order contracting project specialist, managed this project in collaboration with Beckman’s team.

Kristy Arnett, assistant director of Facilities at the Beckman Institute, explained that the benefits of working with F&S include convenient communications. “My favorite part is working with the shops,” Arnett said. “We built a ton of relationships over the last

eight years with each of them, and I can say that they’re probably the most dependable that we have. The quality of work we get [from] them is absolutely amazing. Nine times out of ten we can’t just call an outside contractor ... [but] we can call the shops personally, and they are here as soon as they can be to help us.”

The recent renovations concluded with a celebration, including remarks from Beckman leadership, a buffet breakfast, and tours of the new spaces. Now, the labs are being used for groundbreaking research in fields like psychology, oncology, and regenerative medicine.



Facilities & Services

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