



Honoring All Who Served

Three branches of the US Armed Forces are celebrating their 250th anniversaries this year: the Army (founded June 14, 1775), the Navy (founded October 13, 1775), and the Marines (founded November 10, 1775). Whether your branch is marking a significant anniversary or not, F&S proudly honors the contributions of our colleagues who have served or are serving in one of the branches of the military at home or abroad—on Veterans Day (November 11) and throughout the year. Their names, which represent about 10 percent of F&S team members, are listed here to show our appreciation. *Thank you all for your service, your sacrifice, and for all that you do to contribute to our country, our community, and our organization.*

Abbott Power Plant

Mike Brewer, Navy
Mike Burns, Navy
Bret Lutz, Navy
Jacob Martin, Army
Victor Melchior, Brazilian Army
Jeff Wells, Navy
Rich Wurmnest, Navy

Brickmasons

Eric Quinley, Army

BSWs

Stan Adkisson, Navy
Eric Anderson, Navy
Shawn Beyers, Air Force & Army
National Guard
Mark Bezdon, Army
Odis Casimiro, Belize Army Infantry
Raymond Cook, Air Force
Chad Franks, Navy
Timothy Garrison, Army
Matt Gebbink, Army Reserves
Alberto Gonzalez, Marine Corps
John Hill, Air Force
Ira Gene Lynch, Air National Guard
Khamtanh Phanrana, Marine Corps
Bret Pourchot, Army
Timothy Rash, Marine Corps
Mike Saliski, Army
Willis Thomas, Navy
Gary Treatch, National Guard
Chris Wasson, Marine Corps

Building Maintenance

Steve Bainbridge, Air Force
Mark Barcus, Navy
Allen Cravens, Army
Patrick Wood, Navy

Capital Projects

Sandra Roesler, Coast Guard
Nick Stanev, Bulgarian Air Force

Carpenters

Rick Flynn, Army
Jean Fontaine, National Guard
Chris Harpst, Army
Mitch Harris, Army
Curtis Wayne, Marine Corps

Cement Finishers

Craig Harris, Army National Guard

Commissioning & Inspection

Levi Marriott, Army

Construction Laborers

Felipe Carmona, Army
Joey Daly, Army
Shane English, Army

Construction Services

Addison Boyd, Marine Corps

Electricians

Tim Abrahamson, Marine Corps
Mike Burge, Navy
Will Corum, Marine Corps
Jake Hughes, Navy
Larry Lustfeldt, Army National Guard
Tony Mabrey, Army National Guard

Electricians: Direct Digital Control Retrocommissioning Systems & Controls Group

Tim Ferpotto, Navy
Rick Mueller, Marine Corps
Brian Pettice, Army National Guard
Ravi Ramrattan, Air Force
Eli Remington, Illinois National Guard
Jeff Revell, Navy Seabees

Electricians: High Voltage Electricians

Lauro Acevedo, Air Force
Kenneth Hall, Navy
Jon Karlson, Army

Elevator Mechanics

Matt Arbogast, Air National Guard
Ryan Perry, Navy
Ron Pryor, Army
Dan Sweikar, Army National Guard

Energy Services

Jim Cantrell, Illinois National Guard
Anthony Ewing, Air Force
Paul Foote, Air Force

Engineering Services

Bruce Keaton, Army Airborne

Grounds

James Harper, Marine Corps
Darren LaReau, Navy

Human Resources

Ken McCray, Marine Corps

Information Technology Services

Rick Oldenburger, Navy

Insulators

Woody Bagwell, Army National Guard
Aaron Ketchum, Navy

Laborer-Electricians

Charles Reed, Navy
Thomas Szymanski, Air Force
(David) Paul Weisman, Army

Locksmiths

Cynthia Burnett, Navy

Machinists

Chad Cosat, Marine Corps

Mill Workers

Alex Merkle, Army

Office of the Executive Director

Stephanie Landess, Army

Painters

Matt Verplaetse, Army National Guard

Pipefitters

Geoffrey Hayes, Navy

Plumbers

Terry Bagwell, Marine Corps
Nick Carpenter, Army
Josh Hale, Army
Terry Paris, Air Force
Bryan Robinson, National Guard

Refrigeration Mechanics

Jared Cothron, Army
Kent Frischkorn, Marine Corps
Michael Gadbury, National Guard

Safety & Compliance

Charles Elam, Marine Corps
David Wilcoxon, Coast Guard

Sheet Metal Workers

Jake Lietz, Army
Zane Richardson, Army
Curt Thode, Army

Steam Distribution Operations

Brandon Gibson, Marine Corps
Jason Gramlich, Marine Corps
Khoi Nguyen, Army
Andy Peacock, Marine Corps
Jeff Thompson, Army
Jim Wells, Army
Al York, Air Force

Stores & Receiving

Kriss Eisenhower, Navy
Bryan Johnson, Navy
Troy Mitchell, Army
Rodney Tanner, Air Force
Tom Tuttle, Army

Temperature Control

Paul Barton, Army
Andy Brown, Army
Bill Cooke, Navy
Eric Hall, Navy
Chris York, Navy

Tool Room

Andy Harpst, Navy

Transportation

Kenny Blazek, Marine Corps
Gary Cole, Army
Roy Dunaway, Navy
Duane Jackson, Army Reserves

Transportation & Building Services

Joshua Murphy, Marine Corps
Rose Paul, Navy
Pete Varney, Army & Army
National Guard

Utilities & Energy Services

Robert Roman, Marine Corps

Noontime Knowledge Recaps

American Historia



Latino people have been in what is now the United States for more than 500 years—before the United States was even an idea. Comedian and actor John Leguizamo, creator and host of *American Historia: The Untold History of Latinos*, wants the audience to take away that knowledge from his three-part PBS series. Latinos were here—are here—and have contributed greatly to this country, even if that history is often overlooked. The Diversity & Inclusion Committee showed the second episode, “Threads in the American Tapestry,” in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, at the September Noontime Knowledge.

Leguizamo defined Latino people as “African, Indigenous, and Spanish by blood. And ‘Latino’ means you’re from Latin America, while ‘Hispanic’ means from Spain or Spanish-speaking,” but he settled on using Latino generally. The episode starts in what is now New York with an expert in Dominican culture, Anthony R. Stevens-Acevedo, explaining that the first non-Native American “New Yorker” was both Latino and Black—a man from Santo Domingo on the island La Española (now in the Dominican Republic) named Juan Rodriguez. Many people on the island were traders, and Rodriguez joined a Dutch merchant ship to trade fur pelts with the Native people along the Hudson River. Rodriguez and his shipmates arrived in what is now New York Harbor in 1613, seven years before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock.



A contemporary illustration showing Juan Rodriguez (holding pan) establishing a trading post with Native Americans on Manhattan Island in 1613. Credit Charles LillyArt and Artifacts Division, New York Public Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Rodriguez quickly established himself as a knowledgeable and savvy trader. When the Dutch ship left to return to the Netherlands, Rodriguez refused to go with them. Rodriguez lived and worked with the local Lenape people and essentially cornered the fur market there. When the Dutch returned in 1614, Rodriguez was directing all the fur trade to a competitor. The Dutch objected. People took sides. Conflict broke out, fighting ensued, and people were hurt. Arizona State University Professor Carlos G. Vélez-Ibáñez explained the Native people were caught up in this and noted the irony for Latino people: “We are in many ways both the conquered and the conquering.” This would be a recurring theme of the episode.

Leguizamo said that when others came to America, Latinos were already here, and they have fought in every war since the United States was established. Latinos contributed soldiers and millions of dollars to the Revolutionary War (1775 to 1783); in fact, one in every eight soldiers fighting for a nascent America was Latino. Bernardo de Gálvez, a Spanish colonial governor and military leader, helped the Americans by hindering British operations along the Gulf Coast and using his

multicultural troops to help keep New Orleans and the Mississippi River open as supply routes for the Americans.

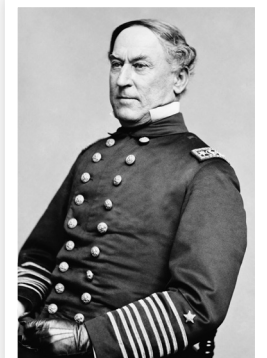
During US expansion (1803 to 1853), the United States wanted to grow westward. Leguizamo pointed out this “inconvenient fact: Most of the land they set their sights on was already owned by Mexico and myriad indigenous tribes.” The United States used “Manifest Destiny,” the idea that it was God’s will that the country be expanded, as justification to take what would become Texas, California, Colorado, Nevada, and more. They did this by declaring the land “unsettled.” Then wealthy planters, many of them who owned enslaved people, began moving west.

In the United States, only 4 percent of people of African descent were free. In Mexico, that number was 75 percent. In what would become Texas, then part of Mexico, the Latinos were considered abolitionists. The US government worked to expel those people so that slavery could also expand. Mexico had abolished slavery in 1829, and in 1835 Mexican President General Antonio López de Santa Anna marched troops into the Texas territory to defend the ban. Among other grievances, the Anglo Texans were unhappy with Santa Anna’s demand that all slavery cease. When attempts at diplomacy failed, the 13-day Battle of the Alamo occurred, claiming lives on both sides of the fight. “Remember the Alamo” became a rallying cry for Texas independence and joining the United States, but the fact that it was also a fight to retain slavery was often omitted from the history books.

Leguizamo’s second episode also includes a new look at the Texas Rangers and how they protected the rights of the Anglos over the rights of Latinos, explains that Civil War hero Admiral David Farragut (of “Damn the Torpedoes!” fame) was Latino on his father’s side, and expounds on several other stories of Latino participation in American history that either were overlooked entirely or not fully told in the past. *American Historia* is currently airing on PBS (check local listings) and is available online through PBS Passport.



Bernardo de Gálvez or the Viscount of Galveston



Admiral Farragut

Send your stories and photos to
fscustomerrelations@illinois.edu

Upcoming Calendar Dates

November 11
Veterans Day

November 15
Tailgate Recycling at the Illini
vs. Maryland Game

November 19
Noontime Knowledge

November 27 & 28
Thanksgiving Break

F&S at Work

Team members who have been with F&S for a while will have noticed that the unit participates annually in a **Spill Response Exercise**. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requires certain facilities that use or store oil (for fuel or cooking) to submit a Facility Response Plan if such a spill “could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment by discharging into or on the navigable waters . . .” Practice is also required to prepare for a spill event; fortunately, another effective drill was conducted at the end of September, satisfying this requirement for another year.

Abbott Power Plant celebrated 85 years of powering (and heating!) the campus last month. The plant, named for William L. Abbott, a former chief operating engineer of Commonwealth Edison who had also served as president of the university’s board of trustees, came online in 1940 with three boilers and two 3,000 kW steam turbine generators.



The university’s first power plant (referred to as Heating, Lighting, and Power Plant) was located near Gregory Hall and constructed in 1881. It was replaced in 1898 with a plant that could produce 175 kW. ** The Mathews Avenue Heating, Lighting, and Power Plant building took over in 1910, with electrical output more than doubling to 500 kW, as the demand for electricity was growing, both on campus and across the nation. The Mathews plant was expanded several times, but it soon became clear a new plant was needed, so Abbott was commissioned. It was located adjacent to the railroad line to ease coal delivery.

While it was originally coal burning, Abbott Power Plant is now fuel-flexible and can utilize natural gas, coal, and fuel oil in its combustion turbines and boilers. Today, Abbott supplies as much as 75 percent of campus’ energy demand. As a cogeneration facility, it produces both steam and electricity with a focus on reliability, which is crucial to research.

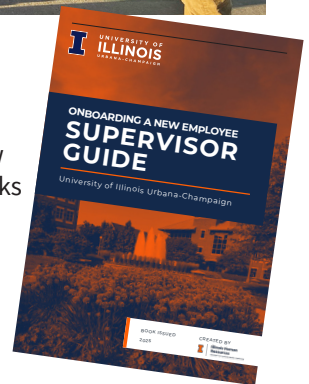
Abbott continues to meet or exceed all EPA emission standards, and the cogeneration process has helped to reduce carbon emissions from the campus for over 85 years. In terms of longevity, Abbott has outpaced its predecessors by decades. Because of the attention and thoughtful planning of its caretakers, there is every reason to believe we’ll be writing about its centenary year in 2040!

** For comparison, a typical home in 2025 uses on average 1 to 2 kW, or about 30 kWh a day. Don’t kW and kWh measure the same thing? No, kilowatt (kW) is a measure of power (i.e., how fast something uses or produces energy). Kilowatt hours (kWh) measure how much energy is used over time.

AXIS Risk Management Academy Students Visit Abbott — Mike Larson, associate director of Utility Production, recently gave an Abbott Power Plant tour to students at the AXIS Risk Management Academy in the Gies College of Business. Larson discussed the many risks that must be addressed at Abbott, and he and others will help the students learn to use risk management, modeling, and data skills in ways that are applicable to real world situations.



Illinois Human Resources has issued a new 2025 booklet, **Onboarding a New Employee—Supervisor Guide**. It offers advice to supervisors on supporting new team members during hiring, in the weeks before they start, and in the days and weeks after they begin. Whether they are in-person, hybrid, or remote, the guide includes best practices, checklists of action items, and suggests useful campus resources. Download the guide or templates for other onboarding materials from Box: <https://go.illinois.edu/SupervisorGuide>.



Dennis Craig’s Day Out at Foellinger — The 2025 publication CHP Annual, produced by the Campus Honors Program (CHP), featured a story about a tour Dennis Craig, F&S’ campus historic preservation officer, gave to the CHP students. Craig walked them through Foellinger



Auditorium and explained the history of the building designed by U. of I. alum Clarence Blackall (class of 1877), who specialized in theatre design. Download the CHP Annual (and turn to page 21) to read more: <https://honors.illinois.edu/annual-newsletter/>.

Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD)

Support Your Causes Through CCFD

This year's CCFD campaign ends on **November 12**, so there is still time to make a donation to a charity you support. We all have different causes that are near and dear to our hearts. Some may have a passion for animals or the environment. Others may have a concern for kids or finding a cure for a disease. Some may want their donations to be put to work locally. Others may be interested in their donations having a global reach. Whatever your charitable style, you can find good causes (more than 700 individual charities!) that fit your personal goals.

Get started by going to <https://ccfd.illinois.edu/give/>. There you can choose to make a payroll deduction (for as little as \$1 for biweekly pay periods or \$2 for monthly pay periods) or a one-time gift. Simply click the corresponding button to get started. If you've already made a direct gift to a CCFD charity during this period, you can make it count toward the drive by clicking that button and following the directions. Remember, your CCFD donations are given in full to the charity (or charities you choose). The university does not charge any administrative fees. Thank you for considering support of one or more worthy causes. Together, we make change.

Abbott CCFD Pork Lunch

What: Enjoy lunch and support Crisis Nursery, which provides emergency-based childcare to Champaign County, 24/7/365.

When: Thursday, November 13, 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Suggested donation: \$30; please make checks payable to Crisis Nursery

To enjoy a pork chop sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, and a cookie, RSVP to Robin Royer royer@illinois.edu by Tuesday, November 11.

Dine in or pick up at the Abbott North Trailer (1117 S. Oak St., Champaign) or request campus delivery by including your name, address, and room/office number in your RSVP email.

All-Employee Expo Is a Raging Success

What do you call an event that features information, resources, and swag (so much swag!)? It's the biennial All-Employee Expo!

This fall, thousands of colleagues stopped by the State Farm Center to scope out what was new and exciting on campus. F&S was well represented. Many team members joined the fun, checking out the booths on two levels. F&S also hosted eight tables: Machine Shop and Locksmiths, Mill Shop, Paint/Sign Shop and Ironworkers, Safety & Compliance (S&C) and Sustainability, S&C and the Division of Research Safety, Transportation & Building Services, Transportation Demand Management, and Utilities & Energy Services (UES).

Sylvia McIvor, associate director, UES, reported at their table "an impressive 172 attendees took the quiz, with 166 qualifying for the drawing of four solar power banks." People also enjoyed attempting the "Power the Bike" competitions and snagged packets of gummy bears to recharge after expending all that mental and physical energy. At the Locksmiths' table, people could try out different lock types and pick up a key ring. The Paint/Sign Shop had magnets and other items. Andy Burnett, Mill Shop foreperson, said they had four items with Mill Shop branding this year: cork coasters, phone holders, doorstops, or bottle openers. Other F&S tables offered chances to spin a wheel to win prizes, handed out information, and answered questions about F&S on campus. Jeremy Neighbors, director of S&C, also reported that "116 attendees completed the safety pledge at <https://besafe.illinois.edu>."

