



DISPATCH

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Team Member Appreciation Picnic; more on the next page.

What We Did Last Summer: A Roundup of F&S at Work

F&S has had a busy summer. Here are just a few things team members have been working on.

Archives and Special Collections Building Project: Once renovations of the former Undergraduate Library are complete the University of Illinois Archives (<https://archives.library.illinois.edu/>), the Illinois History and Lincoln Collections (<https://www.library.illinois.edu/ihx/>), and the Rare Book and Manuscript Library (<https://www.library.illinois.edu/rbx/>) will find a new home there. Here a crane is ready to help move materials for the project, which is expected to be completed in 2027.



The Illini Union Roofing Project: When a roof is as steep as the one at the Illini Union, roofers know to work safer they must first place scaffolding and fall barriers. The Union has three separate roofs (north, south, and center), and all three will be replaced, with Phase 1 and 2 underway. Phase 3 work on the center roof is expected to begin in March 2026, with all work expected to be completed by fall 2026. The Illini Union remains open, and the building still looks beautiful on late summer days. See project updates at <https://union.illinois.edu/unionhappenings>.



Steven S. Wymer Hall Building: With F&S' help, the Gies College of Business opened the university's latest state-of-the-art building just in time for the fall semester. The new building includes collaborative areas, a large auditorium, studio

and sound stages, and other innovative spaces. Here's the new building the week before classes start. A formal dedication is planned for Friday, October 10.



Illini Hall Replacement: Excavation work is underway at the old Illini Hall site. The new building will house administrative and classroom space alongside a new data science center. As construction began in earnest, F&S created a plan to protect pedestrians in the busy travel corridor along Wright Street just off the Main Quad. They added a covered walkway and a new temporary crosswalk. On busy days, a construction flagger will also help direct traffic in this area.

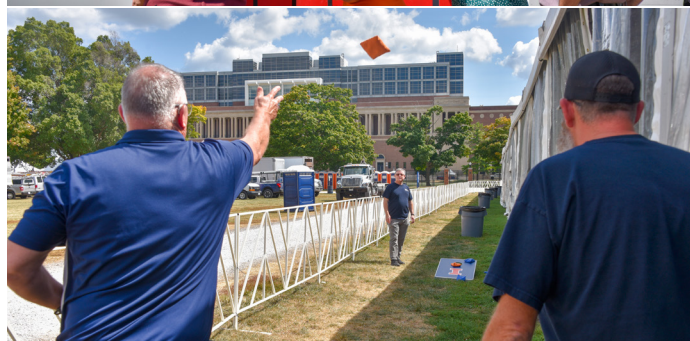
Train Safety: F&S team members in Code Compliance & Fire Safety took part in a training event hosted by Norfolk Southern on train safety. TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) focuses on safety around railroads, including tank car identification (in case of a train-related hazardous materials spill), safety in the unlikely event of a derailment, and locomotive response time for braking.



The tank car in this photo weighs 91,500 pounds when empty. When full, that weight can more than double. Trains are heavy and take a long time to stop. The trainers also noted that there is a large blind spot for the engineers immediately in front of the train; even if the engineers see an obstruction, they can't swerve out of the way. Never try to beat a train through a crossing.

F&S Steps Out

Team members had an opportunity to get out of PPSB and the other indoor areas where they work at the recent Team Member Appreciation Picnic. Great food, good fun, and genuine camaraderie made for three glorious events.



Finding the Rainbow:

Campus' New Rainwater Management Program

In 2013, Dolly Parton wrote, "The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain!" A dozen years later, the university is making the case that rain is not something to be "put up with" but actually a vital asset that campus should treasure. Stormwater runoff has too long been thought of as a nuisance to be cleared as quickly as possible. Campus' new Rainwater Management Program (RMP) sets out to educate the local community on the benefits of rainwater; recommend green infrastructure installations to help harness it, assist with flooding and ponding, and protect water quality; and suggest funding and marketing opportunities for these projects.

The 165-page program booklet explains that there are nine sub-drainage areas on campus. Kirby Avenue approximates the dividing point, with the areas to the north draining to the Boneyard Creek and those to the south draining to the Embarras River. Previously, much stormwater runoff was collected by street-level storm drains to flow underground to these tributaries. Now, the university has many more tools to capture and use rainwater on campus in positive ways, including

- Permeable pavement or pavers
- Rain gardens or bioswales
- Wetlands
- Green roofs
- Tree boxes
- Detention (usually dry) and retention (usually wet) basins
- Cisterns and rain barrels

Stewarding rainwater with green infrastructure enhances beautiful spots on campus, allowing more indigenous plantings, biodiversity, and other benefits. Some of these are already in use on campus (e.g., green roofs on the Newmark Civil Engineering Laboratory or the Art and Design Building, the Red Oak Rain Garden, or permeable pavement at the Siebel Center for Design or Parking Lot C9), and the goal is to greatly expand this reach.

The RMP, which supports several campus plans, such as the Illinois Climate Action Plan (iCAP) and Campus Landscape Master Plan (CMLP), makes recommendations on how and where to do this in each sub-drainage area. It's an exciting proposal that recognizes rainwater for its beautiful benefits. After all, it's a vital element of rainbows. Download the RMP booklet or watch the April 2025 RMP Presentation about the vision at <https://fs.illinois.edu/Projects/rainwater-management-program/>. Also look for a new video about the RMP (coming soon!) on the F&S YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UofIFS>.



Upcoming Calendar Dates

Through Nov. 12
Campus Charitable Fund Drive

September 21 to 27
Illinois Homecoming

September 30
F&S Fall Blood Drive

October 22
Noontime Knowledge

October 23
All-Employee Expo

November 11
Veterans Day

Noontime Knowledge Recaps

Three Perspectives on Disability Pride

With Disability Pride Month falling in July, the Diversity and Inclusion Committee hosted a program of three short videos that each had a different take on the subject. First up was an overview of the disability rights movement. The video explained that people with disabilities make up the largest minority group in the United States (about 20 percent of the population) and discussed three “models of disability” that closely parallel the history of the movement:

Moral model: Considered a disability an “act of God” to be pitied or shunned. In the mid-1800s, residential programs were introduced but largely served to keep people with disabilities out of the public eye. Programs like this continued until the 1980s.

Medical model: Considered a disability something to be pitied and, ostensibly, to try to cure. This model was supposedly science based, but in fact it was embraced by the eugenics movement whose adherents worried that if people with disabilities reproduced, then the gene pool would be compromised. This model began in the 1880s with isolation, but once techniques for sterilization were available (beginning in the 1920s), people with disabilities were often forced to submit to this so-called treatment. In some places, including Nazi Germany in the 1940s, people with disabilities were even killed to ensure “the purity” of the “ideal” human race.

Social model: Considered a disability to be a problem of society, which should change to create equal access. After World War II, advocates for people with disabilities, including the people themselves, said enough. In the 1950s, the idea of disability rights began to take hold as the civil rights movement gained traction. Disability activists organized, protested, and pushed for change. Eventually, this led to the Americans with Disabilities Act and other reforms.

The disability rights movement remains important today because it “takes consistent activism to maintain them . . . no rights are ever safe.” People constantly need to defend and strengthen the rights already gained; they also need to push to expand rights where possible. Being vigilant is the only way to ensure that disability rights, or really any right, will endure.

With this background explained, the D&I committee then presented two short videos that feature women with U. of I. ties: Jean Driscoll and Temple Grandin. Driscoll’s film outlines her journey to wheelchair athletics and her many wins in wheelchair racing. With this success, Driscoll was able to empower others, including helping disabled athletes in Ghana find respect and acceptance.

Grandin’s video is her TED talk on “Educating Different Kinds of Minds.” She explained different types of thinking, including photorealistic visual, pattern (visual-spatial), verbal facts (language), and auditory. She noted that society has not always valued people who do not fit nicely into a box. Grandin reflected that she herself has autism, but of course that word was not in use when she was a child. She advocated for recognizing different strengths and meeting people where they are.

To view these videos in their entirety, go to the following:

- A Brief History of the Disability Rights Movement: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNYhFDpAHtk>
- Making Their Mark – Jean Driscoll: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=651aSYze4UY>
- Educating Different Kinds of Minds – Temple Grandin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqntS1YRRO4>

Faculty/Staff Assistance and Well-Being Services Is Here to Help You

The most recent Noontime Knowledge featured Sara Maxwell, assistant director, and Yasmin Ofiana, program assistant, from Faculty/Staff Assistance and Well-Being Services (FSAWS). In her talk, Maxwell ran down the many—often customizable—programs available to university employees across a range of wellness topics, including emotional, environmental, financial, occupational, physical, social, and more. Ofiana made them easy to connect with by supplying links and answering questions in the chat during the program. Here are some you should absolutely check out:

- **Counseling Services:** Licensed professionals are available at no cost to faculty, staff, retirees, and their household members. Maxwell noted that you don’t have to be in crisis to establish a relationship with a counselor.
- **Well-Being Services:** Try Dare to Dream or Art Journaling, learn about Financial Fitness, explore Mindfulness & Movement, or sample the Program-of-the-Month. These offerings are “designed to inspire and empower you.”
- **Crisis Support:** FSAWS can connect you to mental health help during business hours through their counselors and 24/7 through their partner Rosecrance.
- **Emergency Funding:** If you have a short-term monetary crisis, like trouble meeting your mortgage or rent payments, you can request financial help from this fund.

- **Resources Hub:** Information, links, and tools to address many wellness goals are available here.

These resources are linked at <https://humanresources.illinois.edu/about/culture-learning-engagement/faculty-staff-assistance-and-well-being-services/>.

Koa Care 360: The university’s partnership with Koa Care allows team members to use this personalized mental health app for free. Go to <https://www.guidanceresources.com> and choose Register. When prompted for the Organization Web ID enter StateofIllinois. Then follow the prompts to complete your registration. Once registered, you can use the Koa Care app.

Terryberry Be Well: Download the Be Well app on your device or smartphone or go to <https://walkaroundil.thrives.app/login>. Use your employee email address to register to use the well-being platform that can help you form good habits in the areas of mindfulness, nutrition, sleep, weight, and mood.

Maxwell also announced that FSAWS resources will soon be available from the Illinois app! To view the recording of this Noontime Knowledge and learn about other available resources for you, go to <https://www.youtube.com/@UofIFS>.

F&S This Fall

Bike to Work Day a Success

September is Bike Month in Champaign County. This year, Bike to Work Day celebrated its 15th year. Nearly 900 people preregistered for the event, pledging to stop by one of the 16 stations across the county, eight of which were located on campus. These campus locations generally saw the most traffic, with the Alma Mater Plaza location, for example seeing about 135 riders. T-shirts and snacks were distributed to the cyclists by volunteers (85 signed up to help!).



Learn more about Bike Month at <https://cubikemonth.weebly.com/>. Still need to register your bike? Go to <https://bike.illinois.edu/register-your-bike/>.

Campus Charitable Fund Drive (CCFD) Underway

F&S team members have been supporting the CCFD program for decades. Donations of any size are welcome! If you'd like to participate this year, you can contribute to the charities you choose through payroll deduction or one-time gift. With payroll deduction, you can pledge as little as \$1 per pay period (bi-weekly) or \$2 per pay period (monthly) for each charity you wish to support. Learn more at <https://ccfd.illinois.edu/give/>.

Fire Extinguisher Training

F&S Code Compliance & Fire Safety and the Champaign and Urbana Fire Departments have a course to teach people basic fire extinguisher use, and it's open to U. of I. students and staff throughout the semester. Up to 35 people can participate in each session, with training opportunities in locations across campus. See the schedule or sign up at <https://fs.illinois.edu/News/fall-fire-extinguisher-training/>.

Do you bleed Orange & Blue?
Let's find out.

Come to the F&S Fall Blood Drive!

Now with Afternoon Hours!

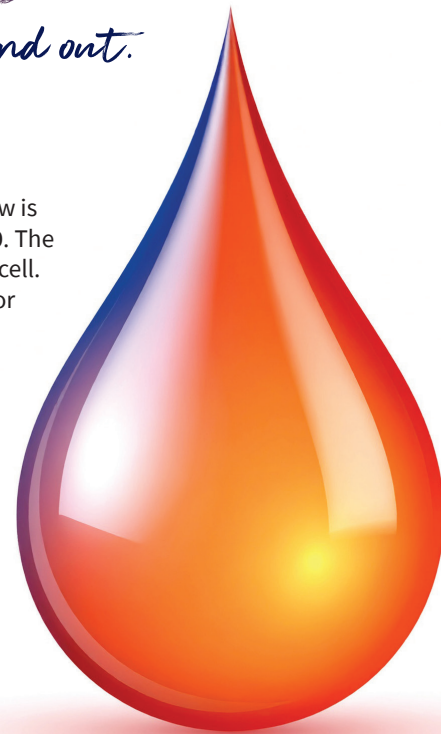
If you've been wanting to donate blood at F&S, but prefer to wait until after you've had your lunch, now is your chance! Sign up for the fall blood drive, which offers afternoon hours on **Tuesday, September 30**. The drive begins at 11 a.m., and there are slots available until 3 p.m. for both whole blood and double red cell. Donate blood and receive a voucher for a \$20 gift card! Sign up at <https://go.fs.illinois.edu/BloodDrive> or by contacting Steve Breitwieser sbreit@illinois.edu, 217-300-2155.

Now, your donation can count doubly. Register your donation at the F&S drive (Text DONATE to 222688 (ABBOTT) or go to <https://bigten.org/abbott/>) and earn a limited-edition Homefield vintage Illini T-shirt while helping the U. of I. in a friendly competition with the other Big Ten schools. The university whose supporters donate the most blood during the competition (ending December 5) will win \$1 million to use toward health initiatives. And in case it motivates you to donate at F&S or at another campus drive, the Badgers are currently winning. You can also check the standings at the link.

Blood donation is always an approved activity with prior supervisory approval. Team members may charge up to one hour to work order {XX-9999} phase 42 Blood Donations.



Sign up!



Facilities & Services

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