

INSIDE

Page 3

Y-12: DOE's Mentor of the Year

Page 3

Getting healthier together

Pages 4

5 tips to help you pass the test

Pages 5

Y-12's rhythm makers strike a chord

Page 6

Why four employees return to class

Page 7

Sticking to New Year's resolutions

Page 8

Apprenticeship program replaces critical skills

Volume 8, No. 8

August 2008

www.y12.doe.gov/news/times.php

P.O. Box 2009

Oak Ridge, TN 37831-8245

B&W Technical Services Y-12, LLC, a partnership between Babcock & Wilcox Technical Services Group Inc. and Bechtel National Inc., operates the Y-12 National Security Complex.

Managing Editors

Amy Alley
alleyab@y12.doe.gov
Heidi Spurling
spurlinghw@y12.doe.gov

Layout/Design
Lisa Harris

Contributors

Ellen Boatner
Ken Davis
Kathy Fahey
Vicki Hinkel
Kathryn King-Jones
Jamie Loveday
Mary Murray

Brett Pate
Ray Smith
Donna Watson
Lisa Xiques



From left: Ted Sherry (Y-12 Site Office), Bill Ostendorff (NNSA) and Darrel Kohlhorst (B&W Y-12) sign a banner commemorating Y-12's Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program.

LEADING TRANSFORMATION

The National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) celebrated a footprint reduction milestone Aug. 13—the demolition of more than 3 million square feet of aging and excess facilities across the Nuclear Weapons Complex (NWC). The Y-12 National Security Complex demolished more than one-third of the total square feet. Reaching this milestone, more than one year ahead of schedule, is helping to pave the way for transformation of all NWC sites.

NNSA celebrated the milestone with a ceremony at Y-12. The demolition work falls under NNSA's Facilities and Infrastructure Recapitalization Program (FIRP).

Mike Richesin, Y-12's FIRP manager, said, "The FIRP-sponsored activities play a major role in Y-12's transformation efforts. We prioritize demolition activities and focus on removing nonessential buildings."

The FIRP mission is to restore, rebuild and revitalize the physical infrastructure of the NWC, with one of the program's primary goals being to remove or demolish structures no longer needed to meet NNSA missions.

Bill Ostendorff, principal deputy administrator of NNSA, came to Y-12 and took the ceremonial first blow on a building in "Engineering Row," which pushed the NWC total past the three-million-square-foot mark.

By the end of fiscal year 2008, Y-12 will have demolished buildings equaling 149,000 square feet. "FIRP has safely demolished 284 aging facilities at Y-12 between FY 2002 and FY 2008," Richesin said.

NEW faces, NEW design, NEW energy

Preliminary design for the new Uranium Processing Facility (UPF) is gaining ground. About 20 designers from Merrick & Company moved into the project's offices in March and immediately went to work on several initial task orders. Merrick was awarded a basic ordering agreement (BOA) in February with a potential value of \$30 million to provide preliminary and detailed design as well as Title III construction support services through September 2015 for the UPF project's process systems and specialty mechanical equipment. About 10 more Merrick staff members will come onboard by the end of the year.

See NEW, pg. 2



//
I'm
thrilled to
be here. I
feel a lot
of positive
energy."

—Phil Schuetz,
UPF project manager

NEW, cont. from pg. 1

Two more BOAs with a total potential value of about \$37 million were recently awarded to CH2M HILL Inc. and Jacobs Engineering Group Inc. to provide facility preliminary and detailed design, as well as Title III construction support services for UPF through September 2014. Almost 30 CH2M HILL staff members and about 50 Jacobs employees are expected on the project's doorstep by October.

The final BOA for process systems and equipment design is to be awarded this fall.

Another new face joining the project is Phil Schuetz, who was named the UPF project manager in June. Schuetz brings extensive and diverse commercial and government experience to the project.

"I'm really looking forward to this job and working closely with the team to deliver a world-class facility to our National Nuclear Security Administration customer," Schuetz said.

Schuetz is bringing another type of energy to the team, especially on Thursdays, when he shows his support of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research by wearing pink shirts and, thanks to an anonymous donor, now sports a new pink Y-12 ball cap.

Welding: It's a j-o-i-n-t effort



Ken Nicklas (right) works with welder Virgil Waddell at an electron-beam welding machine.

Weld defects in the nuclear business simply cannot be tolerated, so Ken Nicklas works with national laboratory partners and Y-12 welders to perfect welds way before they're made on weapons systems parts.

"We advise on welding processes that best meet design goals," he said. "We develop welds and then turn them over to Production. They run with it, and if there are problems, we provide troubleshooting support on the shop floor."

Recently, Nicklas, an Applied Technologies metallurgical engineer, has been improving the efficiency and enhancing the use of the Faraday cup to produce better welds.

The Faraday cup measures how much energy an electron beam puts out. In the late 1990s, scientists at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) developed a modified Faraday cup that provided an improved diagnostic tool for measuring electron beams. Nicklas and others have been working with LLNL researchers for the past eight years to refine the modified cup.

"Based on Y-12's feedback," he said, "there have been several iterations of the design of the modified Faraday cup. We use the . . . cup to verify the electron-beam machine is producing the same beam that will result in the same weld time after time."

He estimates that before the modified Faraday cup, it took a minimum of six test welds. Now it takes three welds.

Nicklas will receive the A. F. Davis Silver Medal Award at the American Welding Society's 2008 Welding Show this October for co-authoring an article on the modified Faraday cup that was published in the *Welding Journal* (December 2007) .

Y-12 is small businesses leader

// Mentors are going beyond their everyday jobs by advising and helping proteges”

—Gloria Mencer, Socioeconomic Programs Office manager

B&W Y-12 was named Mentor of the Year and received a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretarial Award for its dedication in encouraging small business participation in fiscal year 2007. The award was presented to Gloria Mencer, Socioeconomic Programs Office manager, at this year’s DOE annual small business conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Mencer said the award shows “Y-12 understands the importance of small businesses.”

B&W Y-12 has the most protégés (15 businesses and five historically black colleges and universities) of any DOE prime contractor. “Our goal is to have 45 percent of our work contracted to small

businesses. We are exceeding our goal, performing at almost 51 percent,” Mencer said.

Darrel Kohlhorst, president and general manager, said, “In working with Y-12 protégés, we are not only helping them become established businesses but also building a solid vendor-base, which furthers our national security mission.”

Mencer plans to enhance Y-12’s program. “I want our program to grow in substance—offer more training sessions to protégés, get more employees involved as mentors. The mentors and sponsors we have are great; it would be wonderful for more employees to benefit from working with small businesses,” she added.

For more information about the program, contact Mencer (gmv; 576-2090).



Bill Thornton (right) of Procurement Operations presents President and General Manager Darrel Kohlhorst with the Mentor of the Year Award B&W Y-12 received from the U.S. Department of Energy.

Making wellness a priority

The Y-12 Employee Wellness Team has been working hard to meet some requests and recommendations of the almost 1,500 employees (922 males and 572 females) who responded to the online wellness survey in April.

The wellness team, which began last fall as part of the President’s ES&H Forum, continues to work to make “health wants” a reality. The new wellness website (<http://home1.y12.doe.gov/wellness/>) is one tool available to employees. “The survey showed us that employees want to improve their physical and mental well-being,” said Doug LeVan, employee team coordinator. “The website has information on the walking program, What You Feel Counts and links to helpful websites, both internal and external.”

A wellness coordinator also has been hired. Levette Bethea, who has a bachelor’s degree in health, wellness and promotions, joined the Y-12 team in August. In a future issue of *The Y-12 Times*, you’ll meet Bethea and find out her plans for the program.

Other tasks the team has accomplished include kicking off the walking program. The Y-12 Start! Walking Program, based on an American Heart Association program, is under way with more than 800 employees participating.

The wellness team also has started monthly wellness events. Biking, hiking, walking and camping have been featured. Additional events are planned throughout the summer.

“The team continues to work on employees’ desires,” LeVan added.

Stay tuned to
YSource and
The Y-12 Times
as the
wellness program
becomes
healthier in its
offerings.

5 TIPS for security success

Safeguards, Security, & Emergency Services is preparing for the safeguards, security and cyber inspection this fall, and a big part of that preparation is helping all employees prepare.

Remember these helpful tips when approached by an Oversight Assessment (OA) inspector.

1. Be confident.
2. Answer the question that is asked. Don't elaborate.
3. If asked a question you don't understand, ask for clarification.
4. If you don't know the answer to a question, assure the inspector that you will find the answer and follow up.
5. Report any areas of interest to the inspectors to Safeguards, Security, & Emergency Services.

Check out Y-12's website (<http://home1.y12.doe.gov/oa/>) about the upcoming U.S. Department of Energy OA. This site includes contact information, links, reference material and other information. The tips section is in question-and-answer format and addresses many commonly asked questions.

Stay prepared. Bookmark the OA site and visit it frequently for updates.

Happy anniversary

The first group of employees took residence in the Jack Case and New Hope centers one year ago. Now, more than 1,300 employees call these facilities home, allowing the destruction of numerous ancillary buildings on site and providing comfortable, new space for one-third of Y-12's employees.

Lawler-Wood Y-12 LLC manages the buildings. During the last year, Lawler-Wood Y-12 successfully completed more than 5,000 formal work requests and countless spur-of-the-moment requests. Its staff of 48 employees works in shifts operating and maintaining the new facilities 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. More than \$1.75 million in tenant improvement projects have been logged. Some of these projects—workstation modifications, new whiteboards in offices, additional coat hooks in workstations, outdoor tables and umbrellas and a new raised floor in NHC auditorium control room to name a few—have made the buildings more user-friendly. “Lawler-Wood Y-12 is dedicated to keeping the buildings clean and well maintained and to handling all service calls promptly. Facility management at Y-12 poses unique challenges—mainly security—not encountered in typical commercial facility management,” said Bill Hartsfield, facility manager for both buildings.

Ron Cloud of Business Services moved from an off-site facility to New Hope and is very happy with its location and convenience. He said, “It's great to be in a nice, new building with all of my co-workers easily accessible. We have lots of windows so the lighting is very good, and we also have several conference rooms nearby, saving travel time.”

Approximately 6,000 square feet on the first floor of the Jack Case Center is the future home of the JCATS computer lab, which is now located in 9114. The space will include several offices, team rooms and a new conference room tailored to this group's needs.

History in the making

The Y-12 History Exhibit Hall in the New Hope Center celebrated its first anniversary in July.

Y-12 historian Ray Smith said, “It's rare when someone is not there viewing the historic artifacts, watching the DVD of the history of Y-12 or just reminiscing about the past.”

Members of the Louisiana National Guard visited while training at Y-12; a group from Russia and a group from Japan also visited.

“The exhibit hall is becoming so well known that folks from out of town are stopping by, and retirees find it interesting to look through past issues of the newsletters for familiar faces. It is not uncommon to have 60-passenger tour buses from as far away as Atlanta and Nashville stop by.

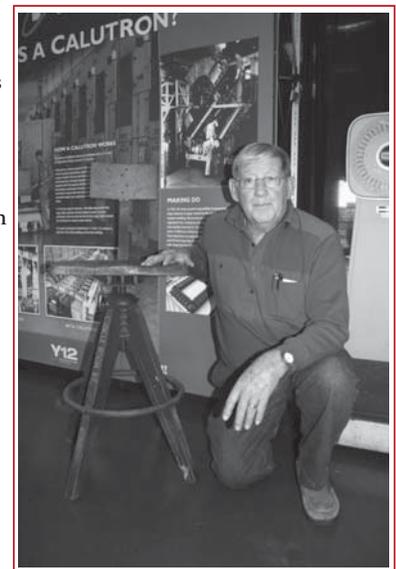
“More than 200 people attended the recent literacy reception held in the area adjacent to the exhibit hall. Dr. William Bass [Founder of the University of Tennessee's Forensic Anthropology Center] was the featured speaker.”

The U.S. Department of Energy public tours bring 30 to 35 people to the exhibit hall daily, and the 2008 Secret City Festival brought more than 400 attendees to the center.

“Y-12's new face is sure being seen by lots of folks,” Smith exclaimed.

The hall is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and by special request on Friday or Saturday.

If you have Y-12 artifacts that would be good additions to the exhibit hall, please contact Smith (srd; 576-7781) or Jennifer Dixon (jen; 576-5715).



Maurice Wood, a Y-12 retiree, found this calutron stool in a yard sale. The stool is now part of the Y-12 History Exhibit Hall.

Jazz it up!

You might think that there's little opportunity to make music at Y-12, but for a certain group of employees, it's the right place to be. The Y-12 Jazz Band has been playing since 2004 with an assortment of members and instruments, and they all agree that music makes the job better. They bring jazz to the job when they play for functions such as the United Way kickoff and the Secret City Festival.

Most of the members have had a long-term interest in music. Tim Stone has been playing drums "ever since I heard my first Beatles song around 1966." Gary Bowman has been playing the trumpet for 50 years. Ken Wills picked up the saxophone in 4th grade, and Tony Manzo started playing at age 7.

Being able to incorporate a hobby into a job is a plus for the band members. "It's an opportunity to interact with co-workers in an additional dimension," said Alan Fisher. Brad Lyon pointed out it contributes to positive plant morale. "I've been able to meet people that I probably wouldn't have otherwise run into," Will Kirkland said. And Kevin Ross declared, "It's nice to be able to give a little back to the company—after all, they keep my lights on!"

The band is always open to new members. Musicians interested in joining a great group should contact Manzo (a6m; 576-2360).

For members of the Y-12 Jazz Band, music is the way to unite people from different areas into a harmonious relationship—and that sounds good to everyone at Y-12.



Changes to the YES family

The Y-12 Employees' Society (YES) recently had a board member change when one of the founding members and then president, Ala Montgomery, retired. She left YES in the capable hands of Lisa Harris, a board member of YES since 2004.

Did you know that the YES board members have established discounts with local vendors to help employees save money on various items and services? Board members also have planned trips at discounted prices for employees to take advantage.

"YES was established to enhance employee morale," Montgomery explained.

Both Montgomery and Harris think YES is important to employees. Harris said, "YES provides great opportunities to gather together outside of work. If employees, who aren't familiar with YES or haven't participated in a YES-sponsored event, would take a trip with us, join a sports team or attend the annual holiday celebration or egg hunt, they would realize how much fun we have in sharing time with our co-workers outside of the work environment."

YES is a great organization, but it can be better if more people get involved. All work with YES is on a volunteer basis. Contact Harris (lh4; 576-2658) for more information about YES.

YES

Upcoming events

New York City: Sept. 4–7

Angel tree: Nov. 12–26

Holiday celebrations

Dec. 11—employees only

Dec. 13—children and grandchildren of employees

BACK TO SCHOOL: Why four employees return to class



Gammy (as Alex calls his grandmother, Donna Ethridge) likes going to school with her grandson. "It makes a difference to him," she said. "Alex feels special."

In memoriam

Mike Ward of Facilities, Infrastructure and Services passed away July 19. He had 30 years of company service.

"When thinking of Mike, one word that sticks out is pal," said co-worker Jason Coker. "As a union steward or helping me in Planning, many times Mike said, 'We'll make it, Pal' or 'It will be all right, Pal.' He was a friend and a brother. I'm confident when Mike reached heaven, he heard, 'Well done, thy good and faithful servant.'"

SERVICE



ANNIVERSARIES

August

46 years

Applied Technologies: Matthew J. O'Hara

40 years

Engineering: Edward T. Johnson Jr.

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Herbert F. Shanklin

Production: David P. Bryant

30 years

Business Services: Robert L. Bandy, Pamela J. Crisp and James C. Pease Jr.

Engineering: James T. Cox III

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:

Lawrence T. Otoole and Bruce E. Walton

Human Capital: Dana J. Davis

For Renee Pierce, Donna Ethridge, Sheila Garrett and Anne Backus, volunteering on their day off in their children's or grandchildren's classrooms is a natural extension of the work week.

In fact, it wouldn't seem like Friday without stuffing homework folders, serving lunch, chaperoning a field trip, collecting money for school drives or helping with crafts.

"If you're involved, you can help guide their education," explained Pierce of the Financial Performance Assessment group on why she volunteers in daughter Delaney's and son Oran's classrooms. "I want to see what's going on in my kids' lives."

Ethridge of General Accounting said volunteering in her grandson Alex's school is way of staying on top of things. "The biggest advantage is knowing what's going on in school," she said. "You pay attention, so you know how well he's doing and if he's had a bad day."

Six-year-old Emily wishes her mom could go to school with her every day. "She makes me feel appreciated," said Emily's mom, Garrett of Training. **"I take ownership of my child's education. If I show interest, it will make Emily want to do better in school."**

Backus, Readiness in Technical Base and Facilities, noted that volunteering is important throughout a child's academic career, not just in early childhood. "I get to know their friends," said Backus, the mom of Emily and Catherine, both 16, and Anne Marie, 21, and Emily and Catherine's school's band booster president. "There are a lot of neat, interesting kids out there."

Information Technology: David G. Ball and Janelle J. Dunigan

Production: James M. Dagley and Pamela J. Fritts

Quality Assurance: Barbara D. Carmichael and Richard J. Davis

25 years

Business Services: Cynthia M. Bailey

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services:

Roxanne R. Leedy

Production: Teresa J. Goodpasture

Program Planning: James D. Plemmons

20 years

Environment, Safety and Health: Astrid Brynstad, Mark A. Burdette and Laura L. Cunningham

Facilities, Infrastructure and Services: Gary L. Phillips

Human Capital: Cheryl S. Sanz

Legal: Diana L. Johnson

Production: Tonya M. Barnard

Justice: ‘Make sure it’s done right’

She may not be high on the seniority list, but Lara Justice already has a name for speaking up and expecting changes for the better. Justice, who has clocked a little more than a year as a chemical operator in Production, said, “Sometimes it takes a new person asking questions to see that things can be done better.”

Being safe and following procedures are big deals because high-pressure presses, airborne irritants, forklifts, and bending and stooping are all part of the job. One of Justice’s first suggestions was to install a plastic-sleeve door separating the break room from the operating area. The new door allows visibility while ensuring that irritants don’t migrate into the eating area. Adding a light to a glovebox was another suggestion. “It might seem like a small thing, but now it’s easier to see what we’re doing,” she said.

Justice began as a cafeteria worker and moved on to laborer before landing her current job. “Working as a laborer changed my life,” she said. “Learning how to operate power tools and big forklifts and working at high elevations gave me confidence that I could do just about anything.

“In my current job, I know I have to try harder because I’m the new person,” she said, “and I think my attitude may encourage others. Maybe a lot of people could do my job, but you need to go the extra mile to make sure it’s done right.”



Lara Justice of Production goes the extra mile to make sure the job is done right.

Sticking to it

With more than half of 2008 gone, we’re checking in with some people who entered this year’s New Year’s Resolution Contest. Good news: Many are sticking to their pledges and seeing good results.

Production’s Lynda Bryan, a recycling advocate, began urging co-workers to go greener. “Six in my group have converted to recycling plastic bottles,” she said. “Another person has joined me in carrying tote bags back and forth to the grocery.”

Susan Beeler of Business Services resolved to be more involved in her neighborhood. “Picking up roadside trash, weeding adjacent yards, running a book club and planning events for the women’s group have become routine,” she said.

The most popular pledge, of course, was to exercise and lose weight. Facilities, Infrastructure and Services’ Will Farmer runs more than his 15-mile-per-week goal. While Engineering’s Mark Gibbs has lost 11 pounds, but more importantly has decreased body fat by 9 percent and gained muscle mass. Jay Everett of Engineering has lost 14 pounds and several inches in the waistline by running regularly.

Rebecca Dotson of Safeguards, Security, & Emergency Services changed her routine after adopting two pets; now in place of exercise class, she takes long walks with the dogs. Karen Tipton of Human Capital may not get to all the classes she intended, but she walks or rides her bike. Both women are strong advocates of the Y-12 Start! Walking Program.

What makes for success? Strong determination and good feedback are tops. At least one resolution has led to another benefit: “Aggressive digging in my yard is great therapy after a stressful day at the office!” said Beeler.

My resolution is ...

At almost every staff meeting, I stress ways we can recycle.

—Lynda Bryan, Production

My yard has gotten rave reviews, other neighbors have begun working on their yards, I’ve traded plants and made new acquaintances, and some of the younger women have asked me for gardening tips. All of this from picking up trash!

—Susan Beeler, Business Services

Combining diet and exercise is best because you lose more fat rather than muscle.

—Mark Gibbs, Engineering

I try not to get caught up in the immediate results because it’s a change in lifestyle. For me, the key to fitness is making it a family affair.

—Jay Everett, Engineering

Coming in September

Y-12 will celebrate the completion of the Highly Enriched Uranium Materials Facility. Stay tuned to YSource for details.

PRSRT
STD
PAID
U. S. Postage

Permit #36
Powell, TN

Traffic Safety Expo

Sept. 24

Jack Case Center Courtyard
1–3:30 p.m.

Contact Ed Werden
(e4n; 576-6048)



Apprentices, including welders, will receive on-the-job training in critical skill areas.

Replacing critical skills

With what looks to be a resurgence of the nuclear power industry, particularly across the Southeast, skilled craft workers are in short supply. That's why Y-12 is reviving an apprenticeship program to recruit and train workers in nine skilled crafts.

The apprenticeships will be for boilermakers, carpenters, electricians, insulators, ironworker/riggers, outside machinists/millwrights, painters, pipefitters, air conditioning and refrigeration mechanics and welders. Bill Klemm, vice president for Facilities, Infrastructure and Services (FI&S), and Garry Whitley, president of the Atomic Trades and Labor Council (the organization that represents the union work force at Y-12), are working together to move the program forward.

Whitley said, "More than half of the craft workers at Y-12 could retire in the next few years, and it will be difficult to replace them with trained workers from the general labor pool."

When Y-12 advertised for applicants for its apprenticeship program, 2,610 people applied and paid a fee to take the mathematics and reading comprehension test for one of 50 apprenticeship spots.

Apprentices will be full-time Y-12 employees, where they will receive their on-the-job training in critical skill areas. They also must attend classroom training sessions conducted by the respective union locals. Apprenticeship length varies by craft.

Completion of the apprenticeship will result in the trainees earning their journeyman's card.

Eva Irwin of FI&S coordinated the registration and aptitude testing phase of the program. "We had people from all over East Tennessee and from as far away as Lexington, Ky., apply. There has been tremendous interest in this program," she said.