DISPATCH
Facilities & Services
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
January 2009
Volume 8 Issue 1

Retrocommissioning Reaches a Milestone

Retrocommissioning, a division of Engineering, is helping the University by leading Facilities & Services' biggest collaboration and energy savings efforts one building at a time.

In a little over one year, Facilities & Services has upgraded one million square feet of campus building systems, saving 20% on average in energy costs. **Karl Helmink**, Mechanical Engineer, stated that it is anticipated that completed projects will continue to save at least $875,000 per year in future energy costs.

Debris in the air ducts, like the one pictured above from Turner Hall, severely reduce building systems' ability to run at peak efficiency. Retrocommissioning identifies problems like these to save energy on campus.

This effort exemplifies everything the University has asked of its community – make the most of our existing resources (our facilities); find creative, innovative ways to reduce costs (find small improvements that produce big returns); and help reduce our carbon footprint by increasing energy efficiency (occupancy schedules, etc.).

Why Retrocommissioning?

Retrocommissioning generally applies to those elements of a building you seldom see – the mechanical operating systems. It is an investigative process applied to existing buildings to determine how the heating, air-conditioning and ventilation systems were designed to work, how they are actually working, and how they can be made more efficient now and in the future.

Retrocommissioning is intended to perform tune-up and diagnostic testing to optimize building systems, not to cover major repairs.

Where are they retrocommissioning?

Retrocommissioning has revamped mechanical systems in seven campus buildings so far: Turner Hall, Newmark Civil Engineering Building, ACES Library, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, National Soybean Research Center, Music Building, and the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory. The team is continuing work in the Animal Sciences Laboratory.

Retrocommissioning's work to "save the planet one building at a time" as **Damon McFall,** Mechanical Engineer, describes it, has received positive feedback. Beyond the impact on the campus community, this effort has shown Facilities & Services' dedication to teamwork, communication, and commitment to save energy and campus funds. Without this team effort Retrocommissioning would not have been a success. ♦

A big thank you to the shops and other F&S groups who have helped make Retrocommissioning a huge success!

- DDC Electricians, Shop 55**,** Susan Orban, foreman
- Temperature Control Mechanics, Shop 41, Janet Rudicil, foreman
- Sheet Metal Workers, **Shop 6**, Artice James, foreman
- Pipefitters, Shop 23, Ken Madsen, foreman
- Plumbers, Shop 4, Steve Heath, foreman
- Refrigeration Mechanics, Shop 35, Tim Eckstein, foreman
- Steam Distribution, Shop 24, Joe Roberts, foreman
- Rob Fritz, Management Engineer
- Ken Buenting, assistant building maintenance superintendent, Building Maintenance
- Dean Henson, superintendent, Building Maintenance
- Carl Wegel, director, Maintenance
- Terry Ruprecht, director, Energy Conservation
- Engineering Design group, Robert Halverson, Management Engineer
- Engineering Services, Kent Reifsteck, director
- Capital Maintenance Planning group, Doris Reeser, capital maintenance planning coordinator
- Systems Control group, Bruce Mikos, coordinator
- Part-time students