

Can Do News

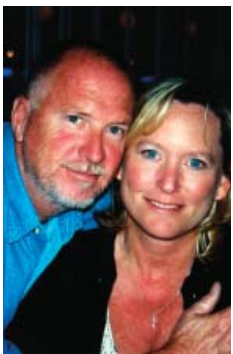
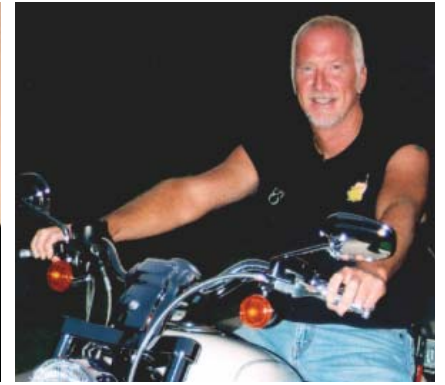


September 2008, Volume 6, Issue 3

MTSU Finance and Administration

James S. Luter

August 13, 1960—June 20, 2008



We in Facilities Services are profoundly saddened by the sudden passing of James Luter this summer. As manager of Grounds Services/Motor Pool, James was a dedicated employee who truly cared for the University. He did a great job leading Grounds Services every day but especially during the challenging expansion period of all areas on campus including the athletic and recreational fields.

James was also known as an extremely personable man who quickly became a friend to anyone he met. Those who knew him will not soon forget his smile, free spirit, and do-anything-for-you attitude: a real Can Do guy. So as you travel about the campus enjoying his imprint on the grounds and landscaping this year, take a moment and remember James and all the good things he did and represented.

"He took great pride in the appearance of MTSU and strived to make it better every day. We, the Grounds Services/Motor Pool employees, dearly miss him . . . every day."

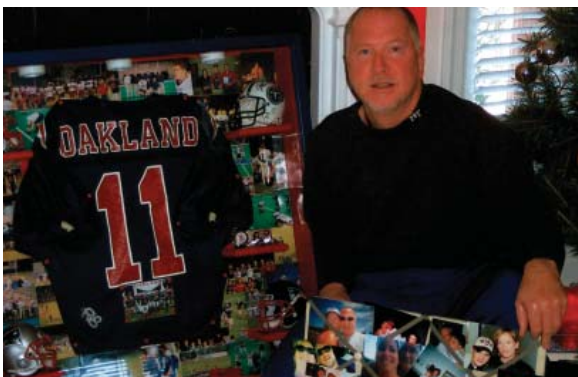
—Sherry York, Grounds Services

"James Luter was a unique fellow, one of a kind. He would be our boss and could be a friend. We all miss him in our own little ways. I personally will never forget him."

—Teresa Isbell, Grounds Services

"James never took credit for anything he did. The new baseball stadium's field will have a look and feel that he contributed to."

—Stephen Peterson, Baseball Coach



Message from the VP, John W. Cothern

As we now enter into the fall semester, I hope that your summer went well and that you were able to take some time off.

As I am sure you probably know by now, the state reduced our budget by \$6.156 million this year. Obviously, this required us to implement budget cuts. The reductions were made as efficiently as possible to protect the University's core mission of academics and instruction. The cuts affected the entire campus, and each college, department, and division was asked to make budget-trimming recommendations. The University first trimmed central campus administration budgets and pool accounts and then made reductions in all other areas, eliminating 44 positions across campus; however, no employees lost their jobs. The affected positions either had been unfilled or vacated by retirement, or the employees were transferred to other open positions on campus. Several services have been reduced or eliminated because of this as well. Although a tuition increase was approved by our board, the increased funds will not be able to cover the budget cuts. There are just too many fixed cost increases that have to be funded. Because of the dedication and good work of all University employees (although with a little bias toward our division), the University will still perform well for our students and the campus community.

Unfortunately, too, because of the state's financial condition, no salary increases were funded this year, and the University will not be permitted to give any increases independently as it has in the past. Hopefully, this will only be one-year occurrence.

Although there will be no salary increase, the state did fund a one-time bonus. A flat, \$400 per employee, one-time bonus payment will be paid October 31, 2008, to all unrestricted and restricted regular full-time and part-time faculty and staff with at least three (3) years of creditable service as of October 1, 2008. Regular part-time employees and postretirement service program participants will receive the one-time October salary bonus based upon their prorated amount of service.

We regret that we have again lost an employee in the division. James Luter passed away as a result of a motorcycle accident. He will be greatly missed.

Our Image Committee again has several events planned throughout the year. Please take time to participate.

As always, if you have any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your supervisor, department head, or myself as needed and appropriate.

Thanks much for your commitment and loyalty to MTSU, and I wish you a productive and good year.

Events

Employee Benefits Fair

Thursday, October 16, 2008,
James Union Building (JUB),
Tennessee Room,
9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m.



Chili Cook-Off, November 8, 2008

The Image Committee is planning a chili cook-off for Saturday, November 8, 2008, before the Homecoming football game against Louisiana–Monroe. We will be sending out more information regarding this event.



News

Congratulations to Shana Risinger! (Tennessee Miller Coliseum) She was awarded her Master's of Science in Mass Communication in May, 2008.

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Brian (Campus Planning) and Katie Dell on the birth of their daughter, Emelia Carol Dell, born June 16, 2008.

Congratulations to Debra Boyce (Campus Planning) on the birth of her first granddaughter, Chloe Danielle, born August 4, 2008.

Retirements

Congratulations to the following individuals on their much-deserved retirement:
Dean Smith, Facilities Services

Jo Ann Goodman, Murphy Center

Sue Cathey, Phillips Bookstore

Earl Harris, Phillips Bookstore

Barry Porterfield, Building Services

John Downs, Energy Services

Condolences

We offer our condolences to Brenda Dressler (Facilities Services) on the death of her husband, Jim Dressler.

Promotions

Congratulations to Denise Hollowell on being named director of Accounting Services.

Congratulations to Jack Stevens for being selected as assistant manager of the Tennessee Livestock Center.

Congratulations to Yvonne Dunaway on her promotion to custodial lead worker.

Congratulations to Dustin Hooks, the new director of the Ticket Office.

Congratulations to Emma Hayes on her promotion to financial analyst 2.

Congratulations to Jeff Whitwell on his promotion to director of Phillips Bookstore.

Ice Cream Social



Welcome to the following new employees

Diana Dennis
Campus Planning

Jamie Brewer
Campus Planning

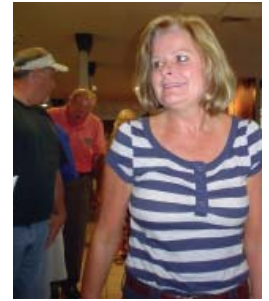
Stephen Peterson
Energy Services

Meredith Short
Event Coordination

Amie Chandler
Greenhouse Services

James Rowland
Tennessee Miller Coliseum

Ice Cream Social continued



Please visit our Web site
<http://mtsu.edu/~vpbf/crew.html>

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