



# CONNECTIONS

July 2008



## CEO Corner

As you may have seen (and heard), the construction of the mezzanine building expansion is fully underway. The temporary wall for noise abatement and dust was installed over the weekend of June 21. The workers from R. Miller are busy with the construction of this new addition for the impending home of the Drafting/Detailing department. This new 1,313 sq.ft. space includes nine (9) cubicle offices, two (2) work stations and one (1) private office. The 2nd floor men's restroom will also be expanded as well as reconfigured, eliminating hallway passage as it now exists. The bookcases are also being relocated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. (See page 4 for a detailed drawing of the office expansion/revision.) The estimated date of completion for the mezzanine project is late August.

This additional space will accommodate any additional staffing required over the next few years. The mezzanine build-out, in conjunction with the additional parking on the Tone Commander site will allow us to continue to grow our business in the near future.

Improvements are taking shape at UMC. Hopefully you noticed the new signage that went up on our building in May. These letters are large enough to spot from the bottom of the street and have made a significant difference to the look of the building.

On a different note, I would like to invite each employee and their family to the annual UMC company picnic approaching fast on August 9, at Juanita Beach Picnic Shelter in Kirkland from 10:30-2:30. There will be more details coming in the next few weeks, so mark your calendar for this entertaining and enjoyable event!

-Jerry Bush



## Safety

We have finished the first half of the year with only four recordable incidents. Of those four, only the one that happened in June is still open. Medical treatment and return to full duty work has been completed for the other three.

Our recordable rate of 2.65 is less than half of any year since 2003 and a 65% reduction from the 5 year average. This is a record to be proud of: keep up the good work. Remember don't walk past any unsafe condition or action. Correct the problem if you can or report it to your foreman immediately.

### **SAVE GAS AND SAVE LIVES: GO EASY ON THE ACCELERATOR**

There seems to be no stopping rising gas prices. Increasing population growth, energy intensity and globalization have led to a phenomenal rise in the use of

energy. And beyond leaving cars in the garage, walking, car pooling and taking public transportation, the American public doesn't have a lot of options with which they can cope.

Fortunately, there is another way to save gas: obey speed limits. The Department of Energy has already stressed that speeding, rapid acceleration and braking - all trademarks of aggressive driving - cut gas mileage by 30 percent on the highways and 5 percent on local roads. According to Roger Clark, a fuel economy engineer for General Motors, every 10 mph faster than 60 mph reduces fuel economy by about 4 mpg, a figure that remains fairly constant regardless of vehicle size.

But keeping to the speed limit doesn't only save gas. It also saves lives. Even a slight decline in car speeds and traffic volume can impact accident rates.

### **HANDS-FREE CELLPHONES ONLY**

Beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>, Washington drivers joined the more than 58 million people in other states who have to either hang up their cell phones or start using "hands-free" headsets while driving. In Washington, the law is a secondary offense, meaning a driver has to be pulled over for something like speeding before a ticket can be issued. The first offense ticket for holding a cell phone is \$120.

Washington has already banned texting while driving, but also at the secondary offense level. A total of 12 tickets were issued between January and June of this year for texting while driving,

according to the Washington State Patrol.

In 2007, there were more than 141,000 collisions in Washington State, and 158 of those had listed "operating" a hand-held device -- such as a cell phone or a MP3 player -- as a contributing factor, according to the state patrol.

While driving in Washington, hang up or use a hands-free device: it's the law. UMC policy discourages cell phone use at all while driving and of course follows the Washington state law prohibiting handheld phones while driving.

### STAR Performer-July

**MONICA TODD**



Monica Todd is this month's STAR Performer.

Monica started with UMC in 2005 and has since worn a variety of hats including A/P administrator, Front Desk Support, HR Support, PO Entry and Cell Phone Guru.

Most recently Monica was challenged with the daunting task of ordering, receiving, training and scheduling the switch over of approximately 145 cell

phones and PDA devices from AT&T and Nextel to Verizon Wireless. No small feat considering the multiple locations and service needs of both office and field personnel. Monica handled the process like she tackles all her duties; with tenacity, efficiency, organization and a smile on her face.

When not at work, Monica has been attending college and completed her Associate Arts degree this past spring in Human Resource Management. She would like to receive her bachelors in the same field and will start classes this fall. In addition to the demands of school and work, Monica and her husband ride herd over four children and she is actively involved with her church and a variety of charities.

We are delighted to have Monica as part of the UMC team and extremely proud of all her accomplishments!

-Submitted & Written by:  
Rich Munoz

### New Hires



Vanessa Witkowski started at UMC on Monday, June 30<sup>th</sup> as an Administrative Assistant in the

Fife office. Prior to joining UMC, Vanessa's professional experience both Administrative and Management has been in very diverse environments ranging from State Correctional facilities to Federal Regulation, Compliance & Safety in Transportation to Governmental Human Resources/Finance to Microsoft.

Vanessa spends her personal time with family and friends. Being a native of the Puget Sound Region, she has a natural love for outdoor activities inclusive of camping, gardening, boating, and skiing.



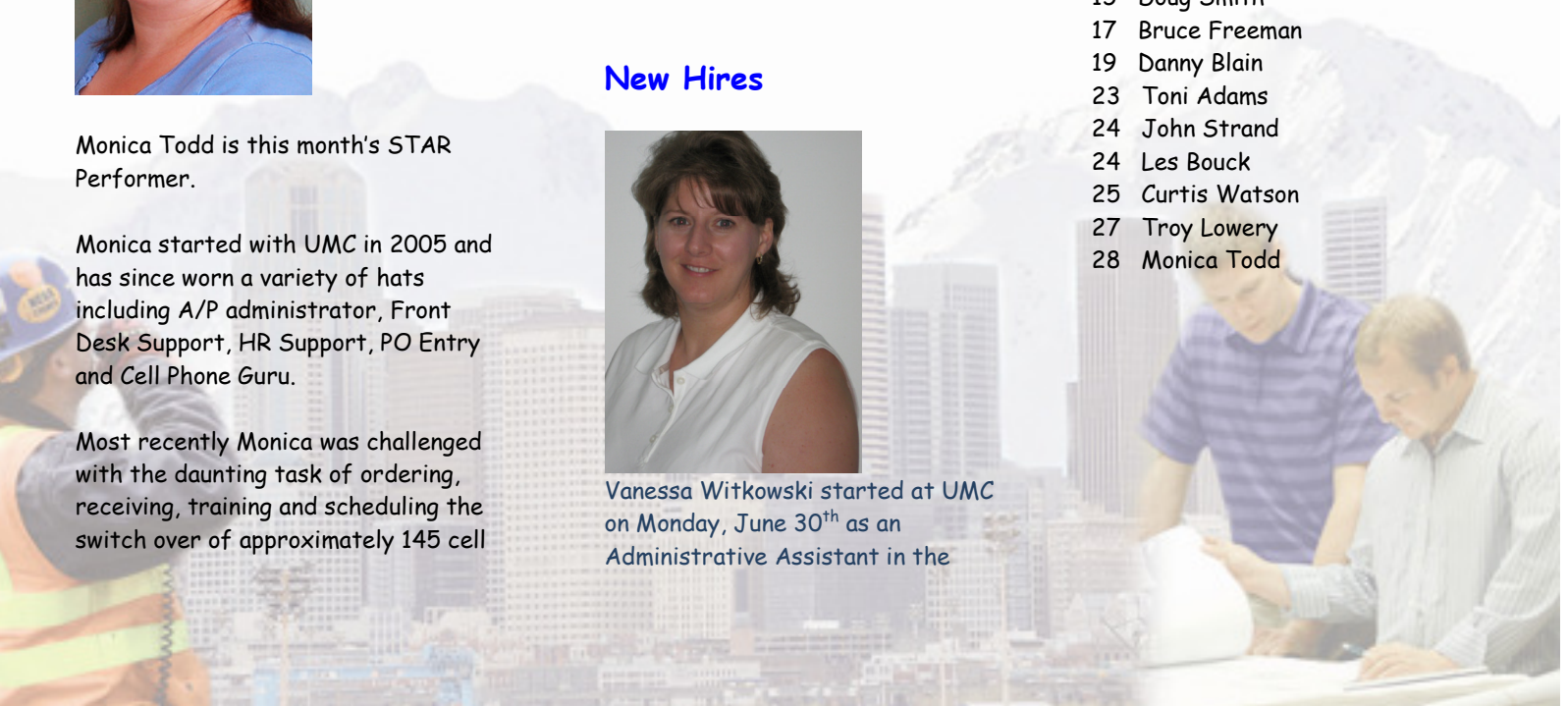
### Birthdays

#### July

- 5 Brittney Spurlock
- 9 Steve Miller
- 10 Julie Blanchard
- 14 Richard Farmer
- 15 Linda Weisberg
- 20 Vicky Rozis

#### August

- 15 Doug Smith
- 17 Bruce Freeman
- 19 Danny Blain
- 23 Toni Adams
- 24 John Strand
- 24 Les Bouck
- 25 Curtis Watson
- 27 Troy Lowery
- 28 Monica Todd





## Calendar of Events



### August

9<sup>th</sup>-Company Picnic (Juanita Park)

### September

7<sup>th</sup>-Golf Tournament (Harbour Point Golf Course)

### October

30<sup>th</sup>-Halloween Party

### December

12<sup>th</sup>-Santa Party

### January, 2009

10<sup>th</sup>-Holiday Party (Red Lion, Bellevue)

CONGRATULATIONS to the following employees for their 10+ years of dedication and service to UMC:

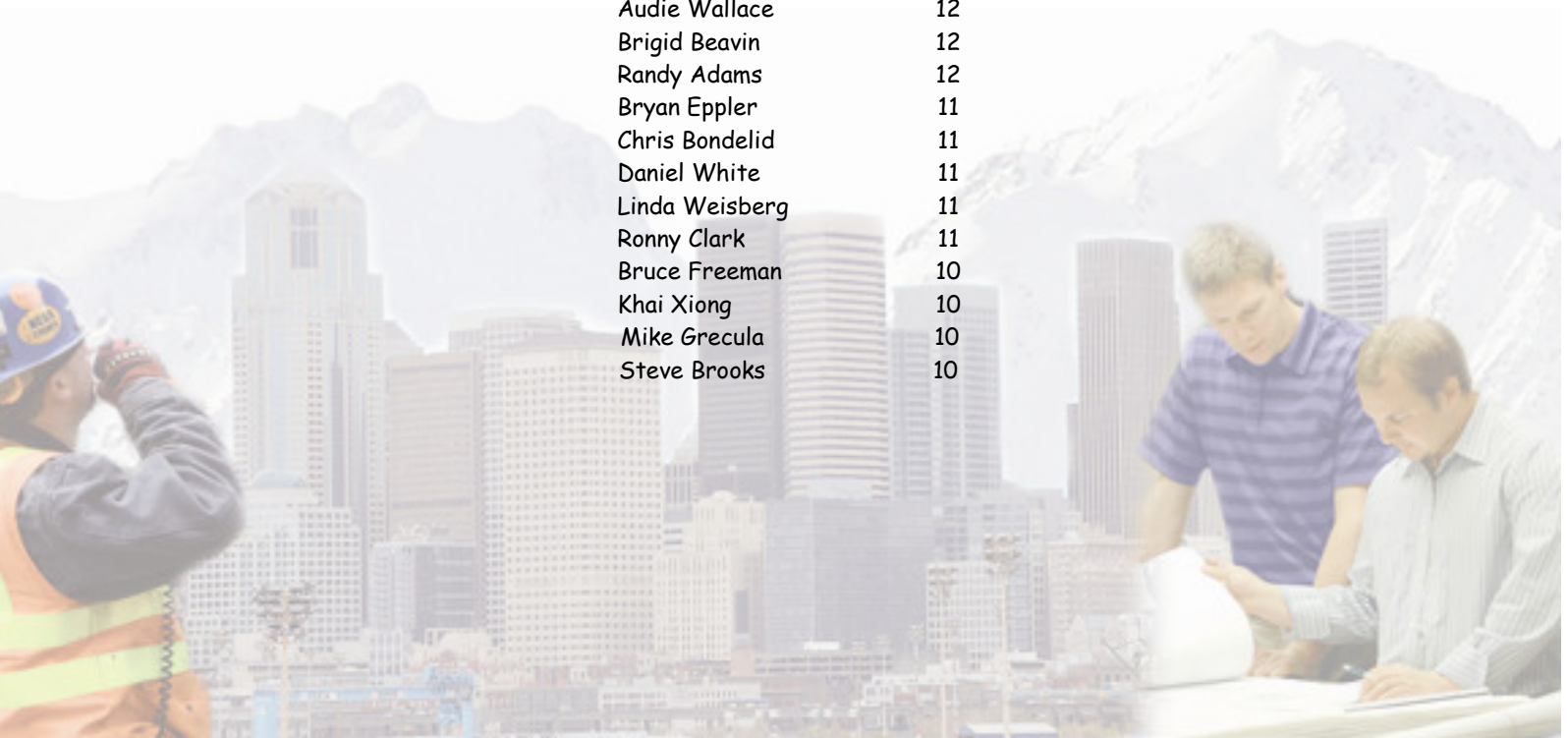
<u>Employee</u>	<u>Years of Service</u>
Rick Coulter	33
John Strand	32
Gary Peterson	27
Dick Kirk	27
Kenneth Zeumault	26
Ed Toyoji	25
Doug Smith	24
Ray Lind	24
Jerry Bush	19
Larry Savell	19
Randall Gaylor	19
Rick Hawkins	19
Ted Granston	17
Eric Oswald	17
Dean Petterson	16
Kurt Lechner	16
David Malone	16
Pat Damitio	15
Wayne Hakola	15
Matt Mifflin	15
Brett Endres	14
Floyd Burkey	14
Nathaniel Zeumault	14
Ed Willis	13
Mike Spencer	13
Audie Wallace	12
Brigid Beavin	12
Randy Adams	12
Bryan Eppler	11
Chris Bondelid	11
Daniel White	11
Linda Weisberg	11
Ronny Clark	11
Bruce Freeman	10
Khai Xiong	10
Mike Grecula	10
Steve Brooks	10

## Anniversaries

Matt Mifflin - 15 years

Steve Brooks - 10 years

Dave Hanson - 5 years



## AT&T BLACKBERRY & CELL PHONES "FOR SALE"



**TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO PURCHASE YOUR PHONE!!**

- Blackberry sale price is \$50

\*These phones have been previously used by UMC employees

- Cell phone sale price is \$25

**NOTE:** These phones only work with AT&T service!

All proceeds from the sale of the phones will go directly to UMCCF to distribute to charitable organizations in the Puget Sound area.

**Interested?**

Please call or see Monica Todd in Accounting - (206) 368-6216

2<sup>nd</sup> floor office expansion and men's restroom revision:

