

ShoppTalk

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College Park Plant Retires



Photo By - Sherry Gryder

One last hurrah. Pressroom and Plateroom employees display one of the last papers printed at the College Park Plant.

If you can love a printing plant, I've loved College Park since the day it opened—the people who worked there, the facility and the difference it made to The Post," wrote Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham** in an open letter published in a keepsake photo book recently given to College Park Plant employees.

On July 15, more than 300 past and present employees came from far and wide to attend the closing ceremony of the College Park Plant and to recognize the hard work and successes of its last 46 retirees. The nostalgic ceremony focused on

the plant's accomplishments through its 11-year existence with an emphasis on the true celebrities of the day: the plant employees, who made it all possible.

Since the first press run on May 6, 1998, the Pressroom teams printed over 905,000 tons of newsprint. The Mailroom folks dispatched an estimated 84.7 million bundles, and platemakers made more than 9.2 million recyclable printing plates. On Jan. 28, 1999, College Park printed its front page in color. Within the next few years, it started printing the Sunday Comics, Express and El Tiempo Latino. On July 19, it printed its final edition.

During the ceremony, College Park Plant Manager **Sherry Gryder** said, "The majority of folks here today were here since the beginning. Many endured the rocky beginnings associated with any new start-up... and the surge to near perfection. They produced and distributed papers that captured history—the Florida recount, the horrific events of 9/11, the return of baseball to D.C. and Obama's historical election, among other memorable headlines."

Gryder also recognized the retirees and their collective 1,350 years of service. She called out Electrician **Nolan Jacobs** for his 46 years of service and Machin-

ist **Clarence "CT" Thomas's** 45 years. She recognized the retirees as fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, and sons and daughters, and then thanked them and their families for "sharing yours with us."

Gryder concluded, "Even though this marks an important milestone, our work is not done. There is still a lot to accomplish, and there are more records to set. We are completing the consolidation of the two best production teams in the country. Together, we will be even stronger than we were individually. Thank you all for all that you have accomplished. You did yourself and this newspaper proud."

Intern Ade Ademisoje contributed to this story.



Photo By - John Mandish

College Park Plant Manager **Sherry Gryder** reflects on what was and looks to the future.

Thank You for Your 5,321 Combined Years of Service

Photo By - Aurora Gonzalez



From left, Chairman Bo Jones, Publisher Katharine Weymouth, retiree Bill Hamilton from News and Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham**. During the retirement ceremony, each retiree was recognized in front of an auditorium full of colleagues, friends and spouses.



Newsroom retirees **Paul Bernstein** and **Lexie Verdon** with Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham**, center, during the farewell reception July 27 honoring this year's retirees, who gave the Post a combined 5,321 years of service. The Retiree Class of 2009 averaged 25 years of working at The Post.



Panda Bear offers retiree **Dorothy Lancaster** a shoulder to hang on.



Retiree **Donell Gray** and his wife, who was quick to mention that they've been married 31 years, stop for a photo.



Springfield electrician **Thoi Tran** with his wife Le. Tran worked at The Post for 21 years.

Photo By - John Mandish



Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham** with the Alpha and Omega of College Park. To his right, **Sherry Gryder**—the last plant manager. To his left, Kelly Benson—the first plant manager—who flew in from Florida to attend the final retirement ceremony at College Park.

Photo By - Aurora Gonzalez



From left, Chairman Bo Jones, Publisher Katharine Weymouth, former Chief Information Officer Bobbi Lucas from IT and Post Co. Chairman **Don Graham**.

Photo By - Emil Robinson



Springfield also held a retirement ceremony on July 21. Following the plant consolidation, Springfield has taken on many of the College Park employees and will now operate at full throttle with all four of its presses to keep up with The Post's printing demands.

College Park held a retirement ceremony on July 15. Apart from bidding farewell to colleagues, more than 300 guests who've worked at the plant throughout its 11-year history stopped by to bid farewell to the plant itself. College Park printed its last papers on July 19.



Photo By - John Mandish



Retiree **Thomas Redd**, formerly College Park Mailroom manager, and his wife, Kitty, following the retirement ceremony.



Photo By - John Mandish

College Park Plant management displayed a banner that read: "Thank you for your dedication to excellence: 1998-2009."



Photo By - John Mandish

The last employees to retire from the College Park Plant are honored.



Retiree **Spyros Loukas** and his wife, Elaine, hold up a copy of the front page of *The Post* on the day that Loukas was hired.



Terry Johnson, Circulation, hands retiree **Howard Bowles**, also from Circulation, a copy of *The Post's* front page on the day he started at *The Post*.



Photo By - Terry Johnson

From left, Circulation's **Jeff Johnson** with Circulation colleagues and new retirees **Stella Jackmon** and **Michael Dewey**.

Nora Roberts at The Post



Bestselling novelist Nora Roberts stopped by The Post on July 14 for a lunchtime book talk and signing session organized by Marketing Vice President **Candy Lee** and the PostPoints staff. Approximately 550 people—mostly PostPoints members—attended. Book World Deputy Editor **Ron Charles** wrote about the talk in the Short Stack blog and posted a video from the event (<http://tinyurl.com/nkqcz6>).

PostScripts

eMentoring

Interested in mentoring elementary school students from the convenience of your own computer? The In2Books national campaign pairs up adult pen pals with third-, fourth- and fifth-graders in under-resourced environments. To find out more, visit: www.in2books.com or contact onam@washpost.com.

Photos from Recent Farewell Ceremonies

Photos taken by during the recent farewell ceremonies are available on Flickr for viewing and downloading. Visit www.flickr.com/twpcommunity. Retirees are reminded that they can join The Post Alumni Group. Contact **Marty Kady** at wva1946@yahoo.com or visit <http://www.twp-alumninews.org> for more information.

ShopTalk Survey

An important ShopTalk readership survey will be distributed via e-mail in the next few weeks. If you read ShopTalk, please take the time to fill it out.

Post Gift Items for Sale

In August, the Purchasing Department will be liquidating selected Post and Post Media logo-emblazoned promotional items. This is a great opportunity to purchase gifts and giveaway items at half price, while supplies last. Cost center codes, personal checks and exact change for all cash purchases will be accepted. All sales are final—no refunds, exchanges or returns. Sale hours are from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. daily, while supplies last. Contact Tammy at johnsonstt@washpost.com with any questions.

Donate Blood for Ice Cream

August is a slow month for blood donations, so if you donate anytime in August, you will receive a coupon for a free pint of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream. Contact 1-800-448-3543 to schedule a donation and to see if your area is eligible for the promotion.

Note to All Post Employees

It is imperative that all Post employees contact Monica Williams at the switchboard at x4-6000 or Mary Robinson x4-7880 to ensure that their contact information is up to date. If you are new at The Post, you absolutely need to call and provide your contact information. The information is used to reach you in an emergency, a crisis or if someone is trying to contact you from outside the building.

Marketplace

FOR SALE: Segway I2 Commuter 1 year old, 332 miles, kickstand and accessory bar. \$4300. Contact Keith Jones x4-6709.

FOR RENT: Timeshare rent/sale in Colonial Crossings in Williamsburg, Va. 12-13 weeks available every year. 2BR with fireplace, washer/dryer, full amenities, grill, pool, close to Busch Gardens. Contact Veronica at 571-292-6524 (after 5:30 p.m.)

MARKETPLACE DEADLINE:

Close of business on Fridays. Please include your name, extension and phone number. Ads are for Post Media and Digital employees. E-mail ads to shoptalk@washpost.com or onam@washpost.com. Ads will run for two issues unless otherwise requested. ShopTalk reserves the right to publish and edit all ads.

In the Green Corner

FACT:

The Post recycles its waste ink to make black ink.

GREEN TIP:

From Discovery's Planet Green site, some ways to go green at work. Here's one: Digitize, because "the greenest paper is no paper." Avoid printing wherever possible, and if you must print, print on both sides (<http://tinyurl.com/6xsofa>).



News From News

- **Ann Hornaday, Les Carpenter and Donna Peremes** are first-place winners of the 2009 American Association of Sunday and Feature Editors "Excellence-in-Feature-Writing" Contest. **Amanda McGrath, Rose Jacobius and Wil Haygood** were also recognized. For a list of winners, go to <http://tinyurl.com/kuhw5t>.
- The newsroom recently welcomed 2009 Stern Fellow **Alexi Mostrous** from The Times in London and 2009 Arthur F. Burns Fellow **Roman Pletter** from Die Zeit in Germany.
- In June, the newsroom launched <http://reachforthewall.com>, an interactive site devoted to local swimming that combines Post reporting with a wiki platform.
- Three numbers to know: Breaking News x4-6777, Homepage x4-5252 and Universal Desk x4-7495.