With this issue we reconnect with some of the basics of our industry—the custodial, grounds, and maintenance trades operations—and demonstrate how the operations and maintenance of educational facilities are vibrant, active, and critical to the successful learning environment.

Writing specifically about these three key functions of facilities management are Kirk Campbell of Carleton College, discussing useful approaches to sustainable cleaning; Joe Jackson of Duke University, sharing a process for achieving and assessing a quality grounds program; and Ted Weidner of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, writing about the value of APPAs maintenance staffing guidelines to any facilities operation.

In addition, Donna Franko, Jay Klingel, and Betty Wooding write about the first 25 years of the University of Virginia’s successful apprenticeship training program. Finally, our Vice President for Professional Affairs, Kevin Folsom of Dallas Theological Seminary (and recent fellow graduate of APPAs Leadership Academy) considers the topic of sustainable facilities as it relates to proper funding levels for maintenance backlogs and renovation and adaptation needs.

If you have already responded to APPAs readership survey for Facilities Manager magazine, we thank you. However, if you received an invitation to participate but have not yet completed it, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. All respondents have the opportunity to enter into a drawing to win a digital camera, an iPod Nano, or a $100 voucher toward an APPA bookstore purchase.

This survey of Facilities Manager readers is designed to explore aspects of your readership habits and decision-making process and to elicit your opinions on the look and feel of the magazine, as well as your recommendations on topics to cover in future issues. We will use the results to enhance the content of the magazine and ensure that Facilities Manager continues to serve as your key resource for educational facilities information and practice.

An independent research firm is compiling the data and presenting it to us in aggregate form, so please feel comfortable in letting us know your opinion of the magazine and your suggestions for improving it. The readership survey is also helpful in our solicitation of advertisements and strengthening our relationship with our business partners. I will share with you the highlights of our readership survey report later this year.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at APPA 2008: The Rise to Greatness. This signature conference will focus on leadership and collaboration; solution revolution and technology; and connection and communication. In addition, APPA has gathered a tremendous lineup of keynote and plenary speakers: John Maxwell, Marcus Buckingham, James Kouzes, Don Tapscott, and Stephen M.R. Covey. To register, visit www.appa2008.org. We’ll see you in San Antonio July 9-11.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO APPA’S READERSHIP SURVEY FOR FACILITIES MANAGER MAGAZINE, WE THANK YOU.

Coming in July/August
• APPA 2008: The Rise to Greatness
• Best Practices & Solutions for the modern campus
• In His Own Words—Internationally renowned speaker Jim Kouzes, shares knowledge to advance educational facilities professionals into greatness.
• APPA 2007-08 Annual Report