



University of Houston
Division of Administration and Finance
University Services

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alexandra McGuffey
Administration and Finance Communications Coordinator
832-842-5505
avmcguffey@uh.edu

UH PRINTING & POSTAL CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF SERVICE

Houston, November 4, 2009 – The University of Houston's Printing and Postal Department will celebrate an impressive 60 years of quality service this month. The department has been working to assist the faculty, staff and students of UH with high quality printing and mail processes at a reasonable price since 1949.

Printing and Postal has had quite an interesting history in its sixty years of operation. The Printing Plant experienced a severe fire in 1960 which destroyed the building, as well as the entirety of its equipment inside. In the March 25th issue of *The Cougar*, director S. Wayne Taylor stated, "The plant appears to be a total loss".

Three firemen were injured while attempting to battle the two-alarm fire in the middle of the night, but the buildings attached to the plant were saved from damage.

Much has changed since the plant's more humble beginnings, as evidenced by the estimated damages following the 1960 fire. The total loss, with all equipment listed, was estimated at \$100,000. Though this sum was undoubtedly startling at the time, current director Sally Rowland-Ketley mentioned that the department's newest piece of machinery alone cost \$800,000. The KBA Performa 74, a four-color press obtained earlier this year, is a proud acquisition and huge time saver for the printing department.



Damage after 1960 Fire

Most of the technology has been updated and improved, said Sally Rowland-Ketley, Director of Printing and Postal, “from the 4-color press, to the computer-to-plate to the MACs and InDesign software we use. It has all evolved and we have managed to stay current within the industry.” Another change experienced in the last ten years was the integration of Printing and Postal. “I believe one of the most beneficial changes since my arrival was when we merged the two departments together in 2002”, said Rowland-Ketley. “This allowed us to offer the campus community a “one-stop shop” concept – from design, to print, to mail.”



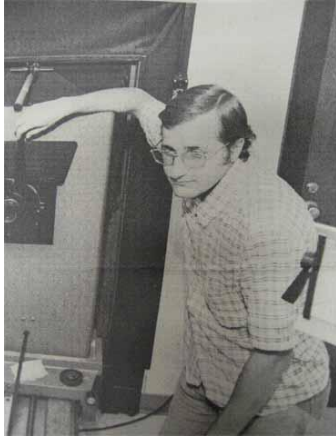
Sally Rowland-Ketley, Director of Printing and Postal

Despite the inevitable changes that arise from modernization, some aspects of the department have not altered significantly in sixty years. For example, some well-manufactured machines, including two original Heidelberg letterpresses, established in 1850, are still being utilized in the plant today. They have since have been converted to die cuts, scoring and perforators, yet their fine workmanship is demonstrated by their continued performance.



Heidelberg letterpress

Even the staff has exhibited impressive consistency over the years. Current Director of Printing and Postal, Sally Rowland-Ketley is only the fourth member to hold this position since the department’s inception. She has been serving the department for the past 12 years. Asst. Print Manager Tommy Craft, depicted in an issue of *The UH Staffer* in 1973, has been working in the department for over 45 years.



Tommy Craft, 1973



Print Manager Nalan Giannukos and Asst. Print Manager Tommy Craft

As far as the department's future is concerned, Sally Rowland-Ketley says, "The future of this department will rely on the technology that continues to change. I still believe there will be ink put on paper, but in what format or how that will be accomplished I am unsure of."



Press Operators James Gibson and Sami Snelling

The University of Houston celebrates the consistent role of the Printing and Postal Department in its 60 years of operation, and though some aspects of the industry will develop and change over time, their dedication remains the same, in their pledge that, "Customer service is the top priority".

"I know that UH Printing and Postal Service will continue to provide excellent customer service to the campus community – that has not changed since the actual inception of these departments", said Rowland-Ketley. "Meeting the goals and deadlines for our customer has always and will continue to be our top priority."

For more information about UH Printing and Postal, visit www.uh.edu/pp.

About the University of Houston

The University of Houston, Texas' premier metropolitan research and teaching institution, is home to more than 40 research centers and institutes and sponsors more than 300 partnerships with

corporate, civic and governmental entities. UH, the most diverse research university in the country, stands at the forefront of education, research and service with more than 35,000 students.