

“Resident Mom” Takes on New Challenge

Wearing a bright pink hair scrunchie while lounging in the living room of Burke East Residential Hall during her final days of work there, Cindy Dailey shares how she has become so popular within the upper halls of Burke.

Dailey currently works as a custodian in Mary Burke residence hall. She has been working on the University of Alabama campus for 11 years and says she loves coming to work each day.

Known as the “resident mom” to the students living in Burke East, Dailey takes an interest in students’ health and safety and takes care of them. She is being transferred to work in Paty Residence Hall, an all-boys hall. No matter if it is males or females; Dailey said she cares for all the students.

“I want to make students feel like they are at home and comfortable because this is their home away from home,” Dailey said.

Last November, Dailey was recognized with the Rickey Yanura Crimson Spirit Award.

“Her personality and demeanor inspire a high level of confidence for many anxious parents and freshman students,” according to the Facilities and Grounds Newsletter that UA Facilities and Grounds employees received was the reason she won the award.

There is no need for anyone to be nervous with Dailey around because she is always there for the students. Students said that they will miss seeing Dailey on a daily basis. Mandy Morgan is a sophomore and a resident of Burke East.

“I am going to miss always bumping into Cindy in the hallways,” Morgan said. “She is always happy and I leave our conversations in a happy mood.”

When she is not working as a custodian or bonding with students Dailey takes care of her 7-month and 5-year-old grandchildren. When the opportunity arose she adopted them as her own so she could provide a safe and loving home for them. She said she always keeps them close to her as she showed pictures on her phone and pictures on the back of her badge close to her heart. Dailey said she loves to take care of people and make sure they are doing well. She plans on raising her children to be as compassionate as she is when they grow up.

Dailey hopes future students will hear about her and think that dorm life is cool so they will live in a dormitory. If students have a good experience they will encourage other students to attend the University of Alabama.

Even though she is transferring to Paty Residence Hall she said she will continue to interact with students and hopes to make those residents feel welcome. To Dailey her job is more than just a payday; it is involvement and understanding no matter where she is working.

“I just love my job,” Dailey said.

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In person interview Burke East Monday, September 26, 2011 with Cindy Dailey and later in the day with Mandy Morgan.