**AVP's Message**  
- Juan Guerra

Effective internal communications are the hallmark of successful organizations. In our organization, how effectively we communicate; how well we listen to each other and our customers, whether you’re coordinating a major utility outage or greeting a student with a friendly smile, our ability to communicate effectively is critical to achieving success.

As my commitment to communicate effectively with you, I have worked with the Directors to provide this newsletter. Our goal is to include information on current events, safety, wellness, benefits, noteworthy accomplishments, and a host of other topics to include articles and stories submitted by you—our valued team members. This newsletter is one more tool that will collectively enable us to enhance our abilities to share information throughout the Facilities organization and with our customers.

This newsletter will also be a way to show appreciation to you for your dedicated service and support to Texas State’s community of Students, Faculty, Staff, and visitors.

Every issue will include photos of our Facilities team members in action—working to keep the campus clean, operational, and in good repair. Please do not hesitate to call upon us and offer any feedback or suggestions that may help us to improve your newsletter. If you have a suggestion for future issues, please send them to your Director, Kim Graves or to me.

**She’s Up!**

After months of planning and trying to find solutions to the raising of the (Titanic) Submarine Theatre at Aquarena, the long hours finally paid off when they succeeded on May 24, 2012.

The Army Corps of Engineers, Bristol General Contractors, Deep South Crane Company and US Underwater Services were all crucial to making this team effort a success. The entire team of Juan Guerra, Pat Fogarty, Michael Petty, Coyle Buehler, Don Compton, Andy Sansom, Ron Coley and CJ Hall won the 2012 Envision Central Texas award for preserving and enhancing our natural resources, economic vitality, Social equity and overall quality of living. Congratulations All!
**UTILITIES OPERATIONS—A new direction**  
-Sheri Lara

You may have heard...we are not the same Utilities Operations. Our direction has changed and expanded since I arrived January 2011. **So what does Utilities Operations do?**

As before, our team produces and distributes up to 13,450 tons of chilled water from the Central (Cogen), East, and West Plants to cool the majority of campus buildings. The South Chill Plant will add 3,000 tons of cooling in late Fall 2012. We provide heating via steam boilers and piping from the West, Central and Jowers/Strahan plants to most buildings.

Utilities Operations receives and distributes up to 17 Million Watts of electrical power from the City of San Marcos through the Central Plant switchgear. We operate the Jackson water well to provide drinking water to the majority of campus. Our team operates the plants on a 24 hour, 7 day a week, 52 weeks a year schedule.

**What has changed?** Over time, the work boundaries between Facilities Management and Utilities Operations have become blurred. A simple definition is Utilities Operations provides services to the buildings and Facilities Maintenance provides services in the buildings.

**What is new?** Managing our cost of doing business, improvement of campus utility services reliability, and expansion of services to meet the future Emerging Research requirements is the critical focus for Utilities Operations. We are now leading the “Sustainable Stewardship” campus energy management initiatives such as dashboards, energy and water resource savings, and campus wide utility metering.

Utilities Operations is very involved in the replacement of underground piping, replacement of building control systems, adding meters, replacing electrical and distribution components. Just recently we were tasked to provide technical and operational leadership to install up 18 MW of electric co-generation at the Central Plant through a public/private partnership venture.

We are on a journey of change with a very full plate but our team is excited to be part of making a difference for our faculty, staff, students, researchers and visitors. We are all part of Facilities where the “F” stands for fantastic people and service.

**UTILITIES OPERATIONS VISION:**  
Safe Efficient Effective Reliable Sustainable

Neil Bascos & Hector Vasquez on duty in the Control Room

Barry Buscha’s son will be going to 29 Palms for Marine training before being deployed overseas for the fifth time. Thank You

Justin Cervantes from Custodial is the proud father of 8lb 21” Derrick James Cervantes, born at 1:00am June 28, 2012. Congratulations!!
MAKING EFFICIENT USE OF YOUR LANDSCAPE WATERING
-Brad Smith

Landscape watering use can make up HALF of a city’s summer time water use, sometimes more. Would you be surprised to learn that half of that water is being wasted in one way or another? These are rough numbers but not unrealistic.

Turf grass experts will tell you that lawns often receive more water than they need and are actually less healthy and more prone to disease problems as a result. On top of that, irrigation systems are often very inefficient in their delivery of the water especially when water runs off the site and doesn’t benefit any plants in the landscape.

Lawn Health You have probably heard, “water deeply and infrequently”. This is to encourage roots to grow deeper. The only water that’s available to a plant is the water that can be reached and extracted by the plants roots so, if the roots are deeper, the plant has access to more water. If the plant has access to more water, you don’t have to water as often. 😊 This applies to lawns as well as all landscape plants.

Water your lawn in a way that minimizes the time moisture stays on the plant during the cooler, evening hours. The cooler, moist environment is perfect for fungi to grow and spread. You should try to complete your watering when the “watering window” ends.

Currently, the City of San Marcos Stage II restrictions say our window is 8:00 pm to midnight and 6:00 am to 10:00 am. If possible, the ideal time to finish any watering would be 10:00 am. If you have an automatic irrigation system, program your controller to finish at 10:00 am and if you’re using a garden hose with hose end sprinkler, you can also use a timer that fits on the end of the hose which can be purchased from hardware stores. I know from experience that it’s a good idea to check to see that these function properly before leaving for work expecting them to shut off.

Ideally, the way you would determine when the next time to water the lawn is when you begin to see grass blades curling a little bit. This wilting probably won’t occur evenly across the lawn but tells you it’s time to start planning your next watering event.

Thanks and have a great summer using landscape water efficiently!

Jerry and CJ Score Big in Texas Water Safari!

“They don’t call the Texas Water Safari The World’s Toughest Canoe Race’ for nothing. In addition to the length, the challenges include whitewater rapids, multiple portages, and the relentless, soul-sapping Texas heat. Competitors have four days and four hours to paddle from San Marcos, in the center of the state, to the shy little town of Seadrift on the Gulf Coast. There is no prize money for the winners; just Texas-size bragging rights for the finishers.”

“Larry Rice, in July 2009 Canoe & Kayak Magazine

Jerry Cochran and his partner Erin Magee, Graduate Admissions Coordinator took 2nd place in Mixed, 1st place in Masters and 7th place overall. CJ Hall and his partner Jason Cade were the last team to cross the finish line of the 94 who actually finished the 260 mile race with just 27 minutes to spare under the 100 hour deadline. Fantastic guys and
The first official race was held in 1963, and is run annually on the second Saturday of June...The primary requirement is a boat powered only by human muscle. Racers must take all food and equipment needed with them, receiving only water and ice along the way. 

http://www.texaswatersafari.org/

Custodial Undergoes shift changes

Custodial implemented shift changes recently in response to increased student enrollment, increased faculty and increased hours and building usage.

The department has always had three shifts: A Day, Evening and Night shift. Before the change, more buildings were serviced during the day thus, the majority of custodial staff worked on the day shift. Once the changes were made, all shifts are now more evenly divided.

The main reason for the shift change was to better service the university as it grows.

We’re finding as enrollment increases, building use increases. Our opportunities to clean unobtrusively have shrunk dramatically.

The buildings that experienced the heaviest traffic were moved to the evening or night shifts with custodians assigned as porters during the day to take care of spills and other emergencies. The structures affected include Education, Music, JCK and the new Undergraduate Admissions Center.

For such a large shift, only nine custodians on the day shift were asked to transfer to the evening or night shifts based on seniority and overall performance.

Connie Hughes, day shift custodian for Agriculture, remained on days to be one of the porters who patrol around campus. Hughes said the shift change would affect her because some buildings will be vacated for the night shift. “I will be helping in other buildings and have to get out there and help out,”. Hughes said overall the changes have the potential to be beneficial for the university.

That’s exactly what Joel Bermea from the Warehouse is all about! Well, perhaps one more thing... My daughter (Audrie Bermea) just graduated from San Marcos High and will be going to Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Daddy is SO proud of her.

Cindy Voigt was recently recognized with an On the Spot Award for Customer Service!

Customer Service - Under Commit and Over Deliver

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Recycling Brings Education to Nicaragua

This project began as a need to bring adequate bilingual education to the community of Merida. Architectural designer, Aaron Chevalley, was introduced to the project along with Jenna Gonzales, Anthropology Major and Recycling & Waste Management worker at Texas State University. Their intent was to design and deliver an environmentally sensitive and unique project that could be replicated in the future by both Hacienda Merida and local community members. Aaron and Jenna are both certified in Permaculture Design.

Aaron and Jenna taught and coordinated all volunteer efforts and construction management. Their goal was to teach local builders how to build with earthbags so that they could further help the communities to build affordable, sustainable, safe and adequate housing for the most disadvantaged.

Initially two ideas were presented; a specialized earthquake resistant building comprised of earthbags was proposed as an alternative to traditional and more unstable brick and mortar construction.

Hacienda Merida has been working for some time on a very successful trash collection project where community members fill and deliver plastic bottles filled with trash in return for payment. They have incorporated the plastic bottles into the concrete floors of the dining area at the Hacienda.

The bags were used as structural columns for the roof to bear on and the bottles were used as the infill between these columns. Thus, the earthbag and plastic bottle school house was born.

The earthbag typology has definite advantages for structural purposes while the plastic bottles hold a communal advantage as they are easy to come by and filling them with trash helps the cleanliness of the surrounding land.

Currently, it is time consuming and costly to create good building units out of bottles filled with trash. If an industrial process for filling bottles with shredded trash and/or instituting donations/grant money to be used in payment for trash filled bottles could be created, then this typology could begin correcting the problem of excess plastic waste and improving community infrastructures and housing conditions at the same time.

It has been recorded that over 40,000 bottles are delivered to the island every week and that 0 leave. Earthbag constructed houses can be very beneficial for construction in remote locations, preventing water infiltration during the rainy seasons and be used by relatively unskilled labor.

Although bulky, it is a very good structural alternative (for earthquake resistance and cost restraints) to concrete columns and rebar cages. They also have the potential for being used as water proof and termite resistant stem wall systems, cisterns, retaining walls, and interior flooring.
Self-Fulfillment
-MaryAnn Hollingsworth

Self-Fulfillment, what is it? What does it mean? Actually it is as individual as each of us. Does it change? Absolutely! We change throughout our lives as do our dreams and aspirations. We work hard; we deserve to be happy, don’t we? That depends. How much effort are we really putting into making our dreams come true? Do you have a defeatist attitude? Are you afraid to fail or even try because you know you could never do it, you are too old, too out of shape, too under-educated, too….? Are your results never good enough? Are you always comparing yourself to someone else? Once again, you have succeeded at creating your own self-fulfilling prophecy.

We have so little time, why not make it count? Don’t waste it on “what if’s” or “should have’s”, move forward in a positive manner and say, “why not?” instead of, “I can’t”. Give it a try; what’s the worst that can happen? You failed, so what? You’ve learned something, go down a different path, the doubt has been erased. You must have courage. Without the courage to try you will never be happy or self-fulfilled.

Phillip Williams leads his ALKEK crew for the FSS Monthly Team award in May. (Mike Contreras, Rick Boasi, Maria & Maryann Castillo, Manual Salinas, Marcos Pacheco, Bill Nance.)

Proud mom Mary Sanchez from Custodial stands with daughter Taylor Melancon as she graduates with Honors from San Marcos HS. Taylor plans to attend Texas State in the fall.

Dario Mendoza and Sylvester Castilleja (AC) hard at work keeping us cool when the Summer Forecasting does not seem to be giving us a break.

Julie & Robert Gomez celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary, on June 19. “I have to say they have been wonderful years full of love, challenge and happiness” - Julie.
Texas State University - San Marcos
FACILITIES

Mike Burkleple’s daughter played the part of Ms. Thiang in “The King and I” at the Price Center in San Marcos on June 16,17,18,21,23 and 24.

Brad Daniels’ son just graduated from Luling high school.

News from Mary Gutierrez,
My son, Jaime, just passed his EPA HVAC/R certification test and is now Universal Certified. Also my daughter in law, Juliana just graduated and will be starting Charlotte School of Law in North Carolina, in the fall. The family will be moving to North Carolina in August.

Janice Taylor from the evening Custodial Crew poses with her newly graduated granddaughter, Diamond Taylor.

Proud papa Ralph Payne, of PD&C tells us his oldest daughter, Devan Marie Payne, graduated high school from Live Oak Academy as the valedictorian of her class. This fall, she will be attending Covenant College, a private Christian institution, located in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. Her major will be in Psychology.

My grandson took 1st place in the 400M run at the Judson High Track meet on June 9th. It was for the 7-8 year olds. We are very proud of him......Lanny Harkey

Actor Stephanie Grace Marlow (stage name Grace Marlowe), Daughter of Stephen Marlow of Special Projects, and Kay Marlow of Center for Research and Commercialization, graduated from the theater department last year. Landed a part in the Arthur Miller play "All My Sons" with an Austin theater company. This is her first major, and her first paying role. Concurrently photo modeling, acting, and waits tables "dramatically" - for good tips.

Karl Randow, JP(Jose Pineda) and Carlos Pardo service over 100 vehicles a month both in PM’s and general mechanical breakdowns.

On April 12, 2012, Susan Davey’s son, Eric Gumtow, and wife Kaitlin, became the proud parents of a son, Kepler Khang Gumtow. Kepler is named for celebrated Astronomer Johannes Kepler. Some employees may remember Eric, he was employed in the Facilities IT Department for a short time while he was a student at TX State. Eric is now a Senior Computer Software and Hardware Engineer in California’s Silicon Valley.

Grounds - Fun Facts

Who knew? It’s very simple, two supervisors with campus divided into two areas; Maroon Zone and Gold Zone. Basically Comanche Street down to Woods Street would be the boundary between the two. Western portion (David Sanchez) Gold, Eastern portion (Joel Trevino) Maroon.

Bobcat Bobbie is used with permission of Athletics and Bryan Miller
Lampasas Hall

Lampasas Hall, home to the University Honors Program and the Center for International Studies, is the second oldest building still standing on the Texas State University-San Marcos campus. It was originally built as the Manual Arts Building in 1912 at a cost of $25,000.

It has housed several very different functions over the years. It received a $15,000 upgrade in 1931 and by 1942, it was known as the Home Economics Building.

By 1947, it was renovated again and converted into the university’s first student center at a cost of $84,858. The lower portion of the building known as the Student Union Building housed the popular student dining area that came to be known as “The Lair.”

A new student center was completed in the fall of 1962 and the Art Department moved into the building where it would be continuously housed there until the Joann Cole Mitte Building for Art and Design was completed.

The name “Lampasas Hall” was bestowed upon the structure in 2003, as part of a campus wide facility renaming project.