

Paw Prints



FACILITIES – TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY – AUGUST 2014

A Letter from the AVP

By Juan Guerra

This has been a busy and productive summer. Everyone was busy completing all sorts of maintenance, repair, renovation, cleaning and sprucing up projects throughout the summer during our “lull” when we only had 12,000 students on campus attending the summer sessions. The major renovations of the Comal building were also completed and the Computer Science and Philosophy faculty were moved in to their new spaces in July despite the delays we encountered with the construction contractor. Kudos to Facilities Operations staff, custodians and grounds crews, and FPDC staff who worked tirelessly to accomplish that feat. We also completed the new 578-bed Falls/Sayers residence halls and commenced construction on the second pair of residence halls on the west side of campus that are targeted to add another 598-

beds by the summer of 2016. And the mall enhancements and underground utilities upgrades on Bobcat Trail got underway with an aggressive timeline to complete the entire project by December 2015.

This summer was also particularly hectic as we prepared for the Facilities Management Evaluation Program (FM EP) Team visit. This is a customized evaluation of the entire Facilities organization conducted by a team of institutional peers selected by AP-PA, a national organization for higher education facilities professionals. The team members included: the former Vice Chancellor, University of California, San Diego; the Associate Vice President of Facilities Services, Northern Arizona University; the Director of Utilities, Cornell University; and, the former Director of Facilities Management, Cal State University, Long Beach. In preparation for their site visit during the week of August 4, we prepared a de-

tailed self-evaluation based on a comprehensive set of criteria that includes assessments of our Leadership, Strategic and Operational Planning, Customer Support, Management of Human Resources, Process Management and Performance Results. The ultimate outcome of the evaluation is a report consisting of feedback and recommended actions that will guide us in improving the support we provide to the campus and help us position the Facilities organization to adequately meet evolving requirements as the campus transforms into a nationally recognized research institution.

As we all prepare for the return of more than 35,500 students for the 2015 academic year, let's take a few minutes to reflect on how each of us can Make a Difference and help Texas State University become a premier public university. Stay safe and continue to take pride in what you accomplish each day.

Spotlight on Safety

By Mario Molina

First Quarter Safety Award

For the first quarter of 2014, Bryan Brassell, Kurtis Crockett, Roy Eastwood, Juan Romero and Hector Vasquez took the Quarterly Team Safety Award.

Long before the spring Break power outage project actually began, the power plant mechanics team began planning, training and scheduling their shift work in order to develop a “safety game plan”. This team successfully supported other work groups and contractors during multiple electrical, steam, and chilled water outages that occurred during the scheduled electrical outages. Additionally, they accomplished multiple emergency generator checks and load bank testing, and also supported the restart of the west and central power plants following the power interruptions. All projects were completed successfully and without injury. The team is worthy of the safety



recognition for the meticulous preparation for a project that involved every utility, i.e. electrical, chilled water, steam and generator operations that affected the majority of our buildings on campus.

Second Quarter Safety Award

Ruben Prado, Martin Briceno and Xavier Lopez received the Quarterly Team Safety Award for the second quarter of 2014. Following a heavy spring rain, the team was inspecting storm water drains on campus. Behind Harris Dining Hall, they found a drain that was clogged by remnants of construction material and silt. Since the water could not drain properly, the rain flooded an area behind Harris Dining Hall. The

electrical switches and transformers that serve Harris Dining Hall, West Plant and other buildings on West Campus are located in the area that was being flooded. To complicate matters, additional rain was in the forecast. Upon finding the clogged storm water drain, the team immediately gathered tools and equipment and pumped the water from the flooded area. After pumping the water, they removed the debris from the drain thus preventing a repeat of the flooding. Due to the team's decisive and immediate action, the team saved the electrical equipment from potential floodwater damage and saved several buildings from a possible loss of electrical service.

Kudos to John Perez, Jerry Cochran and Travis Strouse for a job well done installing artwork at the President's House. Mary Mikel Stump, Director of the University Galleries, said, “I am writing to you to sing the praises of John Perez, with whom I had the pleasure of working today and yesterday during the installation of artwork at the President's official residence. John was not only engaged and informed, but also such a good listener, contributor, and a joy to be around. I think that in this day and age, it should be noted when someone not only does their job, but also goes above and beyond.”



Alumni House

By Michael Petty

The Alumni House, now known as the Center for Student Retention, is one of the oldest buildings on the Texas State campus. The Victorian-style home was built in 1896 by German craftsman Charles Sinz for the Beverly Hutchison family. In the 1920s the owner, R.E. Lola Miller, rented rooms to Texas State students. Among these students was future U.S. President Lyndon Baines Johnson, who lived in the house for about two semesters. In 1966, ownership of the house passed from the San Marcos Urban Renewal Agency to Texas State, and a major renovation was undertaken. The Alumni House was dedicated to President Johnson on April 17, 1968, and entered into the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. In 2004, the University repaired the wood damage and painted



the exterior. Historic details were replaced meeting the Texas Historical Commission criteria. Last spring, visitors noticed a flurry of activity around the historic Alumni House at the intersection of LBJ and University Drives. The University decided to apply a paint scheme authentic to the era in which the Alumni House was built. John Volz of Austin, Texas, is an expert on historical colors and was consulted for paint analysis. His research re-

vealed the original color scheme for the siding, windows, trim, and fret work. This historical scheme was presented to President Trauth for her approval. The 1896 color scheme was selected for the paint palette. As you drive by the Center for Student Retention (previously known as the Alumni House), tell your friends and family that this house is one of the jewels on our campus.

Fan Drive

The Facilities Custodial Operations Department has once again joined the City of San Marcos and community partners to support the Family Eldercare 24th Annual Summer Fan Drive to collect donations of new fans to bring relief from scorching summer temperatures to low-income and medically fragile residents. The Custodial Operations Department volunteered to deliver fans from the fire stations to distribution sites and to homebound recipients. The collection continues through August 31. The fans and funds raised in San Marcos and Hays County will provide fans for local residents. The San Marcos Fire Department will accept donations of new fans at five fire stations, including Fire Station 5 at 100 Carlson Circle, Downtown Station 1 at 114 E. Hutchison, Station 2 at 1314 Academy, Station 3 at 2420 Hunter Road, and Station 4 at 404 Broadway.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

August 16—Student Move-In Starts

August 20—Brown Bag Session with VPFSS

August 22 – LBJ Picnic

August 25 – Fall Semester Starts



VPFSS Employee Appreciation Picnic
Sewell Park
Friday, May 2, 2014



FSS Division Reorganization

By Juan Guerra

As you may already know, the Office of Professional Development moved to Human Resources this past year. An ongoing goal of the FSS division is to consolidate training and professional development activities within the Office of Professional Development in HR. An initial step in that process will be to move the Facilities Training Specialist position, currently occupied by Joe Piazza, and the Custodial Trainer position, currently occupied by Margaret Cameron, to HR, effective September 1, 2014.

Joe and Margie will continue to office in Facilities, with Margie moving into space available in Joe's training room area. Both, however, will report organizationally to

Marsha Moore, Director of the Office of Professional Development, even though they will continue to office in Facilities. Joe will continue to perform all of his current Facilities duties and responsibilities as part of this transition, so now and after September 1, you will continue to coordinate directly with Joe as you normally would for any and all support he currently provides your area. Margie will transition her duties and support Joe and HR as part of this reorganization.



Customer Service Awards

Congratulations! The following Facilities staff members were selected as recipients of the 2014 Finance and Support Services Customer Service Award: Michael Contreras, *Custodial Operation*; Brittany McCullar, *Utilities Operations*; Daniel Moran, *Utilities Operations*; and Jerry DeLeon, *Facilities Operations*.



Welcome & Congratulations!

New Employees and Promotions

Facilities Operations:

- Connie Brownson, 7/14/14 (Hired from HR) Administrative Assistant III
- Barbara Burns, 6/30/14 (Hired) Head Painter
- Doug Bynum, 3/1/14 (Promoted) from Utilities Operations' Manager of Energy and Operations to Director, Facilities Operations
- Michael Gantt, 7/28/14 (Hired) A/C Mechanic II
- Volodymyr Leshchuk, 6/23/14 (Hired) Plumber I
- Eric Martinez, 6/23/14 (Hired) Plumber I
- Augustine Mendoza, 7/21/14 (Hired) Painter I
- Brian McKay, 8/4/14 (Hired) Assistant Director, Facilities Operations
- Doug Smith, 5/1/14 (Promoted) from A/C Mechanic II to Head A/C Mechanic
- Emmanuel Villarruel, 1/6/14 (Hired) A/C Mechanic I
- Chad Wendel, 1/10/14 (Promoted) from Plumber I to Plumber II
- Paul Flores, 8/11/14 (Promoted) from Electrician I to A/C Mechanic II

Facilities Management:

- Carole Brauer-Dykema, 1/16/14 (Promoted) from Administrative Assistant III to Accountant I
- Ana Hicks, 4/11/14 (Transferred) from Custodial Crew Supervisor to Facilities Mgmt Stores Clerk I
- Ann Huebner, 7/1/14 (Hired from Retirement) Business Manager
- Richard Rodriguez, 2/10/14 (Promoted) from Stores Clerk I to Stores Clerk II
- Lindsey Sinner, 12/20/13 (Transferred) Administrative Assistant II from Custodial to Facilities Mgmt
- Joel Trevino, 6/1/14 (Transferred) from Supervisor, Grounds Operations to Facilities Mgmt Buyer III

Utilities Operations:

- Enrique Llanes, 1/10/14 (Promoted) from Power Plant Operator I to Control Room Operator II
- Tyler Melchiori, 7/14/14 (Hired) Plumber II
- James Norton, 7/1/14 (Promoted) from Facilities Operations Head Electrician to Utilities Operations Crew Supervisor, Electric Distribution
- Juan Romero, 6/29/14 (Promoted) from Plant Mechanic II to Utilities Analyst
- Ruben Villarreal, 2/10/14 (Hired) Power Plant Operator I
- John Shen, 8/11/14 (Hired) Manager, Operations & Energy

Grounds Operations

- Adrian Castilleja, 7/21/14 (Promoted) from Head Grounds Maintenance Worker to Supervisor, Grounds Operations
- Derek Hurtado, 7/21/14 (Promoted) from Recycling Waste Management Worker I to Recycling Waste Management Worker II
- David Sambrano, 4/28/14 (Hired) Recycling Waste Management Worker II

Facilities Planning, Design and Construction:

- Freddie Alonzo, 8/11/14 (Hired) Sr. Construction Inspector

Facilities Vision: Quality, Responsive Service: Making a Difference at Texas State



Facilities would like to thank all who contributed to this newsletter