

PAW PRINTS

FACILITIES – TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY – OCTOBER 2017



A LETTER FROM THE AVP

By Thomas Shewan

The Fall semester is well underway. The University survived hurricane Harvey, a Category 4 storm which came ashore near Rockport, Texas. The University community appears to have returned to our normal daily routine; however, I ask that you keep the communities of southern Texas in your thoughts and prayers. It will take significant physical and financial support to return the coastal communities of Texas to their pre-storm circumstance. I would like to personally thank everyone who worked to restore the campus both

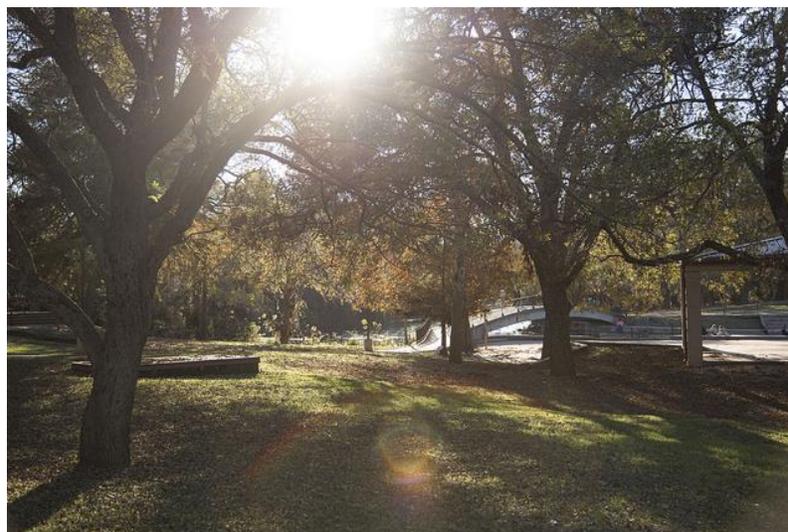
during and post hurricane Harvey. The effort each of you made was truly impressive and the University began school only one day late. Thank you!

Some points we all can be very proud of is that in academic year 2016-2017 we graduated more students than ever before. Likewise, for Fall semester 2017 we have admitted the largest freshmen class in our history. As our enrollment continues to trend upward, the importance of our work and the stature of our University increases.

The weather is changing and Fall is definitely in the air.

This is a great time of year to be a Bobcat and the Texas State Volleyball and Soccer teams are dominating in Sun Belt Conference play. Even though victories have been hard to come by, the Football team is playing well. Please come out and support your athletic teams.

Thank you for all you do to make Texas State University the true rising star of Texas.



FACILITIES CORE VALUES – “STARS”

In pursuing our mission, we, the staff of the Texas State University Facilities organization, are guided by a shared collection of values. Specifically, we value:

Service: We are committed to excellence in the provision of our services and professional interactions with our customers.

Teamwork: We strive for continuous improvement through innovation, collaboration, and dialogue with the Campus Community in support of the university's goals and mission.

Accountability: We are responsible for our actions and will conduct business in an ethical and honest manner in compliance with all university policies, and federal, state and local laws and regulations.

Respect: We treat each other with respect and dignity and place equal value on every individual.

Stewardship: We are conscientious stewards of the resources entrusted to us:

- **Personnel:** We take care of our people, ensuring that they are given the opportunity for professional growth and to work in a safe and welcoming environment.
- **Assets (Physical and Fiscal):** We will do our utmost to maintain the University's physical assets and do so in a fiscally responsible manner.
- **Environment:** We will protect our sensitive environment.

WELLNESS

Chances are this newsletter is coming through on your smartphone, your computer or laptop, and maybe even a smartwatch. We now have the ability to check email almost anywhere we are and some research has shown that we check our email upwards of 75 times per day – that's more than 4 times an hour when we are awake. Checking email so frequently has been shown to increase stress biomarkers including fluctuating heart rate levels.

Here is a thought that could help you and your fellow officemates: Perhaps change the email culture in your office by setting expectations with coworkers. Sometimes the notion of not responding to an email is what stresses us out. If an email is going to take more than 30 seconds to respond to and it's not your email time, you can simply write back, "Email received. I will give it thought and respond back before I leave today. Thank you."

Email Time Management:

Checking your email regularly during the day can be an effective way to keep your inbox at manageable levels.

However, the constant interruption and distraction that comes from multitasking in this way can dramatically lower your productivity, and disrupt your ability to enter a state of flow when working on high value projects.

One strategy you can use is to check email only at set points during the day. For instance, you may decide that you'll only check your email first thing in the morning, before lunch, and at the end of the day.

If you're concerned that your colleagues, boss, or clients will be annoyed or confused that you're not responding to their email quickly, explain that you only check email at certain times, and that they can call you or use instant messaging if the matter is really urgent.

FALL AND WINTER SAFETY TIPS

Electric Heater Safety

Space heaters are meant to provide supplemental heat, not to replace your home's heating system. In fact, if used incorrectly, space heaters can pose fire and burn risks. Follow these safety rules when using your portable electric heater:

- Read and follow the manufacturer's warnings and the use and care guidelines before using a space heater.
- Space heaters need space. Keep them at least 3 feet away from any combustible material such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture, and rugs.
- Never use space heaters around unsupervised children and pets.
- Always turn the heater off and unplug it when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Plug space heaters directly into an outlet; do not use an extension cord.
- Electric space heaters use a lot of electricity. Plug your heater into a circuit with as little else on it as possible.
- Space heaters should be used only for supplemental heat. Don't use them to dry clothing, cook food, thaw pipes, or warm bedding.

Alternative Heat Safety

When severe weather like ice hits and knocks out the power, alternative heating can keep you warm for days. Safe emergency heating like those below can keep at least one room of your house warm enough to be livable. Here are some options:

- A fireplace with ample supply of wood
- Small, well ventilated wood, coal or camp stove with fuel
- Portable space heater or kerosene heater

It is important that you follow manufacturer's operating instructions and use emergency heating equipment properly to prevent fires and carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure to keep fire extinguishers on hand, and make sure your family knows how to use them.

Protect Your Water Pipes

Although we only have a few cold snaps each season, it is still necessary to protect exposed water pipes to prevent freezing. Leaving pipes unprotected or uninsulated can cause them to burst, which can significantly damage your home and the things inside it. Water pipes in crawl spaces, attics, and garages are all susceptible to freezing. Follow these steps to reduce the chance of pipes freezing during a power failure:

- Insulate pipes with insulation or newspapers and then wrap in plastic.
- Allow faucets to drip a little during cold weather to avoid freezing.
- Make sure you know where the main water valve is and how to shut it off in case a pipe does burst.
- Disconnect garden hoses, and shut off and drain water from pipes leading to outside faucets.

Source: <https://www.gvec.org/electric/safety/storm-safety/>

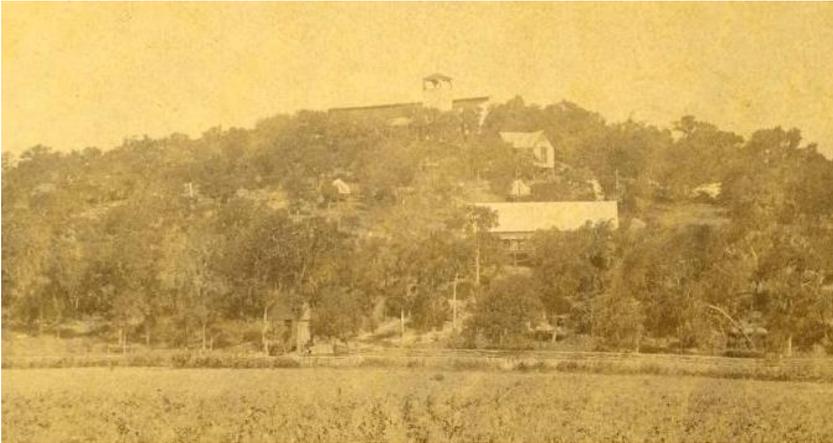
For more storm safety tips, please visit GVEC's Storm Safety page on www.gvec.org.

HIDDEN QUESTION: What does STAR stand for in STAR Park?

Be the first to email Ann Huebner (ch30) with the correct answer, and she might surprise you!

San Marcos Chautauqua – by Mark Cowan

One hears that our University's Old Main rests atop "Chautauqua Hill", but many are unaware that this geographic place name records the origin of our campus as a center for education and culture in the region. The Chautauqua was a late 19th Century movement devoted to bringing religion, education, culture and entertainment to American communities. First established along the shores of New York's Lake Chautauqua in 1874 by Methodist minister John Heyl Vincent as a camp meeting to train Sunday School teachers, the movement greatly expanded its scope and rapidly spread across the nation, to the extent the President "Teddy" Roosevelt would call it "the most American thing in America."



Crowning the hill where Old Main now stands was the Chautauqua Tabernacle. The interior of Tabernacle is shown at right. The Tabernacle, and subsequently Old Main, were both built to plans provided by San Marcos architect Edward S. Northcroft.

The San Marcos Chautauqua described itself in an early promotion: "The San Marcos Sunday School Assembly and Summer Institute (The Texas Chautauqua) was organized June 10th, 1885, and was chartered by the State July 1st of the same year. The objects of the Assembly are thus named in its Charter: 'To popularize education, cultivate the social sympathies of the People of Texas, and furnish a Christian Summer Home for all.' Its grounds, some forty acres in extent, donated by the citizens of San Marcos, are charmingly situated, and are being beautified and highly adorned. Tents and Cottages are being erected by those who wish to spend the summer at the delightful retreat. The sessions of the Assembly embrace the months of July and August of each year, during which time a varied and interesting program consisting of lectures and addresses on religious, scientific and literary subjects is carried out. The month of July is devoted to Normal Schools and popular instruction in all departments of education." The Chautauqua featured prominent orators and traveling musical shows. With ice cream vendors and organized recreational activities it maintained the character of a summer camp or fair. As part of its focus on education, it provided a venue for the discussion of new ideas in science, woman's suffrage and populism.



Music class at the San Marcos Chautauqua.

The Chautauqua movement in America declined in the early 20th century with increasing middle-class access to higher-education, radio and movies. Its decline in San Marcos though began with an 1888 schism which increasingly drew attendees to a rival camp in Georgetown. San Marcos hosted its last Chautauqua in 1895. With the dissolution of the San Marcos Chautauqua, 11 acres of its land reverted to the City of San Marcos. It was this land that the city offered to the State of Texas in 1899 for the founding of the "Normal School" that would become our University.

The spirit of the San Marcos Chautauqua is memorialized in the name of Texas State University's Chautauqua Hall.

PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST POTENTIAL BLUETOOTH ATTACK

A new, unique Bluetooth security vulnerability called BlueBorne has been identified world-wide. We encourage you to take steps to reduce your risk.

- Turn off Bluetooth on all your devices when you aren't using it.
- Update your Bluetooth-enabled devices. Consult with each device's manufacturer to learn about, and download, their latest updates.

The IT Assistance Center (ITAC) is installing Microsoft updates next week that will protect university-owned Windows computers managed by ITAC. Mac computers are not currently affected. If you or your department uses other types of Bluetooth-capable devices, please work with our Facilities Management Systems Group (phone 245-1914 or email FMSystems@txstate.edu) for help updating these university-owned devices.

More about the BlueBorne vulnerability

BlueBorne is a group of security weaknesses potentially allowing hackers and malicious software to use Bluetooth connections to access and take over devices. Examples of devices that may be vulnerable if not updated:

- Windows Computers – devices with the most recent September 2017 updates are protected.
- Smartphones, tablets, and smart watches
 - iPhone and iPad – devices with iOS 10 and higher are protected.
 - Android devices – consult with the manufacturer for the proper update version.
- Other Bluetooth devices such as wireless keyboards, mice, printers, headphones, earbuds, speakers, Apple TVs, vehicles, household, or medical devices.
- Mac computers are currently not affected by BlueBorne.

[Watch this video](#) to understand how BlueBorne works, or visit the [Armis BlueBorne website](#) to learn more.

ARBOR DAY AND TREE CAMPUS USA

Texas State University has been recognized as a "Tree Campus USA" for its sixth year by the Arbor Day Foundation. Tree Campus USA recognizes the best practices in campus forestry throughout the United States. The goal of the program is to honor college campuses for promoting healthy urban forest management and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship. The Arbor Day event is open to "all" of the campus community. Please come out and help us celebrate Arbor Day by planting a Bobcat Tree.

Date: Friday, November 17, 2017

Time: 10:00 a.m.

San Marcos Location: Along Moore Street from Blanco Hall to Angelina and San Gabriel Halls

Round Rock Location: Near the pond and walking trail to the left of the front of the Avery Building

We will be planting 28 assorted trees. The tree species that have been selected this year are: Anacacho Orchid, Monterrey Oak and Chinquapin Oak. Please join us at the planting and learn about the continued maintenance of our Bobcat Trees.

Participants who sign in and volunteer to help with the planting will get their choice of a Texas State Arbor Day water bottle or flashlight.

This is a fun event where you can meet new people while helping to "green" the campus.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Doug Bynum, Director of Facilities Operations, recently earned the CEFP designation! Additionally, **Brian McKay**, Assistant Director of Facilities Operations, earned the EFP designation! Way to go!

SSC 2017 SAFETY EXCELLENCE AWARD will be presented to Jennifer Mitchell and the Texas State University SSC Custodial Contract Team. Keep up the good work!

Jennifer Mitchell and the Texas State University SSC Team!

The Texas State University SSC team has gone 8 months injury free! That is a 75% reduction from last year same time period! Currently TSU is at a very low 1.28% Incident Frequency Rate! This is a significant accomplishment for this SSC team! Training compliance and heightened safety awareness played a significant role in claim reduction!

The SSC team at Texas State University was selected to receive this award for outstanding safety performance. It is obvious this team takes safety seriously each and every day!

On behalf of the entire Risk Management Team and senior management, thank you for a job extremely well done!

SAVE THE DATE!

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON WILL BE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8TH, IN FACILITIES WAREHOUSE.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

Check out this video to see what **Brad Smith**, Director of Grounds, did on his recent vacation! Awesome!

[Movie](#)

From **Fermin Torrez**, Asst. Director of Custodial Operations: "When the sun, moon, and humans align in space, a wondrous occasion in Shoshoni, Wyoming."



Meanwhile, here on campus, this is what the eclipse reflection looked like:



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Tuesday, October 31**
Halloween
- **Sunday, November 5**
Daylight Savings Ends
- **Tuesday, November 7**
Election Day
- **Saturday, November 11**
Veteran's Day
- **Friday, November 17**
Arbor Day Celebration
- **Thursday, November 23 – Sunday, November 26**
Thanksgiving Break
- **Friday, December 8**
Facilities Holiday Luncheon
- **Tuesday, December 12**
Hanukkah begins
- **Friday, December 15 & Saturday, December 16**
Fall Commencement
- **Saturday, December 23– Wednesday, January 3**
Christmas Break
- **Monday, December 25**
Christmas Day
- **Tuesday, December 26**
Kwanzaa begins
- **Sunday, December 31**
New Year's Eve
- **Monday, January 1**
New Year's Day
- **Monday, January 15**
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- **Tuesday, January 16**
First day of classes for Spring Semester

Quality, Responsive Service: Making a Difference at Texas State



Facilities would like to thank all who contributed to this newsletter.