

Spring 2022

# FSS Essentials



## *FSS Vision:*

*Outstanding Support  
and Service: Making a  
Difference at Texas State*

**Eric Algoe**  
*Vice President*

**Cristine Black**  
*Assistant VP, Budgeting, Financial  
Planning & Analysis*

**Darryl Borgonah**  
*Associate VP, Financial Services*

**Matthew Carmichael**  
*Director, University Police*

**Carole Clerie**  
*Assistant VP, Human Resources*

**Dan Costello**  
*Associate VP, Facilities*

**Wendy McCoy**  
*Director, EHSREM*

**Nancy Nusbaum**  
*Associate VP, FSS Planning*

**John Root**  
*Director, Auxiliary Services*

**Valarie Van Vlack**  
*Treasurer*

## LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



This year will be a time of tremendous change, excitement, and opportunity at Texas State University. For the first time in two decades, we will welcome a new president to lead us. After a nationwide search process that has seen applicants who are sitting presidents at other universities and many other well-qualified candidates, our new president will begin on June 1, 2022.

Our next president will join us as we begin the process of writing a new 6-year strategic plan for the university that will establish our goals and initiatives, and a 5-year master plan that will guide our facilities programs. This president will also walk into the largest period of new construction in the university's history. The coming year will see us launch over \$300 million in construction projects that include two brand-new academic buildings, the largest residential hall we have ever built, and a significant enhancement to Bobcat Stadium.

*Continued on page 8...*

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## April

Apr 1

- April Fools' Day

Apr 1

- Walk to Work Day

Apr 2

- World Autism Awareness Day

Apr 6

- International Sport Day

Apr 7

- United Nations' World Health Day

Apr 10

- Palm Sunday

Apr 11

- National Pet Day

Apr 13

- Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

Apr 14

- Maundy Thursday

Apr 15

- Good Friday

Apr 17

- Easter Sunday

Apr 18

- Tax Day

Apr 21

- San Jacinto Day (Texas)

Apr 22

- Earth Day

Apr 27

- Administrative Professionals Day

Apr 28

- Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Apr 28

- World Day for Safety and Health at Work

Apr 30

- International Jazz Day

## May

May 5

- Cinco de Mayo

May 5

- National Day of Prayer

May 8

- Mother's Day

May 11

- Eat What You Want Day

May 12-14

- Texas State Commencement

May 13

- Friday the 13th

May 15

- International Day of Families

May 15

- Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 21

- Armed Forces Day

May 21

- World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 22

- National Maritime Day

May 25

- National Missing Children's Day

May 28

- National Brisket and Hamburger Day

May 30

- Memorial Day (Texas State Holiday)

May 31

- First Day of Summer I Classes

## June

Jun 1

- Global Day of Parents

Jun 5

- National Cancer Survivors Day

Jun 6

- D-Day

Jun 14

- Army Birthday

Jun 14

- Flag Day

Jun 18

- National Splurge Day

Jun 19

- Juneteenth National Independence Day

Jun 19

- Father's Day

Jun 20

- World Refugee Day

Jun 21

- First Day of Summer

Jun 23

- Public Service Day

Jun 30

- International Asteroid Day

# FSS DIVERSITY

Everything worthwhile has a cost, and it always comes with a struggle. Whether job related, personal, business or something else, nothing of value is easy. It requires sacrifice. Today's culture has perhaps created a time and place where few are willing to commit to the hard work of sacrifice. We have forgotten how to sacrifice.

In terms of time, it was not long ago that America was in a world war and regardless of beliefs, people sacrificed in many ways in support of a common purpose and against a common enemy. Nearly half a million Americans made the ultimate sacrifice. No other nation or its people respond to disasters and chaos like America. America has a track record that exemplifies a willingness to commit to the hope and success of others in times of despair and need.

President John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." We are all well aware of the need to sacrifice. Reckoning with a moment of decision and choosing a path of sacrifice in that moment defines great and significant occasions in history. Now is one of those moments. It starts with individual commitment.

During the US winter Olympic tryouts for speed skating, Karen Bowe gave up her place for another skater, Erin Jackson. Jackson had slipped during the tryouts and failed to make the team. Only the top two competitors qualify. Bowe downplayed her actions, saying "This is bigger than just me."

Can we step up? Is our challenge more about priorities, discipline, or inconvenience? Like most things, it is all about perspective. The perception should not be about loss. Remember, even in a loss, one can experience growth, learning and perseverance. Ironically, sacrifice often determines your level of success.

Our Common Experience theme of compassion talks about a commitment to affect change for the better. We need to embrace the opportunity to model our actions and behavior, putting others before us, to help Texas State thrive. George Santayana wrote, "nothing so much enhances a good as to make sacrifices for it." We need to harness that kind of power and action, to empower our university community to sacrifice for impactful and positive change.

# SPOTLIGHT ON TREASURER'S OFFICE

The Treasurer's Office is a department under the Vice President for Finance and Support Services (VPFSS) division. The Treasurer, Valarie Van Vlack, oversees both Treasury and Student Business Services (SBS). Treasury is responsible for the proper stewardship of university assets, policies, management of banking governance, investments, and endowments.

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Reporting to the Treasurer is **Marcus Bryant**, Sr. Systems Analyst, who leads project development for Student Business Services and the Treasurer's Office. Marcus works closely with various stakeholders across campus to discover, develop and implement new applications as well as related data analysis and reporting.

Reporting to Marcus Bryant are **Kim Stringham**, Systems Analyst II and **Kevin Randles**, Systems Analyst I. Kim is primarily responsible for the management of merchant services (payment cards) and related compliance. Kim assures card industry regulations are followed and leads in the development of all campus payment applications via our TouchNET system. Kevin is primarily responsible for hardware and software support including all Banner related systems and applications. Kim and Kevin also provide a variety of data analysis and statistics and participate in new project development and cycle testing.

Reporting to the Treasurer is Director, **Lisa Allen**, who presides over the Student Business Services Office. The Student Business Services Office (SBS) primary objective is to provide accurate assessment of tuition and fees, to efficiently apply and disburse tuition adjustments and refunds, and to facilitate timely collection and reporting of student, department, and third-party sponsor income. The office focuses on continuous process improvement and utilizing advanced ERP systems to leverage innovative operations, functions, and services. Providing outstanding customer service while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the university is the hallmark of Student Business Services.

Supporting the Director and all of Student Business Services is **Veronica Martinez**, Administrative Assistant III. Also reporting to Lisa is **Staci Wade**, Student Business Specialist, and Associate Directors **Cynthia Castillo** and **Dana Breed**. Staci is primarily responsible for the research for complex problems, functional assistance to staff and assistance with projects.

**Dana Breed**, Associate Director, is responsible for the oversight of student accounting, reporting, refunds and tuition adjustments. Reporting to Dana is **Cynthia Zavala**, Accountant III, responsible for reconciliations and reporting and **Maricela Cruz**, Disbursement Specialist, responsible for student refunds. Also reporting to Dana

is **Jodie Mangold**, Supervisor SBS, who oversees tuition adjustments which includes the student exemption and waiver credits and the billing of third-party sponsors. Reporting to Jodie are tuition adjustment representatives, **Kellie Rodriguez**, and **Judith Barnes**, responsible for the daily operations of tuition adjustments.

**Cynthia Castillo**, Associate Director, is responsible for the oversight of the billing of tuition and fees, room and board, and other related semester charges for current students, student communications, cashiering and collections.

Reporting to Cynthia are the collections associates, **Rita McMahon**, Accounting Clerk II and **Roxanne Munoz**, Accounting Clerk II. The collections area is responsible for billing and collections of non-current semesters, past due student tuition and fee accounts, current as well as past due emergency loan plans, and short-term loans. The office maintains over a 99% collection rate.

Also reporting to Cynthia is the cash operations area, which is supervised by **Casey Lehmann**. Casey oversees the receipting of student payments for tuition, fees, room, board, and other student related fees. Additionally, the area also processes and deposits revenue collected by all university departments, in accordance with the university's income recognition and cash handling policy as well as departmental revenue payments via EFT and returned items. The office also safeguards and manages petty cash, change funds for university departments, and manages the disbursement of payroll checks, financial aid, and tuition refund checks.

Reporting to Cynthia as well is **Leticia Gaitan**, Accountant I. Leticia primarily focuses on the departmental side of the banking transactions. She ensures all the departmental transactions are identified and credited to the correct accounts.

Each area works in conjunction with one another to form a cohesive group which focuses on the mission of providing outstanding customer service while maintaining the fiscal integrity of the University.

Please note that the Treasurer's Office, which includes Student Business Services has many vacant positions at this time but is actively working on filling them shortly.



# MEET OUR NEW TEAM



*Andee Chamberlain*

Energy Conservation Specialist  
Utility Operations

Andee is originally from Fort Worth but has lived in the Central Texas area for more than 15 years. She came from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department where she worked as the Sustainability Program Manager, implementing state-wide resource conservation efforts.

Andee and her husband love spending time outside kayaking, fishing, hiking, and camping in their vintage trailer. She's really excited to be so close to a river on campus! She enjoys volunteering and currently serves on the Board of the non-profit, Austin Creative Reuse, a thrift-store for arts and crafts supplies that fosters conservation and reuse through creativity, education, and community building.



*William "Shorty" Schwartz*

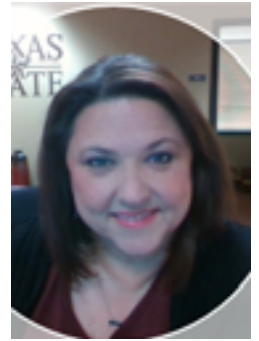
Construction Contract  
Administrator  
Facilities Operations

Born and raised in Central Texas, William attended TXST in the 80's when it was SWTSU, earning a bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning. He then ventured off into the trades as an electrician for about 25 years. William was employed in the commercial and industrial electrical field, with the last ten or so in supervision, before returning to higher education at Southwestern University as a supervisor and then facilities manager in Georgetown. He's been married to the same person, Cheryl, for 30 years and has a 15-year-old daughter, Charlsie. Together, they live in the Hutto area on 10- acres and have horses. William enjoys riding, training horses, and team roping. William is also the current president of TAPPA (TX Association of Physical Plant Administrators). William is grateful for the opportunity to work for TXST at the Round Rock Campus!

*Angela Touchstone*

Sr. Administrative Assistant  
Office of Budgeting, Financial  
Planning, & Analysis

Angie was born, raised and had lived in Southeast, Texas, near Beaumont, her whole life prior to coming to work at Texas State. She attended Lamar University, where she received an Associates Degree in Office Administration. She joins us after working for 28 years at Region 5 Education Service Center in Beaumont. After discovering and falling in love with the Texas Hill Country back in the early 90's, she had a dream to one day move to this area and call it home. Recently when she and her husband, Paul, became empty nesters, they decided the time was right for the move and her 30-year dream finally was set in motion. Angie loves traveling and photography, exploring the local sites and events, as well as exploring the beautiful rivers and creeks while tubing and kayaking.



*Glenn Broome*

Parking Services Officer  
Transportation Services

*Matthew Carmichael*

Director  
University Police

*Lawrence Ferrer*

Parking Services Officer  
Transportation Services

*Kyle Franklin*

Grounds Maintenance Worker II  
Transportation Services

*Arthur Prieto*

Warehouse Worker  
Materials Management & Logistics

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## AND THE WINNERS ARE...

### **Texas State Quarterly Team February 2022– Concur Travel Team**

VPFSS Team members: **Cindi Scheid, Sydney Vogel, Isabel Valdez, and April Serna.**

VPIT Team members: **Joyce Munoz, Jenny Wiley, Mark Piersol, Gabe Gil, Mike Colligan, and Percy Adusei-Ameyaw.**

### **FSS Quarterly Team January 2022 – ID Services Team**

Team members: **Andrea "Kristy" Aldape, Lisa Gonzales, Lisa Luera, Sandra Martinez, Rocio De La Rosa, and Lauren Williams.**

# BOBCAT CHATTER

**Jeremy Thomas**  
Communications Representative  
*Office of Human Resources*

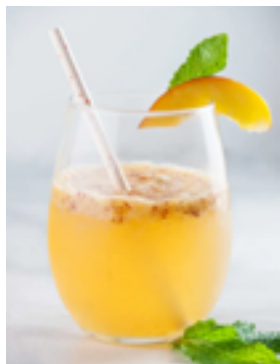
**What is your favorite childhood vacation memory?**

**Amy Oakes**  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
*FSS Planning*

"I'm a roller coaster fanatic, so my favorite childhood vacation memory was when I took a 6th grade band trip to Six Flags over Texas. It was a Tuesday morning, so there were no lines for any of the rides. We basically had the entire park to ourselves. We literally rode the Batman 6 times in a row. I think I'm still dizzy to this day!"

"Camping with my family. Growing up, we went camping at least once a month and made so many amazing memories and had so many adventurous experiences in parks across the country."

## CATS COOKING



### Peach Wine Spritzers

#### *Ingredients:*

- 1 peach
- 2 ounces of peach schnapps
- 2 cups of sweet sparkling white wine
- Mint leaves for garnish

#### *Directions:*

1. Peel the peach and remove the pit. Slice the peach and muddle with the peach schnapps until smooth-ish.
2. Divide the mix between two glasses.
3. Divide the 2 cups of wine into the two glasses and pour over the schnapps mixture.
4. Garnish with fresh peach slices and mint leaves.
5. Enjoy!

### Grilled Chicken and Grape Skewers

#### *Ingredients:*

##### **Marinade**

- 1/4 cup avocado olive oil
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 1/2 teaspoon red chili flakes
- 1 tablespoon oregano
- 1 tablespoon rosemary
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest

##### **Skewers**

- 1 lb. chicken breast
- 1 3/4 cups green seedless grapes
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoon avocado oil
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice, fresh

#### *Directions:*

1. In small bowl combine 1/4 cup of oil, garlic, chili flakes, oregano, rosemary and lemon zest. Whisk together marinade.
2. Cut chicken into 3/4 inch cubes.
3. Alternate chicken and grapes and thread onto 12 skewers. Place skewers into a baking dish or pan large enough to hold them.
4. Pour marinade over skewers, coating each one. Marinate for 4-24 hours.
5. Remove skewers from marinade and let excess oil drip off. Season with salt.
6. Grill on barbecue until chicken is cooked through, about 3-5 minutes on each side.
7. Arrange on serving platter and drizzle with additional avocado oil and lemon juice.



Do you have an amazing recipe you would like to share? The FSS Newsletter committee would love to hear from you! Send your recipe and pictures to [VPFSS@txstate.edu](mailto:VPFSS@txstate.edu) to be included.

# OFF THE CLOCK

**Emmanuel Villarruel**

*Head Air Condition Mechanic – Facilities Operations*



In January 2022, the Texas Rivers and Streams and Texas State removed a total of 406 invasive suckermouth armored catfish from the San Marcos River during a dewatering event.

The armored catfish also known as *Plecostomus*, or “Pleco” was introduced to the San Marcos River in the 70s when aquarium owners thought it would do no harm to release these fish into the river. *Plecostomus* spawn year-round burrowing into the riverbanks causing erosion and disruption to the ecosystem. The Tilapia is another invasive species that was purposely brought into Spring Lake in 1978 for the movie “Piranha”.

Since 2014, Emmanuel (Manny) has been a volunteer for Atlas Environmental, owned by TXST alum Nick Menchaca. Manny became interested in volunteering to remove the *Plecostomus* and other invasive fish species after his participation in the “2014 San Marcos River Pole Spear



Tournament” that Nick’s company hosts twice a year.

Several times during the week, Manny teams up with another diver and they brave the chilly

waters of the San Marcos River (some days before and after work). Equipped with three prong pole spears, raft, flashlights, and wetsuits, they pursue their mission to rid the river of these fish and other targeted species, such as red rimmed melania snails, giant ramshorn snails and nutria. They also remove underwater trash, broken glass and sometimes they find treasures! Manny said he enjoys the sense of peacefulness when he is diving for “Plecós” and other invasive species. After removing the fish species, he measures them, weighs them, and identifies their sex. The “Plecós” are composted and the Tilapia are eaten.

Not everyone can spearfish year-round in the San Marcos River or other bodies of water, but Manny enjoys the awesome benefits of having year-round permission to spearfish in the San Marcos River, Landa Lake, Rio Vista and in the Comal River. Challenges when spearfishing are

visibility and weather and therefore he prefers to spearfish before sunrise and sunset before swimmers muddle the water.

Since December 2013, Atlas Environmental has removed a total of 11,884 suckermouth armored catfish from the river. During the biannual pole spear tournaments, Manny has been a leading competitor. In last November’s tournament, he caught the heaviest “Pleco” at 2.44 lbs. and placed first in “Top Haul” (27.8 lbs.) and “Most Weight Removed” (61.32 lbs.). After the tournaments and in collaboration with a local restaurant, Atlas Environmental hosts a fish fry to serve to the community.



According to TexasInvasives.org. “Dumping anything out of an aquarium — fish, animals, and plants — can have devastating consequences for Texas’ natural waterbodies. This is true for both freshwater and saltwater aquariums. Never dump them into a natural body of water or flush them down the toilet.” River warriors like Manny are passionate about protecting local river’s ecosystems and devote many hours to protect these rivers from the devastating impact that invasive species are causing.

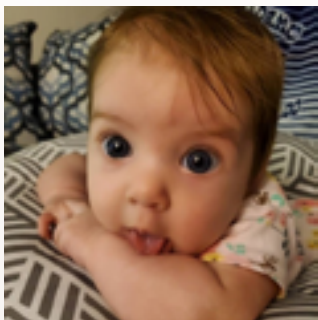
Manny said that he appreciates and respects the San Marcos River. He would like the community and visitors to know that the river is a great resource and commodity so protecting it is displaying stewardship of our environment. Also, check out <https://www.atlasenvironmentaltx.com/> for information and to watch videos of their underwater mission.



OFF THE CLOCK is a section in the newsletter that showcases an interesting fact about a staff member in the FSS division. Did you publish a book, do you have a hidden talent, do you have a unique collection, or do you have an interesting hobby (just to name a few suggestions)? We welcome any information you would like to share in the newsletter!



# STAFF SCOOP



**Angie Touchstone**, the Budget Office and Treasurer's Office's Sr. Administrative Assistant, has a new 4-month-old granddaughter, Tillie Joelle Lamb, and she is the joy of her life.



**Veronica Maldonado**, Administrative Assistant III in SBS, and her husband Chris, and big sister, Jayla Faith welcomed their daughter/baby sister, Bibiana Grace on October 5, 2021, weighing in at 7 lbs 3 oz.

**LaDonna Tate** of Environmental, Health, Safety, Risk and Emergency Management and her husband Charley are proud to announce their daughter, Sheridan Tate, graduated Cum Laude December 10, 2021 from Texas State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice & Minor in Forensic Psychology.



As an undergraduate student at Texas State, **Samantha Williams**, Human Resources Assistant, had the opportunity to study abroad in Scotland. After receiving her B.S. in Family Consumer Sciences in May of 2019, she decided to pursue a post graduate degree at Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh, the capital city of Scotland.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused the university to quickly pivot to a virtual format, and Samantha was on one of the last flights out before the country entered a strict 13-month lockdown. She finished her degree remotely, navigating a 6-hour time difference and enjoyed a virtual graduation in October of 2020.

Over winter break, Samantha was able to travel back to Edinburgh for the holidays to recover belongings in storage since 2020! She also got to reunite with peers and soak in the city that she grew so fond of!

Max Palmer, son of Corporal **Tad Palmer** (UPD), PIR (Pass In Review) was on 01/21/2022 at the Naval Recruit Training Center (RTC) in Illinois just off of Lake Michigan. Max was part of Division 050. Out of all 11 Divisions graduating, Division 050 took the Exemplary Status for their combined team and individual scores on all events over the 8 week boot camp.

Max received a promotion to E-2 (Airman Apprentice) for testing over knowledge of Navy fundamentals and responsibilities assigned to his current rank. Max is working to be an Aircraft Mechanic and will be assigned to a squadron at the completion of his training.

Max received his official orders, provided he completes his A-school. He will be stationed with the HSC-23 Wildcards located at Naval Air Base Coronado (California).



# LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

...Continued from page 1

All these local plans, initiatives, people, and projects will be taking place in a world that is going through its own tremendous change. Just as we are, hopefully, emerging from the pandemic which has defined much of our lives over the past two years, unique challenges are rising. The horrors of a war in eastern Europe fill our headlines, the highest inflation in nearly half a century is rippling through our economy, and there continues to be a significant challenge to achieve common ground on almost any issue from our legislators.

Balancing all the opportunities and reasons for optimism in Texas State's future with the challenges and causes for concern in the national and global context is no easy feat. Add to this that many of us have experienced personal difficulties and loss due to the pandemic, and there is no doubt that this is a challenging time.

Amongst all this change, what remains the same is the core mission of Texas State which is to create new knowledge, to embrace a diversity of people and ideas, to foster cultural and economic development, and to prepare our graduates to participate fully and freely as citizens of Texas, the nation, and the world. While we may be in a period of what feels like momentous or unprecedented change, change has always been our constant companion, and change is the only certainty as we look towards our future.

In this changing world - one where I do believe the pace of change is only going to increase - our students need us more than ever. The life skills, knowledge, experiences, and opportunities we give our students are more important now than they have ever been. At the same time, the safe environment, support, and nurturing care we provide them is even more essential.

Providing that environment, support, and care is the job of many of you in Finance and Support Services, which underscores just how important your jobs are. You are making a significant difference in the lives of our students, your fellow staff, and our faculty.

I am excited to see what the next year will bring us at Texas State. I am confident we are going to be successful, and that this university will continue to be among the best in the country because of all of you. We have a great team in FSS, and I want to thank each one of our dedicated full-time, part-time, and contract staff who come to work every day to serve and support others.



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***"Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten."***

– Neil Gaiman  
Coraline

The Finance and Support Services Division in support of the University's mission is dedicated to providing outstanding customer service and a challenging and satisfying work environment while ensuring the efficient and effective use of financial, human, and physical resources.

#### Committee

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