

Spring 2018

FSS *Essentials*



FSS VISION:

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

Eric Algoe
Vice President

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Interim Director, EHS&RM

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Assistant VP, Human Resources

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*Assistant VP, Budgeting, Financial
Planning & Analysis*

Tom Shewan
Associate VP, Facilities

Valarie Van Vlack
Treasurer

LETTER FROM THE **VICE PRESIDENT**



Texas State University will bring three new buildings into full service in 2018, adding over 350,000 gross square feet to our university community. Those three buildings include Ingram Hall, which will be associated with the College of Science and Engineering, and will be the largest academic building ever built at Texas State. Willow Hall is the second building, and it will be the new home for three programs from the College of Health Professions which are moving from San Marcos to our Round Rock Campus. Finally, the University Events Center will provide for a significant expansion of Strahan Arena, new Athletic

offices, locker rooms, and a new multi-purpose room that can host a wide variety of functions.

Perhaps of even greater interest to our campus community that has had to deal with all the traffic, parking, noise, and other inconveniences associated with those projects over the past two years, is that there are not likely to be any new buildings that will break ground in 2018, and perhaps not even in 2019. It may be tempting to look forward to a period of reprieve from all our growing pains for a year or two, and there will likely be some relief, with fewer street closures and removal of parking.

However, Texas State University does not stand still. While these three new buildings have gotten all the attention in terms of

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DATES TO REMEMBER

April

April 1

- Easter Sunday
- April Fool's Day

April 2

- Easter Monday
- World Autism Awareness Day

April 6

- International Sport Day

April 7

- United Nations' World Health Day

April 10

- Texas State Vendor Show

April 13

- Thomas Jefferson's Birthday

April 17

- Tax Day

April 21

- San Jacinto Day (Texas)

April 22

- Earth Day

April 25

- Administrative Professionals Day

April 27

- Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day
- FSS Annual Employee Appreciation Picnic

April 28

- World Day for Safety and Health at Work

April 30

- International Jazz Day

May

May 3

- National Day of Prayer

May 4

- Star Wars Day

May 5

- Cinco de Mayo

May 10-12

- Texas State Commencement

May 13

- Mother's Day

May 15

- International Day of Families
- Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 19

- Armed Forces Day

May 21

- World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 22

- National Maritime Day

May 25

- National Missing Children's Day

May 27

- Trinity Sunday

May 28

- Memorial Day (Texas State Holiday)

June

June 1

- Global Day of Parents

June 4

- First Day of Summer I Classes

June 6

- D-Day

June 14

- Army Birthday
- Flag Day

June 17

- Father's Day

June 19

- Emancipation Day (Texas)

June 20

- World Refugee Day

June 21

- First Day of Summer

June 23

- Public Service Day

June 30

- International Asteroid Day

CATS COOKING

Lemon Oil Cabbage Slaw

- 1 bag of chopped cabbage (with carrots etc)
- 1 tablespoons chopped cashews
- 1 teaspoon sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh basil

Dressing:

- 1 clove garlic minced
- Juice of 1 lemon
- ¼ C Avocado oil (or olive oil)
- ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp pepper

Toss well. Light, crunchy & yummy!



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 any pictures to VPFSS@txstate.edu for a chance to be included in the VPFSS Newsletter.

VPFSS BROWN BAG

Have an idea... a question... a concern? Eric Algeo will visit offices for his monthly Brown Bag sessions on the following dates:

Thursday, April 12

EHSRM

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 17

Budgeting

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, June 21

Facilities Management

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

January 2018 FSS Quarterly Team



Cynthia Zavala, Kim Stringham, Renae Smith, Jodie Mangold, Zindi Castillo, Sylvia Cruz, Elizabeth Hewett, Marcus Bryant, Eric Algoe, Mariela Villanueva-Beltran, Stella Gallegos, Rita McMahon, Lisa Allen, Leticia Gaitan, Melissa Kelley, Karon DeBacker, Kellie Rodriguez, and Roxanne Munos.
Not Pictured: **Cynthia Castillo, Maricela Cruz, Marla Pullin, and Staci Wade.**

Due to Hurricane Harvey, in the beginning of the semester, Student Business Services had water damage and were not able to operate out of their location on the 1st floor. Without hesitation, some SBS and Treasurer staff met on Monday morning (when the University was technically closed) to evaluate the situation and discussed strategy on how we may service the student needs. The staff offered extensions based on extenuating circumstances and were compassionate and showed empathy as many of the students were directly affected by the flooding in Houston and the surrounding area.

February 2018 FSS Quarterly Team

In the Fall of 2016, after concerns were documented by EHSRM about the safety of academic and research laboratories on campus, Shea and Chad took on the responsibility of improving the University's Laboratory Safety Program.

By improving the safety culture in academic and research laboratories, the team is not only making our campus safer for students, faculty, and staff, but also keeping the University compliant with federal, state and local regulations as we work towards becoming a Tier I Research Institution.



Eric Algoe, Chad Thomas, Shea Cockrell and Gordon Green.

March 2018 Employee of the Month



Michelle Moritz, Eric Algoe, and Bobbie Brandenburg.

Bobbie gives much time and energy to support the administrative staff of Texas State University. She provides outstanding customer service to her peers. She is very dedicated to the people she serves and she strives to make sure the hiring experience is handled properly.

She has dedicated herself to helping Texas State employees with a gracious, positive attitude and a smile. Her skills and knowledge are an enormous asset to her endless hours of helping people, both professionally and personally.

Bobbie is a dedicated employee that is selfless in her service to the university community. Texas State University is very fortunate to have such a valuable resource working in the HR department.

WELLNESS WISDOM Spiritual Health

*Contributing author: Teresa L. Zapp M.Ed.
Senior Lecturer in Curriculum & Instruction, College of Education*

Ask ten people the meaning of spiritual health and you're likely to get ten different answers. It's a deeply personal thing. Most standard definitions include a connection with a personal source of power, the feeling of purpose or meaning in life and knowing that which brings you joy and tranquility. Whatever the definition, most agree that developing spiritual health has many mind/body benefits.

The pathways to enhanced spiritual health are as varied as those who choose them. It's important to find what works best for you so why not experiment! Here are some ideas for enhancing your spiritual health:

BE MINDFUL IN THE MOMENT

- Be present and alert. Savor every moment!
- Look for the silver lining.
- Experience gratitude on a deep level. Be grateful not just for your meal but for the cook, farmer, and plants/animals that supplied it.

MEDITATE

- Focus within and release thoughts.
- Imagine a place that brings you peace.
- Try various breathing techniques.
- Listen or move rhythmically to music.

EXPRESS YOURSELF

- Write, color, paint or draw your thoughts.
- Positively affirm who you are and what you need.
- Engage in regular prayer or chant mantra if it feels right.
- Attend meaningful group events or religious services.

ENGAGE IN A MIND/BODY PRACTICE

- Swim, run, walk, bike or dance if you enjoy it.
- Get a massage.
- Try yoga, Thai Chi, or Qi Gong.
- Be purposeful about relaxation.
- Eat well.

SEEK JOY

- Connect with others through donation, service or time.
- Do what you love!
- Always be true to yourself.

We are all connected.

When one grows spiritually, we all benefit. And so, may you all have happy spiritual healing experiences!

HR WEB DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Halfway done with the two-part initiative.

The Office of Human Resources' Communications team is halfway done with their Web Development Project, designed to facilitate navigation for both internal and external users, and enhance web readability. This initiative is part of an HR communication goal, focused on improving the online organization of HR services, tools, and resources. The project is divided into two major parts: (1) revamp existing HR area websites, and (2) restructure the entire HR site and create new websites tailored for HR's specific user groups.

Phase one: Complete!

During 2017, the Communications team refurbished the majority of the HR area websites (e.g., Employment, Benefits, Compensation, Employee Relations, Professional Development, and Work Life). Last month, the team launched the new Master Data Center (MDC) website, constituting the last HR area to undergo web renovations. Subject matter experts of each HR area were key in tailoring content, keeping their main audiences in mind. Consequently, each HR area website now has a more vibrant design and clearly distinguish their particular themes, resources, and FAQs.

What's next?

The next rollout includes a renovation to the HR homepage, which also includes shifting content from the sidebar into newly organized tabs in the top bar. This will inevitably remove the sidebar, which has become unsustainable over time. This next rollout also includes a revamped 'About Us' website and the launch of a new site geared toward employment support for Veterans.

Future web additions

During 2018, future web rollouts include the creation of new sites for 'Researchers', 'Managers', and 'Retirees'. These additions and changes will be announced as we move forward. All web additions are expected to be launched before December 31, in anticipation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) review.

If you have questions or would like to learn more about the HR Web Development Project, please contact 5.2557 or the Communications Team: Vanessa Salazar, Laura Gonzalez, or Jordan Guerrero.

STAFF SCOOP

FSS Employee News



Jeff Lund (Human Resources) is enjoying teaching a compensation class as an Adjunct Professor this Spring in the Management Department in the McCoy College of Business Administration. He has 40 + upper classmen and sees this opportunity as a way of “giving back” to the institution. Jeff received both his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Texas State.



Marci Peterson (Transportation Services) recently adopted a rescued Jack Russell Terrier named Jagger! Jagger enjoys very long walks, upending plants and the occasional climbing of the blinds. He dislikes cats and skunks. Vehemently.

MEET OUR NEW TEAM



Gary Brantley
Head Air Cond Mechanic
Facilities Operations

Gary is originally from Burnet, Texas and has two children, Becky and Joey. He comes to the university from his prior job at the Texas Workforce Commission. Gary owns a small ranch and likes to ride horses and Harleys. His hobbies include hunting and fishing, and he loves the outdoors.



Barbara Delgado
Construction Contract Administrator
Facilities Operations

Barbara is returning to the university; she worked here previously as a Sr. Construction Inspector, having left in 2014 to be self-employed. She is married to Raymond Delgado in the university's Plumbing Shop and has three children and two grandchildren. Her hobbies include antique shopping and spending time with the grandchildren.



Susan MacDonald
Administrative Asst II
Facilities Operations

Susan is originally from California, but comes to us most recently from the University of Texas System, and prior to that the U.S. Department of State where she spent ten years in the Foreign Service at U.S. Embassies Worldwide. She has two sons and four grandchildren. She loves to play golf, work on landscaping and travel!

John Rodriguez
Facilities Maintenance Worker II
Facilities Operations

John is already familiar with this campus, having actually worked for 12-1/2 years with our former contractor, The Trane Company. John has three daughters (Ariana, Alyssa, and Jenessa) and is originally from Lockhart. He loves to play softball, has his own D.J. service, and loves to help others when he can.



Robbie Stoddard
Construction Contract Adm
Facilities Operations

Robbie and his wife, Christy, have two children – a son named Trace and a daughter named Mary Cate. Robbie is an avid outdoorsman, and loves to fish, hunt, camp, and hike. He is also an active cub scout leader for the BSA.



John Wilson
Plumber II
Facilities Operations

J.D. is from Round Rock originally, and previously worked at the University of Texas at Austin in the PMCS office. When he and his wife, Kristy, are not taking their daughter Chayse to cheerleading practice or beauty pageants, he loves to go fishing. Before he became a plumber, J.D. was a police officer in Smithville, Texas.



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BOBCAT CHATTER

Which is the best vacation you have ever had?

Elizabeth Hewett

*Coordinator
Student Business Services*

"My trip to Greece was my favorite. As a history buff, I firmly believe you cannot know where you are going unless you know where you have been. Greece is one of the oldest societies in history! It was amazing to see the way they have honored the Gods of Greek Mythology as well as how they have taken care of their artifacts. How they have sculpted cities into the side of mountains is awe-inspiring; it is hard to describe. The food was amazing and the people welcoming. I would recommend Greece to anyone."



Lindsey Sinner

*Administrative Assistant III
Facilities Management*

"Went on a 5,000 mile road trip with my husband in only 8 days. Started in Wisconsin, drove down through Illinois, Missouri, and Oklahoma to Texas, then over through New Mexico to Arizona, then up to Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Minnesota and back to Wisconsin. We hit "all" the national parks (Guadalupe Mountains, Petrified Forest, Painted Desert, Grand Canyon, Zion, Garden of the Gods, Rocky Mountain, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse, and Badlands). What made it "the best" was spending over a week of uninterrupted time with each other, with no plan in place, seeing this beautiful country creating substantial memories and using a good old-fashioned atlas."



Colleen Cook

*Environmental Health & Safety Specialist
EHSRM*

"The best trip I have ever been on was probably my trip to Alaska three summers ago. I went with two of my friends and over the five days we were there, we had so many adventures. We ate fresh smoked salmon and oysters, went hiking in Girdwood, camped in a forest (and forgot our bear mace!), went to a sanctuary for sled dogs, and saw Denali! The weather was perfect for animal watching – we saw moose, mountain goats, and two bald eagles! We also met the mayor of Talkeetna, Alaska...who was actually a 20-year-old cat named Stubbs. Alaska will always have a special place in my heart, I hope to visit again someday soon!"

MEET OUR NEW TEAM

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Aysar Abualrob
Accountant II
Accounting Office

Daniel Benson
Construction Contract Adm
Facilities Planning Design

Kyndra Gilley
Accountant II
Accounting Office

Elizabeth Longoria-Cardenas
Accountant II
Accounting Office

Justin Moravits
Facilities Maintenance Worker I
Auxiliary Services

Krista Salas
Buyer II
Procurement and Strategic Sourcing

Yvonne Ybarra
Cashier
Transportation Services

OFF THE CLOCK

David Bisett

FSS Planning – Real Estate Specialist

*There is a line in a play,
“I’m an actor, I have to act.”
That pretty much sums me up.*

I grew up the oldest child of country parents. My dad was a cowboy at heart and when I was 4 years old, he was the announcer for the Texas A&M Rodeo. My first performance was as a prop in a joke between the announcer (my Dad) and the rodeo clown. I was made up like a clown and set inside the clown’s overalls against his stomach who ran onto the arena and apologized to dad for being late. He had a flat tire. After an exchange, the clown said that he finally got it fixed by using his “spare tire.” At that he pulled me out (his spare tire), set me down, and I ran off to the laughter and applause of the crowd. Probably only polite laughter, but enough for me to feel the pull of theater. And so my life in “Show Business” began.

Mom and dad moved us to Houston chasing work. By the time I was in high school, I was a city boy looking for my place in the world. I took a drama class and found out I could make people laugh... and that did it for me. I was hooked. Through theater I found a way to connect to a group and to the larger world. Since then, my passion for the power of live performance has only increased.

We (actors) are a unique species, able to experience life not only through our own actions, but also through what others say and do. That is why theater and movies can trigger powerful emotions though the events are not happening to us personally. That is an amazing gift and extends to all arts... music, painting, sculpture... as humans we can relate emotionally to what we see and hear. I find that eternally fascinating.



In the 1980’s I found myself back in San Marcos, a few years after graduating from SWTSU with a theater degree. I worked by day to feed my body and theater by night to feed my soul. A new theater group in Wimberley invited me out and I have been a member of the Wimberley Players ever since serving on the Board, multiple terms as President, acting, directing, producing, sweeping the stage, hanging lights, sewing a button... Yes, I learned to sew a button at SWTSU!

I have recently been cast in Neil Simon’s comedy, *The Sunshine Boys* as Willie Clark, an old vaudeville actor down on his luck since his partner, Al Lewis, decided to retire over 11 years ago. Now, he and his partner get back together for a TV special, but it doesn’t go well. Willie has been mad at his partner for quitting on him and the old resentments come storming back so hard Willie has a heart attack when they rehearse their act. Willie’s health forces him into his own retirement and ultimately into a reconciliation with Al. It is Willie’s line I quoted at the beginning, “I am an actor, I have to act.”



The Sunshine Boys opens April 13th and runs four weekends. I’d love for my Texas State Family to see what I do when I’m not buying, selling, and leasing real estate on behalf of the University. Check out wimberleyplayers.org for tickets and pick your seat. With our new TABC permit you can treat yourself to beer and wine, too!

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!

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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construction projects over the past two years, the coming two years will be dominated with renovation and expansion projects to existing buildings. Maintaining our commitment to keep all our buildings in good condition and constantly adapting them to meet the needs of our ever-changing university community requires that we constantly balance new construction with renovation.

As we finish the three projects mentioned above, there are several significant renovation projects that will get started over the next 12 months that, collectively, will make the Mall area of campus a place where the sights and sounds of construction will be evident in a wide variety of buildings throughout 2019 and into 2020. Of the five buildings that touch the Mall, four will undergo a major renovation or expansion during this time as shown on the map. I want to share a bit of information on each of these projects.

The largest of the coming projects that will impact the Mall area is the \$31.2 million expansion of the LBJ Student Center (LBJSC). The LBJSC will expand toward the mall into the existing outdoor, stepped, atrium area. This is a major construction project as it involves constructing a massive four-story addition and doing significant renovation inside of the building, and it will be taking place in one of the busiest pedestrian corridors of our campus.

Next up in terms of high-profile projects will be the \$8.3 million conversion of the first three or four floors of the Alkek Library into a learning commons. This project will necessitate reorganizing the entire library collection to clear out the lower floors to create spaces where students can collaborate, interface with the latest technologies, get a cup of their

favorite coffee, and feel welcome in a 21st century comfortable and inviting space.

Continuing clockwise around the Mall, Elliott Hall will receive a \$6.4 million renovation to change it from a residence hall into an academic building. The A and B wings of Elliott will house scores of new faculty offices and several new classrooms. Elliott C, the current community building in the middle of the site, will be renovated for use as an office for a program from the division of Student Affairs.



Skipping over beautiful and still relatively new McCoy Hall, the only building on the Mall that will not be renovated in the coming two years, we arrive at Encino Hall, the former Health Professions building. As we move three programs out of Encino Hall to Willow Hall on our Round Rock campus, we will perform a \$2 - \$4 million renovation of the vacated spaces in Encino Hall to prepare it for new academic uses, including a new 100-seat classroom.

The concentration of these four projects in one area that sits at the heart of the pedestrian zone will undoubtedly pose real challenges to everyone in the community. Expect periods when street closures will occur in the area around the Alkek parking garage. Sidewalk

closures and rerouted pedestrian access will also occur on a regular basis. Further, these construction projects require space for logistics, staging, and storage outside of the actual project zone. Therefore, expect some disruption to parking lots as a result as well. Facilities, Planning, Design and Construction (FPDC) is currently working with Transportation and Parking Services on this plan and it will be shared with the entire community in the coming months.

The four projects above, along with others that will occur in the coming two years, such as the \$3.5 million renovation of Jowers Hall and the \$6.2 million renovation of RF Mitte, will also necessitate that as many as 75 staff and faculty may need to be temporarily relocated into new workplaces. Planning and managing this Herculean task falls to Nancy Nusbaum, Associate Vice President for FSS Planning. On a campus where space is already tight, I ask all of us to work closely together to support those who will be temporarily dislocated by these projects. In fact, we will be making room for two of those dislocated

people right here in the Vice President's office suite in JCK.

I am personally grateful to everyone who has had to survive the past two years of construction on campus. I promise you that, when you walk the halls of our new buildings, you will feel pride and confidence in the future of Texas State, and, I hope, that the disruptions were worth it. To those of you who will bear the brunt of the next two years of construction, especially if you will be dislocated to make room for progress, I thank you in advance. Although these growing pains are certainly a distraction and an inconvenience, they are a necessary evil as we strive to continue to make Texas State greater for future generations of Bobcat alumni, staff and faculty.



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"Spring is the time of plans and projects."

- Leo Tolstoy

Committee

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.

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