

Spring 2020

FSS *Essentials*



FSS VISION:

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

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Associate VP, Facilities

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Treasurer

LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



The year is 2020. I can still remember thinking about this year in the distant future when I was a child. I'm sure the vision of 2020 that I had then was nothing at all like the world we now find ourselves living in. Some things are undoubtedly much worse than that child's Pollyannaish view of the future and some things are likely better, but many things are undoubtedly unlike anything I

could possibly have imagined. The coronavirus pandemic certainly falls into that last category.

In between Zoom and Teams virtual meetings, I have had the rare opportunity to spend some quiet time on our now largely empty San Marcos campus over the last several weeks. In those moments, I have found myself thinking about choices, challenges, and gratitude. The choice many of us in higher education have made is to live lives in service to others. We are all invested in the

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DATES TO REMEMBER

May

May 5

- Cinco de Mayo

May 7

- National Day of Prayer

May 10

- Mother's Day

May 11

- Eat What You Want Day

May 15

- International Day of Families
- Peace Officers Memorial Day

May 16

- Armed Forces Day

May 20

- National Missing Children's Day

May 21

- World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 22

- National Maritime Day

May 25

- Memorial Day (Texas State Holiday)

June

Jun 1

- Global Day of Parents
- First Day of Summer I Classes

Jun 6

- D-Day

Jun 7

- Cancer Survivors Day

Jun 14

- Army Birthday
- Flag Day

Jun 19

- Emancipation Day (Texas)

Jun 20

- World Refugee Day
- First Day of Summer

Jun 21

- Father's Day

Jun 23

- Public Service Day

Jun 30

- International Asteroid Day
-

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

January 2020 FSS Quarterly Team - Banner Document Management Systems (BDMS) Conversion Team



Left to right: **Eric Algoe, Teresa Duggins, Jessica Sedlachek, Melissa Demers, Michelle Moritz, Nancy Arnwine, Elizabeth Turner, and Natalie Felps**, Not Pictured: **Sam Cerny, Julie Cervantes, Tony Lira, Alex Reyna, Millie Von Stultz, and Sara Wendland.**

This team converted over 75 years' worth of staff, faculty, and student employee personnel files from paper to electronic format.

Initial estimates based on volume projected it would take 15 years with current staffing levels. With some additional funding for dedicated part-time labor, this team ended up completing the conversion in less than three years and under budget!

December 2019 Texas State Employee of the Month - Mr. Wendall Harris



Wendall Harris, Eric Algoe.

Mr. Wendall Harris, a Grounds Maintenance Worker, Transportation Services, was selected as the Texas State Employee of the Month for December 2019. He always conducts himself with professionalism, customer service focus and doing the best job possible.

He always conducts himself with pride and detail to his job, he always has a smile and a wave to whoever he meets.

SPOTLIGHT ON TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Transportation Services, in the Division of Finance and Support Services, at Texas State University was born on September 1, 2012, and reports to the Associate Vice President for Finance and Support Services Planning (AVPFSSP). Transportation Services offers a variety of transportation and parking services for students, faculty, staff, and visitors at the San Marcos and Round Rock Texas State University campuses.

Transportation Services is comprised of Parking Services, the Bobcat Shuttle, and Alternative Transportation. Transportation Services maintains over 100 parking lots and garages with 13,000 parking spaces, 45 shuttles that cover 10 routes with over 27,000 rides per day, and alternative transportation options like The Bike Cave, the on-campus bicycle workspace and shop, and multiple on-campus Zipcar locations.

Transportation Services also coordinate transportation for events and visitors, so please remember to contact us if you have guests that need parking arrangements, are bringing buses to campus, or have an event that has any transportation coordination needed!

Director, Transportation Services

The Director of Transportation Services is responsible for planning, directing, and managing the integrated operations, programs, and activities for the Transportation Services Department. Work includes overseeing daily parking and transportation operations including administration of campus parking, permits, fine collection, enforcement, lot maintenance and construction, Bobcat Shuttle route and service design, purchased shuttle contract, ridesharing, and bicycle alternative transportation; and ensuring quality, efficient, and financially sustainable parking and transportation services and infrastructure while maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction.

Administrative Assistant II

The Administrative Assistant II provides administrative support for Director of Transportation Services, Manager of Shuttle Service, Coordinator of Alternative Transportation, and the Coordinator the Marketing and Promotions. Work includes supervision of all office student workers.

Manager, Shuttle Services

The Manager of Shuttle Services is responsible for managing the Texas State University shuttle bus operations; coordinating all transportation and multi-modal issues with local, state, and federal stakeholders. Work includes coordinating transportation license agreements with public and private transportation providers, managing the Bobcat Shuttle, ridesharing, and bicycle alternative transportation program, and ensuring quality, efficient, and financial sustainability of transportation services and infrastructure while maintaining a high level of customer satisfaction.

Coordinator Alternative Transportation

The Coordinator of Alternative Transportation supports the Department of Transportation Services in the areas of shuttle, biking, cartography, and alternative transportation options on campus. He manages the Bike Cave, sales, inventory, office operations, and supervises Bike Cave student workers, and develops GIS information systems.

Coordinator, Marketing and Promotions

The Coordinator of Marketing and Promotions is responsible for developing and implementing a communications and marketing plan for Transportation Services, which includes parking, shuttle bus, and alternate methods of transportation. She is responsible for student outreach, such as New Student Orientation, Bobcat Days and other campus events, and the development and maintenance of all websites and social media platforms.

Associate Director, Parking Services

The Associate Director manages the Parking Services office and supervises a staff engaged in permitting vehicles, collecting parking fines, maintaining facilities, and repairing and installing parking amenities. He recommends improvements in operations, new regulations, and new programs and oversees the coordination of special events, lot and garage planning and maintenance, and the implementation of new technologies and policies.

There are eight positions that report to him, and that is a whole other Spotlight!

OFF THE CLOCK

Roy Eastwood

Plant Maintenance Supervisor - Utilities Operations

"I've been training in Mixed Martial Arts for 15 years and 13 years in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and enjoy every minute of it. I received my Black Belt in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu under King Webb of Luling Mixed Martial Arts (MMA).

I also received my Black Belt in Muay Lao Kickboxing/Muay Thai under Eddie Diaz of Diaz Martial Arts, and both were a great accomplishment in my life. Jiu-Jitsu is the fastest growing martial art today. It promotes self-control, builds a healthier lifestyle, builds mental fortitude, and friendships.



I've competed in Jiu-Jitsu tournaments and had the pleasure to meet and train with some of the best MMA fighters in the game. Fighters like Relson Gracie, Bas Rutten, Donald "Cowboy" Cerrone, Cleber Luciano, and Troy Dorsey to name a few. My best enjoyment

now is teaching Jiu-Jitsu and Kickboxing at both Diaz Martial Arts and Luling MMA. Martial Arts changed my life and now has become a lifestyle for me.

My son too is training in Jiu-Jitsu and I see his self-confidence grow in the art. I look at my training as an insurance policy, it's there when you need it.

"I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times." – Bruce Lee. I love this quote from Bruce."



Roy is also a talented musician. "My music career has been a blast! I play all genres of music, but mostly I play rock, country, and blues.

I started playing guitar at the age of 15, and I don't think there is a day that goes by that I don't pick up my guitar and play a tune. To me, music has always been my outlet to the craziness this world brings. Over the years, I've learned to play guitar, bass guitar,

piano and I sing. I've been mostly playing the rock scene in San Antonio with a band called Prototype for the past eight years. [Facebook link](#) and [video](#) of band performance.

In addition, I recently started a Texas country band. I also write and record my own music. In 2012, I had the opportunity to record music promo for a local TV show (KCWX). The reality show was called, get this, "Cage Quest!" The show was about local amateur MMA fighters around this area all trying to win the Cage Quest belt in Texas Mixed Martial Arts. I recorded 2 songs for the TV show. The music was used for the promo.

We recorded it all at Firehouse studio at Texas State. This is the [music promo](#).

It's funny that music could make me more involved in the Martial Arts.

When I'm not playing music or training, I enjoy being with my family and all our farm animals on our homestead."



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!

MEET OUR NEW TEAM



Dey Rossell
Public Information Specialist
VP for Finance & Support Services

A native of Bandera, Dey comes to us from Wimberly

ISD. She and her husband, Abraham, a retired U.S. Army Veteran, recently returned to their home in Wimberly. They have three children: Adan, Sophia, and Noah and all enjoy fishing in the Blanco River and exercising in the beautiful outdoor areas of the Wimberly Valley.

Tom Trest
Parking Services Officer
Transportation Services

Tom comes to Parking Services as a U.S. Army Veteran. He earned his Bachelor's degree from Texas A&M and a Master's from Texas State University. He is a sci-fi/fantasy/horror enthusiast, an avid writer, and gamer. He enjoys reading graphic novels, Steven King stories, and spending time with his dog, Iggy.

Mariela Villanueva-Beltran
Coordinator
Student Business Services & Bursars

Judith Barnes
Accounting Clerk II
Student Business Services & Bursars

Jim Hicks
Dispatcher
University Police

Roscoe Hughey
Sergeant
University Police

Travis Talbot
Police Officer
University Police

Philip Barthel
Plant Mechanic I
Utility Operations

Alejandra Pasillas
Administrative Assistant II
University Police

Buddy Williams
Locksmith
Facilities Operations

Corrections:

In the previous newsletter, some photos were mislabeled. Our apologies.

Cody Guerrero
Police Officer
University Police



William Anderson
Guard
University Police



Angela Buess
Guard
University Police



BOBCAT CHATTER

Lynn Lindsay
EHS Specialist
Environmental, Health, Safety & Risk Management

"The filming of the original Mr. Bill series on Saturday Night Live. Mr. Bill was the first nationally recognized EHS celebrity that brought attention to unsafe conditions and unsafe acts and the results of having those two combinations collide in the workplace/ home.

He single-handedly (no pun intended), inspired thousands of future "Safety Worriers" to base their career paths on lessons taught by a clay figurine and the personal interest of protecting others.

I would have wanted to personally witness the 'Safety Culture Revolution'."

If you could witness any event past or future, what would it be and why?

Dawn Kiger
Administrative Assistant III
Grounds and Waste Management

"That's an easy question... I would have loved to watch the 2018 Boston Marathon and witness Desiree Linden become the 1st American woman in 33 years to win the Boston Marathon.

It was absolutely amazing and patriotic to watch. Just a side note: In 2011 she missed 1st place by 2 seconds."

FSS DIVERSITY

The issues of tolerance, respect for differences, and discourse within higher education are of the utmost importance. These are some of the pillars of the learning experience which enrich and enhance a college education.

Educational Expression

The educational experience is diminished when these attributes are overlooked, ignored, or disregarded. Many students on campuses across the world are feeling uncomfortable with the prospect of actively participating in discussions. Why? The fear to express an opinion.



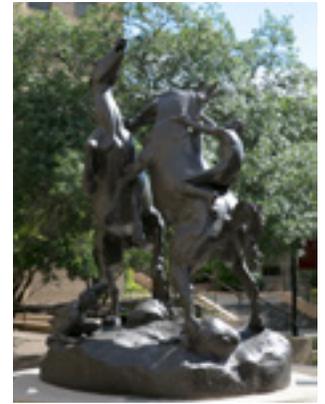
It is a growing phenomenon on campuses, as with most of America, that a majority of people sit in the middle on many issues. Extreme views have overtaken the ability to openly express thoughts and ideas without repercussions or persecution. Students fear being labeled or identified for simply expressing a divergent opinion among peers. Even professors are feeling the pressure to teach the material in a non-controversial manner. Academic freedom, free inquiry, and free expression are integral to the success and growth of higher education.

Open Communication

The fear of offending or the fear of speaking out stifles dialogue, understanding, and ability to compromise. Universities need ingenuity and creativity, both energized by the ability to discuss, debate, and evaluate to allow these uncomfortable conversations to take place. Without fearless, respectful, and open communications, learning

opportunities are lost for faculty, staff, and students.

It is well documented that diversity is a catalyst for success, with differences enhancing innovation and creativity. Research shows that companies that practice diversity outperform non-diverse companies by 15%. This is because diversity promotes a positive environment that enhances understanding and tolerance, making it easy to communicate and leverage ideas. Diversity empowers individuals to share unique experiences, personalities, ideas and thinking styles to become respected contributors.



Celebrated Diversity

As members of the university, we should strive to create and support an environment that promotes diversity, where differences are valued, celebrated, and appreciated. Where students feel comfortable in expressing themselves and their opinions and engaging others in a way that nurtures their educational experience. Creating a space where students feel included and an individual's input matter and are respected is key. Inclusion gives everyone an opportunity to participate and actively contribute.

Efforts to cultivate critical thinking, discerning consumers of information, and well-rounded leaders and citizens are not wholly the responsibility of colleges and universities, but society as a whole. The role of higher education is to strengthen and support these efforts is beneficial to all.



STAFF SCOOP

FSS Employee News



Patricia Prado, Finance and Support Services, is happy to announce the birth of her third grandchild.

Romeo Andres Sarabia was born January 8, 2020, to Angelica Prado and Alex Sarabia. Romeo weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz and was 19 inches long.

Congratulations to the proud parents and grandparents.

Melinda Olivo, Financial Services, is proud to announce the arrival of her first grandchild, Layla May Zavala.

Layla was born on February 21, 2020, weighing 4 lbs. 14.5 oz. and measuring 17.7" long.

She was welcomed by her loving parents, Jared Zavala and Vivica Pinkard, daughter of **Cristina Pinkard** of Student Business Services.

Congratulations to all!



LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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challenges and opportunities that we and our students face now and will face in the future. We must all also wrestle with the choice to either feel gratitude for the good that can yet be found in the pandemic-laden world or to lament what is broken or lost.

To better guide my thoughts on these three topics, and as I am inclined to do when thinking deeply about most any topic, I find myself going back to the wisdom contained in the writings of the many religious traditions I first studied in Comparative Religion classes as a college student long ago. Regardless of your particular religious beliefs, or complete lack thereof, I believe we can all find encouragement, guidance, and hope in these writings. As we all struggle to make sense of these unprecedented times, I hope these thoughts might resonate and find purchase in a helpful way.

Reflections On Service

Whether you think of it in this fashion or not, if you work at Texas State University, you have chosen a life of service. We have only one goal here and that is the creation and dissemination of knowledge. We do so knowing that this endeavor will rarely benefit us personally in our lifetimes, but we continue to do our part with the belief that we are scattering seeds of hope for a better future for our students. An anonymous ancient Greek proverb sums up this belief; "Society

grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in." Even in difficult and trying times such as these, we continue to plant those trees for future generations.

On the nature of service, I am reminded of the teachings of the Qur'an which tells us "You are the best people ever raised for the good of mankind who have been raised to serve others" (3:11). In order to be the best servants that we can be, we must sometimes put our own well-being second to the greater good, we must remain focused on bettering ourselves, and we must hold ourselves accountable. I encourage all of us to be ever mindful of the important roles we all play in serving our students and in serving one another.

On the nature of accountability and commitment to doing our best, Gautama Buddha says in the Dhammapada, "Pay no attention to the faults of others; things done or left undone by others. Consider only what by oneself is done or undone" (verse 50). While it is undoubtedly a stretch to be able to pay "no attention" to the actions of others in the workplace, the larger point here is to focus on what we can control ourselves – our own actions. I simplify this for myself to mean that I try to do my best, even when no one is watching, and I know that many of you, my colleagues, do the same.

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LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

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Reflections On Challenge

I know that 2020 and the years to come will continue to bring many challenges that we must face. The coronavirus will not be the last, and certainly not the largest, challenge we will face. For example, I worry about this fall, when political rhetoric and divisiveness is likely to increase, and our students, faculty and staff might get caught up in their passionate support for one ideology or another.

For guidance on how to approach both our current and our future challenges, the Bible offers much advice. In James 1:19 (New International Version), the Bible tells us, "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry." Certainly, we can all agree there is wisdom in those words. In Proverbs 17:27, the Bible tells us, "The one who has knowledge uses words with restraint". As we approach a time when we must all listen more intently and speak more thoughtfully, I invite you to reflect on these words which will, I believe, serve you and Texas State University well in all situations.

So as not to be accused of writing a sermon here, I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge the deep font of

wisdom found in secular philosophy as well. Rather than belaboring that point, I will simply share the words of someone much smarter than I who said, "A man's ethical behavior should be based effectually on sympathy, education, and social ties and needs; no religious basis is necessary" (Albert Einstein, "Religion and Science," New York Times Magazine, 1930). I offer this to suggest that belief in the underlying religion is not in any way required to get much, personally and communally, from the study of religious tenets and texts. The appreciation of such study is foundational to our diverse community of learners.

Reflections On Gratitude

Allow me a final thought regarding gratitude. I am always thinking about how lucky I am to work with all of you – the great employees at Texas State, to help in the preparation of our students to make the world a better place, and to do my own small part in making sure Texas State continues to be the special place that it is for future generations. In these trying times while many of us are sheltering in place, while so many questions remain unanswered about the coming months, and while so many fear for their health and for the health of their loved ones, I am

more inclined than ever to feel this gratitude. Meister Eckhart, mystic and theologian who lived in the time of the Holy Roman Empire said in The Essential Sermons, Commentaries, Treatises, and Defense, "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was 'thank you', that would suffice." So, my personal prayer to all of you reading this article and helping to make Texas State what it is, is to simply say – thank you.

If time were of no concern, I would go on to offer more examples from other religious traditions such as the Hindu Bhagavat Gita or the deeply profound oral traditions of many indigenous cultures. There is so much to learn from these and other world cultures and religions. However, tempus fugit – time flies – and I must be accountable to my responsibility to return to the work of helping guide Texas State through these uncharted waters.

I close with these traditional closings:

Om shanti, shanti, shanti – Peace in body, mind and spirit.

As-Salamu Alaykum – Peace be upon you.

Amen – So be it.



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TEXAS  STATE
UNIVERSITY

The rising STAR of Texas

"Humor is laughing at what you haven't got when you ought to have it."

-Langston Hughes

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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