Sorry you haven’t heard from me for a while; I’ve been a little tied up.

I arrived at the sleep clinic with trepidation and with little knowledge of what the experience would entail. I knew I’d made a grave mistake, when upon arriving, hanging on the back of my room door and aligned in rows across the bed were hundreds of miles of wires and electrodes that would be fastened to my legs, chest, face, in my nose, and on my scalp with what I later determined to be gorilla glue.

I sacrificed myself for Brenda, who said for years, while sleeping, I snore and jerk my legs and arms as if pedaling a bike uphill. For reasons unknown, these spasmodic actions seem to awaken and annoy her.

My cubicle consisted of a double bed and one chair. The chair was old and rickety, straining under my weight. The tech draped me from head to toe with a blanket of electronic devices. After ‘dressing’ me for the evening, she informed me that she’d be watching, listening, and video recording my every move, sound, and furthermore, the electrodes on my head would monitor brain waves of my thoughts. It frightened me to consider what thoughts my subconscious might yield. She reassured me with, “Please don’t feel self-conscious.” Really?

I shuffled to the bed like Scrooge’s Bob Marley, bound in chains and unsure of the future. The bed was harder than my office desk, but I laid down, trying not to lose chunks of my hair as the wires tugged my scalp. As the Tech exited my cell, she said, “Good night; sleep well; we need 6 to 7 hours of sleep.” “Fat chance of that,” I muttered. I was terrified to take a sip of water fearing if I spilled any on the bed, I would be electrocuted. It was 9:30 p.m.; 1 ½ hours before I normally go to bed. I called Brenda to whine about the cruelty of the process; she laughed.

When I arrived back at home around 6 a.m., a free man again, my hair resembled Einstein’s on his worse hair day. It almost took Goo-Gone to separate my scalp from the electrode patches.

Change, risk-taking, getting out of our comfort zones – well regarded characteristics. The sleep clinic incident ranks high on my “getting out of my comfort zone” experiences. Accepting a position in public higher education followed by seeking a business officer’s career are examples of extreme risk-taking on my part and all go beyond the humdrum comfort zones I can get accustomed. Public speaking, engaging others in one-on-one or small group discussions, and writing are additional examples of activities that rattle my nervous system. But these are also experiences that bring joy and encourage me.

As we embark on a new year, be encouraged to seek your dreams, take calculated risks at work; volunteer for challenging assignments, be bold in pursuing new growth opportunities, go beyond what is expected, take the initiative, do what others won’t, live our Guiding Principles, verbally acknowledge the gifts and talents of others, and experience life in a new exciting way that blesses not only you, but others. To ignore this challenge is to miss experiences and blessings beyond your wildest imagination and comprehension.

Happy New Year! Kerry
Spotlight On …

Mark Smith

Corporal Mark A. Smith joined the UTSA family after retiring from the U.S. Air Force with 20 years of service as a Security Police Law Enforcement Specialist. He came with a wealth of knowledge and experience to share, entering The University of Texas System Police Academy on January 16, 1999, where he also served as class chaplain.

Mark has been with his wife Deborah for 34 years, and has three adult children; Reginald, Tamara, and Mark II. They have also been blessed with five grandchildren.

During his 13 years with the UTSA Police Department, Mark has served our community as a bicycle officer, detective, motor officer specializing in traffic enforcement with emphasis on crash investigations, and was part of the team which gained international accreditation for UTSAPD through CALEA. Mark was also one of the founding members of the UTSAPD Honor Guard, which has a rapidly growing positive reputation from various formal events to include; Alamo Area Council of Governments Law Enforcement Academy graduations, memorial services for fallen peace officers, parades, and an opening ceremony for the San Antonio Spurs. Mark is well known for stepping in to fill UTSAPD security commitments when off duty ranging from athletics to social events.

Mark came to us as an Ordained Christian Minister who has found a balance in the police field. He has graciously served as alternate chaplain for formal events when the department chaplain has been unavailable, and gladly councils any co-workers who reach out to him. When not at UTSA, Mark enjoys ministry work, and currently serves as an Associate Pastor and is on the Board of Directors for Church Under the Bridge, serving the extreme poor and homeless of San Antonio by providing food, clothing, and attempting to meet their spiritual needs.

Mark is an avid motorcyclist who’s made many intrastate rides to include fund raisers for the Fallen Police Officers Memorial Foundation, and the Fisher House, which provides housing for wounded warrior families while the service member recovers from war injuries. Mark has ridden his motorcycle as far north as Illinois, as far west as California, and is planning a ride to New England.

Thank you Mark, for your service to the university, business affairs, and the community.

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Mark will be receiving a Roadrunner meal card to use for either breakfast, lunch or dinner at the Roadrunner Cafe, compliments of ARAMARK. Our thanks to ARAMARK for their support!

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Welcome

The UTSA Office of Facilities is pleased to announce the appointment of Enos Jones as Director of Operations and Maintenance with more than 27 years experience in engineering, facilities, and utilities. Mr. Jones joined UTSA on December 10, 2012.

Enos comes from Laughlin Air Force Base, located near Del Rio, Texas, where he served as Operations and Maintenance Division Manager for two years as a federal contractor. Prior to this position, he was Director of Facilities Operations for Texas State University in San Marcos for 15 years.

At Texas State University, Enos had 15 years of experience directing the operations and maintenance of a large university facility with six million square feet of buildings, over 36,000 in population and 450 acres of grounds.

Enos is a registered professional electrical engineer in Texas and holds a master’s degree in computer science.

Campus Dining

Want to eat on campus and get a great deal? Purchase a Staff Dining Plan to use at any food venue on campus, get bonus dollars, and enjoy a discounted door rate at the Roadrunner Café – currently $5. Staff Dining Plans do not expire. Two plans are available to UTSA employees: spend $150 and receive an additional $12 (an 8% bonus) or spend $250 and receive an additional $30 (a 12% bonus), on your meal plan. To learn more or to purchase a plan ask a cashier at any food venue for immediate use or online visit:

The UTSA Police Department was recognized by the UTSA Staff Council and given the Staff Council Appreciation Award for their vision and mission to protect and serve the UTSA communities through their five guiding principles: honor, excellence, accountability, respect and teamwork. With these commitments they ensure that staff, students, faculty and guests have a safe and pleasant experience when visiting any of the UTSA campuses.

The officers put our safety and security first, always available to assist with various crisis situations; conduct training classes in crime prevention, shooter response, safety and security escorts. They exemplify professionalism through staff involvement as an integral part of serving the UTSA community.

PeopleSoft Sustainment Center

The UTSA PeopleSoft Project consists of more than just implementing new software for end-users. The new software (PeopleSoft) that will replace DEFINE to manage the human resources and financial application systems for UTSA will be supported by the birth of an entirely new department: the UTSA PeopleSoft Support and Sustainment Center (PSSC).

How Will It Work?

The PSSC will consist of nineteen individuals, including a director, a department admin, a help desk, HCM and FMS functional leads, reporting/query experts, a training team, a technical team, and a communications lead. The help desk will act as the single point resource to UTSA PeopleSoft end-users. Think of it as a One-Stop Shop. The establishment of the sustainment center allows for one point of contact to the UTShare Arlington Regional Data Center (ARDC) that will provide technical infrastructure, database, and technical programming PeopleSoft support. The PSSC supports UTSA end-users with the following: PeopleSoft application issues, PeopleSoft system access and approval security, business process changes, upholding critical process deadlines, and PeopleSoft training. Our PSSC provides a systematic method and the tools for tracking and managing issues. However, PSSC will not perform PeopleSoft transactions and data maintenance.

This is an exciting time for UTSA, and we all are part of this technological change that will have a profound impact on how we do business. We are making history. We understand the journey will not be easy, but at the end of the tunnel, we will see a bright light. At some point PeopleSoft will be a household name. Throughout this journey, no one will be alone, and that’s the beauty of it all.

Welcome & Happy Retirement

Kudos

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Wellness Update

Recyclemania 2013

The University of Texas at San Antonio is joining in the nationwide inter-collegiate competition RECYCLEMANIA 2013. The competition, which runs January 20th – March 30th, 2013, helps our University and our community recycle more. In the end we all win because we achieve a greener environment.

The premise of RECYCLEMANIA is the schools that recycle the most per capita wins the competition. UTSA’s recycling program consists of education, promotion, teamwork, and recognition to all participants. The success of this program at UTSA requires your cooperation. It is a good time to plan for shredding of sensitive documents as EHSRM will be placing a shred pod at both the Main Campus and Downtown Campus during the competition. Dates will be announced separately. UTSA’s community involvement is very important to making a positive impact on our environment. Getting a cleaner and greener environment is our goal, so please, before you toss out any items, think of those recyclable products that can be disposed of in the recycling blue containers. Recyclables include paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, glass bottles and Styrofoam food containers (take-out trays and cups). Exceptions include items such as food, liquids, used napkins & facial tissues, coffee grounds, and Styrofoam formed packing. Everything else goes into the blue bin! For more information, contact the UTSA Recycling Team @ 452-7252 or visit our web page at:
http://utsa.edu/safety/#/recycling.

Rowdy New U Monthly Newsletter

In 2013, we will produce a monthly newsletter to promote events, highlight wellness champions and groups, introduce wellness staff, and most importantly provide wellness information and education.

Rowdy New U Boot Camp

Mike Ekanem has joined the Rowdy New U staff to help our enrollees reach their next level of fitness. We are offering a new boot camp series at both the Main Campus and Downtown. For more information, call 6102 or email: wellness@utsa.edu

UTSA Diploma Dash

A 5k run supporting the UTSA Alumni Association, open to all runners, walkers, fans, and volunteers. Saturday, March 2, 2013

UTSA Main Campus – Bauerle Road Parking Lot 3
** 8-week Couch to 5K training available to those interested. Started January 7th. Call 6102 or email wellness@utsa.edu, if interested.

Exciting Wellness Tidbits of 2012:

2012 Healthy Workplace Recognition: Gold Level awarded by San Antonio Business Group on Health – May 2012

2012 UT System Physical Activity Challenge: 3rd Place with 120+ participants recording 150 minutes or more per week – May 2012

2012 Komen Race for the Cure Team: Rowdy Racers had 40+ participate in the 5K – May 2012

2012 San Antonio Corporate Cup Challenge: Participant Place 9th out of 24 teams; 70+ participants – June 2012

First ever Flu Shot Clinic: For faculty and staff held on October 30th and November 1st, 2012. Total 250 Flu shots were administered to faculty/staff.

2012 Rock ‘N Roll Marathon: UTSA Runners had 80+ participants – November 2012

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Spring Classes

Discrimination & Sexual Harassment: Your Role as a UTSA Employee
SD309

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
9:00 – 12:00
UC 1.102, Bexar

Discrimination & Sexual Harassment: Your Role as a UTSA Supervisor
SU317

Friday, March 8, 2013
8:30 – 12:00
UC 1.102, Bexar

Working with Guiding Principles
SD 335

Thursday, March 28, 2013
9:00 – 11:30
BB 2.06.04, University Room

Discrimination & Sexual Harassment: Your Role as a UTSA Supervisor
SU309

SD309

Wednesday, April 10, 2013
9:00 – 12:00
UC 1.102, Bexar

Working with Guiding Principles
SD 335

Thursday, March 28, 2013
9:00 – 11:30
BB 2.06.04, University Room

Supervising with Guiding Principles
SU 370

Tuesday, February 5, 2013
9:00 – 11:30
UC 1.102, Bexar

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A 5k run supporting the UTSA Alumni Association, open to all runners, walkers, fans, and volunteers. Saturday, March 2, 2013

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** 8-week Couch to 5K training available to those interested. Started January 7th. Call 6102 or email wellness@utsa.edu, if interested.
Food Truck

UTSA welcomes Biker Jim's Gourmet Dogs, a new food truck offering gourmet sausages and brats. The food truck's home location is near the Ximenes Garage and is open for lunch Monday – Friday, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The truck will move from time to time including at least one day each week to the Downtown Campus, weather permitting. Biker Jim's serves a great tasting selection of gourmet sausages, such as Elk Jalapeno Cheddar and Texas Wild Boar, with meats and sausages that are naturally hormone free and processed without the use of sodium nitrates.

Police Promotion Ceremony

The University of Texas at San Antonio Police Department conducted its sixth promotion ceremony on Tuesday, December 14, 2012 in the Denman Room. Two officers were promoted during the ceremony and several department and community members were recognized for their outstanding service. The keynote address was given by Dr. Ricardo Romo, UTSA President. Dr. Romo spoke on leadership qualities and how leadership is important.

Officers who were promoted were sworn in by UTSAPD Chief Steve Barrera. Hector Barrera was promoted to Sergeant, Allan Crocker was promoted to Corporal and Ken Bowen was promoted to Public Safety Officer Supervisor for the security detail at the Institute of Texan Cultures.

Several awards were given to various department members for their contributions to UTSAPD including Officer of the Year, Public Safety Officer of the Year, Communications Operator of the Year, Employee of the Year, Supervisor of the Year and The Chief's Commendation Award. Other awards included The Golden Whistle Community Award, Chief's Appreciation and Special Recognition Award to Dr. Romo and Mr. Kennedy. Closing remarks were made by Chief Barerra.

Staff Relations Council

The Staff Relations Council was created to facilitate communication and improve functions throughout the Business organization. The Council is composed of 19 members, 12 primary and 7 alternates, representing all of the departments within Business Affairs; Administration, Facilities, Financial Affairs, Human Resources and University Police. The Vice President, Kerry Kennedy, meets with the Council on a regular basis to enhance communication and discuss concerns, processes, and ideas to move the organization towards excellence.

The responsibilities of the Staff Relations Council are unilateral, in that the Council also communicates concerns brought forward by their co-workers and they work as a team to offer suggestions and recommendations for resolutions.

Staff Relations Council members serve a two-year term. Elections are held in August of even-numbered years. Elected representatives are classified, non-supervisory employees. All employees are encouraged to meet with their Staff Relations Council Representative(s), to stay involved in the affairs of their departments, Business Affairs, and the university.

For more information about Business Affairs Staff Relations Council visit the web page at http://www.utsa.edu/bussvc/departments/staffcouncil.html.

Business Affairs Promise

We are committed to helping you achieve your goals through excellence in service -- every person, every day, every job.