Do you know what the “tassels” are called that fall from the Live Oak trees, spreading their pollen? Catkins. If not kept swept off patios and decks, they'll gather in nasty brown clumps and ultimately leave stains. Over this past week, our three-tiered patio was the recipient of massive amounts of these catkins and pollen, and I was tasked with removing them.

Oak pollen must have been in the 50,000 range as I embarked on my primary responsibility for Saturday morning. The wind was clocking a good 20 to 25 mph (with gusts in the 30’s) as I dutifully attacked the catkins with my leaf blower and later, a broom. What a disaster! The wind was blowing directly in my face, and the harder and faster I swept, the more rapid the pollen attacked my eyes and nose. With my eyes bloodshot and ‘on fire,’ and having to now breathe out of my mouth, I retreated to the garage to better dress for battle.

Donning my armor of safety goggles and surgical mask, which made breathing even more difficult, I burst from the garage to the house to startle Brenda, making for a good laugh and photo (see insert). Upon finishing the battle and ridding our patio of the damaging and ugly catkins, I turned to view my accomplishment, and to my horror, the patio was rapidly gathering fresh piles of catkins soon to be as large, or larger, than those I'd fought all morning to eradicate. It was futile; I had lost the war. I withdrew to the house to assess the damages to my immune system; disarm; and self-medicating with Visine and Claritin. I suffered all day till dropping into a self-induced coma later that evening.

While not in the same way, many people fight the inevitable every workday. I knew that with the wind in my face, I was fighting a losing proposition; but, I'd promised Brenda a victory and I was going to give it all I had. The wind won. It always does. “Where the wind blows no one knows.”

So it is with change, taxes, aging, etc. – they're all inevitable and there's nothing anyone can do but adapt or try and minimize their impact. Through our own hardheadedness or ill-fated determination we fight against the inevitable, not because it's for a greater cause, like those who fought for Texas independence at the Alamo, but because we hold dearly to our precious comfort zones. What are your comfort zones? We all have them.

When's the last time you set out for a bold adventure, stepping out of your comfort zone(s) to risk engaging a stranger, taking on a project that would stretch your talents, promoting a dramatic and progressive change, aiding a colleague in need; taking the road less traveled? Yes, there is always an element of fear in leaving a comfort zone, but it’s worth the personal growth, the exhilaration of a new experience, the progress, and knowing that you didn’t allow fear to keep you from that special ‘calling.’

Let's address the inevitable things in a healthy way, not by wrestling against them, but by jettisoning our well-orchestrated comfort zones and embracing the new and enhanced opportunities that will result in our personal growth. You will not likely need armor to do so.

Kerry
Spotlight on...

Joel Powell

Joel Powell is in the business of keeping people comfortable. He has worked at UTSA for 6 years and is currently a Utilities Station Operator III. As a supervisor in Facilities Management, he oversees a small group of operators whose main objective is making sure elevators, heating, air conditioning, and building automation systems work properly in campus buildings. Joel’s expertise, dedication, and attention to detail are on continuous display.

In addition, he has previous experience in water purification technology that has been a tremendous advantage for UTSA according to his supervisor, James Jinks.

Joel was born in Del Rio, Texas, at Laughlin Air Force Base. His father hailed from Houston, Texas, and his mother from Watertown, New York. Joel has lived in Morocco, Africa, Germany, California, Massachusetts, New York, Texas, and Arkansas as a child while his father served in the Air Force. He went to 13 different schools.

In 1980, he followed his father’s footsteps and enlisted in the Air Force serving 4 years as a telecommunications specialist. He served in Texas, New York and Okinawa, Japan. While serving in Japan, Joel met his wife of 29 years. They have a 25 year-old son who recently graduated with his associate degree from Northwest Vista.

Joel joined UTSA to be part of our growing goal toward Tier I status. He is a highly respected member of the Facilities department and is known for his reliability, integrity and outstanding customer service which makes him a truly valuable asset to UTSA.

During his time off, Joel enjoys playing Madden NFL football and visiting local state parks. His a proud owner of a dog and cat, both rescued.

Thank you, Joel, for your service to the university and Business Affairs.

Joel 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!

We Value and Empower People

I had the privilege of being in the audience earlier this month when Dr. Juliet Garcia, the long-time President of The University of Texas at Brownsville, delivered the welcoming remarks at the UT System Risk Management Conference. Dr. Garcia is described in her bio as “a convener of important conversations.” How awesome is that. Bringing others together and valuing the input of each person; empowering others by convening – not driving – a conversation.

Dr. Garcia began her remarks by reflecting how her journey was enabled and made possible only with the effort of everyone whose work touched upon or supported her journey. She demonstrated how she valued everyone by identifying employees in the audience by name. She recognized facilities personnel and others who maintain the campus; safety and security personnel who assure that the campus is a safe place; compliance officers and auditors who provide support for a workplace with integrity; and those carrying out the many other functions that are all necessary to provide the platform from which she was trusted by the community and her colleagues to do her work as President of the university.

Like Dr. Garcia, I know that I rely everyday on a foundation of trust and the work of others. My success, the success of each of us, and the success of the institution, is directly tied to each of you finding your stride and your strength.

Valuing and empowering people has given rise to so many innovations and positive outcomes. In Administration, I think of the excellent purchasing training developed and delivered by Yvette Medina, the terrific outreach ideas being implemented in Business Auxiliary Services (including the “good luck” pencils featured in this newsletter), the building of the wellness program, and many more. This list could go on and on. These things can happen only in an environment where people are empowered and their ideas and values respected.

I say “thanks” to Dr. Garcia for her inspiring welcoming remarks – remarks that fit perfectly with the Business Affairs guiding principles, including valuing and empowering people.

Pamela Bacon, Associate Vice President for Administration
Kudos

Hi Dave (Riker),

Before too much time gets away I want to say thank you for helping us with our last minute requests and making Red McCombs’ visit such a great experience.

We appreciate the assistance received from Greg Peyer and staff. They did an outstanding job setting up the Liu Auditorium with the plants and provided much needed extra assistance moving things for us on the stage. Greg always does a great job. We were under a lot of pressure to get things done with a very limited amount of time. I would like to thank John Japhet for his help, he let me know when things were completed and checked with me to make sure everything was done to our satisfaction.

I would also like to thank Jack Morales and Javier Gonzales for their assistance with several events we’ve had recently. They were very gracious and patient.

We really appreciate everything your department does for us.

Best Regards,
Maureen Bird, College of Business

Teresa Maillard and Joann Arista,

I would like to stop and “Thank” everyone who assisted me on Monday getting the keys for our new employee’s Office. Everyone went above and beyond their duties to accomplish this goal. Cordell Robinson came over and replaced the cylinder, he was very helpful in accomplishing this task.

Good work guys!! My hat is off to an incredible Team and group of people who assisted me on Monday!

Lillie Ferrand
Administrative Associate II
Library

Chief Barrera,

On March 18, 2014, I provided a workshop for teachers, student teachers and pre-service teachers. I work for the Academy for Teacher Excellence here at the University as a Counselor. One of the attendees has been in the field of teaching for many years; she disclosed this in our conversation. She attends many workshops and is very active in the field.

At the conclusion of our session, she stood up to hand in paperwork, and missed a step and fell. Assistance was provided by one of your officers, Officer John Crunk. He was incredibly patient throughout the ordeal. He assisted me in securing a wheelchair to aid her down to the area where she was to be picked up. I really appreciated his presence and the professional manner in which he provided assistance.

N. Renee Tondre-Garza,
M.A., LPC Intern Educational Career Transition Guide (CTG)
Six Word Stories

To the 37 individuals who submitted over 110 six word stories in response to the March Business Horizon's Kerry's Korner challenge and request, thank you for sharing your stories and your talents so that we all might have the opportunity to read, enjoy, and relate to them. Kerry

Anxious, anticipation, humbled, saved, new beginning!  
John DeWitty

Family blessed by two amazing gifts.  
Hillary Klingman

Life is fascinating…blissful yet harsh.  
Lily Gomez

Never give up on my dreams.  
Robin Sanders

You know… A hug would do.  
Felix Casares

Costa Rica beckons, wife says “no”.  
Edgar “Drew” Hazzlerigg

Too heavy. Excessive stress. Cardiac Ward!  
Dave Riker

Wellness is a state of mind.  
Brian Moroney

Pass Along the Gift of Laughter.  
Rachel Morrel

Met angel, fell in love. Married.  
Dave Riker

Great first impression on Day O.N.E!  
Trina Bolden

Honored to recover flooded marching band.  
John DeLaHunt

Drug Dealer, Arrested, Expelled, Opportunities Lost.  
Captain Dan Kiley

A truly blessed journey thus far.  
Rebecca Gomez

High energy. Exercise ball. Lost teeth.  
Julie Olson

Stay on track, make it work.  
Anonymous

Stop exploiting water sources, no BOTTLES.  
Nancy Woodward

Smoked Marijuana, Arrested, Wasn’t Worth It.  
Captain Dan Kiley

Rattlesnakes everywhere. Trapped them. Getting better.  
Dave Riker

You can’t recycle a broken heart.  
Brian Moroney

Many rocks – ours to turn over.  
Pam Bacon

Never a Dull or Boring Moment.  
Felix Casares

The world is mine to enjoy.  
Rich Garza

Ashes and blood leave permanent marks.  
John DeLaHunt

Five grandsons, one granddaughter—total joy.  
Linda Gall

No pain, can’t be sick, cancer.  
Julie Olson

Sharing gifts in life brings joy.  
Anonymous

Purse snatcher: Caught dropping his wallet.  
Officer Robin Canul

Smart phone – not so smart user.  
Brian Moroney

Challenges, hard work, service, dedication, appreciation.  
Janice Duchaney

We get paid to do this?  
Trina Bolden

“Agreement out! Success? King no more”.  
Frank Grijalva

You have today, I get tomorrow.  
Anonymous

Surf pumping, sun shining, happiness ensued.  
Edgar “Drew” Hazzlerigg

Arrested Suspect, Recovered Property, Elated Victim.  
Captain Dan Kiley
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flat, No Spare, Late, Missed Opportunity.</th>
<th>&quot;I'm lucky! A job I love!&quot;</th>
<th>Caught in the act: miracle or luck.</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captain Dan Kiley</td>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Officer Robin Canul</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring: new growth, new opportunities, life.</th>
<th>Good attitude equals welcome atmosphere.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Verdon</td>
<td>Linda Gall</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>&quot;Everything has a purpose, that's life.&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;In the Box—Just Like Jack.&quot;</th>
<th>Embrace change for a better tomorrow.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Felix Casares</td>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<th>Challenges are opportunities for internal growth.</th>
<th>Retirement savings not enough. Still working.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Dave Riker</td>
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<tr>
<th>&quot;Peel an onion layer by layer.&quot;</th>
<th>Arrested Drunk Driver, Saved a Life.</th>
<th>Seeds have been planted; feed, water.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barbara Centeno</td>
<td>Captain Dan Kiley</td>
<td>Ron Fosmire</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edgar &quot;Drew&quot; Hazzlerigg</td>
<td>Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<th>Listen to students. Learn something new.</th>
<th>Wife, mother, staff, student – busy, HAPPY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Linda Gall</td>
<td>Janis Rosario</td>
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<tr>
<th>Party, Alcohol, Intoxicated, Where Am I.</th>
<th>&quot;No mon, no fun, your son.&quot;</th>
<th>Hello! Is there anybody out there?</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Captain Dan Kiley</td>
<td>John DeLaHunt</td>
<td>Felix Casares</td>
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| Burned people are never the same.       | Love of family keeps me strong. | Narrow paths, not minds, end well. |
|------------------------------------------| Lily Gomez                     | Anonymous                          |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Researchers see the beaker half full.</th>
<th>Students come in frustrated; leave satisfied.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brian Moroney</td>
<td>Linda Gall</td>
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<tr>
<th>&quot;Live every moment now, it's precious.&quot;</th>
<th>Iraq in three weeks? We can.</th>
<th>Bottled water? No way. Tap, please.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>John DeLaHunt</td>
<td>Nancy Woodward</td>
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<tr>
<th>&quot;Tiring, work, school, growth, future, success&quot;</th>
<th>Seek knowledge – Embrace change – be More</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Anonymous</td>
<td>Janis Rosario</td>
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<tr>
<th>There's a better way – find it.</th>
<th>Risky business is usually bad business.</th>
<th>I give up... you're the supervisor...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pam Bacon</td>
<td>Brian Moroney</td>
<td>John Salas</td>
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<tr>
<th>Graduated Police Academy, Watch Out Criminals.</th>
<th>Successfully stole vehicle: Left his fingerprints.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Captain Dan Kiley</td>
<td>Officer Robin Canul</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Can't wait for the next chapter!</th>
<th>Never know what is coming through.</th>
<th>New adventures in life are exciting</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trina Bolden</td>
<td>Felix Casares</td>
<td>Robin Sanders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Team that works together, stays together. Felix Hernandez</td>
<td>Unprecedented growth, tier-one tomorrow, football now! Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nothing leaves a mark like fire John DeLaHunt</td>
<td>Flame brightly, but don’t flame out. Brian Moroney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wake up and chase your dreams! Barbara Centeno</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Take these oldies, but goodies submitted by Joe Philipp</td>
<td>God, family, friends make life content. Linda Gall</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caught on video: Unable to ID. Officer Robin Canul</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rise above plastics - reusable bags rock! Nancy Woodward</td>
<td>Safety is as Safety does! Brian Moroney</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Party, DWI, Vehicle Accident, Lost Friend. Captain Dan Kiley</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Make smiles out of frustrated frowns. Linda Gall</td>
<td>Infrastructure insufficient, management unresponsive, missed opportunities! Anonymous</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Many moves. Old, new, lifelong friends. Julie Olson</td>
<td>I love climbing, there’s a reason. Anonymous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rehearsal, I want a do over!” Kathleen Carter-Stiggers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Camouflaged past leads to grateful present. Hillary Klingman</td>
<td>“REMEMBER, WAIT IS NOT OUR FRIEND.” PDS Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wasteful world will wither without water. Nancy Woodward</td>
<td>My Love is Kept for One. Anonymous</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sail your mind to unchartered waters. Lily Gomez</td>
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<tr>
<td>“Your actions today shape the world.” Lorenzo Sanchez</td>
<td>Come Here, Go Far, Stand Proud. Captain Dan Kiley</td>
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<tr>
<td>We are all special needs people. Anonymous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Life’s droughts require digging deep within. Anonymous</td>
<td>Schoolboy dawdling, left behind, lesson learned. Nancy Wood</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caring about students makes staff smile. Linda Gall</td>
<td>Dad: humble servant, proud of family. Julie Olson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victim: “Blessed are the peace makers”. Officer Robin Canul</td>
<td>One God, many angels. Complete protection. Linda Gall</td>
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Floor Captain Program Receives Grant

The UTSA Office of Emergency Management (EM) is proud to announce that the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation has awarded the Floor Captain Safety Liaison Program with grant funding in the amount of $16,274.95. The Foundation awards four grants per year nationwide, and UTSA is honored to be selected based on the excellent preparedness initiatives we promote at our campuses.

During the winter season, EM staff applied for the grant, whereby the proposal focused on program enhancements such as securing two-way radios so Floor Captains can communicate with each other during a campus emergency, and handheld signage that provides visible directions for evacuation, perimeter control, etc. Additionally, the proposal requested funding to support 100 new trainees to cycle through the program over the next two years, as well as new evacuation chairs, outreach materials, and CPR training.

The UTSA Floor Captain Safety Liaison Program was developed to empower volunteer employees with the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to help fellow building occupants evacuate/shelter-in-place as quickly and as safely as possible should a campus emergency occur. The Floor Captain Safety Liaison (FCSL) program promotes emergency preparedness, safety awareness, and crime prevention throughout the university community.

EM staff would like to thank all Floor Captains for their dedication to campus preparedness and continued support of the FCSL Program!

Questions? Call or email the UTSA Office of Emergency Management at (210) 458-6851 or BePrepared@utsa.edu.

Cool Cats on Campus

Take a walk around UTSA in the early morning before classes start, and you'll catch a glimpse of some campus residents you might not expect to see.

Before students fill the sidewalks and lecture halls, the campus belongs to the cats, who have been TNRd (trapped-neutered-returned) and are cared for by the fifteen members of the Roadrunner Cat Coalition. The University sanctioned group, which is comprised of faculty and staff, with help from students, has been caring for the campus cats since 2005.

To read the article by Cimeron Morrissey, visit:

http://www.utsa.edu/bussvc/newsletters/FY13-14/RoadrunnerCatCoalition.pdf

To learn more about Roadrunner Cat Coalition’s efforts, visit: www.UTSACats.com or find them on Facebook.
UT System

2014 UT System Physical Activity Challenge: Living Well, Moving Well

Team up with your institution for the Living Well, Moving Well walking/physical activity challenge on the Living Well Health Platform. Registration opened on Tuesday, April 1st and closes Wednesday, May 7th. You have a whole month for registration...BUT register early and you'll receive a free pedometer. Quantities are limited, so get yours as soon as possible! Find out how to receive your pedometer below.

Your institution is your team, so get together with your coworkers and find ways to fit physical activity into your day. Take a walk at lunch, meet up at the gym, encourage each other to get moving – and keep track of what you do! Remember, the institution with the highest percentage for both registration and completion of the challenge will be awarded the coveted "Traveling Trophy!"

Questions or Comments?
Email: LivingWell@UTSystem.edu

UT San Antonio – To learn how to receive your pedometer visit the following website http://wellness.utsa.edu/

Corporate Cup

The University of Texas at San Antonio faculty and staff have been invited to participate in the San Antonio Sports Corporate Cup 2014 on Saturday, May 31, 2014.

All registration fees have been paid by UTSA. There is no cost to participate.

All events will be held at the University of the Incarnate Word between 8:00am to 1:00pm.

This event combines friendly competition, employee camaraderie, wellness, athletic skills and charitable giving to produce Corporate Cup Champions.

Competitions include a 5k run, 3v3 basketball, golf chipping, dodgeball, tug of war, football throw, corn toss, soccer kicks, Frisbee throw, sack race, 3-point shootout, 5k walk, and 4x100m relay.

Volunteer Team

Leo Amaro, Information Booth representative with Business Auxiliary Services (BAS), recently assembled a department volunteer team. And donated 36 hours in support of San Antonio Kids’ Day in the Park. The event took place on April 5th and was sponsored by the San Antonio Association for the Education of Young Children. The team will continue these efforts of community engagement and public service, in keeping with the UTSA mission, through-out the year.

Worth Remembering

"People cannot discover new lands until they have the courage to lose sight of the shore."

Andre Gide

Good Luck Pencils

Brittany Morales, student worker with Business Auxiliary Services (BAS), suggested we find a way to wish students good luck on finals. With that in mind, we’ll hand out our special BAS number two pencils before final exams through our transportation shuttle drivers as well as DT and Main Campus desk personnel.
Facilities Update

Dr. Bing Dong, Assistant Professor of Mechanical engineering in the College of Engineering at UTSA, is currently doing research on a number of building system related areas. These areas include Building Energy Data, Advanced Building Energy Management Systems, and Integrated Whole Building Energy Diagnostics.

To facilitate and further his research, Dr. Dong needed real world building data of the type that is used by O&M Utilities Operations every day for the control and monitoring necessary to provide the educational environment of the campus. Dr. Dong’s research is a win-win for UTSA because it can help to pinpoint problems not easily detected and provides useful information on current operations and possible future extensions of building capacities. In that regard, James Jinks, Utilities Superintendent, Byron Reeder, Facilities Control Technician Leader, and Justin Lowe, Research Zone Supervisor along with their respective groups, have worked closely with Dr. Dong to provide him access to data points for the Siemens Apogee Control systems and by performing the work needed to install sensors and measuring devices in some of the power panels that serve the AET building.

James, Byron, and Justin have done a stellar job in helping Dr. Dong overcome the technical difficulties of interfacing with these real world systems without causing real-world discomfort for other members of the university community who use the AET building and who benefit from the Siemens Apogee system’s control and monitoring of the campus building systems.

The expectation is that Dr. Dong’s research will result in improved models that can drive more efficient building systems and guidelines on how to operate them. This has been an encouraging example of collaboration between faculty and a university department with the likely outcome of benefits to both.

RECYCLEMANIA

It’s official – UTSA made the top 25 in the nation in the RecycleMania Competition Division in two of the three categories entered: 1) Grand Champion – UTSA placed 19th recycling 55.604% of all waste generated; 2) Waste Minimization – UTSA placed 24th generating a measly 18.215 lbs. of trash per person during the 8 week competition period; and 3) Gorilla Prize – UTSA placed 59th generating a total 290,595 lbs. of recycled material during the competition – UTSA’s best showing ever in all three competitive divisions. Special thanks to the EHSRM Recycling team of Anastacio Alvarez, Phillip Guadiano, Daniel Arreola, and student workers Kevin Gonzalez, Alex Afilano, Devin Espinosa, Jose Lozano, and Jose Salazar whose dedication and hard work helped UTSA achieve these rankings. And a special congratulations to all UTSA faculty, staff and students in helping UTSA reach this major milestone for recycling.

Elizabeth Corrales

Elizabeth Corrales was recently hired as a new benefits representative. She will assist employees with the last name beginning with the letters ‘P-Z.’

She graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University with a bachelor’s degree in Human Resource Management. She has worked in HR in both the private and public sectors across several industries including insurance, food manufacturing, higher education, and publishing where she served as the Benefits Administrator for the San Antonio Express-News.

Elizabeth enjoys being an ambassador for San Antonio, particularly downtown. She has been a volunteer at the Majestic and Charlene McCombs Empire Theaters for the last three years and enjoys bike riding, traveling, and spending time with her family.

Note: Veronica Longoria will continue assisting employees with the last name beginning with the letters ‘A-G’ and Jaime Lopez will assist ‘H-O.’

Business Affairs Promise

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