As hot as it is in Texas during the summer, this particular early morning was beautiful; not as warm as usual; the start of a cloudy day to protect us from the scorching Sun. I was strolling through the front yard as I often do just to gaze at the multi-colored vincas covering the beds along our sidewalk, the crepe myrtle, with its bright red blooms, and the young sago palms. One sago strains to poke its head above the rapidly growing vincas that surround it while the other one stands stately, alone under the crepe myrtle.

One of our retired neighbors, seeing me seemingly lost in our front yard, approached. Call him Jim and his wife, Rebecca. His gate was longer than normal and he seemed on a mission. Before I could speak, he started, “Let me teach you a physics lesson.” Personally, I thought it too early on a Saturday for a physics lesson, and it seemed like an ominous early morning greeting. So, I said, “Hey Jim,” hoping instead we could talk about statistics or accounting. “You know you have your garage door up a couple of feet?” he said abruptly. Not understanding the need to explain that and its connection to physics, and looking towards the door acting as if I actually didn’t know it was up, I answered, “I do that to try and keep some air flowing through the garage to keep it cooler than 200 degrees, and it seems to work.” “That’s your imagination,” he quickly retorted.

I could see I had a decision to make. Was I going to fight, take flight, or just listen, which I’m not known to do well. I chose the latter non-combative approach. Jim continued, “That won’t work; you need a turbine on your roof to draw the air, and besides, no one else on our street has their garage door open.” Ah, the underlying issue at last. “Hmmm, I hadn’t noticed,” I replied. “Besides,” as he lowered his voice to a whisper, I leaned towards him to hear, “the real reason I wanted to tell you is I don’t want all our neighbors thinking you’re less than intelligent.” After pausing to take in the full impact of his comment, I replied somewhat snickering, “Well, I never made myself out to be very smart,” somewhat disarming him. But Jim pounced back, “You know, like I thought you were less than intelligent when I first met you.” “Oh,” I believe is all I could muster to his calling me, in essence, stupid. Walking towards his house, he turned back towards me and invited Brenda and I over to his and Rebecca’s house for a beer sometime, which I thought a strange ending to our conversation. I hurried inside laughing and anxious to tell Brenda the amazing start to my day, and to tell her she’d married a nincompoop.

One afternoon a weekend or two later, we did go to Jim and Rebecca’s for a glass of wine, and thoroughly enjoyed our time together. Forgiveness, vulnerability, and unity, sometimes in the face of the unknown, are rewarding, freeing, and just the right thing to do. You never know what a person has experienced in their lives, or for that matter, what they’ve experienced on any one day. We are all affected greatly by our past, and while boundaries are important when it comes to others, they should be flexible. We can still be the light in someone’s otherwise damaged or challenged life. Be that light; make a difference.

Perhaps obvious, but I didn’t take Physics!

Kerry
Spotlight on...

Ray Rios

Ray Rios has combined service at UTSA of 10 years and is currently the Auxiliary Zone Supervisor with the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Department in Facilities. He has over 25 years of building maintenance experience and over 18 years as a supervisor.

Ray began with UTSA in 1988 as a painter for two years. He then worked for USAA, NISD and UT Health Science Center. In July 2005, Ray rejoined the UTSA Facilities O&M Department as the Paint Shop Supervisor.

In September 2011, the O&M Department reorganized to a Zonal Maintenance Concept and Ray was selected as the Auxiliary Zone Supervisor. His responsibilities broadened to supervise electricians, plumbers, carpenters, HVAC/refrigeration technicians, maintenance workers in addition to painters.

The Auxiliary Zone is responsible for the maintenance of the UC, Athletics, Recreation Wellness Center, Child Development Center, Convocation, PE buildings, parking lots, UTSA housing support, and food service locations. Ray dedicates himself to excellence in customer service and focused on his job.

He is a thoughtful supervisor who appreciates the knowledge and hard work his tradesmen provide to the campus community. He enjoys work every day and his attitude is that "it is not just a job, it’s an adventure". Ray has been the proud recipient of numerous Excellence Awards while working at UTSA due to his excellent attitude and attention to customers.

He was born in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and grew up in San Antonio. He has been married for 19 years and has three children, which he likes to call his “babies”. He has two sons, ages 35 and 33, and the love of his life is his 18 year old “baby” daughter. He enjoys coaching little league for his two sons and girls softball for his daughter.

Ray’s hobby is working on his 1966 Chevy Chevelle. He also looks forward to deer hunting season.

Ray takes pride in meeting with his friends from his elementary school days. They still talk to each other at least once a week even after all those years. He is philosophical about this and says “You can’t pick your family, but you can pick your friends”.

Thank you Ray, for your service to the University and Business Affairs.

Ray 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!

Inaugural 110 9/11 Memorial Climb

On September 11, 2001, firefighters and first responders entered the World Trade Center Twin Towers and climbed the 110 story structures to save victims of the 9/11 attacks. On September 11, 2013, the Inaugural San Antonio 110 9/11 Memorial Climb was held in honor of the 343 firefighters and 71 police officers lost that day. Participants included first responders, military members, and civilians who climbed the Tower of the Americas in Hemisphere Park twice. The UTSA Police Department was represented by Lt. Stephanie Schoenborn, Ofc. Melody Erickson, Detective Jovany Vega, Cpl. Elizabeth Carter, Cpl. Steve Petrick, Ofc. James Lee and was accompanied by an Inspector from UT System Police as well as several officers from UTHSC Police Department.

Participants carried with them the picture, name, and accountability tag of a fallen first responder of 9/11 in honor of that hero. Upon completing their climb, the participants rang a bell and the accountability tag was placed on a board symbolizing that fallen hero’s climb to the top of the Trade Centers. Reference: www.sanantonio110.com.
Good afternoon, Barbara (Centeno & Annette (Rabago),
I wanted to take a moment to commend Henry Barrera. Most people are quick to file complaints but positivity needs to be rewarded as well.

In the midst of the craziness of the AUGUST appointment rituals, Henry was just AWESOME! I, myself and others in this Department were going mad trying to decipher HRMS and Henry took all of our calls and inquiries. I know he must have been stressed, under pressure and swamped but yet he withheld an utmost professional, clear and kind attitude.

We are very grateful for all of Henry’s help and I wanted to share with you!

Thank you, Ladies!

Brenda Lujan, MA, Administrative Manager
UTSA Department of Mathematics

Daniel Pena & Douglas Sonego, I’m a junior here at UTSA and I attend both campuses throughout the week. I also find myself on campus on weekends to study as much as possible. I wanted to share my appreciation for the high visibility the UTSA PD has in the parking lots of the main and downtown campus. Without a doubt it makes me feel safer seeing your team patrolling. One of my courses ends late at night, and it makes a big difference to see you folks watching out for us. I merely wanted to express my appreciation and thank you for keeping a close watch as we walk to our vehicles.

Rick Puente
UTSA Student

UT System Police Chiefs,
Please join me in congratulating Detective Bobby Lane, UT San Antonio Police Department, on his selection as the October UT System Police featured officer of the month – Well done, Bobby, and thanks for all that you do!

Michael Heidingsfield
UT System
Director of Police

Fire Protection Systems Responsibilities Change Hands

At UTSA, Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management (EHSRM) and Facilities have always shared responsibilities for care and operation of the fire protection systems. Facilities had been responsible for inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire alarms. EHSRM has been responsible for fire sprinklers and fire suppression systems in kitchens, data centers, chemical storage areas, and maintained portable fire protection equipment (fire extinguishers).

EHSRM also serves as the campus authority having jurisdiction – providing plan reviews, system inspections, and final acceptance in construction projects.

Effective September 1, 2013, Facilities is responsible for inspection, testing, and maintenance of all fixed fire protection systems. These include fire alarms, sprinklers, and suppression systems in kitchens, data centers, and chemical storage areas. EHSRM will retain responsibility for portable fire protection equipment (fire extinguishers) and will continue to serve as the Authority Having Jurisdiction. EHSRM will continue to review items for code compliance of existing conditions and proposed systems.

Appropriate adjustments to budgets, tools, and staffing levels have been made. Brian Montoya, Safety Specialist II - Fire & Life Safety is now a member of the Operations and Maintenance team in his new position of Facilities Control Technician II.

Leadership in both departments share a commitment to implement new communication processes to assure that fire protection systems at UTSA are appropriate and functioning. Both departments recognize the need for the transfer, and look forward to the new arrangement.
SAVE THE DATE

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Faculty & Staff

Main Campus:
H-E-B UC Ballroom II
October 29th: 9am-1pm
October 30th: 12pm-5pm

Downtown Campus:
Frio Street Building 1.402
Multi-Purpose Room
October 31st: 9am-2pm

- If you are a UT Select BCBS member, immunizations are at no cost to you
- There is a $10 charge for non-benefits eligible members
- Bring insurance card and photo ID
- To register online, please visit: https://www.passageware.com/FluSignUp/UTSA/

UTShare

As of October 1st, we are at 48% towards our March 2014 go-live goal. Only 5 months remaining until go-live at UTSA! To learn more about the UTShare/PeopleSoft implementation at UTSA, click the link below for project updates on integration testing, business process impacts, training, interim approval workflow process and PeopleSoft Support and Sustainment Center.
http://www.utsa.edu/utshare/spotlight/
All thunderstorms are dangerous. Every thunderstorm produces lightning. While lightning fatalities have decreased over the past 30 years, lightning continues to be one of the top three storm-related killers in the United States. In 2010, there were 29 fatalities and 182 injuries from lightning across the U.S. Although most lightning victims survive, people struck by lightning often report a variety of long-term, debilitating symptoms.

Other associated dangers of thunderstorms include tornadoes, strong winds, hail and flash flooding. Flash flooding is responsible for more fatalities (more than 140 annually) than any other thunderstorm-associated hazard. Dry thunderstorms that do not produce rain that reaches the ground are most prevalent in the western United States, including Texas. Falling raindrops evaporate, but lightning can still reach the ground and can start wildfires.

To prepare for a thunderstorm, you should do the following:

- Build an emergency kit and make a family communications plan.
- Remove dead or rotting trees and branches that could fall and cause injury or damage during a severe thunderstorm.
- Remember the 30/30 Lightning Safety Rule: Go indoors if after seeing lightning, you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.
- Secure outdoor objects that could blow away or cause damage.
- Get inside a home, building, or hard top automobile (not a convertible).
- Unplug any electronic equipment well before the storm arrives.

If thunderstorm and lightning are occurring in your area, you should:

- Use your battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio for updates from local officials.
- Avoid contact with corded phones and devices including those plugged into electric for recharging.
- Avoid contact with plumbing. Do not wash your hands, do not take a shower, do not wash dishes, and do not do laundry. Plumbing and bathroom fixtures can conduct electricity.
- Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.
- Avoid natural lightning rods such as a tall, isolated tree in an open area and avoid hilltops, open fields, the beach or a boat on the water.
- Take shelter in a sturdy building. Avoid isolated sheds or other small structures in open areas.
- Avoid contact with anything metal—motorcycles, golf carts, and bicycles.

Follow these tips and you’ll be prepared for thunderstorms and associated lighting this fall. Questions? Contact the UTSA Office of Emergency Management at BePrepared@utsa.edu or x6851.

Source: www.ready.gov
Construction Update

John Peace Library Renovations

The John Peace Library, originally opened to students in June 1976, is under renovation to provide better accommodations to students, faculty, and staff. At the time of its opening, the library was the largest building on the university campus. Construction on the second floor will expand the current restrooms and will provide a new reading room. The third floor restrooms are being renovated to include new fixtures, partitions, and tile.

The largest part of the renovation project is on the fourth floor. Construction will provide new faculty areas to include break out rooms, conference space, meeting rooms, and an assembly area. In addition, the project will provide a new area for the research library staff and a new reading room. Construction also includes upgrades to the electrical, mechanical, telecommunication, and life safety systems in each of those areas. Other areas of the library that have been upgraded include reprogrammed elevators, access to all four floors, and renovation of the first floor circulation desk. This project provides work areas for the library staff and provides better service to the students and the campus community. The construction is expected to be completed by the end of October 2013.

DISTRIBUTED ANTENNA SYSTEM

UTSA and Verizon Wireless have entered into an agreement to implement a project that will improve campus cell phone service. The project, called the distributed antenna system (DAS) consists of a system of antennas installed in a variety of locations throughout campus. The new system will be capable of operating on multiple frequency bands and will support multiple commercial mobile radio system operators using current and future technologies. The benefits of the project include enhanced reception quality for all individuals on campus using cellular, mobile radios, and other personal communication services. Verizon will be the initial commercial provider with plans for additional commercial providers to connect to the system.

The installation of the DAS will occur over a five year period beginning September 2013. Verizon will be responsible for the design of the system to include installation, construction, operation, repair, modification, upgrades, and maintenance. The initial phases of the project include a physical survey and radio frequency of all campus buildings. The information gathered from the surveys will provide a basis for the system design. Facilities Engineering and Project Management, in conjunction with OIT will coordinate all project related activities with Verizon.

Business Affairs Promise

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