Kerry’s Korner

Have you ever been disappointed, perhaps shocked, with an important purchase made by your spouse? When Brenda and I were in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, we needed a new mattress. I was working long hours so she went to a local retailer alone to select the perfect mattress. Hard as a slab of marble it was! We survived the first night by convincing ourselves that with time, we’d get used to it.

Turning from side to side in our sleep woke us, reeling from pain at every pressure point and rib in our bodies. The following morning neither of us could stand erect. My right leg was numb; I walked with a limp for days. We believe Brenda’s back problems originated from our night on this block of stone. We abandoned the master bedroom for our guest room till my Italian-bred wife convinced the retailer it was for their own good that they allow us to return the mattress for a full refund. Brenda’s ancestors hail from Sicily.

Fast forward to Christmas 2014. Because we normally make a Santa Claus-like run from San Antonio to Austin to Dallas and back each Christmas to see our seven grandchildren and their parents, we don’t always decorate our house for the holidays. So, no Christmas tree. But I love a full, beautiful Christmas tree. Since we gave our seven-foot tree away when we moved to Georgetown, and I was working each week in San Antonio, Brenda went tree shopping alone. See the stick tree in the adjacent picture? Yep, that’s the full, beauty of a tree she bought. A faux wood stick with lights. It would have been faster and cheaper if I’d gone outside and chopped a large branch off one of our Oak trees. Her eclectic stick tree didn’t bring back my warm memories of Christmas’ past. I couldn’t see myself sitting around this tree singing Silent Night. Though perhaps, Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer!

Remembering that my direct reports had given us a Swarovski crystal ornament each of the last five Christmases, we turned the tree’s white lights on, strategically placed the crystal ornaments along with others, and poof, a beautiful glistening Christmas tree. I now enjoy the beauty and star-like quality of the transformed tree pictured here.

Just as the tree was changed from a bare, lifeless stick with branches by the addition of lights and ornaments, in a similar manner, change will continue to be the lighted pathway to future success for you personally and UTSA. Take a minute, glance back and rejoice over the transformation and progress made the last ten-plus years. In the years to come, however, you must embrace change like never before, building on your foundation of excellence. Future success will not come without team work; self-interests aside with an emphasis on a higher calling to collaboratively add to, with "lights and ornaments," for the benefit of your customers and colleagues. It’s time to shine. Enjoy!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

Kerry & Brenda
Cyndi Schweers was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas and received her Accounting degree from UTSA. Cynthia has had her CPA license since 2003.

Cyndi’s accounting career began at Bank One (now Chase). After 15 years at Bank One, she accepted a job at UTSA as an Accountant I for the Accounting department. Cyndi progressed from Accountant I, to Accountant II, to Senior Accountant and is currently the Associate Director of Accounting.

Cyndi is one of three children and is the only girl of her family. She remembers getting together for family reunions while singing and playing instruments with her family. She is a huge dog lover, loves attending SPURS games and everything about the SPURS! She enjoys traveling and has good memories of trips to Paris and Chicago. During her free time, Cyndi participates as part of the 65th Infantry Regiment, a motorcycle brigade. They raise funds and take gift boxes to in-need families. She is a Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs fan; and attends Roadrunner games.

Some of Cyndi’s accomplishments include receiving the celebrating excellence award twice - once as an individual and once through her group work!

She is the subject matter expert for the Statement of Accounts and has a vast knowledge and familiarity with all things relating to the Statement of Accounts.

Thank you, Cyndi, for your dedication, hard work and service to the university and Business Affairs.

Cyndi 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!

Maintain, No Gain

This Holiday Season:

Do not go to a party hungry. Eat a wholesome snack before you go to avoid overeating.

Plan your meals. Use a smaller plate, choose lower-fat versions, and think moderation!

Participate in physical activity with family and friends.

Limit your alcohol consumption. Fill up on water and stay hydrated!

Serve or offer to bring a few healthy alternatives.

Holiday Contest

UTSA students, faculty, staff and supporters can help UTSA win Mayor Ivy Taylor’s Light Up Downtown SA Holiday Contest. Vote each day through Dec. 19 from any and all of your email accounts by going to the Light Up Downtown SA website.

UTSA is entered in the category People’s Choice: Best Use of Space. At the website, select “Best Use of Space,” scroll to the bottom of the page to "UTSA Downtown Campus" and select "Vote."

For more information visit UTSA Today page: http://www.utsa.edu/today/2014/12/lightupdowntown.html

The SPOTLIGHT

A look into PeopleSoft

Holiday Greetings
Good morning Dave (Riker),

I thought you might be interested in knowing that from 2009 when the Libraries began the first phase of the renovation project in the JPL through completion of the third phase in August 2014, the JPL has seen a 94% increase in library gate counts. I know there has not been a corresponding increase in housekeepers assigned to the JPL so I can only marvel at how much they are actually able to accomplish on a daily basis.

I also included an email I sent last week to Josie Izbinski providing JPL daily gate counts since the beginning of the semester.

Please extend our heartfelt appreciation to the JPL Housekeeping crew for all of their efforts on our behalf.

Candace Bass
UTSA Libraries

Ms. (Josie) Izbinski,

I wish to extend my thanks and gratefulness to Mr. Manuel Gutierrez and Ms. Rosa Deleon who happen to support our efforts here on the 4th floor of the Multi-disciplinary building. They are both so helpful and so prompt to make sure our area is presentable to the many students, parents, and staff who visit us throughout our hours of operation. What really surprised me was that during the week, not a weekend or long weekend for that matter, we came in one morning and our offices, receiving/waiting area, smelled clean and fresh! Doing that deep cleaning to carpets and different floor types is not an easy task, but Manuel and Rosa did and I appreciated their efforts and hard work. I can say that I was not the only one who noticed. The clean fragrance was the topic of our morning conversation and our Director commented on this as well.

Please accept my congratulations and kudos to Manuel and Rosa for all they do. It is greatly appreciate.

Alicia G. Salinas
Social Science Advising Center (SOSC)

Thank you all for striving for excellence every day!

Yolanda (Ledesma),

On November 6th, Mario Canales and Matt May responded to an emergency call. All of the lights for the Southside parking lots 7 and 8 were out due to an electrical problem, water in the lighting cabinet. Mario and Matt were able to troubleshoot and obtain a temporary solution to get the lighting restored. I know they just think of it as doing their job, but being able to deal with these type of emergencies so effectively really speaks to the quality of trades people we have here in Facilities and their dedication. Please extend our section’s thanks Matt and Mario for all their efforts and support in dealing with this issue.

Thanks,
James Jinks
Utilities Operations Superintendent

To: Teresa Maillard
Subject: RE: Access Services

Teresa,

Having worked with Access Control over the years on past Capital Projects, I can say that, your team’s professionalism, pleasant can do attitude and quick turnaround response time is fabulous. I won’t go into details, but as you well know working on Capital Projects is far more detailed and complicated than others seem to think it is. I have been blessed having team players like Access Control doing what you all do best on my project team allows me to focus on other critical construction issues. Keep up the good work!

Warm regards,
Rick Zamora
Facilities Project Coordinator
### Athletics Locker Rooms

Construction is underway on two separate locker room facilities for the Men’s Baseball and Women’s Softball programs. Each building is roughly 1200 square feet and is located near their respective fields on the Main Campus. Expect construction to last through May 2015. Once the teams have moved to these new buildings from their existing space in the PE Building, Facilities will renovate the abandoned PE space for the football team.

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### Sheri Hardison

Sheri L. Hardison, CPA, joined our team on November 10, 2014 as the new Assistant Vice President of Financial Affairs & University Controller. She comes to us from The Catholic University of America (CUA) in Washington, D.C., as the former Associate Vice President of Finance and Assistant Treasurer.

Sheri holds a Bachelors of Science degree in Commerce with an Accounting Concentration and History Minor. She brings over 18 years of accounting experience, including PeopleSoft, and ten years experience working at CUA. In addition to her university experience, Sheri has worked with auditors on financial statements, OMB Circular A133 and benefit plan audits during her career.

While at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, she served as a key member of an audit team for a university.

Sheri loves to read anything she can get her hands on and also enjoys baking. Her favorite football team is the Washington Redskins. Having lived in D.C. for the past 33 years she decided it was time to move to San Antonio to be closer to her parents and sister who now reside in Austin.

Sheri’s extensive experience in public accounting, reporting oversight, professional judgment, focus on internal controls, high-level analysis, and regulatory compliance experience make her a valuable addition to the Financial Affairs team.

Please join us in welcoming Sheri!

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### HUB Program

The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) Historically Underutilized Business (HUB) program ranked ninth among nearly 200 state agencies and universities in fiscal year 2014 in its use of HUB vendors, as measured by the percent of total expenditures.

UTSA spent more than $16.3 million with HUBs - minority - and women-owned businesses - accounting for almost 30% of UTSA’s eligible purchases. UTSA ranked ninth in the percentage of HUB spending overall and was the highest ranked university in the UT System.

In the previous fiscal year, UTSA’s HUB program ranked 10th among 200 state agencies, spending more than $21.2 million with HUBs. That amount accounted for more than one third of UTSA’s eligible purchases.

The Texas Procurement and Support Services (TPASS) HUB program reports the HUB expenditures of state agencies and public institutions of higher education. The information is used to measure the agencies’ good-faith efforts to purchase from HUBs. The UTSA HUB coordinator, the UTSA Purchasing and Distribution Services (PDS) Dept., and the HUB Staff Coordinating Group (SCG) work with UTSA departments to help sustain the university’s high HUB ranking.

Additionally, the HUB program partners with the UTSA Small Business Development Center and minority-serving organizations throughout Texas to host outreach events such as conferences, workshops and vendor fairs to assist new businesses with the procurement process.

“This ranking shows once again that UTSA is committed to supporting historically underutilized businesses, and giving back to the community we serve.” said Cynthia Davis, UTSA HUB Coordinator. “By utilizing HUB’s in our procurement process we help create jobs and contribute to the success of their growth.

Agencies can use the HUB Report to track their expenditures and determine if they are meeting or exceeding HUB utilization targets in each of the following categories: heavy construction, building construction, special trade construction, professional services, other services and commodity purchasing.

To be certified as a HUB, a business must be at least 51% owned by an Asian Pacific American, Black American, Hispanic American, Native American, American woman and/or Service Disabled Veteran residing in Texas and actively participating in the control, operation and management of the entity’s affairs.

By Mark Langford, Associate Director of Strategic Communications
Holiday Door Decorating Contest

It was difficult picking a winner for this year’s contest. There were many creative and beautiful entries. It was nice to take a break and have a little fun!

This year the decision was tough and resulted in a tie for 1st place. Everyone involved had very festive doors that showed their dedication and love for their departments. The two 1st place winners were: Accounting Services which chose the theme of “Accounting having snow-much fun” and AVPFA’s theme of “The Holly Jollies.”

Each entry was amazing and included several departments within Financial Affairs. Downtown fiscal services had a theme of “Frosty’s gang.” Payroll’s theme was “Baby, it’s cold outside.” DTS’ theme was “There is SNOW place like DTS.” Fiscal services JPL theme was “Rowdy Cheer makers aka you have a ZERO balance,” and last, but not least, Surplus’ theme was “Have a Rowdy Christmas.”
Holiday Safety

’Tis the season! It’s that time of year to spread holiday cheer, and the UTSA Office of Emergency Management would like to share some great tips to keep you in the know when decorating your workspaces and homes with holiday fun.

Caring for Your Tree

If buying a fresh tree, do not place close to a heat source, including a fireplace or heat vent. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks. Be careful not to drop or flick cigarette ashes near a tree. Do not put your live tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks. Keep the tree stand filled with water at all times. Never put tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood burning stove. When the tree becomes dry, discard it promptly. The best way to dispose of your tree is by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service. If you are using a metallic or artificial tree, make sure it is flame retardant.

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.

Do Not Overload Electrical Outlets

Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave lights on unattended.

Avoid Using Lit Candles

If you do use them, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be easily knocked down. Never leave the house with candles burning.

Finally, as in every season, make sure you have working smoke alarms installed on every level of your home, test them monthly, and keep them clean and equipped with fresh batteries at all times. Know when and how to call for help, and remember to practice your home or work evacuation/escape plan.

With these tips, you and your loved ones can be safe while having a jolly ‘ole time this holiday season. For more information on emergency preparedness, visit the Campus Alerts website at www.alerts.utsa.edu. Be safe UTSA!

By Lorenzo D. Sanchez, UTSA Director of Emergency Management

*Article Source for Holiday Tips: US Fire Administration, FEMA

Recyclemania

Welcome to another year of Recyclemania, a friendly, nationwide competition between colleges and universities on recycling. 2015 marks The University of Texas at San Antonio’s 8th year for competing in this event open to all colleges and universities in North America. We are excited to kick off our participation which starts January 19, 2015 and ends March 28, 2015. UTSA will once again participate in the Grand Champion competition category that combines trash and each of the core recyclable materials to determine our school's recycling rate as a percentage of its overall recycled materials to total solid waste generation. Our strong finish in last year’s competition placed UTSA 19th out of 256 colleges and universities in this category with 55.3% of UTSA’s total solid municipal waste being recycled. Non-recyclable materials that include items such as food, liquids, used napkins, facial tissues, coffee grounds and Styrofoam go in the trash cans. Everything else (recyclables) including paper, cardboard, plastics, aluminum cans, and glass bottles can go in the blue recycling bins located across the tri-campus facilities. This year UTSA has added 10 Big Belly solar powered recycling & trash units sponsored by the Student Green Fund, two are located on the Main Campus UC Paseo, to help in our collection effort. Help showcase your spirit, enthusiasm and school pride by thinking before you throw away items that can be recycled. Let’s get Rowdy about recycling!

For questions about Recyclemania please contact Anastacio Alvarez, Safety Specialist I @ 210-452-7252 or the Environmental Health, Safety and Risk Management office @ 458-5250.

Business Affairs Promise

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