FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE TRACKS

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND SERVICES QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 2021 ISSUE 5
Happy New Year FMS Team!

As we turn the page to 2021, we look to new opportunities and a fresh start for our campus and community. This past year has certainly tested our toughness and resiliency and I have never been more proud to be part of such a Can Do team that stares challenges in the face and says, “Bring it on!”.

This semester we will continue our work getting caught up on preventative maintenance while responding to the daily requests of our customers. We are working hard in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to come up with a smart, pragmatic plan that transitions our campus back to some form of normalcy. Look for further guidance on the way ahead in the coming months.

Until then, please know that I appreciate all you do and I can’t wait until we are in a place where we can get back to our regular routines. I’m especially looking forward to a time when we can get back to having our FMS luncheons and get-togethers.

Talk to you soon!

Hoorah!

Mike
Many of us are excited about the improvements happening in the Student Health Center! The scope of the WellCat Health Services (WHS) project includes updating finishes and lighting to improve safety, increase cleanliness, and provide a more welcoming space for students. The project has replaced all carpet and old vinyl tile with luxury vinyl tile, eliminated all wallpaper, repainted the majority of the building, replaced acoustic ceiling tiles in most public spaces, and replaced all interior light fixtures with new energy efficient LED fixtures. One very special feature is a new luminous “sky ceiling” mural in the main waiting room.

The work is planned to be completed in January. During the construction, WellCat Health Services has been open for business. It has been a challenge for all involved to work around the construction activities, but the project has progressed well due to a great team effort between the WHS staff, Swinerton Builders, and FMS.

A huge “Thank You” goes out to all involved!

Thanks to Karen Gilmet for the update!
MLIB 116

Meriam Library 116 and the surrounding rooms have been given a much needed facelift! Previously, these spaces were outdated and underutilized. The old study rooms were converted to offices for librarians and the computer lab has been replaced with a large collaboration space for student gathering and learning.

The work included removal of old computer tables, carpet replacement, electrical and telecommunications upgrades, installation of two digital displays, painting throughout, replacement of old door knobs with accessible door hardware, and new furnishings. The construction work was contracted through Outback Contractors, and FMS Trades assisted with a number of additional tasks. We are sure the students and MLIB staff will be thrilled with the transformation when they return in the Fall.

Thanks to Karen Gilmet for the update!
I think we can all agree that gophers are a problem. Some of our campus lawns and sports fields have been riddled with gopher mounds for a while now. Despite Grounds’ efforts over the years to bait, trap, gas, and deter them from our landscape...the gophers persist.

For some reason, the gopher population has exploded this year, and we’re having problems staying ahead. Rather than double-down on more baits, gas, and traps we’ve partnered with the FMS Carpenters to build and install a number of owl boxes around campus. Our campus has been home to a small number of owls over the years and we hope that our new owl boxes will have enough curb-appeal to bring new owls to campus to help us control, and ultimately defeat the gophers!

In the meantime, Grounds will still work on trapping gophers and gassing them in their burrows, as well as applying a castor-bean deterrent to push them out. We’ve not used baits in almost 2 years, as to not develop any toxic situations for the owls and hawks that prey on rodents, as well as to protect the dogs and people who use the fields. We’ll be able to check the boxes periodically, and will clean them seasonally as well.
Upon the roll-out of the University Strategic Plan in Fall 2019, Mike Guzzi and Cheri Chastain were tapped to lead the goal implementation for the priority of Resilient and Sustainable Systems. Within this priority Mike and Cheri were tasked with working to meet the campus carbon neutrality commitment by reducing and/or mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. To bring the identified goals to life, funds were made available and awarded to several projects—some of which are set to directly impact FMS.

**JOY OF GIVING**

For over a decade, during the holidays, FMS has participated in the Joy of Giving Program. This program directly benefits children in our community. The participating families are nominated by Butte County social workers and are only eligible to receive holiday gifts from CSU, Chico. In 2020, the Joy of Giving Program provided gifts to 41 families and 94 children. FMS employees give generously because we know these presents will transform the children’s holiday. Our department adopted a family with two 6-year-old children and one adult. We purchased bicycles, helmets, shoes, games, art supplies, jackets, pajamas, and many more items. Thinking about how excited the family will be on December 25th makes our hearts burst with joy!

Thanks to Andrea Rumiano for the update!

**UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLAN FUNDS AWARDED**

- $275,000 was awarded to make the pilot bike path through the core of campus permanent.
  - This will make bike travel through the city safer and encourage more bike commuting to campus
  - A pilot path was opened in Fall 2019, studied by a Transportation Planning class (GEOG 436), with an improvement plan developed based on those recommendations
- $250,000 was awarded to upgrade the lighting on the 4th floor of the library
  - This is only a portion of the required funding, so we are seeking the rest of the funding from other sources
- $36,112 was awarded to purchase a wood chipper
  - This will allow us to keep all of our green waste on site, reducing utility expenses for removal, and generating a nutrient-rich mulch to be recycled back into landscaping operations, further sequestering carbon in our soils
- $12,110 was awarded for a faculty buy-out to study the amount of carbon sequestered in our campus soils and vegetation, bringing us closer to our neutrality goals
- $4,500 was awarded to assist faculty in integrating climate change and resilience into their curriculum – we are an institution of higher education after all!

Thanks to Cheri Chastain for the update!
EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Thank you to the following FMS employees for their hard work and dedication:

**November 2020**

- Brian Wunsch
  *Gardening Specialist*

**December 2020**

- Leon Rendon
  *Painter*

**January 2021**

- Ashley Addington
  *Custodian*

**New to the Team**

FMS welcomes a new member to the team:

- Daniel Voet
  *Locksmith*
**EMPLOYEE MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES**

**Jan. - Mar. 2021**

Bob Francis, *Supervising Plumber*, 20 years on 1/22/2021
Paul Henman, *Custodian*, 20 years on 3/19/2021
Paul Tamietti, *Plumber*, 15 years on 1/30/2021
Denise Hardy, *Lead Custodian*, 15 years on 1/30/2021
Bob Mallow, *BSE*, 15 years on 2/13/2021
Mike Denofrio, *Supervising Painter*, 10 years on 1/19/2021
James Lowe, *Warehouse Worker*, 10 years on 2/24/2021
Dale Vang, *Custodian*, 5 years on 1/4/2021
Kevin Lor, *Custodian*, 5 years on 2/1/2021
Douglas Osby, *Custodian*, 5 years on 2/15/2021
Adam Handy, *Groundworker*, 5 years on 3/1/2021
Chris Philipp, *FW II*, 5 years on 3/7/2021
Joseph Donaldson, *Custodian*, 5 years on 3/16/2021
David Rodriguez, *Custodian*, 1 year on 1/6/2021
Jose Martinez, *Operating Engineer*, 1 year on 1/6/2021
Aaron Bressoud, *Electrician*, 1 year on 2/17/2021
Bradley Peterson, *Custodian*, 1 year on 3/2/2021
Brittany Payne, *Custodian*, 1 year on 3/16/2021
Ross Pritchett, *Custodian*, 1 year on 3/23/2021
Eileena Chrestensen, *Custodian*, 1 year on 3/23/2021

*recognition at 1 year and in increments of 5 years*

---

**THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE JANUARY QUARTERLY FMS NEWSLETTER**

CREATED BY: AMANDA DUBNER & ANNALISSE DE VROOME