Dear FMS Team,

I hope this note finds you and your loved ones safe during these strange times. We debated whether to put out a newsletter this month, but decided it would potentially be a welcome reminder of all of the great things that have been going on in FMS, as well as give us something to think about as we hope for a return to normalcy in the near future. It’s hard to tell right now when that return will happen, and I believe the next few weeks will go a long way in determining the way ahead for California. Thank you for doing your part to follow health guidelines and precautions. Please know that the safety of our staff, students, and faculty is the #1 priority in any decision we make. We are in this together and my goal is for us to come out stronger on the back end. We have been working hard as a campus to keep you as up to date as possible with current information. I know some of the messaging can be in-depth and maybe confusing so please reach out to your managers for any clarification you need. We have been doing our best to arm them with information to support you, and if they don’t have the answer immediately at hand they will reach out to get you the info you’re looking for.

I can’t tell you how much I miss seeing you all. It’s times like these that I really start to regret spending so much time in meetings and not getting out and just talking and interacting with the team. One of my personal goals when we return will be to get back out and about around campus so I can see first hand all of the great things that FMS does on a daily basis.

Please take care of yourself and reach out with any questions. We’ll see you soon.

Hoorah!

Mike
PROJECT UPDATE

MT. MULCHMORE

Grounds and FMS Trades are proud to announce that new mulch bins are up and running!

This site will provide an estimated 100+ yards of rich mulch that the Grounds Dept. will incorporate into the soil throughout campus. What began as a straightforward cost-saving idea has grown into much more. Sites like the New Science Building, the Petersen Rose Garden, and numerous tree wells and planter beds will all receive a thick layer of mulch this year. We're proud of the work on this project, from brainstorming to design and ultimately construction and implementation. The bins are first and foremost a collaborative project. Building on ideas and knowledge from within FMS Trades, Grounds, and Design, the bins have proven over the last 4.5 years to save the campus in waste hauling fees (also reducing our carbon footprint), while at the same time helping to create a healthier environment for our shrubs and trees. This is due to all the beneficial microorganisms in the mulch. For example, Grounds has been able to reduce pesticide and fertilizer costs in the Petersen Rose Garden since using the mulch, as the roses are healthier and able to better defend themselves against pests and disease. In the past two years, the bins have gained a following across campus, where faculty have began to look to the mulch bins as a learning tool. One professor has noted that at a certain depth in the mulch pile, the conditions exist where specific microscopic organisms thrive. These specific organisms have a voracious appetite for plastic. This is promising information that may help with the world's waste problem. Additionally, the Campus Vegetation and Arboretum Committee are collaborating with the College of Agriculture, the Geography Dept., FMS, and Sustainability to track how much carbon can be sequestered in the soil in the areas where the mulch is applied. This sequestration information will help the campus achieve it's overall carbon neutrality goals!
Plumas Hall Rm 112 has been transformed into a 2,505 sq. ft. collaborative learning space, now known as the Omron CoLab. The global technology giant, Omron, gifted the University $830,000 in funds and robotic equipment to aid in constructing a new mechatronics laboratory. This new state-of-the-art lab will allow students to gain the knowledge and hands-on experience they need to obtain jobs in the workforce. FMS Design and Construction saw this project through from beginning to end. FMS Plumbers, Carpenters, and Facilities Control Specialists also contributed many hours to this amazing project. Great job team!


GARDENING TIPS

Here are a few tips from Mike Alonzo, Manager of Grounds & Landscaping, to ensure the success of your seasonal garden.

When purchasing nursery plants, watch for these indicators of weak or unhealthy plants:

- Roots growing through drainage holes in pots usually indicates root-bound plants. It is always a good idea to pull the plant out of its pot to check the roots...it’s what you’re ultimately paying for. A plant that is root bound (just full of thick, circling roots) will lead to a weak plant. Conversely, a plant with a small root system will have trouble surviving the transplant. The ideal plant has a container full of roots, but not so much that they’re crowded out.
- Vegetable seedlings producing fruit prematurely may be crowded into too-small pots, and may not perform well the rest of the season. With veggies in high demand right now, get what you can and pick any early fruit off it. Let the plant get some structure and strength before asking it to produce.

Maintain the health of your plants by:

- Avoiding root rot which is favored by excessive water and poor drainage. While the weather is getting warmer, the nights are still cool. Gradually increase the watering duration over the next few weeks, and then increase more as we enter late May-early June.
- Do not over-irrigate or waterlog soil. Just because the soil looks dry on top, does not mean it is dry below. Dig into the soil a bit to check for moisture 1”-4” below the surface before watering. It is a good idea to have a soil probe in your garden tool lineup.
- *Check systems for leaks and broken emitters and perform maintenance as needed. Consider upgrading the irrigation system to improve its water efficiency.

Control pests and disease by:

Mosquitoes
- Eliminate standing water by thoroughly cleaning debris from pond bottoms, fountains, and bird baths.
- If adding a water feature to your garden, choose one that re-circulates the water.

Aphids
- Spray a strong stream of water or apply insecticidal oils and soaps to small plants and look for and conserve natural enemies such as lacewings, lady beetles and their larvae, and parasitic wasps.

*Watch for beneficial insects—they usually arrive AFTER the pests do. Be patient and let Mother Nature work.

Thanks Mike!

MYSTERY OF THE BLUE AGAVE

Here are a few interesting facts about the agave plants outside of the FMS Administration Building.

- There are over 200 species of agave.
- Agave plants are perennial, meaning they live for many years.
- The agave plant is not a type of cactus; it is closer related to the lily family.
- The heart of the blue agave is called the piña and is harvested to make tequila.
- The piña takes between 8-14 years to mature and some piñas weigh over 200lbs when harvested.
GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER

GROUNDSDOORER
Adam Handy

What’s your favorite part of the job?
My favorite part of my job is being able to come to work each day and enjoy doing what I love most.
Plus, my coworkers are pretty awesome too.

How do you spend your free time?
As far as my free time. What is that? Just kidding, I like to work outdoors in my yard and also work on my vehicle, which seems to be quite a bit.

If they made a movie of your life, which actor/actress would you want to play you?
I think the only actor that could accurately play me would of course be the almighty Bruce Campbell.

What’s something people don’t know about you?
And as far as what most people don’t know about me is I’m actually a secret agent. No, not really. Or am I? The world will never know.

Actually I am an award winning model maker, I have been building scale models for the last 30+ years. If I say any more than that, someone’s gonna have to buy me dinner.

CAPITAL PLANNER/FINANCE MANAGER
Jenna Wright

What’s your favorite part of the job?
I don’t know if I have a favorite part, but I like that my job is made up of two parts, the financial side and the planning side. There is some overlap, but it allows me to have more variety. When I am ready to do something different, there is always something to do on the other side.

How do you spend your free time?
I spend much of my free time with my boyfriend and our three dogs, often walking in Bidwell Park on the weekends. I also enjoy working out at one of the local, small gyms in town.

If they made a movie of your life, which actor/actress would you want to play you?
Reese Witherspoon is the first actress that comes to mind.

What’s something people don’t know about you?
Some people know that I have an identical twin sister, but probably not everyone. We are very close, even though she lives in Washington state, and we talk just about every day.

EVENTS COORDINATOR & CUSTOMER SUPPORT ASSISTANT
Chloe Maday

What’s your favorite part of the job?
My favorite part of my job is the social aspect. In my position, I feel like I am constantly talking to people over the phone, in person, or via email and I really enjoy it. I love being able to interact with people all over campus & I get to meet new people every day.

How do you spend your free time?
I spend my free time going to school. I am currently in a Master’s program on campus, so that takes up a lot of my time outside of work. When I am not at work or doing school work, I enjoy hiking, trying new restaurants, and shopping!

If they made a movie of your life, which actor/actress would you want to play you?
Blake Lively, I just love her!

What’s something people don’t know about you?
Umm... I know how to play the piano.
GROWING TEAM
Welcome New FMS Employees
February - April 2020

Aaron Bressoud  Bradley Garton  Bradley Peterson
Electrician  Painter  Custodian

Brittany Payne  Eileena Chrestensen  Ross Pritchett
Custodian  Custodian  Custodian

FMS Advancements
Randy Southall  Dennis Price
Director of  Supervisor of
Facilities Operations  Custodial Services

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

THANK YOU

February
Alan Peck,
Lead Groundworker
&
Chance Halderman,
Custodian
for all your hard work
and dedication!

March
TAKE A GUESS!

a. Andrea Rumiano
b. Darrell Anderson
c. Katie Sibley
d. Kayleigh Plank
e. Jon Simmons
f. Amanda Dubner
g. Jeff Hensley
h. Durbin Sayers
i. Mike Guzzi
j. Mike Alonzo
k. Thomas DuSell
l. Chloe Maday
m. Karen Gilmet
n. Annalisse de Vroome
o. Talea Pitre

Answers:
THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE APRIL QUARTERLY FMS NEWSLETTER
CREATED BY: AMANDA DUBNER & ANNALISSE DE VROOME

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARIES
4/20 - 6/20

Durbin Sayers, Manager of Custodial & Moving Svcs. 15yrs. on 4/25/20
Jenna Wright, Capital Planner/Finance Manager 15yrs. on 5/3/20
Eric Casey, Electrician 15yrs. on 6/6/20
Matt Douglas, Facilities Maintenance Mechanic 5yrs. on 4/20/20
Dmitriy Galkin, Groundworker 1yr. on 4/2/20
Josh Gray, Carpenter 1yr. on 4/22/20
Chloe Maday, Event/Customer Svcs. Assistant 1yr. on 4/22/20
James Moore, Supervising Building Svcs. Engineer 1yr. on 6/3/20