Break the ice - start a conversation with someone new! It’s easy—say hello and start with a comment on a recent sporting event, comment on something in the news, and yes as a last resort, you can always comment on the weather. Sometimes, it’s the small things that can have big impact.

Be careful what information you share on social media. Specifically, do not publicly post check-ins to distant locales or respond to invitations to future events that involve all residents of your home—you may be letting the entire world know that your home will be empty and a prime target for robbery.

Congratulations to Charles “Tony” Brandt for being named one of the May GEM² winners for the Maintenance Department! Tony has been with SSC since March 2014 and works as a painter for the University Center Complex (UCC). Prior to moving to College Station, Tony worked as a paint contractor in Arkansas. He enjoys hunting, golfing and riding his Harley Davidson. Tony also enjoys traveling but does not really have a favorite location, as long as his wonderful wife of 20 years is with him. The best advice Tony has ever received is to treat anything you are working on as if it is your own. Tony’s favorite part of his job is interacting with the diverse group of people attending A&M.

EDCS Promotions

Congratulations to EDCS employees Deborah Hardt and Mike Hass on their promotions. Deborah will now be a Team Lead for newly created Team E and Mike Hass has taken on a new role as a Program Manager for Team A. Please extend your congratulations to both Deborah and Mike!

Proctor Appreciation lunch

In conjunction with the TAMU Outsourcing Office, SSC hosted a proctor appreciation lunch on June 11 at the MSC Bethancourt Ballroom. Under the direction of Resident Regional Manager Richard Gentry, Customer Service Supervisor Sarah Boreen planned the event. Bill Cox from the Outsourcing Office also had a hand in the planning. There was a great turnout with about 82 TAMU staff and 44 SSC staff. Chartwells catered the lunch. Both SSC and TAMU Outsourcing Office employees were introduced and proctors were able to put faces with names and get a better understanding of all that SSC does on campus and the role that the Outsourcing Office plays. Sarah has received a lot of positive feedback from proctors and hopes to plan another event of this nature in the near future.
Composting is Cool!

After a year and a half of composting, Grounds began the task of processing the bulk ground material to make two primary finished products: 1.) mulch for use on landscape beds around the TAMU campus and a fine compost for use in amending flower beds and improving soils in construction projects and 2.) topdressing campus turf areas.

SSC on the Classroom Improvement Committee

The Classroom Improvement Committee (CIC) was created in Fall 2013 by the Council for the Build Environment Maintenance Sub-council (CBE-Msc) and charged with the task of examining and assessing potential improvement opportunities for all Registrar-maintained classroom facilities on the Texas A&M University – College Station campus over the next five years.

SSC currently has two associates serving as committee members (Richard Gentry and Sarah Morris) and manages all construction projects related to classroom enhancement. SSC has worked directly with seating manufacturers to develop seating and writing surface solutions unique to Texas A&M as a direct result of student, faculty, and staff feedback from surveys conducted in Fall 2013 and Spring 2014. As fiscal year two draws to a close, SSC along with the CIC has improved multiple classrooms, covering 12,000 seats across 11 buildings.

This past spring, renovations to Scoates 208 were completed. This project extensively involved work with the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering (BAEN) and the preservation architect engaged in documenting the original finishes throughout the building. The elaborate chandelier designed out of scaled down agricultural equipment and stenciled ceiling tiles were restored to the original 1933 condition by funding secured by BAEN. New seating, accessibility improvements and technology improvements were funded by CIC. The entire project totaled $572,700 and a grand reopening of the classroom was celebrated in February.

This summer SSC has major renovations in five buildings across main campus. The most ambitious renovation is in Biological Sciences East Building (BSBE), classroom 115 with a project budget of $765,800. Constructed in 1967, the large lecture hall has remained mostly untouched since the building’s completion. A large saltwater fish tank maintained by the Biology department is immediately outside of the classroom in the corridor and classroom’s main entrance. CIC is partnering with Biology to improve the entrance into the classroom and the lecture hall itself. The existing stage, inaccessible to existing faculty and students, will be removed. New seating, lighting, flooring, and acoustical treatments will be installed. This project is currently underway and scheduled for completion in mid-August.

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Corps Stack and Patches Installed at Military Science Building

Friday, June 19 was a much anticipated day for the Graphics Team. After weeks of holding off on an installation at the Military Science Building due to rain, the weather was finally suitable enough to do this work. Graphics Supervisor Autumn Redman and her team of Brian Roby, Travis McCarver, Lucas Prince, Cami Sullens and Fred Walden relocated the Corps Stack from the side of the building to over the back door. They also installed a new Corps Stack along with the Corps patches: Army, Navy and Marines. While the work was taking place, General Ramirez, the Commandant, stopped by to tell Autumn how nice the new stack looks and what a great job the Graphics team did. Well done, Graphics!

Custodian Kenneth Hall Named High Five Recipient

The High Five Award is presented to individuals for going above and beyond their normal duties to promote teamwork, unity, a positive attitude, kindness and exceptional customer service. Nominees for this award consistently demonstrate the values and behaviors that contribute to a positive work place atmosphere. Custodial employee Kenneth Hall at George Bush Library (GBL) was recently named a High Five recipient. On June 22, Lesley Brennan toured the GBL and was very impressed with the entire trip. She was most impressed with Kenneth’s kindness. Mrs. Brennan had sat down to enjoy the flight simulator exhibit. When she was finished, she got up and walked away, not realizing she had left her purse sitting on the floor. A minute later, Mrs. Brennan noticed Kenneth walking toward her, carrying her purse. Mrs. Brennan stated in a thank you card to the GBL that she always believed there are good honest people in the world and that Kenneth confirmed this belief. Kenneth has always been an honest person and he has proven to be quite an asset to the GBL, TAMU and SSC. Thank you, Kenneth, for your superb customer service on June 22 and throughout your career in Custodial Services!