Last week my grandson started pre-school. He was excited about going to school like his older brothers. Carrying his lunchbox and backpack, his mom walked him up to the school entrance. He stopped, put down his lunchbox and backpack, looked up at her and started to scream! Sometimes we feel that way – excited about a new adventure but terrified when that day comes. Ever jump off a high-dive board? The view from there is a lot different than the view from the ground. Many new students are on our campus for the first time. Some are excited, some are a little anxious and most will be lost. Let’s be helpful to our new students. Ask them if they need directions, help get them where they need to be. Sometimes a little hand-holding makes a big difference. They are our students – make them feel welcome!

- Bob Casagrande, VP of Operations

SSC’s President Seth Ferriell hosted a meet’n’greet barbeque lunch on August 4th for departmental managers and supervisors. There were two lunch shifts to make it easier for Seth to mingle with employees. Custodial managers and supervisors were in the first shift and Maintenance, Grounds and EDCS were in the second shift. Seth encouraged staff to approach him with any questions or concerns and emphasized that we’re all doing a great job here at SSC at TAMU!

“SSC survives on the commitment and diligence of passionate employees like you. Thank you for taking the time out of your day to speak with me, and thank you for the great food.”

- Seth Ferriell, President

Congratulations to Ernest Kluge for being named one of the July GEM² winners for the Maintenance Department. Ernest has been working for Facilities Services for the past 14 years. He worked for A&M for 11 of those years and has worked for SSC for 3 years. Ernest works in the Trades Shop doing mostly concrete patching work. Prior to working in Facilities, Ernest was a stocker at Wal-Mart. Outside of work, Ernest enjoys walking and jogging with his wife, sharing his faith with others and mowing his lawn. One of his favorite foods is enchiladas and his favorite trip included visiting New York, Niagara Falls and the Smokey Mountains. The best advice Ernest has ever received is to study the Bible and set a good example for his kids and society in general. Ernest loves to work and is quite passionate about his job. Way to go, Ernest!

Do not use cell phones while driving in the car, even if you have a Bluetooth headset. Talking on the phone is a distraction and takes your mind off of the road.

Grounds
=> Abbey Draut

Maintenance
=> Ronald Grocholski
=> Kenny Jones

Custodial
=> Audrey Flowers
=> Juan Montanez
=> Lex Myers

DIVERSITY

Today, women’s equality has grown to mean much more than just sharing the right to vote. Organizations such as Equality Now and Womankind Worldwide continue to work to provide women across the globe with equal opportunities to education and employment. These organizations help push against suppression and violence toward women, while also fighting the discrimination and stereotyping which still occurs in every society.
**Maintenance Kudos**

Congratulations to Fred Walden and Cami Sullens of Graphics for the highly complimented sign at O&M!

**Spreading the Word**

Through Twitter SSC is spreading the word about our services to TAMU students. Through twitter students have a voice in making observations and submitting work requests.

**Turbo Lab Renovations**

A job well done to EDCS and project manager Abraham Obregón for the 5th floor renovations at the Turbo-Machinery Laboratory Suite. This included the relocation of a hallway door, combining office spaces to create one conference room, sound proofing one office, and removing existing carpet and installing new vinyl plank flooring in the common areas.

**Snow Cones with SSC**

SSC served more than 1,200 students during our Gig ‘Em week event “Snow Cones with SSC.” The students got to speak with SSC staff while enjoying a refreshing treat! Thank you to our volunteers from Administration, Custodial, EDCS, Grounds, and Maintenance.

**Custodial Spiffs Up Animal Industries Floors**

These floors are located in the Animal Industries Building, which is currently undergoing a major reno. The space is being taken over by Engineering while the new Zachry Complex is being built. Employees Maria Martinez and Connie Garza with Crew G spent many late nights and early mornings to complete this work. This is the first phase of the renovation with more floors to come.
SSC at Texas A&M Campus Arborists

The campus Arboricultural Team, more easily referred to as the “Tree Team” is striving to become the best team of Campus Arborists in the state of Texas! The Tree Team is managed by Stephen Johnson and supervised by the International Society of Arborists (ISA). Certified Arborist Joseph Booth will complete two significant training sessions and one certification in the next month. These training sessions allow the team to perform quality tree related work around all forms of utility lines and also to teach them how to safely aid and remove seriously injured or incapacitated co-workers from trees. The Ultimate Goal? Have as many members of the team become Master Arborists– the “Mr. Miyagi” of Arboriculture! Currently, there are only twelve in the entire state of Texas. The members of the tree team are: Trent Upchurch (Team Leader), James Elliot, Marcellino Carpio, Joseph Cameron, Star Hansen, and Chandler Day.

Maintenance Staff Assists Fellow Employee in Need

On a recent Tuesday, Zone R South maintenance technicians were about to head back to work from their lunch break when they noticed a custodial staff member acting quite disoriented and not her usual self. Several techs kept close watch of her as she walked throughout the shop area and until she got into her golf cart to drive away. She proceeded to back up and leave the maintenance compound when technicians noticed she had slumped over into her seat and passed out.

As technicians watched the event unfold, they reacted by rushing to provide aid to her. Several techs carried her back into the shop while one maintenance staff member called for EMS. They provided a cool wash cloth for her neck as well as a fan and kept her calm until EMS showed up to take her to the hospital.

These gentlemen went above and beyond their normal duties by being cognizant to the surrounding associates within their area. They kept their cool in a stressful situation and did not hesitate in helping another team member in her time of need. Thank you, gentlemen!

L to R: Dave Rittenhouse, Richard Garcia, Emilio Lopez, Larry Watson Jr., and Brian Marquard