We have all been advised at one time or another, ‘Don’t sweat the small stuff.’ For today, your challenge is to do the opposite. Sweat the small things for someone else, because sometimes it can be the smallest thing that can make the biggest impact. Listen for cues or hints today and see how many times you can do small things for the people around you.

Avoid Distractions While Driving
It isn’t just cell phones that cause distractions. Eating, applying makeup, fiddling with electronic devices or interacting with passengers also diverts a driver’s attention in potentially deadly ways.

Grounds
⇒ Jose Martinez

Maintenance
⇒ Charles Brandt
⇒ Donnie Rhodes

Custodial
⇒ Emmitt Carroll
⇒ La Votny Garrett
⇒ Letha Tunsel

The 25th of May, Memorial Day, allowed us to reflect on the sacrifices of brave men and women who died in service of the United States of America. May they always be in our hearts. For those of us who lost family and friends in the service, our deepest condolences. For those living who have served or continue to serve—employees, family members and friends, our deepest gratitude and our thoughts and prayers that you remain safe. Nothing is more important than the safety and well-being of our associates. We strive to provide a safe environment through education, training and protective equipment. Our associates, their co-workers and their families rely on us without compromise.

-April Employee of the Month

Congratulations to Charles Jackson for being named the April GEM² for the Grounds Department! In June 2014, Charles joined SSC as a Landscape Construction (LCON) Team Leader. Prior to working for SSC, Charles was employed by The Land Design Group for over 18 years. Born and raised in Bryan, Charles is one of nine! On Sundays, Charles enjoys cooking a nice meal for his family. Some of his favorite items to cook include BBQ, roast, chicken, greens, yams and black eyed peas. If he wants to take a break from cooking, Charles’ favorite restaurant is Sodolaks Beefmasters where he’ll order chicken fried steak. When he gets the chance to travel, Charles would like to head to Shreveport. Charles enjoys being part of the LCON team and has an extremely upbeat attitude. He enjoys working outside and truly looks forward to coming to work every day. Congrats, Charles!

Maintenance Department’s Role in Board of Regents Leak

In the April newsletter, Custodial reported their work on the damaged room within the Board of Regents Suites at the MSC. The photos to the left show progress from the Maintenance side. A water line within the ceiling had erupted causing extensive water damage to the paint, drywall, and flooring. A call was placed to bring in an outside contractor to restore the room back to original before the next Board of Regents meeting. The deadline was two weeks out. A coordinated effort between SSC and Cotton Global Disaster Solutions turned the room from chaos to original in just one week! This gave the Custodial crew time to do a final cleaning of the room and have it ready for the incoming occupant.

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EDCS Designs the Best

EDCS is working on the design and construction of a new 21,000 SF one story animal housing facility. Building is pre-manufactured metal building structure on concrete slab on grade, metal stud walls with metal panel and split-face CMU exterior walls and a metal roof. Project includes site development, building, parking and an access road to the new facility. Completion is scheduled for September 15, 2015. They are currently about 45% complete. Keep up the good work!

Project Manager Joe Ellerbrock oversaw the Reed Arena lighting upgrade project. The existing lighting and associated control system was completely replaced with modern LED lighting. The replacement will result in significant energy savings for TAMU while increasing the lighting illumination and quality that exceeds professional basketball standards.
On May 8, the Grounds Department held the second consecutive Pesticide Sprayer Calibration Class for all departmental personnel who hold a Commercial Pesticide License. The class was given by Dr. Casey Reynolds, AgriLife Assistant Professor and State Extension Turfgrass Specialist. The training began with classroom instruction and moved outside with hands-on calibration methods. The classroom portion of the course covered all the necessary math and formulas needed for correct calibration of the sprayers. The team was able to precisely calculate how many ounces or gallons their sprayers were applying in a given area. Proper calibration is vital to ensure chemicals are not over or under applied. Dr. Reynolds helped Grounds employees with each step of the calibration process. Overall, the calibration class was a huge success and Grounds plans to repeat the event every year so everybody stays on top of their game.

Simpson Drill Field is a six acre field located in the middle of campus that serves as the main meeting place for outside student activities, as well as The Corps of Cadets drill field. The field is maintained by the Fine Turf Team which consists of Team Leader Dakota Smith, technicians Salvador Orta and Graydon Snowden, managed by Brian Carey. The field is mowed at 1” twice a week and is on a monthly fertilization program and is aerated/ top dressed biannually.

In preparation for the Corps Final Review, the team sodded areas needing repair, performed additional mowing, provided seating and painted the Corps Stack emblem. The Corps of Cadets was extremely impressed by the appearance of the field.

Custodians Knock One Out of the Park

Against a very small timeline, the custodians at Athletics did an outstanding job of getting the Zone ready for the new student conference.

Lead by Rita Alvarez, the following did an amazing job turning a “construction” Zone into a masterpiece: Raquelina Cabrera, Celina Colon, Oscar Diaz, Lucia Gonzalez, Maria Gonzalez, Ofelia Hernandez, Chavotnee Heardmans, Sonia Herrera, Diana Munoz and Lilia Portillo.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Grounds Impresses the Masses

Pesticide Sprayer Calibration Class