

FACILITIES

in *REVIEW*

**MREB OPEN FOR
RESEARCH**

CAMPUS SMART BINS GET A SMART NEW LOOK

FALL 2016

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COVER PHOTOS by Kriti Wadhera

Approved by UH Branding

NEW WEBSITE, SAME GREAT SERVICE

Facilities/Construction Management, the parent department of Facilities Services and Facilities Planning and Construction, now has its own website. The purpose is to provide Facilities customers a portal to which they would find links to Facilities Planning and Construction, Facilities Services, and, of course, the 4 Ways to FIX-IT page. We anticipate that adopting this short url will help our customers reach us more conveniently while still giving our two unique working groups their own identity.

Visit uh.edu/facilities to find out more.

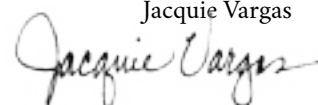
NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Fall 2016 issue of "Facilities in Review", the bi-annual publication of the University of Houston department of Facilities/Construction Management (F/CM). In this edition, readers will be introduced to the newly-opened for business Multi-Disciplinary Research and Engineering Building (MREB). This structure is not only beautiful in its very design but it is also very utilitarian from the polished concrete flooring to the numerous exposed air ducts and pipes suspended from the ceilings throughout.

The magazine carries articles and news items that run the gamut from the introduction of our newest member of leadership – Al Rajan, who has recently been named Executive Director, Facilities Business Operations and Compliance, to the project that is overseeing the rebranding and recovering of our campus smart bins. The viewer will also read about the recognition received recently by the UH Electric Shop, recipients of the "Rock Soup" award, which recognizes a group of employees for their persistence, ingenuity and the ability to get things done!

Did you know that the campus has a koi pond? And what about the awesome Stadium Commemorative Marker designed by students in recognition of the entire student body's contributions and commitment to the building of the beautiful TDECU stadium? It's all here in this edition along with so much more. The Facilities Communications Team hopes you enjoy this publication. We enjoyed pulling it together for our customers.

Jacquie Vargas



WELCOME BACK, ALTAF J. RAJAN

Altaf J. Rajan has been named Executive Director, Facilities Business Operations and Compliance for the University of Houston.

Rajan has years of progressively responsible financial management experience working with institutions of varying size including Golden Gate University in San Francisco, Texas, Southern University in Houston, and an international assignment at Texas A&M University in Doha, Qatar. Before any of those experiences though, Rajan was a University of Houston employee and is now returning.

Each of these prior positions provided extensive experiences in financial operations, financial reporting, accounting process development, re-engineering accounting structure and Enterprise Resource

Planning (ERP) implementation. These experiences have also trained him to preempt issues and provide solutions in all levels of the organizational financial life cycle, resolve long-standing accounting issues, and recommend and implement solutions that will result in operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Rajan earned a BS in Accounting from the University of Houston-Downtown, an MBA in Finance from the University of St. Thomas, Houston and is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) from TSBPA (Texas State Board of Public Accountancy).

Eagerly awaiting his new challenges with the new position in UH Facilities, Rajan states, "I am excited to be back at UH and look forward to working with the University community."



BUILDING COORDINATOR PROGRAM ANNUAL TRAINING

The job of a building coordinator is not easy depending on the age of the building and the type of building users. They are expected to be the point of contact for any utility or maintenance issue which can include electricity, water supply, heating and air conditioning just to name a few.

The Building Coordinator Program conducted their annual training to review the responsibilities that building coordinators have on campus. This training specifically targets building coordinators that have

been given this title in the last 12 months but is a good refresher for all. Having those who have more experience share their stories about how issues were handled in the past is beneficial for beginners.

The Facilities Communications Team is happy to coordinate this program. They understand the necessity for each building to have dedicated representatives advocate for their building along with communicating facility issues and repairs with their users.

JENNIFER REA and JACQUIE VARGAS facilitating the training.



RECYCLE

- Emptied Plastic Bottles
- Emptied Aluminum Cans
- Emptied Cartons
- Paper without food/drink contamination

TRASH

- Styrofoam
- Straws
- Plastic Bags
- Leftover Food

CAMPUS SMART BINS GET A SMART **NEW** LOOK

The smart bins that hold the majority of the litter across campus and include a side for single-stream recycling are getting a new look. The previous graphics were useful when originally installed, but it was time for a makeover.

The face-lift is intended to educate the user on what should be put into the trash side and what should be put into the recycle side. Many users will contaminate the recycle side by throwing items that have been used for food or drink. Although some items used for drinking can be recycled, they should first be emptied. Items used for food are typically best on the trash side.

Ultimately, educating the end-users will increase the amount of recycling that can be done, thereby increasing the amount of money that is collected for the University.

This project went through multiple iterations, but the final design was completed by Facilities Communications student, Kriti Wadhra. “My favorite part is the way that the words ‘recycle’ and ‘trash’ pop out. We

had to keep the design in line with UH branding and we knew that we wanted to keep it simple but also noticeable,” says Wadhra. During the approval and beta installation process, changes were continually made. The design was approved by UH Branding and vetted by AVC/AVP for Facilities David Oliver.

The beta installation testing was completed in October and majority of bins on campus have now been wrapped. On seeing her design across campus, Wadhra remarks, “It’s awesome! It looks even better in person and I hope that we were successful in enhancing the campus waste management system.” The wrapping is being done by the Copy Center/FastSigns on campus. There are over 75 bins on campus.

For questions on the smart bins, contact Facilities Communications. For more information on sustainability efforts across campus, visit uh.edu/af-auxiliary-services/sustainability

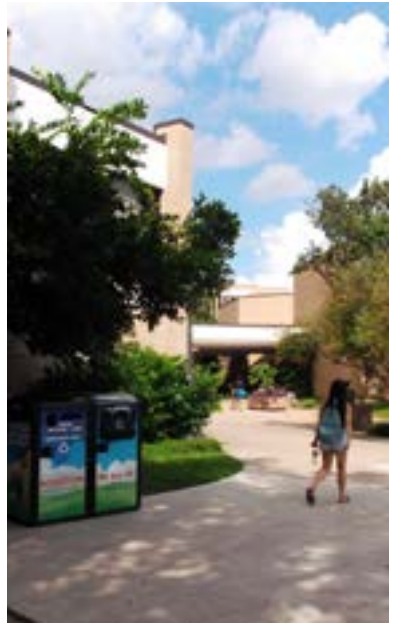


Photo of the original smart bin wraps on campus.

SHOP TALK

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
FACILITIES SERVICES

BIKE CLEAN-UP CREATES SAFER SIDEWALKS

The University of Houston Facilities Services along with the University of Houston Police Department continue to clean up the bicycle racks in order to maintain an adequate number of bicycle parking spaces on campus and furthermore maintain the overall aesthetics of our campus. In 2016, a total of 276 abandoned bikes were picked up. "We are also pushing hard to get bikes off of light poles, park benches, and stairs so that they are not impeding pedestrian pathways while providing better presentation of our space," expresses Facility Manager Craig Whitfield.

Bicycles and other items secured to bicycle racks or other objects on campus, that are abandoned, or appear to be abandoned, are tagged with a colored tag. This semester, tagging began the first week of October, with collection beginning later that month and continuing until all items were removed. During this process, all bikes are impounded and stored at UHPD for a minimum of 60 days, at which point, Whitfield explains, "most bikes are donated."

"Most bikes are never retrieved by the owner due to non-registration," says Whitfield, so it is recommended for users to register their bicycle with the University of Houston Police Department. Although the bike registration may appear daunting for bike riders, Whitfield reminds, "We encourage riding to and around the campus." The process is a component to keeping the campus safe and functional.



Photo by Kirti Wadhwa.



ELECTRIC SHOP RECEIVES 'ROCK SOUP' AWARD

During the Administration & Finance Kick-Off event earlier in the semester, the UH Facilities Electric Shop was given the Rock Soup Award which recognizes a department who performed in an extraordinary manner or made an outstanding contribution to a department in enhancing efficiency or reducing costs while expending minimal resources.

Associate Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice President of Facilities/Construction Management David Oliver shared his

appreciation for the hard work the Electric Shop has done in the last year. "This award goes to a group of people that demonstrate persistence, ingenuity and basically the ability to get things done."

Senior Vice Chancellor/Vice President of Administration and Finance Jim McShan was also able to attend and congratulate the crew. Individual certificates were presented to each crew member along with a plaque to Supervisor Karl Keilbach.



Photos by Kriti Wadhwa.

SURVEY SAYS

We make customer satisfaction our priority, but don't just take our word for it.



Photo by Kriti Wadhwa.

"I requested my key online, was approved, and received speedy communication through email. Everyone was extremely friendly and polite. It was a delight requesting my key and stopping by to get it. The wonderful lady even offered me water when I was at the window."

— KEY ACCESS SERVICES CUSTOMER

"I appreciate the crew for always doing a great job, above and beyond expectations, every semester that we have our Hard Hat Event."

—MOVES AND EVENTS CUSTOMER

"The crew was very ingenious in solving an issue when they could not contact me to resolve. It was a solution that we had not thought of and the crew deserves credit for an outstanding job!"

— MOVES AND EVENTS CUSTOMER

"The custodians Olivia and Maria and three other custodians were the most helpful during the clean-up."

— CUSTODIAL SERVICES CUSTOMER



Photo by Kriti Wadhwa.



SNAP THIS STORY

Facilities Communications followed General Maintenance Supervisor Esteban Mendoza around with a camera for a day to show students via Snapchat how we are here to help them. You can follow us on Snapchat by searching @UHFacilities.



KOI POND RESTORED

On Thursday, October 20, 2016 new fish were added to the Koi Pond located next to the Architecture Building. “To the best of our knowledge, we have not added any fish to this pond in seven years. It was time.” stated Facilities Supervisor Craig Whitfield.

The fish were ordered and arrived that morning. Whitfield and Skilled Trades Tech Ricky Lee, UH Facilities member for 14 years, helped unload the three bags of fish and then carefully acclimated the fish to the temperature of the pond water. Lee was coincidentally on the grounds crew that worked on the Koi Pond project in 2009.

Two of the bags contained two plecostomus each. Plecos, as they are commonly called, are found in many aquariums using their sucker mouths to attach and polish the sides of the glass. Originally found in South America, these fish enjoy a diet of algae and other vegetation so they will have plenty to eat in their new home.

One bag contained seven koi. These new koi included multiple variations of colors including orange, white, gold and silver. Koi or carp are natural omnivores that diet on plants, insects, snails and similar foods.

The fish were introduced to the pond with the utmost care. Each bag was anchored to the shore so as not to float away during this process. The bags were allowed to float on top of the water for around ten minutes so that the water inside the bags would have the same temperature as the pond water. This prevents the fish from going into a state of shock when released into the pond. The next step was to add small amounts of the pond water to the bags so that the fish could slowly get used to their new surroundings. This was done twice. The last step was releasing the fish. This procedure took less than one hour to finish.

As the fish were being introduced to the water, multiple students came by to see what was happening. The pond will continue to be a great place to relax and study between classes.

BUILDING BUILDINGS

MREB OPEN FOR RESEARCH

Tuesday, November 8, 2016, the Multi-Disciplinary Research and Engineering Building (MREB) received a temporary certificate of occupancy. UH Facilities Senior Project Manager Terry Hawkins is proud of this project and is beaming with delight with occupancy being granted. The Division of Research, Engineering, and Center for Advanced Computing and Data Systems are pleased to use this beautiful brand-new space. This certificate allows these departments to move into their designated areas.

Of the 120,000 gross square foot building, 44,895 square feet is ready to be used. There are thirty-one available offices, eight plug-and-play labs, and two conference rooms. This is the first phase for MREB.

The building coordinators for MREB are Assistant Vice President of Research Administration Cris Milligan and Senior Project Manager of Core Facilities Danny Guffey. Building Coordinators are the point of contact for custodial and maintenance services, energy management, heating and cooling, fire and environmental safety, building security, construction planning, and project management activities within a facility.





Photo by Kritt Wadhwa.

HBSB II CONCRETE COMPLETE

In August, the HBSB II construction project hit a major milestone - the final elevated slab was placed. "We have a long way to go before substantial completion but this is a step in the right direction," stated Facilities Inspector Cesar Villigren. The majority of the concrete has been finished with a few small exceptions for curbing and transformer pads yet to be completed.

Now that the roof section has been poured the view from the top of the nine-story building is amazing. The viewer can see the entire campus. Once the pre-cast wall surround is installed, the current view from the roof-top will no longer be available. The design of the columns extending beyond the rooftop's edge is unique to HBSB II. The intent is to cover the rooftop mechanical equipment so that the exterior aesthetics of the building will be the focus and not the equipment that is often seen.

The beautiful campus view and indeed that of the surrounding areas will however be available safely through the windows. The window frames for most floors are being installed now.

Beyond window frames, interior work is proceeding on the third floor with installation of wall and door frames. The next step will be installation of the drywall. Tellepsen employee and UH Construction Management student, Ryan Orsak says, "Putting in the ceilings gives a sense of a finished product." He is anxiously waiting for that part of the project to start taking shape.

The next big milestone will occur once all of the exterior walls and windows have been placed. The HVAC system with its 10ft wide by 5ft high service ducts can be turned on. The goal for this is the end of the fall semester, weather permitting.

Even with all of the rain over the last few months, this project is continuing to remain on schedule.

TDECU STADIUM COMMEMORATIVE MARKER UNVEILED



Photo by Kriti Wadhwa.



Photo by Kriti Wadhwa.



Photo by Kriti Wadhwa.



Photo by Kriti Wadhwa.

The concrete for the marker was poured in October, followed by the letter and bench installation with the final project being completed in November.

According to the TDECU student stadium referendum a commemorative marker designed by students, recognizing the financial contributions and support made by students to the construction of the stadium, was to be installed outside the stadium. It will also serve as a visual designation of the student tailgating area.

The Student Government Association, in partnership with the Gerald D. Hines College of Architecture, the Division of Administration and Finance and the Athletics Department announced a Commemorative Marker Design Competition for the students of the University of Houston in January 2016. These same departments sponsored this contest and the winners were selected during the SGA elections in March 2016. The winning team members were architecture students Alex Bishop, Abran Arvizu, Afreen Ali, and Vy Truong. Their submission was titled 'Whose House.'

The project was introduced to Principal Project Manager Trent Williams in May 2016 when they had their first meeting. Williams started working with the student team immediately as they has a strict timeline. "The winners

are senior architecture students and they were great to work with. They were collaborative with each other and responded quickly to any of our requests. It was great to be able to help them bring their design to fruition."

The schedule for the completion of the marker was very tight as it had to be done before the Homecoming football game on November 12th. The students provided the design and recommended the materials and then Williams put them in touch with the appropriate contractors. Before the unveiling of the marker, the winners expressed to FOX 26 how precisely similar the final marker was compared to their original design. It was unveiled to the student body in a brief dedication ceremony earlier on the day of the game.

At the unveiling, President Renu Khator thanked the students for their continuous support and love for Cougar athletics and introduced their new commemorative marker. The students seemed very excited about the new installation and were seen taking turns to get the perfect photo of them with the marker.

OUTSTANDING UPGRADES

UH PARKING KEEPS GETTING BETTER.

Parking is a major focus on campus and UH Facilities was pleased to partner with Parking and Transportation to help upgrade five lots from gravel to asphalt. This upgrade provides not only a better driving and walking area but would also last longer and require less maintenance. This upgrade project was led by Senior Construction Project Manager Kenneth Tolbert.

With the assistance of Parking and Transportation, Tolbert and the team prioritized the five lots. Lots 3b, 4a and 19c were deemed the highest priority because of their high traffic volume as compared to the other two lots, Lots 8a and 9b. The three highest priority lots were substantially completed by the beginning of the fall semester which was an appreciated improvement for the students who returned from the previous semester. Tolbert will continue to manage the project and the remaining two lots, 8 and 9, will be completed during the winter break.

Expressing his appreciation, Tolbert stated “Robert Browand (Director of Parking & Transportation) and Paul Lozano (Assistant Director) really helped us with this project. Their expertise and guidance was invaluable.”

The biggest challenge in this process was the coordination with the installation of the lights and poles. Even with unsuitable weather conditions, they had to be in place by the deadline to stay on schedule. “Working on this fast moving venture in the midst of other projects was very demanding,” said Tolbert. Some of the other projects that he is working on include - the Lamar Fleming water intrusion repair project and a new parking lot between the Welcome Center garage and the Metro rail station.



KENNETH TOLBERT
Senior Construction Project Manager

AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

BASKETBALL FACILITY WINS BEST SPORTS/ENTERTAINMENT PROJECT FOR TEXAS AND LOUISIANA

The University of Houston Guy V. Lewis Basketball Development Center won the Engineering News-Record Texas & Louisiana's 2016 Best Project Winner for the Sports and Entertainment category. The 53,000 square-foot, stylish and modern facility houses the Houston Men's and Women's Basketball student-athletes. It is no surprise that it has received such significant recognition.

UNIVERSITY CENTER RECEIVES ARCHITECTURE ACCOLADES

In Fall 2016, the University Center Transformation Project won The National American Architecture Award for Design Excellence. From a shortlist of 380 submissions, narrowed to the 74 best, this project is one of only 7 higher education projects recognized. Earlier in 2016, the project was also recognized by the American Institute of Architects Houston Design Award in Renovation/Restoration.

Senior Project Manager Mei Chang is very proud of the recognition that the project has received. “I had the opportunity to come to UH 10 years ago and to be able work on all these amazing projects,” says Chang. Several universities have visited the facility as well as inquired into our planning processes to gain inspiration for their own student centers.

TDECU FOOTBALL STADIUM WINS GOLDEN TROWEL AWARD

The University of Houston TDECU Stadium was honored recently by the United Masonry Contractor Association – DFW Chapter at its annual Golden Trowel Awards celebration. The 40,000 seat football stadium, completed in 2015, won the Regional Golden Trowel and received Honorable Mention in the “Best Use of Block” category at the state level.



**TDECU STADIUM
COMMEMORATIVE MARKER UNVEILED**

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON
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