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#### **ABA News - ABA Coordinates Food Drive**

For many years, ABA has supported the campus-wide California State Employees Food Drive, the annual campaign that seeks donations to supply local food closets for many years. This year, the Sustainability Team from Facilities Management takes charge of the campus campaign. The team will handle logistical support, such as the provision of containers and pick-up and delivery of donations from across the campus.

To jump start this year's campaign, the team launched a call to action, distributing emails and flyers, and conducting activities in the library guad. They hope to make this year's food drive the most successful in campus history. The email reminds others why such efforts are important. Read more.



## Message From The VP

This edition of ABA FOCUS is full of news about the great work that ABA is doing for the campus. It is a gratifying as a vice president to share stories that convey the significance of the work performed by our division. Throughout these ... read more.



and the Sustainable Technology Optimization Research Center (STORC) won the...read more.

## Green News

Sac State's Sustainability Team joined the American **River Parkway** Foundation's Adopt the Parkway program as the Volunteer Steward for "Mile 7 South" of the parkway. This means that they will act as...read more



#### English, and so her goal that involved reading a lot of books is not as unlikely as one might think. Read more.

## Awards & Recognition

Early this month, Sacramento State was the proud recipient of **CSU Best Practices** awards from the CSU for efforts in two categories. Sac State's Smart Grid project won the Best Energy Retrofit Award

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ABA FOCUS continues its emphasis on staff reading choices, with an interesting story about staff professional Ademidun Adejobi's unique 2014 goal and how she went about setting and accomplishing it. Ademidun earned her degree from Sac State in

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California State University, Sacramento

> PRESIDENT Alexander Gonzalez

VICE PRESIDENT AND CFO Ming-Tung "Mike" Lee

> EDITOR Sarah Whyte

WEB EDITORS Andrew Stiffler Sarah Whyte

WRITERS Andrew Stiffler Sarah Whyte



## Upcoming Events



View the Upcoming Events page to see what's going on, and what's coming up in ABA. <u>Read more</u>.



## Behind The Scenes: ABA Volunteers

The beginning of each semester brings with it new opportunities, challenges and, most importantly, new students. ABA offices do their best to prepare with extra staff, extended hours and additional services to help preempt potential student frustrations.

One of ABA's most successful strategies for meeting first week demands is through volunteer assistance. This edition of Behind the Scenes focuses on the individuals who

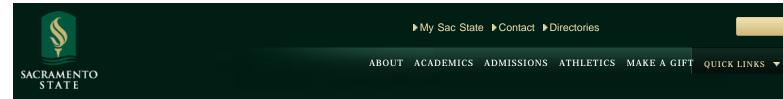
volunteer their time to assist in other offices - why do they do it and what are the rewards? Yes, there are many! Read more.



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## **ABA AWARDS & RECOGNITION**



## Elk Grove Mayor Awards Kirtland Stout

Kirtland Stout, director of Risk Management, received the Mayor's Volunteer Award from the City of Elk Grove in October for his service to the community. Already known around campus for his musical fund-raising efforts that brought in more than \$650 for the March of Dimes/March for Babies campaign, Stout is in the spotlight again. Playing piano to entertain the patients of a local rest home earned him the Mayor's award.

Every Tuesday evening, Stout drives directly from work to the "Renaissance" unit at The Commons in Elk Grove and chats with the residents during their evening meal. He then spends an hour or more entertaining them with his piano playing.

The residents of Memory Care, most of whom suffer from Alzheimer's, dementia and

other memory related diseases, find that music triggers memories, and Stout experiences the positive effects of his musical contribution as they join in the singing and recall earlier times.

## Sustainabile Projects Garner Recognition from CSU

Early this month, Sacramento State was the proud recipient of CSU Best Practices awards from the CSU for efforts in two categories. Sac State's Smart Grid project won the Best Energy Retrofit Award and the Sustainable Technology Optimization Research Center (STORC) won the Best Practice in Sustainability Award. See ABA FOCUS stories about both projects - Smart Grid (Fall 2013) here and STORC (Fall 2014) here, and read comments from the the CSU Best Practices selection committee below.

The following excerpts are from the CSU's Best Practices Awards webpage:



Best Energy Retrofit - "The campus was able to double its capital investment for its Smart Grid project by leveraging a federal Department of Energy grant through a partnership with Sacramento Municipal Utility District. The successful grant opportunity resulted in a \$4.7 million dollar contribution which was doubled by a commitment from the campus. The project will yield over 3 Million kWh and 200,000 therms per year in energy savings, offset nearly 1,000 metric tons of CO2 annually and achieve almost \$450,000 per year in avoided energy costs."

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**Best Practice in Sustainability** - "Few campuses can claim ownership of a center like this, providing resources such as equipment, space, and staff support for class and independent research projects. The center provides a central place on campus for students, faculty, and staff to collaborate on sustainability project development and research. This project is a successful example of how a campus can support hands on learning in the area of sustainability. It brings together students, faculty, staff and even the local community."





## Leadership Awards Coming to an Alumni Center Near You!

On December 1, 2014, ABA will host its annual Leadership Awards ceremony at the Alumni Center. The event coincides with the ABA Staff Professionals meeting, which is scheduled for 1:30 p.m.

Throughout the month of October, ABA Management Council members nominated fellow managers and department staff for outstanding work during the year.

Over 40 nominations were submitted this year. Join us on December 1, as we announce this year's winners in Leadership Peer, Valued Staff, and Team award categories!

## **Facilities Management Recognizes Monthly Best**



#### September 2014 - Erick Asamoah

"Erick has an excellent understanding of what is needed to get a job done. Once he has his plan, he methodically makes progress towards completion and keeps people involved. He never hesitates to get in and do the 'dirty work' when needed, which sets a good example for others to follow.

Erick is easy to talk to and a very good listener. He's a hard worker, a good communicator and leader, and has shown that he is open to continuing to improve and learn. Thank you Erick!"

#### October 2014 - Alex Pearson

"Alex always focuses on the task at hand, needs little instruction, anticipates well, and has full understanding of all of the duties of the Paint Shop. Alex fosters positive working relationships by always having a smile on his face. 'No' is not part of his vocabulary. He is polite to everyone, and professional in all that he does. Great job, Alex!"





#### November 2014 - Keith Delle

"Keith Delle is an ultimate professional, a self-starter and an excellent planner. He has been counted on routinely to strategize, order, coordinate and complete all hardscape projects. His journey level skill and superior knowledge of heavy equipment make him an essential and indispensable employee.

His willingness to train fellow workers gives confidence to those on his team. Keith takes the time to explain a project and its expectations. He is goal driven and, at the end of the day, his team can be proud of their accomplishments."

### Public Safety Recognizes Quarterly Standouts



#### Employee of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter 2014 - Michelle Rowberry-Nogaj

"During this quarter, Michelle signed up for several overtime shifts without hesitation. She also used her CTO time in a way that did not impact other dispatchers during the summer months (days when there was a trainee in dispatch).

Michelle has an optimistic attitude in the workplace. She positively influences coworkers with a professional and friendly demeanor."

#### **Daniel Knox**

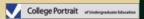
Student of the Quarter, 3rd Quarter 2014 -

"Daniel Knox continually performs in an outstanding manner. He is always quick to assist with tasks at hand and volunteers to help officers with activities, including setting up cones and barricades. Daniel has great leadership qualities and is a positive influence to other CSOs."





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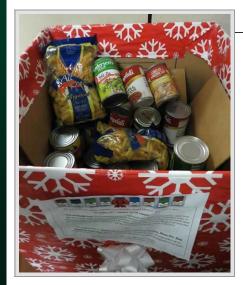
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## ABA NEWS



## **ABA Coordinates Food Drive**

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To jump start this year's campaign, the team launched a call to action, distributing emails and flyers, and conducting activities in the library quad. They hope to make this year's food drive the most successful in campus history. The email reminds others why such efforts are important: "Hunger is a year-round problem and annual holiday drives, like this one, help Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services feed over 52,000 people in Sacramento County every month throughout the entire year."

The team has set a campus goal for this year's 40 year tradition to collect 6,500 lbs. of donated food! However, don't go raiding your pantry for food just yet. Monetary contributions are accepted as well, and each \$1 equals 2.5 lbs. of food donated!

There are three ways you can help - food donations, monetary contributions, and the "Turkey Drop." Donations this year will be accepted between November 12, 2014 and Januaruy 16, 2015. Find one of the dozens of decorated boxes or barrels located around campus to drop off your non-perishable food. View the <u>campaign flyer for</u> <u>more information</u>. The turkey drop is scheduled for Friday, November 21. For instructions on how to participate in the Turkey Drop, <u>click here</u>.



As of November 20, a total of 728.4 lbs. has been collected from the many offices and groups throughout the campus. This is an all-hands-on-deck campaign, with every academic college and staff office participating, as well as sororities, fraternities, and ROTC groups. So please, this holiday season, donate generously, and donate often.



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## SMART Classrooms Support Student Success

Over the past few years, as Sac State wrestled with declining budgets, ABA and others stepped up to find ways to redefine the possible and make a difference with small scale improvements. Efforts to improve the appearance, cleanliness and functionality of existing facilities are a prime example of Sac State and ABA's persistence in the face of capital project funding challenges. One such effort, to transform classrooms into modern facilities equipped to educate today's technology-savvy students, is focused on promoting student success.

Working with campus partners from Information Resources & Technology (IRT) and Space Management, Facilities Management has expanded and improved the classrooms our students learn in, conducting work during summer break and winter intersession. This past summer, 15 classrooms were improved, concentrated in Alpine, Brighton, Eureka, Mariposa, Tahoe, Calaveras, Douglass and Riverside halls. Additionally, Facilities Management collaborated with a contractor to improve another four rooms located in the AIRC, Eureka, and Mendocino halls.

"Every year we do smart classroom upgrades," said Mark Leisz, Facilities Management customer service manager. "The most recent count for lecture rooms is 44 advanced smart rooms, 51 intermediate smart rooms, 60 basic rooms and only 29 non-smart rooms."

Technology upgrades include installations of smart panels to interface with laptops, as well as desktop computers for faculty without laptops. Each installation connects to a projector for faculty to present academic material to their students.

With improved and up-to-date facilities, Sac State classrooms are better equipped to educate students, and students are better prepared to enter the workforce. Below are before and after images of classrooms with and without Smart technology.





## **UTAPS Improves Wait Times**

ABA offices are continuously striving to find ways to improve their services and workflow processes for customers. UTAPS efforts over the past few years include online services and a PayByPhone option, both of which have yielded positive results.

This semester, UTAPS continued efforts to reduce wait times, and reduce overall congestion and lines in their main office, which was a major concern. "Reducing wait time is the single most recurring input from customers," said Senior Director of UTAPS Tony Lucas. "The beginning of semester waits used to range from 15 to 25 minutes for the first two weeks of class."

UTAPS addressed the issue using specific strategies. First, they redesigned their website, encouraging students to purchase their permits online and have them mailed to their address. Every student who bought a permit online and



had it mailed was one less person in line. The changes had a big effect. "This redesign has tripled the amount of permits purchased online and mailed, and has reduced the permit pickup lines to near zero. This has reduced the amount of in-person purchases to a manageable number at semester start," said Lucas.

Additionally, UTAPS' introduction of PayByPhone over a year ago continues to benefit students and reduce wait times at daily permit machines. No longer do students have to wait in line to purchase daily permits; instead, they can purchase a daily permit through their smartphone with the PayByPhone app. To promote usage of

the app, UTAPS offers free (plus convenience change) parking the first two days of each semester. "We wanted to encourage first time users to try it," said Lucas. "PaybyPhone now accounts for 33 percent of our Daily Permit Purchases."

With successful outcomes evident, UTAPS is inspired to continue to find new strategies to improve services to customers.

## **Reprographics Introduces Expanded Wide-Format Printing Services**

Reprographics Services excitedly announced the expansion of its available wide-format printing services, with the addition of two new wide format printers in October. As the University's official print shop, Reprographics is continually updating equipment and expanding services to reflect industry standards and provide the campus community with the highest quality printed materials and services.

The new equipment is state-of-the art and includes a 44" aqueous printer, and a 64" latex printer ideal for indoor and outdoor applications, with laminated outdoor prints that will last up to five years.

A brief list of the applications these printers will produce expands the capability of Reprographics to produce highquality materials that cross a variety of substrates, including:

- Posters
- Banners
- · Wall, floor and window art
- Door and fence wraps
- Pop-up banners, and much more!

For more information about these printers, how to submit a work order, or any other inquiry, contact Reprograpics.



#### Officers Engage with Students over Coffee



Sacramento State's Police Department held a fall semester Coffee and Cops event in September. Hosted at The WELL by the Student Health and Counseling Services and Sac State Police, the event invited students, faculty and staff to enjoy coffee and doughnuts while asking questions and getting to know officers.

Events like these are designed to bridge the gap between the campus community and those who serve to protect them.

"It takes a certain amount of courage to come into an environment with a bunch of police officers," Sacramento State

Police Chief Mark Iwasa said. "We are very open to being approached by students and being asked questions."

Approximately 60 attended the event, including students and others from the campus community. To learn more about Sac State's Police Department and their services, <u>check out their website</u>.

## Financial Services Introduces Web FAQs

As a part of Financial Services' 2013-14 goals to strengthen customer service, the staff recently completed and published their department (family) FAQs website. The FAQs page, <u>available here</u>, covers a comprehensive array of information on multiple subjects and offices within the department of Financial Services. The new website will serve as a resource to students, faculty and staff, with answers to some of the most commonly asked questions.

## FAQS IN FINANCIAL SERVICES AREAS

Building the site was the collaborative effort of volunteers representing Financial Services units. The committee included Gina Curry, facilitator, SFSC; Nicole Rogers, chair, SFSC; Leah Davis, Procurement; Priscilla Llamas-McKaughan, Financial Services; Trish Lush, Accounting Services; and Natalya Sysa, Accounts Payable & Travel.

"To come up with the questions, the team solicited feedback in a variety of ways including customer feedback via a Gallery Walk at a Business Partners Round Table meeting and feedback at the Financial Services all staff meeting," said Justine Heartt, associate vice president, Financial Services. "The team held meetings to discuss what is really an FAQ and how best to answer the questions."



### Police Conduct Tabletop Planning

In August, University Police coordinated with campus principals and multiple agencies and community representatives to conduct an Emergency Planning tabletop event.

Planning events such as these help prepare the University for emergencies, which can arise at any time and from various natural or manmade causes. As the <u>Emergency</u> <u>Operations Center website states</u>: "The best way to minimize potential loss and speed up the process of recovery from natural or man-made disasters is to plan ahead."

That is why University Police, representatives from Facilities Management, IRT, UTAPS, Housing, Services to Students with Disabilities, Student Health & Counseling Services, Public Affairs and Risk Management Services joined forces with the Sacramento Fire Department, the Sacramento Police Department, the American River Flood Control District and others, to prepare the response protocol for a potential major incident on campus. These meetings are held annually. This year's topic was flood/water intrusion, while last year's was hazardous materials. Next year's planning will involve training and preparation for a potential active shooter event.

Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police Serena Fuson provided information about the event: "Responsibilities of the on- and off-campus agencies during an emergency are discussed. First responders present, and then other departments primarily involved in an evacuation or shelter in place follow. Agreements with local agencies regarding jurisdictional responsibilities and assistance to each other during an emergency are discussed. ENS testing takes place during the training as well."



Training exercises such as these are important to help prepare not only University Police, but other agencies and constituencies, in the event of an emergency. Having these groups practice and prepare for such events helps give students, faculty, and staff confidence during an emergency. "Sacramento State's Emergency Preparedness trainings are simplified to focus on evacuation and shelter-in-place scenarios," said Fuson. "Life, safety, and then property are top priorities."



## **Our Promise Campaign On Target**

ABA led the campus charge for this year's California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC). Rebranded this year to Our Promise, the campaign "...provides a single charitable fund-raising drive in the State community," as stated on the website. "Our Promise offers California

State employees the opportunity to utilize payroll deduction to support charitable organizations they feel passionate about."

According to preliminary data for the campaign, which began October 6 and ended November 16, "participation rates appear consistent with 2013, with an increase in new pledges."

ABA provided support and coordination for the distribution and collection of all campus forms as well as marketing and communication messaging. Vice President Mike Lee, Campaign Coordinator Tracy Jordahl, with staff professionals Margaret Hwang and Andrew Stiffler, hosted a campaign kick-off event for campus staff supporting the campaign. Attendees viewed a 15-minute video produced by ABA showcasing the many, and very diverse, organizations available. "I was pleasantly surprised by the number of renewed and new contributions!" said Tracy.

If you would like to learn more about the Our Promise campaign, or how you can get involved, visit their website.



## **New Entry Greets FM Visitors**

Visited Facilities Management lately? If you have, then you were probably greeted by a dynamic slideshow featuring the work of Facilities Management staff on the recently installed television monitor.

Installation of the monitor took place in May, while a swinging door was installed in early September to encourage visitors to check in at the front counter.

The monitor showcases the work department staff perform for the campus, which is of interest to internal staff and visitors alike. "The screen displays all of our projects, improvements and maintenance

throughout the campus," said Nikolas Soza, administrative support assistant, Facilities Management.

As a whole, the new entrance provides multiple benefits. "We now have a visible appearance of a more professional work environment, while the door has prevented people from entering, creating more security for our office," added Soza.

### SPQI Releases 2014-16 ABA Goals & Measures

The Strategic Planning & Quality Improvement Office has published ABA's 2014-16 Annual Goals, Action Plans and Measures document online. The document contains each ABA department/unit goals for the upcoming two years. To view the document, and ensure that you understand the strategic direction of your department, visit the <u>Department</u> <u>Goals and Progress Reports webpage</u>. The document is updated with progress reports quarterly. Watch for the first quarter report, coming soon.

## Frame It! ABA's Mission, Vision, Values and Code of Conduct

Coming to an office near you are ABA's Mission, Vision, Values and Code of Conduct statements framed for display!



After the success of ABA's mug giveaway last spring, ABA's Strategic Planning & Quality Improvement Office set out to provide each office with a copy of the mission, vision, value, and code of conduct, for display. A set of these framed documents will be provided to ABA units and offices as a way to keep the focus on the division's common purpose, vision for the future, and professional values and standards.



## Flyer Sums It Up for Students

This semester, the Financial Aid and Student Financial Services Center teamed up to publish a flyer summarizing upcoming fall deadlines.

Helpful to students, the flyers keep students focused on important financial transaction dates that occur throughout the academic semester.

The production and distribution of this flyer is an example of the teamwork demonstrated by these two offices to help student succeed. Their collaborative efforts underscore a strong focus on student success and show what can be done when everyone works together

to accomplish the common goal of supporting our students! To view the flyer, click on the image or the link here.



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## ABA READS



## ABA Reads, with Ademidun Adejobi

ABA FOCUS continues its emphasis on staff reading choices, with an interesting story about staff professional Ademidun Adejobi's unique 2014 goal and how she went about setting and accomplishing it. Ademidun earned her degree from Sac State in English, and so her goal that involved reading a lot of books is not as unlikely as one might think.

#### 1) When did you set the goal for yourself to read 12 books in 2014? Was this a resolution of yours?

A few days before New Year's Eve, my sister always makes a point to set a goal for the approaching year. She is very goal-orientated. Each year she asks if we, her siblings, are setting a goal too. I had never set a resolution before, but in the past year I felt like I had neglected to read as many books as I would have liked. Then, remembering a time when my English professor challenged a student to read one novel a week, the idea seemed like something to work with. Of course I

knew this would be a difficult challenge for anyone, so the intention was to start off slow. On New Year's Day I challenged myself to read at least 12 books over the next year. Essentially, this meant one book per month.

#### 2) Before setting this goal, how often did you read?

A little over a year ago as an English major, I read as often as class assignments required. Any spare time was spent on other hobbies, so unfortunately I did not often read for leisure.

#### 3) Do you prefer fiction or non-fiction? In either case, what sort of subjects or themes do you most enjoy?

Fiction is my preference; however, I have started to look into the non-fiction genre. When looking for new books to read, I always want to follow the story of an experience. What is wonderful about books is that I can learn about any person and their surrounding world. Stories, oral and written, are very important in creating empathy. They allow us to sit with new perspectives and to gain insight on different lives, global and local. Any book that can do that for me is enjoyable.

#### 4) Sac State's tagline is "Redefine the Possible." Do any of the books you read relate to redefining the possible in your job?

Many of the books help me to see the perspective of other people. It's not easy to be unassuming about people, but I always try to be open. This helps at a university where we all encounter people from varying walks of life. Thousands of people are here every day so it is important to know how to correspond with each of them.

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# 5) If you had to pick one or two books that you have read recently, which would be your favorite(s)? Why?

I really enjoyed *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie. The book was given to me by Kendal Chaney-Buttleman. The story is set in Nigeria, following fifteen-year old Kambili and the complications of her living a strict and sheltered life in the postcolonial world of the novel. Adichie's writing is very thorough and colorful, which is what I like the most because I am familiar with the landscape of Nigeria. Admittedly, Nigerian novels haven't been on my reading list before so to have the chance to read one by recommendation was very nice. I'm inspired to read more.

The second book is *The True History of Paradise* by Margaret Cezair-Thompson. It is a coming-of-age story about a young Jamaican girl named Jean Landing, whose life is complicated by the complex nature of Jamaica as it becomes an independent country. What makes the novel particularly interesting are the many narratives of her ancestors that lead into the diverse and thorough history of Jamaica. Jean's family lineage is a combination of African, Spanish, English, Irish, Chinese, and Scottish heritage; while her half-sister is part Indian. The novel acts as a historical and cultural text about Jamaica, and that is why I really liked the story.

#### 6) When do you hope to accomplish your goal of 12 books read?

My goal is to have read 12 books by 11:59 P.M. on December 31st, 2014. Even if I read less than 12, I will still feel accomplished. It is better to have read than not read at all.

#### 7) Do you usually go to the library, borrow, or buy books?

I have always gone to the library to borrow books. There is a sense of accomplishment when I go find a book, check it out, read it, then return it. I also like the feeling of reading a book that so many other people have read as well. It is interesting to consider that I am not the only person who has touched or will touch the book. Library books are historical documents in that way.

I would like to buy books, but I do not have space for them. Hopefully, one day I will have a large bookcase that holds all the books I've ever read. And I hope that is a very large bookcase.

## 8) How have books, or the stories contained within them, affected or improved your life, well-being, outlook, or work?

Books are filled with so much knowledge, it is impossible not to learn anything from them. Many of the books I have read shifted my perspective of life. The realization that we are living in a complex society is important. I believe stories will always connect us, no matter how different we think we are from each other. Every narrative gives us the insight into histories, cultures, languages, social attitudes, and economic standings. I can learn about any ethnic group, sexuality, religion, nation, territory, gender, and age from past to present. All by reading a book! Through this, I gain the ability to empathize with other people and my knowledge of the world continues to grow.



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## **BEHIND THE SCENES**



## Behind The Scenes: ABA Volunteers

The beginning of each semester brings with it new opportunities, challenges and, most importantly, new students. ABA offices do their best to prepare with extra staff, extended hours and additional services to help pre-empt potential student frustrations.

One of ABA's most successful strategies for meeting first week demands is through volunteer assistance. This edition of Behind

the Scenes focuses on the individuals who volunteer their time to assist in other offices - why do they do it and what are the rewards. Yes, there are many!

Two ABA units that experience a high volume of student traffic during the first few weeks of the semester, University Transportation & Parking Services (UTAPS) and the Student Financial Services Center, rely on the help of ABA staff and management volunteers to ensure that students' needs are met. These offices benefit greatly from the service of ABA colleagues.

"UTAPS relies on volunteers to help serve our customers at the beginning of each semester," said Senior Director of UTAPS Tony Lucas. "Volunteers at key locations on campus help UTAPS get the word out to students about UTAPS programs, services and alternative parking and transportation programs."



University Bursar Gina Curry, echoes these sentiments: "They are a huge help. Students don't have to wait in line for simple services. Our employees benefit, but the students benefit even more."

Former students who volunteer understand the stresses at play at the beginning of the semester. Trying to find classes, pay fees on time, purchase books and seek advising - all in different locations with deadlines looming - can be daunting if you are unfamiliar with the campus landscape, and volunteers can have a huge impact on easing that



stress. "As a former Sac State student, I really appreciated when staff members would take the time to answer my questions or steer me in the right direction," said Stacy Hayano, associate vice president of Budget Planning & Administration. "This opportunity allows me to give back to the new students."

Director of Auditing Services Kaye Milburn says that Volunteering in another office is a great way to meet new staff and students. "I wanted to connect to the students directly and thought this was a good opportunity. One of many volunteers who offer assistance, Kaye is a repeat signup, as are many. Volunteers also learn about the Front Page

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offices they are assisting. "It helps me to understand the duties of

other offices. I use what I learn to assist students and the campus community throughout the rest of the year," said Elena Compo, ABA's resource analyst.

A spirit of helpfulness is common among all ABA volunteers. "I know the degree of anxiety there is at the beginning of the semester, and I'd like to do all I can to reduce their anxiety by helping them get what the need," added Milburn. Risk Management Analyst Janie Xiong agrees: "I like helping out a department that is very busy. It's usually a simple job, and the time commitment is pretty minimal. It's a win for everyone!" Kirtland Stout, director of Risk Management,

volunteers to promote a sense of teamwork: "Helping the SFSC and UTAPS is a way for me to let those departments know that I support them when they need help."

According to Sarah Whyte, senior director of Business & Administrative Services, "This is an important aspect of the ABA culture - teamwork is woven into the fabric of our internal division interactions, and these instances of volunteerism demonstrate how meaningful this can be - not just to the office needing help, but to those who share their time and assistance."



Offices seeking help are strategic in their requests. They schedule volunteers in one to two hour blocks of time, usually focused on a single

and/or simple task. Student Financial Service Center (SFSC) volunteers typically distribute OneCard commuter sleeves, answer general questions and distribute OneCard replacement forms. For those volunteering at UTAPS, job assignments may include distribution of PayByPhone flyers or prepaid parking pass pickup duties. These one to two hour windows help volunteers assist, without impacting their own assignments.

Why do these individuals volunteer every semester? Ultimately, they do it because they get a sense of satisfaction from their efforts. "I find this opportunity very gratifying. I would highly recommend volunteering to others," said Hayano. "I feel that I gain from my participation. I learn things I wouldn't otherwise have known. Being asked random questions by multitudes of new students helps me to learn as well," added Stout.

So, as you can see, there are many benefits to serving as a volunteer, beyond the important task of supporting students. There are personal rewards, including the sense of satisfaction that comes with helping, learning about other office functions and the loyal relationships built from pitching in to help a colleague. Interested in helping out? Keep an eye out for requests for help next semester, or contact <u>Gina Curry</u> or <u>Tony Lucas</u> today!



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### **GREEN NEWS**

## ABA to Collaborate on Water Protection Project

ABA is excited to partner with the Office of Water Programs (a University Enterprises, Inc. program) and the City of Sacramento on a project to design and construct low-impact development (LID) storm water devices on campus. The project will develop up to 25 LID devices that will reduce pollutants going into the American and Sacramento rivers. The devices include retention basins, bio-swales, rain gardens, and impervious disconnects to capture runoff from roads, parking lots, open spaces and roofs.

Recognition Program



Sac State was selected as the ideal location for its public accessibility, proximity to the American River and its educational mission. The project will both capitalize on and strengthen the University's expertise and leadership for sustainable practices in the region. Moreover, project outcomes are expected to help protect state water resources that are vital to the public health, the state's economy, and the environment through control of water pollution and contamination. The Office of Water Programs will be responsible for testing and monitoring the effectiveness of the project on the region's river ways.

The University is currently in the contracting process and expects to complete design of the project in March 2015 and begin construction in June.

The \$2.3 million project is funded by Proposition 84 grant monies through the Department of Water Resources, with matching funds provided by the University, along with in-house labor for landscaping. Proposition 84 is the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.



Sac State's Sustainability Team joined the American

## Sustainability Team Adopts a Mile

River Parkway Foundation's Adopt the Parkway program as the Volunteer Steward for "Mile 7 South" of the parkway. This means that they will act as the volunteer coordinator for litter clean-up efforts along the river. In addition, they will monitor the area for needed improvements, reporting broken picnic tables and other issues to the American River Parkway Foundation. The team will coordinate with volunteers to participate in these maintenance and improvement activities.

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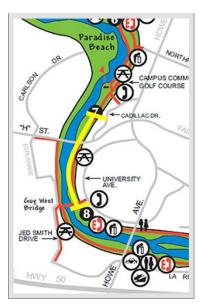
WEB EDITORS Andrew Stiffler Sarah Whyte

WRITERS Andrew Stiffler Sarah Whyte

The American River Parkway Foundation requires at least 20 man-hours a quarter to participate in the program. What does this mean for the students of Sac State? Well, the American River has long been considered a big part of Sac State's identity. This project will allow University students, faculty and staff to take a greater, hands-on leadership role to ensure that their adopted slice of the river and parkway is clean and well cared for.

The Mile 7 South adoption project has the potential to inspire the campus community to become more invested as environmental stewards for the campus and its surroundings, and to claim the river as its own.

Mile 7 South is approximately indicated by the yellow line. It starts alongside the Campus Commons Golf Course and ends just south of the Guy West Bridge.





## Water Conservation Efforts Pay Off

In a recent issue, ABA FOCUS reported on efforts to reduce water use on campus, through plants that consume less water, and the installation and replacement of 519 toilets and bathroom fixtures, campuswide. These efforts were undertaken to help address the record drought facing California and to practice good stewardship.

Facilities Management is proud to report that these efforts are paying off. In September, campus water consumption decreased by 13 percent per capita, compared to September of last year. This is a direct reflection of the changes made to campus restrooms.

On the irrigation side, Facilities Management has decreased its water usage by 40 percent compared to last year. These drastic water savings are the result of a combination of factors. "We decreased our watering times, changed out sprinkler heads to better match the terrain, and have been more careful about when we water. We did also get more rain in 2014 as well," said Facilities Operations Director Daryn Ockey.

Water conservation is a team effort. In addition to grounds maintenance employees looking for areas of over watering, Sac State's Sustainability Team has been surveying the campus after hours for broken sprinkler heads. "Having the sustainability group assist us is huge - they have a huge impact. They are out there looking for things and have been a big help," added Ockey. For more ways and tips on how to conserve water in daily life, check out <u>Save Our Water's website</u>.

## **Campus Energy Conservation Day a Success**

On October 16, Sac State's Sustainability Team, in conjunction with partners from SMUD, PG&E and other local agencies, participated in Sac State's Energy Conservation Day. University Transportation & Parking Services (UTAPS) was also on hand to promote alternative transportation, and show off one of their newest parking enforcement vehicles,



a new Prius hybrid.

Booths from each agency, as well as hybrid and fuel-cell vehicles, were on display to attract students, faculty, and staff as they passed by the library quad. The event included outreach to inform about personal electricity usage and featured some of the latest information and technology on energy conservation.

"The general message was two-fold: A) to instruct event attendees how they might augment their daily practices so as to conserve energy and reduce their energy bills, and B) to illustrate the many ways that Sac State is acting to conserve energy," said Recycling Coordinator Joey Martinez. "Attendees were also introduced to alternative energy conservation technologies that they might not normally experience, such as electric bikes and solar cookers."

It was an excellent occasion for raising awareness about energy conservation, and educating campus participants on ways each household can make an impact. "The event was a HUGE success," added Martinez. "The number of presenters and vendors more than doubled for this year's event. Plus, many of the booths added an interactive element that drew in many more students."



The event yielded immediate results in the form of student pledges and signups: "We had a dozen pledges

that ranged from unplugging unused electronics to using cold water for laundry and other energy saving practices. We also had another 37 students sign up to become part of our volunteer list," he said.

Facilities Management's Sustainability Team keeps impressing with their commitment to engaging students in conservation efforts. Keep an eye out for future events!





## Compounds Provide Security/Encourage Alternative Transport

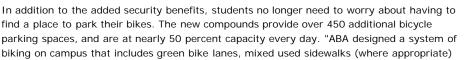
As a part of the greater goal of encouraging alternative transportation and safer use of bicycles on campus, University Transportation & Parking Services, Facilities Management, and Public Safety worked together to plan, construct and staff new bike compounds on campus.

There are two new compounds - one near Moraga/Sinclair Hall, and the other near the Academic Information Resource Center (AIRC). Both compounds are staffed by Sac State Community Service officers (CSOs). According to Senior Director of Transportation & Parking Services, Tony Lucas, "Staffed bike

compounds are a good way to encourage bicycle registration and are effective at reducing bicycle thefts." Before the completion of the bicycle

compounds, in the month of September, 16 bikes were reported stolen, according to Police Chief Mark Iwasa.

The compounds are supervised from 8 a.m. through 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday and until 5 p.m. on Fridays.



and increased bike parking," said Lucas. "All of this was a way to encourage safe biking and the use of bikes as an alternative to driving to campus."

For more information about bicycles on campus, view this informational brochure.



## **STORC Recognized as Center**

Sacramento State recently announced that the *Sustainable Technology Optimization Research Center* (STORC) has been approved by the University as a Category II Center. Associate Vice President for Risk Management Services Michael Christensen, director of the STORC, assumes responsibility for ensuring STORC's success. Professors and students interested in pursuing STORC-related research activities will work in close collaboration with Christensen.



Unique collaborative efforts across the University led to the establishment of STORC in January 2014. Students, faculty, and staff from Engineering and Computer Science, Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Arts and Letters, Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies joined forces with Facilities Management, Risk Management Services, Associated Students, Incorporated, and University Enterprises, Incorporated to make the STORC a success story for the University. The center provides excellent lab facilities for sustainability research undertaken by faculty and their students. Furthermore, projects and programs such as those currently housed at The STORC promote collaboration and support the University Strategic Plan by fostering innovative teaching, scholarship, and research opportunities for students and faculty.

The research center has already drawn many prominent visitors, including officials from the California Department of Fish and Game, local water agencies and SMUD.

At the center, the campus and the community can collaborate to develop efficient approaches to clean fuel, water management, farming and energy production. In an effort to showcase the already significant research being conducted, University Advancement, Communications and Stewardship, has produced this video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIGBahTb4wE</u>

Aligned with STORCs new status, the center recently launched a website touting their accomplishments and collaboration across the campus and in the community. Visit the STORC website here: <u>http://www.csus.edu/STORC/</u>.



STORC is also featured in the Fall 2014 Sac State Magazine story - Trash to Treasure.



#### **Bike Paths Welcome Alternative Transportation**

Over the summer, UTAPS, in coordination with Facilities Services, Public Safety, and the city of Sacramento, installed dedicated bike paths throughout Sacramento State's campus.

These bright green painted zones cover close to five miles of the campus, and indicate specific pathways for bicycle riders, accommodating students and the campus community, as well as visitors to the campus. These pathways help direct bicyclists to proper routes to help maintain the interior of the campus as

"pedestrian-only." The project will encourage more students, faculty and staff to ride rather than drive, and to ride and park their bikes responsibly. To learn more, read the <u>full article here</u>.



My Sac State Contact Directories

ABOUT ACADEMICS ADMISSIONS ATHLETICS MAKE A GIFT QUICK LINKS **T** 

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### MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



### Message from the Vice President

**Recognition Program** 

This edition of ABA FOCUS is full of news about the great work that ABA is doing for the campus. It is gratifying as a vice president to share stories that convey the significance of the work performed by our division. Throughout these stories, you will notice a few key themes that are so important to ABA – student success, service to the community and sustainability. Our stories do not end here. I want to also recognize those ABA staff professionals whose day-to-day accomplishments do not appear in these pages, but whose work is equally important to the success of Sac State and ABA.

Inside, you will find stories about how ABA is supporting students, whether that means streamlined and automated processes, more effective methods of communication and engagement, or the conversion of classrooms into modern learning facilities.

You will also find the latest news about ABA's leadership for sustainability programs on the campus and across the CSU. Recently honored with two CSU Best Practice awards for the Smart Grid Metering Project and the Sustainable Technology Optimization Research Center (STORC), ABA is inspired to do even more. In the Green News section, you can read about the upcoming river water protection project, savings accrued from our water conservation efforts, alternative transportation activities, the latest news about STORC, and the Sustainability Team's recent endeavors.

Also featured are stories about the University's Our Promise Campaign, or California State Employees Charitable Campaign (CSECC) and the Sac State's California State Employees Food Drive, both initiatives led by ABA teams that serve our greater community.

The edition continues ABA FOCUS Newsletter's standard features – Staff Spotlight, ABA Reads, Awards and Recognition, and Behind the Scenes, which is written around the topic of volunteerism and how it supports student success and teamwork in the ABA division.

I hope to see you at the upcoming ABA Staff Professionals meeting on Monday, December 1 and at the Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, December 17. The Staff Professionals meeting will feature presentation of ABA's annual Leadership Awards, including Leadership Peer, Valued Staff and Team awards.

Enjoy the newsletter. And thank you again for your contributions!

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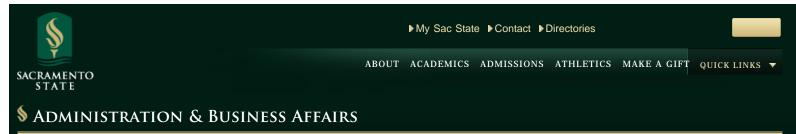
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## NEW FACES AND FAREWELLS

New Faces

ABA welcomes the following new staff professionals to the division. These new hires fill critical positions, and we welcome them to the ABA family.

Recognition Program



Shelbie Ashby Administrative Support Assistant UTAPS



Jeffery Asher Carpenter Facilities Management



Graig Dutton Storekeeper I Facilities Management



Donovan Hillman Administrator II Facilities Management



Tomas Ramos Laborer Facilities Management



Naashun Varner Accounting Technician III Financial Services



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#### Farewells

ABA says farewell to the following departing employees and wishes them well in their future endeavors.



Brian Burger Police Sergeant University Police



Nooria Kakar Assistant Director UTAPS

Not Pictured: Francisco Ayran, Pamela Elbeck, Raymond Willing



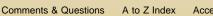
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Michael De Biase Recycler Facilities Management



David Rhodes Administrator II Facilities Management



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## STAFF SPOTLIGHT



## Staff Spotlight

In each issue, the FOCUS Newsletter spotlights an ABA staff member whose work deserves mention. Recently, our spotlight explores ideas around "redefinition," asking how staff professionals have grown in their careers while working in ABA, and what "redefine the possible," Sac State's new tagline, means to them.

Name: Serena Fuson

Position: Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police

Recognition Program

ABA Department/Unit: Public Safety/Police Department

**How long have you been with Sac State?** I started working as a student assistant in the Information Resources & Technology division in 2002, so I have been employed at Sacramento State for over 12 years now (8 of those years as staff).

What are some examples of your duties? As the Executive Assistant, I provide

high-level support to the chief and the department. I have a broad set of duties that range from scheduling of the chief's calendar and special events to budget development and management, personnel administration and recruitment, communications, reports and special projects.

As part of my budget duties, I also manage equipment purchases, project expenses, event chargebacks and reimbursements for the department. Additionally, I research grant opportunities, and develop and write grants.

The communications aspects of my job include web development and maintenance and managing highly complex marketing and social media platforms, as well as written publications and documents for the department. I also initiate Emergency Notification System (ENS) messages for the campus.

Some of my reporting responsibilities include analyzing crime data and statistical data to prepare summary reports, such as quarterly reports, annual goals and objectives, statistical reports, project management/workflow reports and special project reports.

Some of the special projects I manage include campus-wide campaigns (ex., anti-bullying), coordination of events and training, chairing miscellaneous committees, and managing our central filing (confidential background records, training files, internal affairs files, department manuals, purchase orders, general files, employee files).

What have you done to promote positive change in your unit's processes since your appointment? I am the queen of organization, so I'd like to say that I play a big part in keeping the department organized, punctual with deadlines, and up-to-date with new and emerging tools, trends and workflows.

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How has your job influenced your professional growth? My own personal measure of professional growth in a job is acquiring new skills and new knowledge. I continually progress in my career because I am not afraid to take on more challenging responsibilities. I manage several tasks that have a substantial and broad impact on our campus and with off-campus entities as well. Also, I am constantly seeking out training opportunities that keep my skills up-to-date, which ensures that I continue to make valuable contributions to my department.

What certifications do you hold? I hold a bachelor's degree from Sacramento State in Business Administration, Finance.

Who are your primary customers? Students, faculty, staff, other federal/state/local law enforcement agencies, and the general public.

What are your biggest, yet most rewarding challenges? The greatest feeling comes from embracing challenges and exceeding my own expectations. My biggest and most rewarding challenges have been taking on new assignments and motivating myself for the new task at hand. Not only do I enjoy being actively involved in my department and on campus, I strive to make a difference.

What do you like best about your job? I love the people that I work with in the Police Department and I love the fact that I get to be the "voice" for our department. I get to write about the great work, accomplishments, and awards of my co-workers. I also get to let everyone know about the services offered by my department via social media, reports, and other outlets on the web and in print.

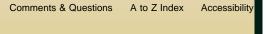
What is your favorite aspect of working on campus? I love networking with other professionals on campus.

**How would someone contact you?** People can contact me by phone at (916) 278-7321, by e-mail at <u>sfuson@csus.edu</u>, or in person by stopping by my office in the Police Department.

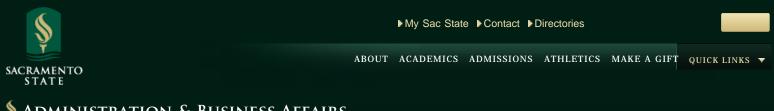
What does the new initiative "Redefine the Possible" mean to you? I think the old saying "that is how we have always done it" is something that needs to be deleted from our lexicon. Instead, we should be constantly looking to improve our business practices and use feedback from our community to help drive those changes. I think that the Police Department's move toward improved communications, using modern platforms, has made a big difference in our overall effectiveness. I am happy to be able to keep pushing that part of the initiative forward.



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Upcoming ABA Events**

Watch for upcoming events that ABA will be hosting and add them to your calendar today!

- California State Employees Food Drive November 12, 2014 through January 16, 2015
- All Staff Professionals December 1, 2014, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Located in the Alumni Center
- Leadership Awards December 1, 2014, 1:30 to 3 p.m. Located in the Alumni Center
- ABA Appreciation Luncheon December 17, 2014, 11:30 to 1 p.m. Located in the Alumni Center
- Business Partners Round Table February 26, 2015, 9 to 11 a.m. Located in the University Union Redwood Room

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