



Administration & Business Affairs

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FOCUS SUPPORTING STAFF PROFESSIONALISM AND SUCCESS VOL. 9 | ISSUE 2 | FALL 2015



Behind the Scenes

In this edition of Behind the Scenes, we take a look at the University Transportation & Parking Services (UTAPS) Shuttle Program, that provides services to students, faculty, staff, and individuals from groups with university affiliation.

Their goal is simple: "To encourage alternative transportation that reduces traffic and congestion on, and around, the campus," said Shuttle Coordinator Gavril Sarcadi. To learn about the program and the students they employ, The FOCUS sat down with Gavril and Assistant to the Senior Director of UTAPS Freddy Orozco. [Read more.](#)



Message from the VP

Back in May of this year, the CSU Board of Trustees approved our Campus Master Plan - an ambitious one, with 1.3 million square feet of new construction planned, including student and faculty housing...[read more.](#)



ABA News

Student Financial Services found their first How to Win at Life event so popular that they hosted round two in October, encouraging even more students to test their financial literacy.

"Our goal was to provide students with the reality of finances once they graduate

from Sac State...[read more.](#)



Green News

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Through the Organic Compost Project, the waste will be provided to...[read more](#)



Staff Spotlight

In each issue, the FOCUS Newsletter spotlights an ABA staff member whose work deserves mention. This issue features Norman Kwong and his

appointment to a system-wide project committee - the CSU Data Warehouse Committee. [Read more.](#)

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New Faces & Farewells



ABA welcomes, and says goodbye to the following staff professionals. [Read more.](#)

Awards & Recognition



In October, the Procurement & Contract Services Office received the Campus Marketplace Award as part of a team representing the CSU, the UC and the CCC system. The award was presented at the 2015 California Public Higher Education Collaborative Business Conference. [Read more.](#)



Tech Tips

"[To the cloud!](#)" exclaims an actor in Microsoft's Windows 7 cloud services commercial. Cloud storage has become a popular way of managing one's files when away from a home PC.

Cloud storage is described as a "model of data storage in which the digital data is stored in logical pools, while the physical storage spans multiple servers (and often locations), and is typically owned and managed by a hosting company." [Read more.](#)



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ABA AWARDS & RECOGNITION



New Marketplace a Winner

In October, the Procurement & Contract Services Office received the Campus Marketplace Award as part of a team representing the CSU, the UC and the CCC system. The award was presented at the 2015 California Public Higher Education Collaborative Business Conference.

The team was recognized for their outstanding effort in launching the new e-marketplace, now available across many CSU, UC and CCC campuses. The new marketplace "puts many vendors onto one site, which utilizes a single login and password. The negotiated contracts from all of the purchasing entities are linked directly to the e-

marketplace," said Director of Procurement and Contract Services John Guion.

This new CSU marketplace was recognized for its focus on efficiency. "Procurement offices throughout the CSU have worked hard on collaborative efforts for the past few years," added John. "This hard work is getting recognized, which is improving the overall focus of Procurement."



UTAPS Staff Awarded

In November, University Transportation & Parking Services (UTAPS) staff professionals Freddy Orozco and Jayme Hunter received Parking Professional Merit awards from the California Public Parking Association (CPPA).

Senior Director of UTAPS Tony Lucas, who nominated the two, focused on why they were deserving of this award: "Freddy's project management skills have significantly improved both shuttle systems and parking facilities. Traffic flow has been significantly reduced in Parking Structure I (PS1). And Jayme's innovations within the office have reduced semester permit purchasing wait times from 20 minutes at peak, to less than five

minutes."

Overall, according to Lucas, these merit awards recognize their efforts in addressing this fall semester's parking challenges. With construction limiting overall parking availability, their contributions helped ensure a smooth semester for all faculty, staff, students and visitors.

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Facilities Management Recognizes Monthly Best



September 2015 - Larry Welton

"Larry is not afraid to tackle the hard and tedious tasks, including the changing of chilled water and hot water valves in Tahoe Hall. These valves are often located behind furniture and bookshelves. He takes the time to clear the necessary objects away so he can work without disrupting the area more the necessary. This work has improved the comfort of the rooms and will prevent future water intrusions. Larry warrants recognition for improving the safety training for our section. He volunteered to take responsibility for this task, and has done a great job finding relative material that pertains to critical safety awareness, and conducting routine meetings."

October 2015 - Michael Castanon

"Mike has proven himself to be very motivated. He shows pride in making things look good and ensuring that we have properly functioning tools. He has stepped up to help in the shop to perform minor maintenance on tools, and he works hard to get things organized. He enthusiastically volunteers to help others, and shows a willingness to take on big tasks. Mike doesn't shy away from hard work and can be counted on to do a thorough job."



November 2015 - Earl Mustra

"Earl is regularly described as an 'easy going and helpful' guy to work with. He gets the job done correctly the first time. He has been flexible and accommodating when assisting the Auto Shop test generators. Despite being assigned the "hand me down" electrical carts, Earl remains patient while waiting on repairs. He has shown the desire to do quality work and has good communication skills. Earl can be depended on to be helpful, and to get the job done with a smile."



Public Safety Awards Employee and Student of the Quarter



Employee of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter 2015 - Agustin Yaya

"Officer Yaya has made several high profile arrests over the last few months. The arrests involved charges for theft, possession of stolen property, probation violation, providing false identification, parole holds, DUIs, and warrants. In addition to these arrests, Yaya is helping ensure the safety of the campus. In one case, he stopped a subject who was on probation and carrying a tool commonly used to steal bicycles. These actions are just a few examples of Yaya's dedication to his job and the campus community."

Student of the Quarter, 2nd Quarter 2015 - Alex Dubay

"Dubay continues to do an excellent job as a Community Service Officer. This quarter, he observed two suspicious subjects near a bicycle compound and immediately contacted Dispatch. His description was clear and his radio traffic was very professional. Thanks to CSO Dubay's actions, officers were able to apprehend both subjects, retrieve evidence, and arrest them both on a variety of charges."





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ABA NEWS



Coffee & Cops Engages Students

On September 15, 2015, Sacramento State's Police Department held its annual Coffee & Cops event, creating the opportunity for the campus community to meet with department staff. 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 and to get to know officers.

Over 70 students attended this semester's event, with many questions posed about campus emergency notifications, as well as career opportunities. "Attendance was steady throughout the event," said Mark Iwasa, police chief. "The reaction we received was absolutely positive."

It is events like these that give the campus community the opportunity to interact with the officers that serve and protect them. If you would like to learn more about the Police Department, visit their webpage at:

<http://www.csus.edu/police>.



Customer Service Expert Returns to Campus

Acclaimed customer service expert Dennis Snow's campus workshops in January 2013 were so successful that ABA partnered with Human Resources to bring him back. Snow's repeat appearance for campus managers and staff in October of 2015, though, was full of new material and insights.

Snow is known for creating "moments of WOW" to enhance the customer's experience. The dynamic speaker honed his abilities with the Walt Disney World Company where he developed his passion for service excellence over a 20-year career.

"My biggest take away from the training was being mindful of the legacy that I will leave behind as a leader," said Laura Lockett, assistant to the director of Reprographics & Mail Services. "I especially liked his comments regarding treating

people with dignity in all situations." For Laura, and several others who attended the training, this was their second time working with Snow to develop customized strategies for Sac State departments.

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Students Learn Lessons on How to Win at Life

Student Financial Services found their first How to Win at Life event so popular that they hosted round two in October, encouraging even more students to test their financial literacy.

"Our goal was to provide students with the reality of finances once they graduate from Sac State," said Christina Day, accounting technician II. Nicole Rogers, interim assistant director of Student Financial Services, focused on the importance of financial responsibility: "Students may not be aware of the everyday expenses that come up, or the emergency expenses that inevitably happen."

Students entered the event by first choosing a field of study, often one mirroring their major. From there, they chose an associated profession and were given that profession's average annual income. Then, students were tasked with determining the cost of living expenses, including rent, cell phone payment, transportation costs, groceries, taxes, etc. within their income. How to Win at Life challenged

students to compromise on their "wants" vs. "needs" to attain financial independence.

After visiting each table, with all expenses deducted, and only after a spin of the "wheel of doom," students would discover whether they "won" at life, or needed to better evaluate their financial choices. "Many students became disappointed when they found out they were in the negative but, overall, students had fun and learned a lot along the way," said Rogers.

"I had a few students thank me for the opportunity for this event - they had 'no idea how much life costs!'" added Day. Many ABA offices were represented, with volunteers present from Budget Planning & Administration, Accounting Services, and Student Financial Services. This diverse team of volunteers lent their expertise and helpful advice to students, and ensured a fun and successful event.



Practice Promotes Readiness

On August 27, the Sacramento State Police Department conducted an active shooter exercise with local allied agencies, intended to prepare the University to respond to such a critical incident on campus.

Students and staff participated in the exercise, which was conducted near Douglass Hall. Lieutenant David Heaphy explained the planning behind the exercise as a part of "a master plan to exercise the campus for five potential major events: Hazardous Material Spill (2013), Flooding (2014),

Active Shooter (2015), Pandemic Virus/Contagion (2016), and Fire (2017)."

The exercise helped ensure coordination with first responders, campus police, and other stakeholders. "These are multidisciplinary, high-impact events," added Heaphy. "We follow the HSEEP (Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program) guidelines for conducting an exercise of this nature."

During the actual exercise, participants were briefed on the day's events, and each group carried out their portion of the exercise, from "shooter" to "victim" to "first responder." All parties then met to summarize the training. "Teams meet to debrief their experiences, and information and lessons learned are shared," said Heaphy. "Information obtained from the participants is incorporated into a final after-action report (AAR)."

According to Heaphy, the event was a success, with a well-executed response by the multiple agencies involved in the exercise, and accomplishment of several core objectives. "We received feedback from the participants and will continue to work together as we conduct other exercises in the future," concluded Heaphy.

Exercises like these help ensure our campus is prepared for certain scenarios, and that all relevant parties understand the proper procedures to follow. If you would like to learn more about the training programs conducted and offered by the Sacramento State Police Department, visit their webpage here: <http://www.csus.edu/aba/police/>.



Raffle Connects Students

What better way to attract students than to sponsor a raffle for prizes! That's what ABA's Student Financial Services did in partnership with the Financial Aid Office to promote Sac State, communicate their services, and encourage engagement through social media.

As part of the contest, students were encouraged to pose for photos with one of Sac State's promotional cutouts and tag themselves as "#madeatsacstate" or "#hornetwow." Entering the contest qualified them to win a basket of assorted Sac State "swag" - a t-shirt, water bottle, drawstring backpack, football tickets, and more.

Congratulations to the student winner, Karen Holcombe, who posed with the sign during the first few days of the fall semester in Lassen Hall. Karen was featured in a photo with a Herky the Hornet cutout and Student Financial Services and Financial Aid staff.

Program Supports Professional Growth

For business leaders in higher education, especially those in the western region of the country, WACUBO is a primary source of professional development and networking. The Western Association of College and University Business Officers (WACUBO), is the western regions affiliate of NACUBO - or National Association of College and University Business Officers.

Sacramento State, has a long association with the organizations, which has resulted in membership discounts that provide professional development opportunities for campus business employees. The WACUBO Business Management Institute (BMI), a long-standing training ground for ABA leaders, is designed to deliver administrative skills and management concepts and provide networking opportunities for sharing of best practices through its multi-track, multi-year curriculum.

One of this year's participants, Camellia Sahm, director of Space Management, described the program's four tracks as helping individuals become "progressively experienced, decision making individuals" by the conclusion of track four. "It is a privilege to have been selected to attend BMI," concluded Sahm.

One unique aspect for attendees is the college t-shirt swap. This team-building exercise encouraged attendees to introduce themselves to each other and exchange a t-shirt representing their home university. "This activity is collegiate in nature and all in good fun," added Sahm. The photo below shows ABA's attendees, and their t-shirt swaps.

BMI is known for helping professionals build connections with others, and strengthen collaboration among peers and peer institutions. If you would like to learn more about BMI, [visit their website here](#).



Winter Bowling Returns

Attention all prospective ABA bowlers! The 2016 Sacramento State Winter Bowling League is now taking signups for next season! Sacramento State faculty and staff are encouraged to participate and may invite family members and friends.

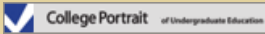
The bowling league has been active since 2013, with weekly contests at Capitol Bowl, 900 West Capitol Ave, in West Sacramento.

Interested in bowling a strike? Contact Serena Fuson at: sfuson@csus.edu to add your name to the list. For more league details and information, view the [recent email announcement here](#).



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BEHIND THE SCENES



Behind the Scenes

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Their goal is simple: "To encourage alternative transportation that reduces traffic and congestion on, and around, the campus," said Shuttle Coordinator Gavril Sarcadi. To learn about the program and the students

they employ, The FOCUS sat down with Gavril, and Assistant to the Senior Director of UTAPS Freddy Orozco.

Employing more than 20 Sac State students, the Shuttle Program serves as one of the University's leading means of promoting alternative transportation, with routes that travel around campus and extend as far as Arden Fair Mall, Folsom Boulevard, and Fulton Avenue. The Shuttle Program's coverage area allows UTAPS to service a large area surrounding the campus, focusing on student commuters.

Currently, UTAPS runs six shuttles across three routes: the Gold line, Green line, and Hornet line. As ridership grows, UTAPS plans to add more shuttles. These additional vehicles will help back up existing shuttles in the event of a breakdown. UTAPS's shuttle program continues to be a success, with increased ridership and a high student employment retention rate.

UTAPS has seen a steady increase in the number of riders since 2011. Combined ridership during the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters was 48,477. The most recent data – fall 2014 and spring 2015 semesters – saw 53,362 riders, an increase of 10 percent. UTAPS has themselves to thank for this steady increase, regularly attending new student orientation events, providing informational brochures, and advertising their services online and in the State Hornet newspaper.



Wonder what it takes to ride? Nothing more than a OneCard, which makes the shuttle program a convenient service for students, faculty, and staff alike. Wonder what it takes to drive? Quite a bit more! Of the 21 current student drivers UTAPS currently employs, each is required to pass significant training requirements, including: meeting the academic unit load, as well as GPA and driving record requirements, and passing requisite physical and drug tests, all in addition to earning a Commercial B License issued by the State of California's Department of Motor Vehicles.

Behind-the-wheel training for these student drivers includes scenario-based training, in which drivers are confronted with

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common problems they might encounter. These scenarios include: riders without proper identification, open containers, improper bicycle storage, as well as rowdy passengers.

Despite these stringent requirements, UTAPS's shuttle program has one of the highest employee retention rates from year to year. "It is a testament to the quality of our program," said Freddy. Many of the student drivers stay on several years, as they work toward completing their degrees. In addition, the starting wage of \$12 an hour is one of the highest available to students on campus. "Many students pride themselves on serving their fellow classmates," added Freddy. "Our flexible schedules allows students to work before class, or work after

class."

Student drivers benefit from the Shuttle Program as well. "They build experience and learn valuable customer service skills," said Gavril. The application of the skills learned behind the wheel also translates to additional opportunities for the students. Northstar California, an alpine resort in Tahoe, CA., has partnered with UTAPS, offering shuttle driving opportunities during the winter months when the academic semester has ended. "They prefer our drivers because of their commitment to safety," stated Gavril.

This semester, UTAPS expanded routes to include the new Ramona lot expansion, offering several hundred additional parking spots to students. While the Ramona lot did close mid-semester, UTAPS plans to reopen it next semester. In addition, the expanded nursing program has seen ridership on the gold line increase 50 percent compared to last year. "The busiest days are Tuesdays and Thursdays," said Gavril, coinciding with the general higher student population on campus those days as well.

UTAPS continues to collect statistics to examine their services and seek areas for improvement. If you wish to learn more about the UTAPS Shuttle Program, Gavril and Freddy encourage users to visit the Hornet Shuttle website, which contains maps, routes, and schedules at: <http://csus.edu/aba/utaps/hornet-shuttle.html>.





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GREEN NEWS



Sustainability Team Cleans Up

Over a few short years, Sac State's sustainability team has marshaled the forces of the University community to intensify its outreach efforts. From a handful of volunteers early on, recent events indicate the growing participation of students, faculty and staff in community efforts, such as the Great American River Clean Up, hosted by the American River Parkway Foundation.

As Volunteer Steward for Mile 7 South of the American River, which runs alongside the campus, the sustainability team was an active participant, joined by a contingent from Housing and Residential Life, which assumed duties as site-captain for the Guy West Bridge location. This year was incredibly successful:

"along with other volunteers from the community, Sac State Hornets helped to gather up over 17,000 pounds of trash, litter, and garbage from the American River Parkway," said Joey Martinez, University sustainability coordinator.

Sac State sustainability is always looking to provide opportunities for students to act sustainably, but this event has the added bonus of being a significant community event as well. By participating, students are able

become better neighbors to the rest of our community." The sustainability team's goal for this year, beyond the regular clean-up duties was to "to create awareness amongst our student population of opportunities to engage in sustainable activities," said Martinez. So this year was a success for the program as well as the American River Parkway Foundation and the community. The success is particularly significant for the University because, not only is the parkway one of our region's most precious resources, but the river serves as an identifying symbol of Sacramento State.



The event established approximately a dozen designated locations along the coast of the American River for volunteers to beautify. Beautification included removing litter, trash and, in some cases, invasive species of plants that are detrimental to local plant life.

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New Compost Project Diverts Food Waste

This fall marks the beginning of a noteworthy waste-reduction effort at Sac State, as the sustainability team partners with Dining Commons to divert 100 percent of its food waste. Through the Organic Compost Project, the waste will be provided to third party vendors, Republic Services and Clean World, where it will be converted to clean burning gas. "The more Sac State can act to eliminate waste in-house, the less we have to ship elsewhere - reducing our environmental impact and saving money in the process," said Recycling Coordinator Joey Martinez.

The Dining Commons was determined by the project team as, logistically, the ideal place to start. "Next steps will investigate opportunities in other campus eateries," said Martinez. "These new efforts will help find more sustainable options for our post-consumer waste."

The goal is eventually to become a zero waste campus. While we aren't there yet, we have taken many steps to get there. "Our progress thus far has given us the opportunity to start thinking long term in ways that we never have done before," concluded Martinez. "As sustainable technologies advance, it is clear that we'll have the opportunity to close more and more loops."



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MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



Message from the Vice President

Back in May of this year, the CSU Board of Trustees approved our Campus Master Plan - an ambitious one, with 1.3 million square feet of new construction planned, including student and faculty housing, a performing arts center, an event center, additional parking structures, and new science and engineering buildings. This plan sets the stage for our campus over the next ten to 20 years.

As many of you know, we have begun to break ground on these projects, specifically new student housing. These steps forward take what was once just an idea and turn it into a reality. But we haven't stopped there.

One of our most pressing needs is the new science building, which recently received funding, as announced by President Nelsen in November. Known as Science II, construction on the new facility will begin in April 2017, and is expected to be completed in 2019. This building will help replace Sequoia Hall, built in 1967.

It makes me proud to know that the hard work of ABA staff has been instrumental in making these projects a reality. The new facilities will help ensure that Sacramento State remains a destination campus for students in the near and distant future. I look forward to working on these, and future projects, with all of you.

This edition of The FOCUS Newsletter focuses on the excellent work of ABA Staff Professionals. From sustainable efforts, including the organic compost and the Great American River Cleanup projects, to student engagement, through Financial Services and Public Safety department sponsored events.

Behind the Scenes, we take a look at an essential campus program, the UTAPS Shuttle Program. Providing service to thousands of riders each semester, this program has allowed UTAPS to provide student employment opportunities for years; they boast one of the most successful student employment programs, with the lowest turnover-rate, on campus.

I am always pleased to see the great work of our staff recognized - most recently our Procurement & Contracts Office, for their excellent work in launching the new Sac State Marketplace. I want to congratulate as well the recent "employees of the month" in Facilities Management, and "employees/students of the quarter" in Public Safety.

Finally, as we near the holidays, I want to encourage everyone to enjoy time with family and friends. The upcoming year, 2016, is shaping up to be an important year for ABA.

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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.



Raymond Keck
Administrator II
Facilities Management



Tania Nunez
Administrator II
Facilities Management



Dolores Ortiz
Administrative Support Assistant II
Financial Services



Jeffrey Reini
Sergeant
Public Safety



Ryan Todd
Administrator II
Facilities Management



Alvin Trone
Property Clerk I
Property Management

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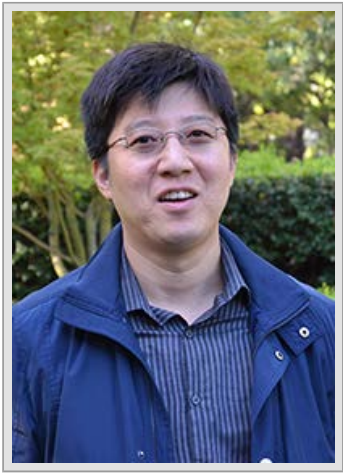
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Hui Won
Senior Tax Analyst/Auditor
Auditing Services

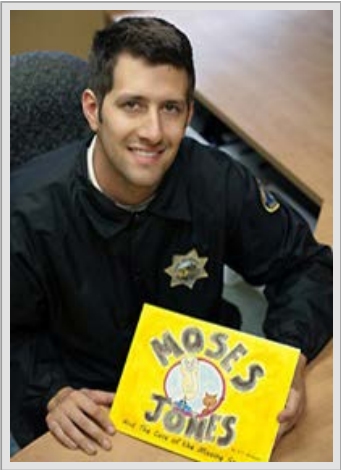


Edward Woodbury
Irrigation Specialist
Facilities Management

Farewells



David Heaphy
Lieutenant
Public Safety



Nathan McQueen
Parking Officer
University Transportation & Parking
Services



Kem Gravenberg
Senior Administrative Officer
Administrative Operations

Not Pictured: Patt Kregelo, Accounting Technician III, Financial Services



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STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Staff Spotlight with Norman Kwong

In each issue, the FOCUS Newsletter spotlights an ABA staff member whose work deserves mention. This issue features Norman Kwong and his appointment to a system-wide project committee - the CSU Data Warehouse Committee.

Name: Norman Kwong

ABA Department/Unit: Budget Planning & Administration

Job Title: I am a lead budget analyst. We have two leads in our department. Angel Thayer is technically the Human Resources lead and I am the Finance lead. However Angel is very knowledgeable about Finance, and we share many duties.

How long have you held this title? This question is tougher than it sounds. When I first joined Budget in 2006, we had four analysts

of equal rank. In 2008, one person retired, and another transferred to a different department. That's when the two of us who remained were told we would be supervising the replacement hires, so we should call ourselves "leads."

How long have you been with Sac State? I joined the Sac State family in 1999. I had been working at San Francisco State University, and recollect shopping for our first home. Homes within our price range included a condo with a view of the graveyard in the distance, and another condo which rumbled each time light rail passed by outside the window. When I saw a job opening at Sac State, my wife and I decided it was time for a change of scenery. At Sac State, I worked for the Student Financial Services Center for about a year. Then I transferred to Accounting Services. Finally, I transferred to Budget Planning and Administration in 2006 (where I work now).

What is the unique project/committee that you are on currently? For the past one to two years, I have been serving on the System-wide Data Warehouse Committee.

What are some of the requirements of this position? As a member, what role will you play? You have to be pretty savvy, both in finance related subjects and IT capabilities. I have always been a bit geeky on the tech side, so I was always more interested in data warehouse discussions. There are a few people more knowledgeable than me on these subjects, but most of them are managers who have enough to do. In addition, I have the advantage of having an ITC analyst, Charlie Eyster, who reports to me. Charlie is very intelligent and a hard worker, so we combine to make a formidable team.

How were you selected for this committee? Justine Heartt (our recently retired AVP for Finance) nominated me. When Justine first ran this past me, I naively assumed there'd be a representative from every campus. So even though I was a bit surprised, I said, "Sure why not?" A short time later, I found out there were only three campus representatives on the committee and the other two were ex-Chancellor's Office employees. Also, they are all practically living legends within finance circles. So, initially I was intimidated and it took a few meetings before I got

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past that.

What is this committee’s goal? This committee is in charge of upgrading the CFS data warehouse. This is not to be confused with Sac Vault (i.e., Cognos) which is what most campus users are currently utilizing. CFS data warehouse is newer, and most other CSU campuses have switched to it. On our campus, we are hoping to rollout and offer training in spring 2016. As of now, we are planning to offer both Sac Vault and the CFS data warehouse concurrently. It’s better to offer users more of a variety of tools, instead of too few.

What are your biggest, yet most rewarding challenges? Sac State is only one of 23 campuses. Even though we are all part of the CSU and have some things in common, there are multiple ways of doing things. It can be very difficult to design reports, knowing there are slight differences within each campus. On the flip side, you get to hear how other campuses are doing things. It’s a lot faster to copy someone else’s great idea, compared to coming up with your own.

Who are your primary customers? I have to wear two hats on this committee. Much of the time, I wear my system-wide hat and think of all 23 campuses as the customers. Sometimes though, I have to put on my campus hat and make sure our interests are heard.

What do you like best about your job? It’s never boring. When I talk to people, I often use the movie Matrix as an analogy. In that movie, the character is given a choice of taking a blue or red pill. There are some people who choose to take a blue pill and forget about reality, since they know there are talented people out there who are steering things. However, working in Budget and being on this data warehouse committee is like taking the red pill. You are exposed to the true nature of how things work...this is usually exciting, but sometimes there is an overabundance of knowledge - your brain feels like exploding!

What is your favorite aspect of working on campus? I think, overall, the campus is a great place to work. As I walk past students on the way to my next meeting, there is living tangible proof of the difference we make. Also, most people I have met genuinely care about the work we do.

Why and how would someone contact you? If you have finance related questions about our data warehouses, feel free to contact me. You can also contact me regarding budget related matters. I may not have all the answers, but I am surrounded by a bunch of smart and great coworkers who are my resources!



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TECH TIPS



What in the Cloud?

"[To the cloud!](#)" exclaims an actor in Microsoft's Windows 7 cloud services commercial. Cloud storage has become a popular way of managing one's files when away from a home PC.

Cloud storage is described as a "model of data storage in which the digital data is stored in logical pools, while the physical storage spans multiple servers (and often locations), and is typically owned and managed by a hosting company."

In other terms, cloud storage allows us to keep files we want accessible, so long as we have access to the internet.

We utilize third-parties to store this data for us, ensuring its accessibility. However, with this convenience comes some risk.

Because cloud services are utilized by individuals, companies and, in some cases, government entities, they are seen as a high value target for hackers. From a practical point of view, cloud storage should be for files that are not private by nature, or contain sensitive information.

There exist still many benefits to cloud storage. For one, it is invisible. The files being stored take no space on your local devices or hard drives. In addition, cloud storage is convenient. Your files are accessible whenever you have access to the internet, including public Wi-Fi connections. Many cloud storage providers also offer syncing, which ensures your files are automatically updated across all devices that share a given file.

Another major benefit of cloud storage is cost - backing up data is often expensive; Cloud storage, however, is not. Cloud storage helps reduce both the cost and time needed in backing up data, and many sites offer large limits that most regular users wouldn't exceed.

You may already use cloud storage without realizing it. Have you ever accessed your work files from home via the U: drive? Then you were using Sac State's [SacFiles!](#) SacFiles is an example of a cloud storage solution. Other popular cloud storage solutions include Google Drive, Dropbox, and Microsoft Cloud. Often, cloud services are free, or have an allotment of space available for free, with additional storage available for a small fee.

Consider whether cloud storage is service you need. Do you find yourself emailing yourself documents that you want accessible on a regular basis? Or would you like to take work with you while traveling? If so, cloud storage is an easy to use solution that addresses these needs.

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