

Dates to Remember:

Homecoming 2013

“Paint The Town Purple
Celebrating 120 Years”
October 10—19, 2013

National Boss’s Day
October 15, 2013

Daylight Saving Time
November 3, 2013

Thanksgiving Holiday
November 28 & 29, 2013

Winter Break
December 23, 2013
through January 1, 2014

Staff Advisory Senate
Meetings: Monthly -
Location TBA

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The Pony Express



VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

JULY—SEPTEMBER 2013



SPOTLIGHT



*A message
from... Facilities
Services*

Facilities Services is an industry that is forever evolving to add value to the public’s personal way of life. This is especially true for the NMHU Facilities Services Department whose personnel work around the clock to meet increased expectations for all who associate their quality of life with their surroundings. The next time you step onto a polished floor, or catch sight of blooming wild flowers walking through the campus grounds, turn on any utility, enter a freshly painted
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See page 9 for rows line up

STAFF SENATE UPDATES

From the desk of Margaret Gonzales, Staff Senate President

- Suggestion boxes are available at the following locations on campus:
Student Center, Felix Martinez Building, Rodgers Administration Building, Donnelly Library and Ivan Hilton Building.
- All FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS and guests are encouraged to submit constructive suggestions/comments. Collected monthly, these comments are gathered, separated by area, and forwarded to the appropriate individuals. *Comments/suggestions deemed inappropriate or in bad taste will not be forwarded.*
- Vacancies still exist within the technical/skilled, facilities, and clerical membership groups. If you are a member of any of these groups and are interested in serving in this capacity, please contact any member of the Staff Advisory Senate.
- As is customary, all staff are highly encouraged to attend our scheduled meetings. These meetings are generally held on the third Tuesday of the month at 10:30 am
- Staff Senate has been busy working on the following issues pursuant to comments received from the suggestion boxes and/or in response to the staff survey.
 - A) Parking issues on campus
 - B) Hay Group Study—What's next? When will new position descriptions be made available?
 - C) Customer service and other trainings for staff
 - D) Web site concerns
 - E) Discussion on retiree incentives

While it may seem that some of these items have appeared for quite some time now, please be advised that these issues are important and often take time to resolve. We want to ensure that each of these items is addressed properly and will keep addressing them until they are resolved.

The Staff Advisory Senate Staff survey will be available soon.

Please visit the Staff Senate link on the Highlands website for updates on any of the above information and/or minutes from each of the meetings. Staff Senate Advisory newsletters are also posted on the website.

IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT YOU, AS A STAFF MEMBER, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE INFORMED. GET INVOLVED WITH STAFF SENATE TODAY!

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Continued from page 1 - SPOTLIGHT NEWS - Facilities Services

room, open a classroom window that was stuck on the day a conference or presentation was booked on campus, have a new key made, or reserve a fleet vehicle for an important trip, consider the dedicated staff behind the Facilities Department who make everyday amenities possible.

The NMHU Facilities Services Department serves a significant population of students, faculty, staff, visitors, community members, and passerbys seeking services daily. Students are the focal point of everything the department does, so it is our mission to improve the campus for all who work, learn, visit, live, and play here. Despite a modest budget and staff of approximately 80 people, the department serves all with disabilities and non-disabilities by maintaining:

- over forty-five edifices on campus (totaling over 1.2 million gross square feet of building space), grounds, landscapes, roads, walkways, steps, parks, infrastructure, parking lots, etc. within one hundred plus acres. Among the many roles the department plays (providing 24/7/365 support to auxiliaries, safety, and loss prevention), it is also responsible for the fiscal and daily management of:
- the university's fleet (i.e., vehicle reservations, repairs, maintenance, fuel, cost management);
- electrical, mechanical/plumbing, auto mechanic, grounds/landscaping, custodial, locksmith, paint, and carpentry trades;
- a warehouse that transacts substantial consumable inventories daily;
- all Capital Outlay projects (i.e., renovation and construction);
- campus-wide setups and special events;
- all building/property deferred maintenance, renewal, and replacement, to include the Rio Rancho and Raton Centers;
- a majority of the university's utilities; and
- a community recycling center.

This month is going to be particularly busy for the department. With winter nearing, our crews are busy weatherizing buildings and testing equipment, plumbing, electrical, and mechanical systems. Work orders are increasingly being generated in preparation for the colder weather. Despite daily operations, the department is at the center of scheduling the demolition of the "green house" west of the Viles & Crimmin Residence Hall, setting up for a jam-packed homecoming week, and the university's 120th Anniversary "Birthday Bash," as well as the remodeling of the Margaret Kennedy Lounge for the opening of the Robert Bell Permanent Art Collection. Also, we're involved in the selection of an architectural and engineering firm for the trolley renovation project and are working closely with Molzen-Corbin in the production of the university's Athletic/Intramural/Recreational Master Plan.

NMHU Facilities Services personnel respond to over 3,800 work orders annually, and everyone of our personnel holds an important responsibility in keeping the campus functioning. The department is made up of dedicated people who assist one another in making things happen and are proud to serve; and we believe it shows through the many large and small, public and unforeseen tasks it accomplishes every day.

– Sylvia Baca, Interim Facilities Director

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MVD is offering NMHU license plates and NMHU vanity license plates.

Support NMHU and get yours today!

Quotes to Live by:

Institutions don't make things happen, people do.
-James Fries

Or

"Ability is what you're capable of doing. Motivation determines what you do. Attitude determines how well you do it."
-Lou Holtz

Or

"Your mind will answer most questions if you learn to relax and wait for the answer."
-William S. Burroughs

Look Who's New! NEW HIRES

A Great Big Hearty Welcome to:

Barbara Bolser, Librarian, Head of External Programs
 Michael Raine, Registrar/Director of Admissions
 David Brookshier, Research Technician, Biology & Chemistry
 Sharon Jordan, Financial Aid Advisor/Processor
 Angel Benavidez, Registration Specialist
 Daniel Silva, Computer Lab Tech, Purple Pub
 Antoinette Zaragoza, Administrative Secretary, Social Work CCTP
 George Lyon, Asst. Professor of Political Science, Pre Law
 Kathie Quintana, Clinical Therapist, Social Work CCTP
 Gilbert "Buddy" Rivera, Farmington Center Director
 Andrea Medina, Accountant
 Christopher Wells, Assistant Volleyball Coach
 Karin Gadberry, Head Women's Softball Coach
 Patricia Latham, Co-Director/Senior Associate
 Richard Bridgewater, Asst. Women's Basketball Coach
 Shannon Hunt, Asst. Baseball Coach/Game Management
 Reahannon, Lizardo, Student Activities Coordinator
 Michelle Bencomo, Scholarship Coordinator
 Ronald Benedict, Asst. Prof. of Exercise Science
 Craig Castleman, Asst. Prof. of Secondary Education
 Chien-Chung Chen, Asst. Prof. of Marketing
 Stanley Cohen, Visiting Professor of Technology
 Patricia Cruz, Asst. Prof. of Ed Leadership
 Chris Graham, Visiting Asst. Prof of Rehab Counseling
 Aline Harrison, Asst. Prof. of Bilingual Education
 Jessica Hindman, Asst. Prof. of English
 Robert Karaba, Asst. Prof. of Leadership
 Nicolas Leger, Asst. Prof. of Business Law
 Brooks Maki, Asst. Prof. of Organic Chemistry
 Don McAvinchey, Asst. Prof of Social Work
 Roy Bonney, Grounds

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New Hires continued

Continued from page 4

William McCarthy, Visiting Professor of Geology
 Jason McIntosh, Asst. Prof. of English, Director of Composition
 Shirley Meckes, Asst. Prof. of Early Childhood/Elementary Education
 Michael Morad-McCoy, Visiting Prof. of Counseling
 Brett Phelps, Instructor of English
 Justin Plakas, Asst. Prof. of Media Arts
 Rodney Sanchez, Visiting Prof. of MIS
 Paul Sedillo, Visiting Asst. Prof. of Special Education
 Don Trahan, Visiting Professor of Counseling
 Valerie Valles-Pedroza, Visiting Prof. of Social Work
 Carlos Velasquez-Torres, Asst. Prof. of Spanish
 Ruthy Watson, Asst. Prof. of Health Education
 Amal Alhosban, Asst. Prof. of Computer Science
 Corilia Ortega, Advocacy and Education Coordinator, CVPP
 Christopher Hunter, Visiting Prof. of Oil and Gas Management
 Charles Phelps, Visiting Prof. of Oil and Gas Management
 Sarah Gallegos, Dispatcher, Campus Police
 Ekaterina Rybalkina, Research Scientist
 Marcia Brenden, Associate, CESDP
 Michelle Gonzales, Lead Teacher, Child Development Center
 David Kavanaugh, Career Advisor, Career Services
 Virginia Padilla-Vigil, Center Director, Rio Rancho
 Michelle Renaud, Visiting Prof. of Social work
 Qiang Wei, Research Scientist
 Amanda Segobia, Secretary, Farmington Center
 Joseph Odermatt, Library Associate, Interlibrary Loan
 Demerick Strickland, Assistant Men's Basketball Coach
 Russel Pacheco, Grounds
 Donna Lee Gonzales, Custodian
 Margaret Silva, Custodian



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New Hires continued

Continued from page 5

Benito Pacheco started as the new director of Academic Support for the university on August 19. The department is charged with student advisement, retention, and new student orientation. Academic Support is available to assess student interest, help develop strategies for academic progress, and identify avenues for student success at Highlands. The staff at Academic Support recognizes that every student is an asset to the university and is fully committed to helping each student reach their potential.

Academic Support has an open door policy and welcomes students, faculty, and staff to drop by the office which is located in Suite 110 of the Felix Martinez Building or can be contacted at 505 454-3327. "I am confident that we will continue the past success of the department and welcome campus input as we progress forward," said Pacheco. "It is an exciting time to be part of Highlands University and I welcome the upcoming opportunities."



Virginia Padilla Vigil is the new director of the New Mexico Highlands University Center at Rio Rancho. She was born and raised in Cuarteles, New Mexico, and currently resides in Albuquerque. Dr. Padilla Vigil has a bachelor's in elementary education and master's in at-risk youth education and counseling from the College of Santa Fe. She recently earned a doctorate in language, literacy, and sociocultural studies from the University of New Mexico.

Dr. Padilla Vigil has over 23 years of experience in education. She served as an elementary teacher for six years, a higher education administrator for 13 years, and as an administrator for the NM Public Education Department for five years. Her higher education administrative posts include division head at Northern NM College, director of academic and student services for the Fremont Campus of Pueblo Community College, and director of Teacher Education at Santa Fe Community College. Dr. Padilla Vigil has also taught at the higher education level, online and face-to-face.



Dr. Padilla Vigil comes to Highlands from the New Mexico Public Education Department where she served as the Executive Director for Innovative Digital Education and Learning (IDEAL-NM), a statewide eLearning program that serves P-12, higher education, and state agencies. Her areas of expertise include higher education leadership and administration; teacher education and professional development; curriculum, instruction, and assessment; online teaching, learning, and program development; technology integration and innovation; and critical multicultural education.

Dr. Padilla Vigil assumed her director duties on August 26, 2013.

New Hires continued

Continued from page 6

Welcome back Dave Kavanaugh to the Highlands family. He serves as the career adviser with the Career Services Center. Among his duties will be to help students, individually, and in classroom settings, to develop their job search skills, including employment interviewing and provide assistance on résumé writing.

Dave is an Highlands alumnus (Communication Arts, Journalism concentration, 1995) and has more than 20 years' experience in professional writing including the positions of sports editor/managing editor with the Las Vegas Optic, staff writer with Albuquerque Journal, and public information officer and sports information director for Highlands.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year is a triple birthday celebration here at Highlands: 120 years for Highlands, 90 years for Ilfeld Auditorium, and 30 years since the establishment of the Foundation.

All during Homecoming Week, October 14-19, there will be special events on campus and around town, including a birthday party in the Student Union Building and Ilfeld Auditorium on Friday night, October 18.

As part of the celebration, we'd like to make sure that all departments are included. Let us know what you'd like for a gift, and we'll let our alumni and community members know how they can support Highlands.

Please talk to your dean or director about your department's needs, and he or she will pass it along.

Any questions? Please contact us at x3248.

Alta Vista Regional Hospital (AVRH) is hosting a free community wide pre-tailgate barbeque in celebration of New Mexico Highlands University's (NMHU) 120th Anniversary on Friday, October 18, **beginning at 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the AVRH Employee parking lot, 104 Legion Drive in Las Vegas.** Come meet with Dr. Jim Fries, NMHU President and show your support of the NMHU Cowboys and Cowgirls and don't forget to wear purple. For more information please Contact Marla Martinez at (505) 426-3772 or email marla_martinez@chs.net.

As a reminder, employment opportunities can be viewed at nmhu.edu/jobs.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Debbie Aragon and Della Gomez. Debbie transferred to Exercise and Sports Sciences and Della transferred to Athletics.

Congratulations to Raymond Chavez, night Library Clerk in Circulation who completed 25 years at Highlands in September.

Supporting staff members at NMHU Center at San Juan are Sharon Doom, who has been with the center since December 2012 as the Center Student Education Specialist and Social Work secretary, Tori Miller, who also joined the center in December 2012. New secretary for the center is Amanda Segobia, who joined the Highlands family in September 2013.

We Would Enjoy Hearing From You! All the great things that happen while at work. Please send in your ideas, stories, photos, questions and requests. We want to hear about what is important to you. Submit to any Staff Senate Newsletter committee member.

Read past issues online at: http://www.nmhu.edu/Staff_Senate.

Staff Advisory Senate

Margaret Gonzales - President 454-3495
 Kimberly Blea - Vice President 454-3445
 Darlene R. Tapia - Parliamentarian 454-3272
 Alexis Duran - Secretary 454-3315
 Dominic Chavez - Treasurer 426-2108
 Doris Gallegos - Member 454-3168
 Richard Griego - Member 454-3260
 Laura LaCour-Johnson - Member 505-891-6915
 Tina Clayton - Member 454-3058
 Debbie Aragon - Member 454-3287
 Vacant - Member
 Vacant - Member

Please feel free to contact any of the above members directly with questions, comments, or general feedback.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to hearing from you!

Staff Senate Newsletter Committee

Darlene R. Tapia - Chair 454-3272
 Doris Gallegos - Vice Chair 454-3168
 Yvonne Duran - Member 454-3020
 Carolina Martínez - Member 454-3269
 Prescilla Ortega-Mathis - Member 454-3311
 Wendy Quintana - Member 454-3387
 Irene Romero - Member 454-3499

Please contact any of the above Newsletter Committee members with any ideas you would like to see in the next issue of "The Pony Express."

Be on the look out for our next quarterly issue at the end of December!

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Spotlight photo on stair case line up from page 1:

Front row: Sylvia Baca, 2nd row: Gerald Romero, Margaret Silva, Charlie Tapia, Jorden Grimm, 3rd row: Rick Griego, Chris Duran, Jimmy Mora, 4th row: Donna Lee Gonzales, Tonda Dale, Gilbert Valdez, Ivan Lucero, 5th row: Delfido Gallegos, Shane Sena, Beverly Ortega, 6th row: Carmen Lopez (hiding), Crystal Ortiz, Irene Romero, Annabelle Mora, 7th row: Paul Ortiz, Jonathan Duran, Leroy Montoya, 8th row: Anthony Casias, Daniel Encinias, 9th row: Raymond Lopez, Melvin Maestas, Robert Esquibel, 10th row: Adam Abeyta, Greg Martinez, Bijesh Baidya, 11th row: Robert Garcia, Amado Gonzales, Manuel Baca, 12th row: David Whorton, Russell Pacheco, David Salazar, 13th row: Elsu Atman, Alex Montoya, Joseph Salazar, 14th row: Geno Salazar, Roy Gonzales, Gabriel Pacheco



Bottom Row: Sylvia Baca, Paul Ortiz, Leroy Montoya, Crystal Ortiz, Beverly Ortega, Charlie Tapia
 2nd row: Jorden Grimm, Tonda Dale, Daniel Encinias, Jimmy Mora, Donna Lee Gonzales, Annabelle Mora, Irene Romero, Geno Salazar
 3rd row: Chris Duran, Bijesh Baidya, Delfido Gallegos, Raymond Lopez, Ivan Lucero, Rick Griego, Elsu Atman, Margaret Silva, Russell Pacheco, Gerald Romero
 4th row: Joseph Salazar, Shane Sena, Greg Martinez, Gilbert Valdez, Anthony Casias, Amado Gonzales, Melvin Maestas, Adam Abeyta, Robert Esquibel
 5th row: Robert Garcia, Alex Montoya, David Whorton, Carmen Lopez, Roy Trujillo, Gabriel Pacheco, Manuel Baca Jonathan Duran and David Salazar



Facilities Services Night Shift Staff

Front to back, left to right:

Robert Lujan, Robert Tenorio, Frank Branch, Freddie Martinez, Harvey Roybal, Michael Salas, John Gomez, Emmanuel Jones, Gilbert Smith.



Working hard at the new Student Center

