Making energy efficiency key

For the past twenty years, San Jacinto College District (SJCD) facilities operations have actively been driving down energy cost. Recently, we have decided to further improve our energy position by teaming with Chevron Energy Solutions to develop projects that take our efficiencies even higher.

The installation of thermal storage tanks and use of centralized chilled water distribution systems are just two of the systems in phase one that has been installed to improve efficiency. The mandate with this project is to preserve our indoor learning environment quality while creating a lasting impact and greater energy efficiencies throughout the College by reducing consumption, improving control of systems, and installing the latest technological devices.

In order to reach these goals, a baseline assessment of the College was required for each campus. This was conducted jointly by SJCD facilities employees and Chevron engineers. The first phase of energy and systems optimization project identification has been completed. Detailed design will be completed by the end of summer.

The initial results of the study are encouraging, as of current, the College spends $1.38 in consumption per square foot. We have ambitious goals but are absolutely committed to seeking out the latest and most reliable solutions to drive down operating costs. We recognize and respect that this is the Texas Gulf Coast – not Seattle or Denver – and that cooling and drying air in our buildings is the single greatest utility cost by far, but indoor conditions cannot suffer to keep cost down.

Our target is reducing electrical consumption 2.8 million kilowatt hours per year. This is the equivalent of the amount of energy consumed by 400 passenger vehicles. This is real savings! We’ll keep you informed of our progress.

Bay-IBI Group awarded top CEFPI

HOUSTON - This past April, Bay-IBI Group Architects was recognized by the prestigious Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI) Southern Region Conference for their work on the San Jacinto College Central campus Science building.

With the theme “CONNECT: Let the conversations begin!” the CEFPI planning committee aimed to highlight the value in the connections made, relationships developed and conversations taking place. Bay, along with other southern region entrants, were tasked to meeting the judging criteria for: Community Environment, Learning Environment, Physical Environment, and the Planning process.

Bay received the top CEFPI Southern Region “Ed Sevcik Architecture Award,” for their work on the Central campus Science Building and will be sent to represent CEFPI Southern Region at the International Architectural awards in September.

“The design of the building is geared towards reflecting components of the community and surrounding industry,” said Robert Trabanino, principal architect for Bay-IBI Group. One of the main reasons this project was so successful was the desire on the College’s part to work as a team member.”
KEEPING YOUR COOL IN THE TEXAS HEAT

Safety Special to Building Foundations

Working outdoors during the extreme 100 plus temperatures of the Houston area can be exhausting and potentially deadly. When working outside it is easy to fall prey to the effects of the sun. Even the most seasoned individual to the Texas heat should always err on the side of caution when recreationally working out, doing yard work at home, walking across campus to class or at working outdoors.

Get familiar with the various signs of heat illness to remain safe throughout the summer and how to prevent serious injury.

YOUR DEFENSE

You know the old adage “the best defense is a good offence,” this is certainly true in the fight against heat illness; actively know what you need to do to stay safe in the summer heat.

HYDRATE: Drink, drink, drink! Do not wait until you are actually thirsty to drink and hydrate yourself. Avoid consuming drinks that are alcoholic or heavy in sugar or caffeine. Sports drinks are an excellent way to replenish and rehydrate, but need to be taken in moderation for those sensitive to salt.

PROTECT: Make it a point to wear light-colored, lightweight T-shirts and loose fitting clothing when outdoors in the heat. Keep your shirt on; the body will pick up more radiant heat with your shirt off. Wear a wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses and sunscreen of SPF 15 or higher to protect you from a broad spectrum of UVA/UVB protection.

BE ALERT: Any one at any time can suffer from heat-related illness, some people are at greater risk than others, people ages 65 or older, young children, infants, and individuals with heart disease or high blood pressure. Make sure to visit adults at risk at least twice a day and watch for signs of heat exhaustion or heat stroke.

TYPES OF HEAT STRESS

Heat stress can result in heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, or heat rashes. Note that heat can also increase the risk of injury while at work through sweaty palms, foggy safety glasses, or accidental burns. Heat stroke is a very dangerous condition you can get by ignoring the signs of heat exhaustion. Always give yourself 30 minutes to respond positively and recover. If your symptoms do not improve, go to the Emergency Room.

HEAT EXHAUSTION: The signs of heat exhaustion often begin suddenly. The combination of heat, heavy sweating, and improper fluid intake impedes your body’s ability to cool itself down properly while your internal temperature begins to rise. Most prone to heat exhaustion are the elderly and those with high blood pressure. Symptoms include Extreme weakness and fatigue, nausea, fast and slow breathing, or a headache and fast heartbeat.

HEAT STROKE: Heat stroke is the most serious heat-related illness. When the body becomes unable to control its temperature and cool down when the body temperature rises. The body can rise in excess to 106 degrees Fahrenheit within 10 to 15 minutes. Heat stroke can cause death or permanent damage.

HEAT CRAMPS: Heat cramps usually affect those who sweat a lot during strenuous activities. The sweating depletes the body’s salt and moisture levels, which can cause painful muscle cramps usually the abdomen, legs, or arms. Do not continue strenuous work for at least a few hours after the cramps have subsided, further exertion may lead to heat exhaustion or even heat stroke.

When working outdoors in extreme heat, remember to use the buddy system when applicable and frequently check on others and to be cautious and aware of the symptoms and ways to prevent heat illness.
A Moving Tale

Wheth it’s abroad, to the next state, city, or even being displaced out of your kitchen or bathroom for a seemingly simple remodel; moving to most of us, sparks feelings of extreme dread and anticipa- tion. Organizing and coordinating a seemingly simple but ultimately massive undertaking of uprooting oneself is a grueling process and recently, San Jacinto College District (SJCD) has taken on just that task. At the end of May, the college began its planned simultaneous remodel of its Central and South campus library updates. Reinvesting in its own informational brain trust district wide, an exciting time for SJCD as it begins to round out its 2008 bond projects. With the remodel of its libraries on Central and South campus and in is the planning and programming phase of constructing a new library on North campus. Both remodels at Central and South campus pose a unique and delicate challenge for the college, requiring invaluable dedicated students throughout the entire construction process.

“Making a transition like this is no easy task and requires quite a bit of planning,” said SJCD Director of Construction Larry Logsdon. “We began discussions on all the ins and outs of these moves during the design process of the remodel around the fourth quarter of last year. The end users worked very closely and cooperated with us to let us know exactly what they needed during this move, resulting in quicker turnarounds for the scheduled move at Central and South. We originally had planned the move to take a week and a half at Central and four days at South; in turn we completed the move in 4 ½ days at Central and only a day and a half at South.”

Central: The two-story Lee Davis library will receive a full-scale remodel inside, updates will include new HVAC, mechanical, electric, plumbing, data port access, and additional meeting areas to meet the needs of today’s students, faculty, and expanding technology. The library’s entire collection had to be relocated into the neighboring Frels building (C20) and other facilities during the construction process.

During the remodel, Central campus students will not have direct access to the Lee Davis library. Books are available to check out, but must be requested in advance and will be retrieved by the library staff in Frels. “All of our books at Central are currently housed in two locations,” said Central campus Library director Karen Blankenship. “The books most often checked out of our collection by students are located locally in the neighboring Frels building and can take one to two days for us to retrieve for students. For the part of our collection less used and accessed by students we placed in remote storage, these books may take up to three or four days for our staff to retrieve, so students should really plan ahead and check on the availability of books. All books must be requested at either the circulation desk in Frels or through the online catalog.”

Lee Davis library is scheduled to reopen in the summer of 2014.

South: The Parker Williams library, unlike Lee Davis on Central, will remain occupied during its renovation and is set to take place in two phases. Phase one of the remodel is scheduled from June to September and has begun on the first floor. All library resources, services, and collection can be located on the second floor of the Parker Williams library. Phase two is set to begin in September and be completed by December. The Parker Williams library is scheduled to reopen to normal functions for the spring of 2014.

An era to remember:

College revitalizes classic look and feel of building.

Lee Davis Library

In its design stage, the architects and designers at Gensler - Houston made it a point to salvage and prominently play up one historically distinct feature about the Lee Davis library on Central campus – the exterior. Originally constructed in 1965, the library is one of the first few buildings constructed at San Jacinto College, and happens to be a perfect example of Mid-Century Modern architecture that has weathered and stood the test of time.

Spanning roughly from 1933 to 1965, the Mid-Century Modernism movement in the United States was seen as a heavily influenced reflection of the International and Bauhaus modern movements, and was slightly more organic and less formal than the International Style. This form of architecture was a post-World War II era style that emphasized creating structures with ample windows and open floor plans, bringing the outdoors in. After World War II, architectural structures were built with experimental technologies and materials like steel and plywood to create iconic and then groundbreaking architectural design that eliminated bulky support walls in favor of wall seemingly made of glass and clean design that integrated curves, polymorphic and geometric shapes. Mid-Century Modern designs were created to be simple multi-purposeful sustainable and built quickly.

“Mid-Century modernism is interesting that it came about from a country that didn’t have much of an economy at the time just like everyone else in the world,” said Gensler-Houston project designer Theodora Batchvarova. “They used a minimum amount of materials, very innovative materials and did not compromise design; design quality was one of their high priorities.

Philosophically, the Mid-Century Modernism design of Lee Davis library speaks to the task San Jacinto College set out to accomplish in 1961 to provide a top quality service at an affordable price. “That is one of the things we wanted to emphasize here is this type of culture at San Jacinto College, providing top quality education at a very low cost and this building truly represents that,” said Batchvarova.

Lee Davis Library

STORIES BY: Jacques Bourgeois / San Jacinto College District

DATE DUE

FALL 2014
Planting the seeds
Students team up with employees to beautify campus.

Beginning in the Fall of 2006, San Jacinto College Central campus Biology professor Barbara Schumacher teamed up with San Jacinto College District (SJCD) Facilities and Construction to challenge and change the minds of students and the landscape at Central campus.

At the end of every long semester Schumacher takes her botany class and teams up with Central campus Operations manager John Maslonka and Landscape Supervisor Jeff Tschappatt to replant and beautify the landscape around Central campus. Students are given hands-on instruction in the field of botany and taught how to properly build and maintain a garden of various plants.

“It’s a very hands-on experience,” said Schumacher. “I’m surprised how many students say this is the first time they’ve ever gotten out into the garden. The students are not only completing lab paperwork and research before going out to plant, but they actually have to roll up their
SEPTEMBER 2012

Adam Garber
Grounds/Utilities
Raised in La Porte and reside in Atascocita.
Been with SJCD: 11 years
Hobbies: “The way I enjoy spending my free time is with family and friends.”
Interesting facts about me: “Nothing really that interesting.”
Daily motivation: “I think my dedication to doing a great job is what makes me great at my job.”
What I like the most about SJCD: “I really enjoy the people.”

Romualdo Gurrero
Maintenance
Raised in Mexico and now resides in Crosby
Been with SJCD: 14 years
Hobbies: “I like to exercise, dance, fish, and watch television.”
Interesting facts about me: “I am a soccer player.”
Daily motivation: “I’m comfortable with what I do and the settings and really enjoy my work.”
What I like the most about SJCD: “I love how polite all the people around campus are.”
Words of Wisdom: “Never give up on your dreams because they will become a reality one day. I identify closely to this because I’ve had a dream since I was young because they will become a reality one day. I identify closely to this because I’ve had a dream since I was young because they will become a reality one day. I identify closely to this because I’ve had a dream since I was young because they will become a reality one day.”

Francisco Valdez
Maintenance Utility
Resides in Pasadena
Been with SJCD: 12 years
Hobbies: “I like to travel and take cruises.”
Interesting facts about me: “I like to reach my own goals and help others to achieve their goals. I love helping people.”
Daily motivation: “Helping others, explore new places and explore new things to do.”
What I like the most about SJCD: “The people, that’s what makes this an amazing place to work at.”
Words of Wisdom: “Always strive to reach your personal goals in life.”

DECEMBER 2012

Billy Johnson
Maintenance
Raised in Houston and now resides in Crosby.
Been with SJCD: 6 years
Hobbies: “I like to play racquet ball, fish, and riding four wheelers.”
Interesting facts about me: “I can do several things here at the college in maintenance like electrical, plumbing, and carpentry. With all these talents, I am able to share my skills and knowledge with other people.”
Daily motivation: “I work very hard to make my job as easy as possible. I love to help others when in need and they all do the same for me.”
What I like the most about SJCD: “I like the people at San Jac because we all work together to get along and help each other.”
Words of Wisdom: “Never give up on anything that you set out to do in life. Work hard, give it 100 percent, and you can achieve anything in life.”

MARCH 2013

Lori Adame
Maintenance Administrative Assistant
Resides in La Porte
Been with SJCD: 16 years
Hobbies: “I enjoy learning how to cook organic, and I began sewing again after 20 years and also learned how to embroider.”
Interesting facts about me: “I have a portfolio of weddings, showers, and parties I organize, plan, and do in my spare time.”
Daily motivation: “I truly enjoy my job and feel a great satisfaction with a job done well. San Jacinto College is the only place I have ever worked, not getting my first job till I was 30 years old and kids in school.”
What I like the most about SJCD: “Because of the department I work in, I do not get to have much student involvement so I would have to say what I like best about SJCD is my department. It is truly my family away from home.”
Words of Wisdom: “Always remember your motivation comes from within yourself, and your dedication comes from your surroundings, your motivation will always be there but my dedication is totally up to you!”

Jill Jakob
Maintenance Administrative Assistant
Raised in Pasadena and resides in La Porte
Been with SJCD: 12 years
Hobbies: “I have three grandsons who keep me busy and I enjoy watching movies.”
Interesting facts about me: “I can quickly say the 50 States in alphabetical order; I went zip-lining and it was a blast!”

See QUARTER: Page 8
More than signage

JACQUES BOURDEGIS
facilities@sjcd.edu

Helping the College soar to new levels and working various projects around each campus, San Jacinto College Facilities Coordinator Mike Harris is actively pushing forward the “One College Vision” in more than just signage.

“One of the first things I was charged with 3½ years ago was promoting the ‘One College Vision,’” said Harris. “In my world of projects and Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FFE), establishing and moving forward on a standard was the clear direction. We have many students who attend more than one campus and want to make sure that they see the same image from North to Central and to South campus. We also would like them to have a single, impression burned into their memories from their time attending San Jacinto College. In a few years, we’ll have lots of SJC former students out there recalling their times spent here. We want that to be a nice memory of a school that provided them a comfortable, sophisticated learning environment.”

Another benefit of standardizing our furniture selection involves relocating offices. In the past, employees took their furniture with them. But with the new standardized selections that are matched to each space type, this is no longer required. In the future, if you move from one office to another, you may be moving into another type of office. And the new type of office will have furniture appropriate to the new office space.

Harris is not dedicated only to FFE. With a history in custom home building and as a commercial general contractor, he also takes on many specialty projects for the College. One of these is repurposing the College’s existing Maritime training facilities on Highway 225 to accommodate three state-of-the-art Maritime simulators. Another challenging renovation project involves the Pasadena ISD Early High School dining project at Central campus.

“This is a Pasadena ISD program that allows high school students to take college classes on a college campus,” said Harris. “One of the requirements of the program is to have a dining facility for the high school students that is separate from those for the college students. In order to accomplish this, we were tasked with repurposing old storage space and an old kitchen area into a new catering kitchen that can serve anywhere from 50 to 100 students per day. We also had to develop a solution that met the very specific federal guidelines for feeding meals to high school students.

“With remodeling projects like this, the library renovations, and maintenance/police building, and College administration building renovation; I have to work very closely with our customers in each of these buildings, be able to visualize the finished product based upon the prescribed needs, and then create a project design that will meet budget and schedule.”

Harris was raised in Dickinson and is a graduate of Lamar University in Beaumont. In his free time, Harris enjoys building kit planes and teaching his 15-year-old son how to fly.

Quarter

Jump from page 7

Daily motivation: “I know that God is watching me, so I work according to that fact and try to live my life the same.”

What I like the most about SJC: “I love being off so many days a year, plus have vacation days that can also be taken, more time to spend with my grandsons; plus I have an awesome supervisor!”

Words of Wisdom: “Just always try to do the best job you can and treat others the way you want to be treated.”

Gay Nell Kendrick
Maintenance Office Manager

Ground

Jump from page 6

sleeves and actually do the sweat labor too.”

Tschappatt begins by selecting a location and plants that are seasonally appropriate. He then takes the time to design, prepare, and evaluate an area for the students to work in each semester. He and grounds maintenance then replace the top soil in each bed and test to see if the beds will require additional fertilizer to accommodate the growth of the plants.

“Jeff and John design and layout the flower bed beforehand,” said Schumacher. “He decides which plants to put down and where to plant them. The students do a thorough soil analysis testing for soil type and provide Jeff with soil pH numbers to determine if he needs to fertilize the intended planting areas.”

While grounds workers do a heavy machinery work, Tschappatt guides the students through how to properly knock the sides of plants out of a pot and where to place the plants so that they will not choke or suffocate when in the ground.

“I’ve never had a student complain about getting their hands dirty and they really seem to enjoy the valuable information they get from Jeff,” said Schumacher. “It’s such a fantastic way for the college to really interact with the students outside of the classroom in real life situations.”