This June, SF State broke ground on a $86.5 million project that should make us all excited and proud—the new Mashouf Wellness Center at Font and Merced Boulevards. Resulting from stellar cooperation between Capital Planning, Design & Construction, the Associated Students, Campus Recreation, and many others, the Center will offer top-of-the-line facilities for fitness, recreation, athletics and events. It serves as an example of what we can accomplish with our combined efforts, and of the values we strive for here at A&F—teamwork, innovation and service to enhance life at SF State.

Teamwork because of the interdepartmental cooperation it has taken to conceive, design, and begin construction on such a major addition to University facilities, including from the President’s Office and University Advancement, who helped shepherd the support of our generous alum, Manny Mashouf, whose lead gift made it possible. Innovation because of the dynamic creative work that’s gone into the design and logistics thus far—to say nothing of the facility’s cutting edge, green enhancements like grey water recycling and displacement ventilation. And Service because of the untold efforts of our entire A&F team to translate a concept into a direct student experience, working across department lines and managing the many details required of a multi-million-dollar project.

So much of what we accomplish when we do our jobs well at A&F helps create a seamless experience for education and discovery for our entire University. And often, the nature of our work means we are creating and innovating “behind the scenes.” This time it’s different: This major milestone is going to change the face of our campus, and be a tangible, visible representation of our vision and values. I offer my gratitude and congratulations to everyone who makes this possible.

Ron Cortez
Vice President
Administration & Finance

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A&F Updates

Nicole Berrocal, Associate Director of Financial Management
We are pleased to welcome Nicole Berrocal to SF State, where she joins the VP of Administration & Finance team as the Associate Director of Financial Management to assist Vice President Cortez with budget development and execution. Previously with the City of Bellevue, Washington, Nicole also has held positions with the County of Santa Barbara and the Government of the District of Columbia.
BREAKING NEW GROUND: STATE-OF-ART MASHOUF WELLNESS CENTER TO ENHANCE CAMPUS LIFE

On June 25, more than 150 SF State students, faculty, staff and family gathered to celebrate groundbreaking for the first major new facility to be built on campus in more than a decade: the Mashouf Wellness Center. The Center was made possible by a lead gift from Manny Mashouf, a generous and committed alum and founder of the women’s fashion brand bebe, as well as by student fees and other private donations.

Scheduled for completion in 2017, the state-of-the-art, $86.5 million recreational complex incorporates the latest in green building practices and will serve as a hub of student life. Among its many offerings: an indoor jogging track, fitness and weight areas, pools, a sauna, a climbing wall, racquetball courts, two multi-use courts, fitness studios and a large multi-use space to host indoor soccer and other sports as well as events such as lectures and dances.

Located at the corner of Font and Lake Merced boulevards, the 118,700-square-foot facility will be easily accessible from student housing and the center of campus. It is on track to be rated LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum—the highest designation for green construction—and will incorporate cutting-edge technologies to reduce energy and water usage that reflect SF State’s commitment to environmental stewardship. For example, pool discharge water will be captured and filtered for reuse in the restrooms, and a greywater system will repurpose shower and sink wastewater to irrigate the site. Additional environmentally friendly features include LED lighting, drought-resistant landscaping and a displacement ventilation system to minimize the use of air conditioning.

Capital Planning, Design & Construction has shepherded the project from master planning, through programming and design, and now into construction, working collaboratively with the Associated Students and Campus Recreation.

Service Milestones
Administration & Finance is proud to recognize employees who have reached significant service milestones. Service levels are recognized in five-year increments, beginning with 10 years of service.

- Alex Antonio
  Fiscal Affairs Accounting
  Start Date: 6/1/2005
- Erasmo Flores-Gonzales
  Grounds Maintenance
  Start Date: 6/5/2000
- Ellen Lo
  Human Resources
  Start Date: 6/20/2005
- Yan Cai
  Custodial Services
  Start Date: 7/15/2005
- Raymond Castillo
  Building Maintenance
  Start Date: 7/5/1995
- Richard Chen
  Fiscal Affairs
  Start Date: 7/28/1990
- William Heer
  Building Maintenance
  Start Date: 7/5/1995
- Xiao Li Hong
  Custodial Services
  Start Date: 7/15/2005
- Kevin Kinney
  University Property Management
  Start Date: 7/28/2005
- Yin Ling Lau Chan
  Custodial Services
  Start Date: 7/15/2005
- Jacky Mao
  Budget Admin & Operations
  Start Date: 7/1/2000
- Emily Visaya
  Information Technology Services
  Start Date: 7/17/2005
- Michael Cramer
  University Property Management
  Start Date: 8/13/2000
- Ann Goldman
  Capital Design
  Start Date: 8/31/2005
- Hugh XY Huang
  Information Technology Services
  Start Date: 8/2/1995
- Victoria Ramos-Sponza
  Environmental Health & Safety
  Start Date: 8/30/2005
- Rhina Rivera
  Custodial Services
  Start Date: 8/22/2005

Coming Soon...to the Palm of Your Hand!
This fall, there’ll be one more reason to keep your phone at the ready—A&F is launching a mobile app that will enable students, faculty and staff to access information such as interactive maps and menus, register for events, pay fees and link to social networks. We’ll be in Beta mode for the next few weeks to gain insight and feedback from a select group of student testers, then later this fall a seamless new means of navigating life and business at SF State will be popping up on mobile devices. It’s a responsive, user-friendly platform, so expect new modules to streamline processes and meet new needs in the months and years to come. We’ve been thrilled by the great teamwork, creativity and technical expertise that has gone into bringing the app this far, and we look forward to your input as it evolves and grows.

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Managing risk is among the most important responsibilities of Administration and Finance. As part of executing on that responsibility, we must understand potential risk events, and factor those risks into management of the University’s strategic plan. Risk management involves extensive cooperation and knowledge-sharing: risk events across the University are deeply interconnected, and risk and compliance issues impact the University’s strategic plan every day. So it’s key that we share risk and internal control knowledge across functions and departments to obtain best practices. To this end, Administration & Finance has enlisted the help of Grace Crickette, a leader in enterprise risk management, to form an Audit, Risk and Compliance (ARC) team that will manage risk and identify appropriate controls with a balanced, campus-wide view. The team’s mission: minimize hazards, influence and control uncertainties, and manage opportunities. Their motto: “Risk Knowledge Ensures Strategy Happens!” To learn more contact gracec@sfsu.edu.

As part of an ongoing commitment to maintaining the diversity of the SF State community, team members from A&F attended San Francisco’s 15th Annual Diversity Employment Day Career Fair on May 28. The fair provides opportunities for candidates from multicultural and diverse communities to meet and interview for careers in the Bay Area. This year A&F colleagues from Human Resources, University Property Management, and Information Technology Services attended to recruit future employees and introduce them to SF State’s unique culture of inclusion and opportunity.

“Maintaining a strong presence at events that highlight diversity is key to recruiting top talent,” said Director of Talent Management & Compensation Solutions Jeanette Peralta. Robin Bates, Assistant Director of Talent Management and Compensation Solutions, added, “I thoroughly enjoy sharing how SF State can be a great place to work for those who are looking for a professional environment that will allow them to grow, learn and make valuable and visible contributions to society.”

Throughout the year, Human Resources attends a variety of recruitment events to promote the diversity of our campus, and to find the best talent and support for our students, faculty, and staff.
What brought you to San Francisco State? I was evaluating my career options and I was going by the university and I thought “that might be an interesting place to work” … I did not have any experience working in higher education before so I reviewed the website and noticed the position, and thought I would apply and see what happens. Now I am here!

What are your personal interests? I am very involved in Race Walking and Running. I have been a racewalker for over 20 years. I compete and am also a certified racewalking judge with USA Track and Field. My next competition is in Lyon, France in August. I am going to be competing in the 10K racewalk which is a 6.2 miles. The training keeps me pretty busy and, hopefully, in good shape.

What three words would you use to describe yourself? Open-minded, Loyal, and Supportive.

Tell us something interesting about your career. There have been a couple of memorable moments. The first is surviving Public Accounting. I worked for a firm that had many bank audit clients and we did a lot of audits in the winter on the north coast in Eureka, and it was always a challenge to drive up there; especially during the rainy season. We were always wondering if we were going to get through the mud slides or floods, and that made it an interesting trip each year. They were interesting clients but it was definitely a challenge with the travel and the hours; I ultimately got the reward at the end which was my CPA license. Prior to public accounting, I also worked in Finance at a medical malpractice insurance company and that was interesting because whenever I would go for a doctor’s appointment and they asked what I did for a living and I told them where I worked – I found I received the best medical care of my life!

What are some facts you would like to share about your family? I grew up on 2 acres in Vallejo, CA, where my mother stills lives today. I grew up around livestock, plus I had my own pony so it was quite an interesting experience compared to other friends who lived in areas who had their neighbors much closer than ours. We had chickens and goats so there was never a need to go to the store. I grew up eating fresh eggs and goat milk.

Anything to say about your time at SFSU since starting this May? I found everyone to be very welcoming, friendly and willing to help whenever I have questions or anything comes up; it’s been a very good experience so far.

Cristobal Ferrusca has been working at SF State as a custodian for more than three years. He is assigned to work in the library building, where he has learned how to operate a variety of cleaning equipment, from push-behind floor scrubbers to riding vacuum cleaners. One doesn’t have to spend much time with Cristobal and his coworkers to realize that his positive attitude is contagious.

“I enjoy working at the University in the custodial department because I work with a great group of people in a pleasant environment. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend Employee University ESL classes. I am currently enrolled in my second semester and I am planning to continue taking classes to improve my English skills. The University allows us to further our education as well as improve ourselves in every way. I am also proud to contribute to making SF State a great place for its students through the work that I do.”

Cristobal is the proud father of a beautiful 3 ½ month-old baby boy, and future Giants fan, Giancarlo.
Leah Filamour took a moment to capture some of Camille’s fondest memories of her tenure at SF State.

With sadness and appreciation, the Administration & Finance team recently said farewell to a valued team member, Camille Tualaulelei, as she launches into the next exciting era in her life—retirement! Her tenure at SF State has been robust, and her retirement well-earned. Before departing, Camille took a moment to share some memories about her time at the University with Leah Filamour.

“I first worked for Al Sartor, Director of Business Operations (Procurement, Purchasing, Mail Services, Receiving, Reprographics) and I was his Secretary for seven years. Telecommunications for Michael Grodzizki, Director of Telecommunications, was my next venture, where I also did billing for student phones in the dorms.” From there, Camille moved to the Vice President’s Office, where her tenure was steeped in SF State history as she assisted four Vice Presidents—Don Scoble, VP Administration & Finance; Leroy Morishita, Executive VP & CFO; Nancy Hayes, Interim VP Administration & Finance, and Ron Cortez, VP & CFO. All-in-all, she spent 19 years working in the Office of the VP & CFO.

When asked to reflect upon her career highlights, Camille said fondly, “The people that I worked with and the memories and friendships that I have formed,” adding “We’re at a university and we’re here for the students. I always took pride in working at SF State because of all the students that benefit and attend here. I grew up here, had kids, got married, and created friendships that will last forever.”

What is Camille most looking forward to in her retirement? For those who know her well, her response comes as no surprise: “Being with my grandbaby and family, and competing and teaching with my dance group.”

We wish her well.

Talent Spotlight: Thomas Lollini

Thomas Lollini has been selected for the position of senior associate vice president, Physical Planning & Development. Tom joins the Administration & Finance team from UC Merced, where he has served as associate vice chancellor, Physical Planning, Design & Construction since 2005. He has more than two decades of leadership experience in facilities planning, design and construction in higher education, both public and private, and he has received more than 50 regional and national awards for design excellence, leadership and sustainable design.

In his new role, Tom will lead one of the University’s largest and most dynamic divisions, which includes Facilities Service Enterprises, Capital Planning Design and Construction and University Property Management. He earned a Master of Architecture with distinction from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and is a registered Architect in California and an LEED Accredited Professional. He has served as Adjunct Faculty at the UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design.