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AND A PRESIDENT**

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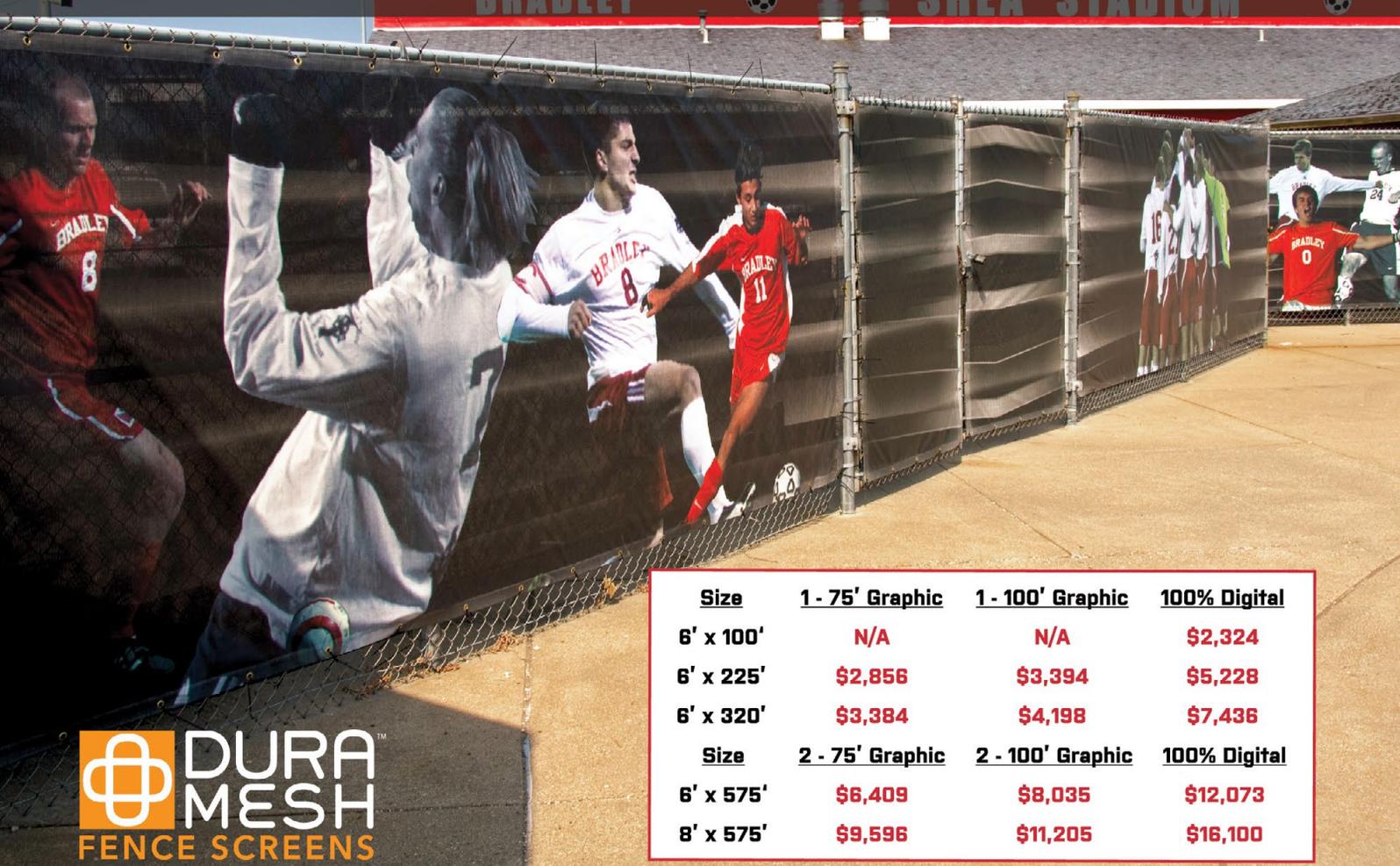
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## LIBERAL ARTS IS ALIVE

by Sheila Wagner

Pushing against the concept that liberal arts are obsolete, many educators suggest the most important skill developed in college is learning how to learn—as students grow in developing flexibility, judgment, and common sense.

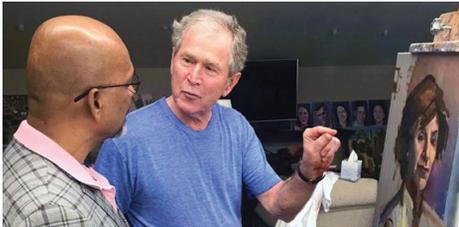


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by Brandon Gilliland

As colleges and universities work to fine-tune a variety of responses to crisis situations, fire safety policies and procedures have become an integral part of campus planning to preserve life and property.



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by Rachel Clevenger

Methodist University professor Vilas Tonape recently visited President George W. Bush and Laura Bush at their home in Dallas, Texas, after one of Tonape's former professors—Jim Woodson—referred him to President Bush as an expert in portraiture.



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## PLANNING FOR NEW OR RENOVATED ATHLETIC FACILITIES

by Nik Ditzler

To properly inform operational decisions in a university fitness or recreation center, a mobile platform should facilitate real-time data collection on facility and equipment usage, occupancy, and attendance rates—while allowing for corresponding reports.

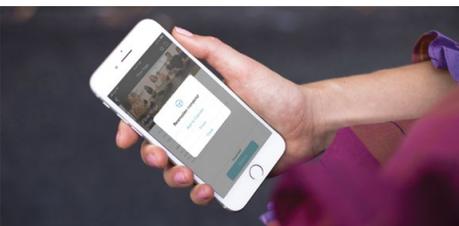


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## PUTTING PAPER IN ITS PLACE: THE CASE FOR HAND DRYERS

by William Gagnon

In a high-traffic building, the perpetual, twofold mission for facility managers is clear: go green and save green. When facility managers think about potential areas for eco-friendly improvement, restrooms may not immediately come to mind.



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## TECHNOLOGY NEEDS TO RENOVATE CAMPUS RECREATION

by Rachel Koretsky

Sports facilities and gymnasiums can be critical components of a student and athlete recruitment program, thus private colleges and universities must consider these additions or renovations carefully before making an investment.

# EDITOR'S LETTER

This month's professor spotlight, featuring Methodist University's Professor Vilas Tonape's recent visit with President George W. Bush, was nearly completed before word of Barbara Bush's failing health was making the headlines. Though I would have been saddened by the news no matter when it came, I was especially affected because working on the story with Vilas—who is a masterful storyteller—had left me with powerful impressions of the fun, feisty, mischievous former president and the ever-graceful, sweet, slyly witty former first lady.

Barbara Bush's illness, her passing, and her husband's subsequent hospitalization were all happening so quickly, and I imagined their pain, fear, and grief. I sympathized. I empathized. I worried for them and held them in my mind and heart, because—in my world, the world I choose to inhabit—that is how humans react to other humans and their pain.

Then, because stories and respectful memorials that praise a woman's achievements aren't clickbait, my news feed was quickly tainted with a different kind of story. A Fresno State University English instructor, Randa Jarrar, was filling her personal twitter page with comments about Barbara Bush's death, lines that included being happy "the witch is dead"; in addition to accusing Barbara of raising a "war criminal," she added that she "can't wait for the rest of their family to fall to their demise the way 1.5 million Iraqis have."

A few days later, she offered an online news outlet, "The Cut," her take on the people suggesting her timing and rhetoric were inappropriate at best and horrifying at worst; she responded that she wasn't the first person to call Barbara Bush racist but "women of color routinely have their tone policed, their justified anger painted as hatred, and their criticism of injustice framed as racism toward white people."

In response to a petition calling for Jarrar to be fired, although the university leadership noted the disgraceful nature of the timing and the comments, President Joseph Castro argued that while her remarks were insensitive, embarrassing to the university, and inappropriate that they were protected by the First Amendment; he added, "At Fresno State, we encourage opinions and ideas to be expressed in a manner that informs, enlightens, and educates without being disparaging of others."

Putting First Amendment protections aside, which absolutely can't be argued against, I think any rational person would agree there was nothing informative, enlightening, or educational about this English instructor's purpose in that moment. As someone who leans left, I feel compelled to speak out for two reasons:

First, in responding to a well-deserved public rebuking for her tweets, for her own selfish (and completely illogical) purposes, she undermined a crucial socio-political, cultural message that women, especially women of color, have been working to publicize. Women of color indeed have had their tone policed, but the public response to her inflammatory rhetoric is not about tone; people are responding to the lack of human decency. They are condemning the callous way she used the coverage of a matriarch's funeral to draw attention to herself—using another woman's death to gain twitter celebrity.

Secondly, while this educator's moment in the national spotlight may seem like an isolated event, this doesn't feel like a tempest in a teapot. Instead, this incident feels like one drop of the violent storm that is working to consume us all, a mindless fury that creates a fog—a war of words—that is engulfing us. I can't be the only one who is exhausted by our seeming inability to stop verbally slashing at one another: the juvenile name-calling, the gleeful responses to another person's pain, and the pointless, craven, spewing of hatred on both sides of a political fence.

From a political standpoint, I did not agree with much of the policy put in place during either Bush administration, but none of that matters right now. I felt sad for the children, the grandchildren, and the husband who lost their touchstone. I felt hopeful that she was—as one lovely drawing illustrated—now reunited with the daughter she had lost years ago. The love we have for our families may be the only remaining tie that binds us to one another, the one artifact from a time that slipped away bit by bit and then all at once.

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*Professor Vilas Tonape is an internationally recognized artist and educator. A native of India, Tonape received his BFA from the Sir J.J. School of Art in Bombay and his MFA in Painting from Texas Christian University. Currently, he chairs the department of art at North Carolina's Methodist University, while holding an ongoing workshop series every summer in India. Recently, Professor Emeritus Jim Woodson—one of Tonape's "American Gurus"—recommended Tonape to an art lover who was interested in learning more about portraiture: This is how Tonape ended up in Dallas, art supplies in hand, ready to spend an afternoon with Laura and George W. Bush.*

## PROFESSOR SPOTLIGHT

by Rachel Clevenger

# Methodist University: Portraiture and a President

## Gurus and the Gift of Knowledge

A guru, in the most general terms, is a darkness dispeller, an educator capable of guiding a willing learner to a place of self-awareness and enlightenment. While a teacher may guide a student in lessons and provide capable instruction, a guru helps students connect with something inside themselves.

Tonape notes that in life, there are three important entities: Parents, who gave life; God, who created the universe; and a Guru/Teacher, who can help others find their right path.

Inscribed on an Award of Appreciation plaque from Texas Christian University, a prized item that currently holds a place of honor in Tonape's office, is a phrase that highlights the unmatched relevance of that third entity: "The teacher is the one who has the facility to put you on the right path."

Raised and schooled in India, Tonape grew up viewing a Guru/Teacher as one deserving of the highest reverence. He also believes that a meaningful education is not something that can be purchased. The opportunities he was offered to work with teachers who became his gurus were not accidental or the whims of fate; instead, he argues, these were instances of good fortune where he was blessed.

He also stresses that knowledge is not something that can be bought or sold. In other words, it doesn't matter how much tuition is paid because, as Tonape explains, "Knowledge and wisdom can only be a gift."

Nathan Seay, a former student of Tonape's who now teaches in Portland, wrote to his mentor about the profound impact Tonape had on his art and his life, sharing how appreciative, humbled, inspired, and grateful he is to have worked with Tonape as his teacher.

Seay writes, "You once told me that the teacher's role is to simply remove the dust revealing the gold that is already there, but I can tell you with one hundred percent certainty that if it were not for you, that gold would remain buried until the day I die."

## A Teaching Junkie

Tonape, who calls himself a "teaching junkie," says he would give a class in the middle of a mall if the opportunity arose, and he's proven that claim to be true with his devotion to students in India and in the U.S.

His video series that shares invaluable techniques and lessons has inspired countless artists, and he is vigilant at maintaining learning communities, whether face-to-face or virtual.

ProfT was designed to offer art instruction to learners of all ages and provide consultation on artistic initiatives and art exhibitions. Their mission is to inspire and engage newcomers to art with an educational experience that is systematic and structured, and they are guided by the ideal that every student has a right to learn, as well as the right to a high-quality education. Currently—as they do each year since the group was formed—ProfT is offering a May and June 2018 series of lectures, workshops, and demonstrations in India.

## Building Cross-Cultural Virtual Communities

He also found a way to broaden his reach using a social media platform. ProfT Studio Art Education, a facebook group, has nearly 14,000 members. Tonape uses the page to offer advice, share art, share demonstration videos, and interact with anyone who is devoted to learning more about the craft. The group is about sixty percent Indian students and forty percent American students, Tonape estimates.

Inside the ProfT Studio Art Education group, former and current students share their experiences with ProfT workshops and the impact those classes had on their lives.



Mahua Chakraborty notes that Professor Tonape is like a tree trunk, and his students are the branches of the tree. Neeta Deshpande adds that she feels blessed to have an opportunity to learn from Tonape, who she calls an energetic, down-to-earth, wonderful person who manages to charge everyone around him in a pool of energy.

Swapnil Darvandar comments that the word “guru” has a direct connection to so many of their hearts, and no one has made a stronger connection as a guru—someone who can lead others on a path towards their own success—than Tonape. Mithu Basu adds that Tonape’s observations of the art world, from the west where he lives and teaches and from India where he was raised and first developed as an artist, offer “gems of his accrued wisdom.”

### An Artist, an American Guru, and an American President

Professor Jim Woodson, Professor Emeritus at Texas Christian University, was one of Tonape’s educators during his MFA studies and is one

As Tonape focused on capturing the first lady’s visage, President Bush would joke, “Oh, I wish you would finish that eye.” Eventually, the artist relaxed enough to offer retorts and engage in the fun. Noting that the professor is supposed to harass the students, not the other way around, Tonape told Bush, “You’re going to get a bill from the therapist.”

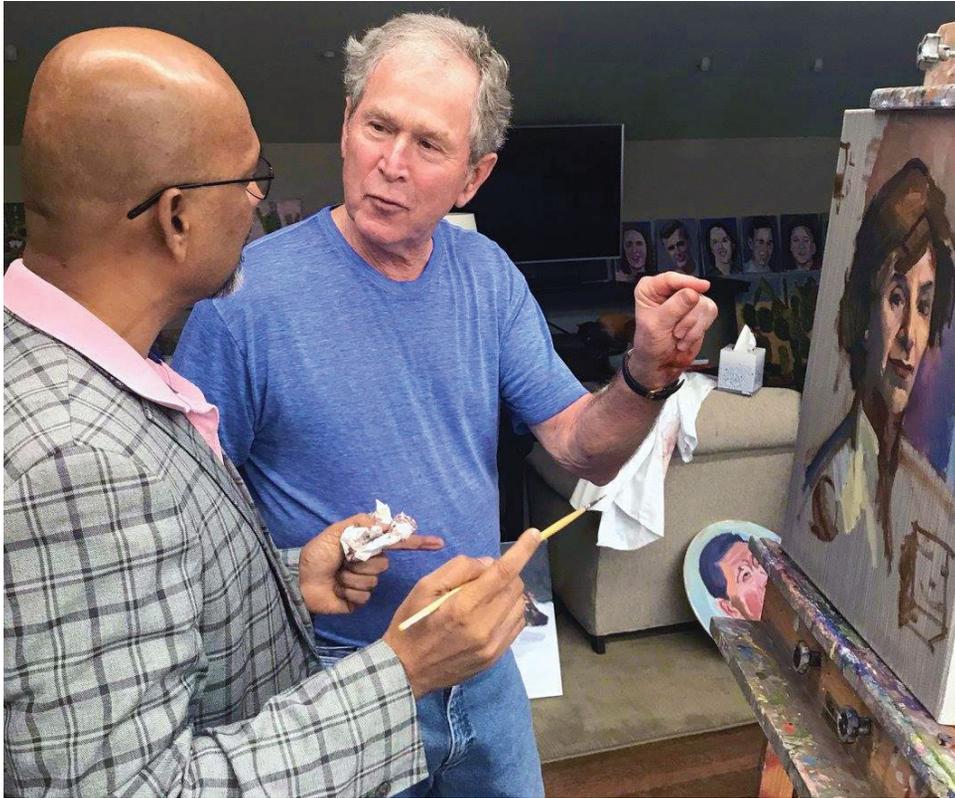
of Tonape’s two “American Gurus.” Woodson had worked with President George W. Bush on some of his projects before, so when Bush expressed a desire to learn more about portraiture, Woodson shared one of Tonape’s YouTube demonstrations with him.

When Woodson later called Tonape to see if he would like to visit with the Bushes at their

home in Dallas, the response was immediate: “Just say when and where. When and where is all you gotta say.”

### A Monumental Moment

When President Bush came out to welcome his guest, Tonape’s first thought was, “Holy moly, he’s in shorts and a t-shirt.” Bush surprised



him when he took Tonape's box of art supplies to carry inside for him, an act that demonstrated both humility and kindness.

Admitting that he was never fully comfortable during the demonstration, Tonape would try to "focus on the teaching" in order to distract himself from the "magnitude of the event."

Adding even more significance to the moment was that Tonape's mentor was watching over his shoulder as he demonstrated his portraiture process to President Bush, and former first lady Laura Bush would be his subject.

Rightly intuiting that his former student was working to quell his nerves by putting on "his professorial cap" and slipping into the language of academia to focus his nervous energy, Woodson encouraged Tonape to just start painting and let President Bush watch him work.

### Building a Face

Woodson explains that Tonape's training in India allows him to see how the structure

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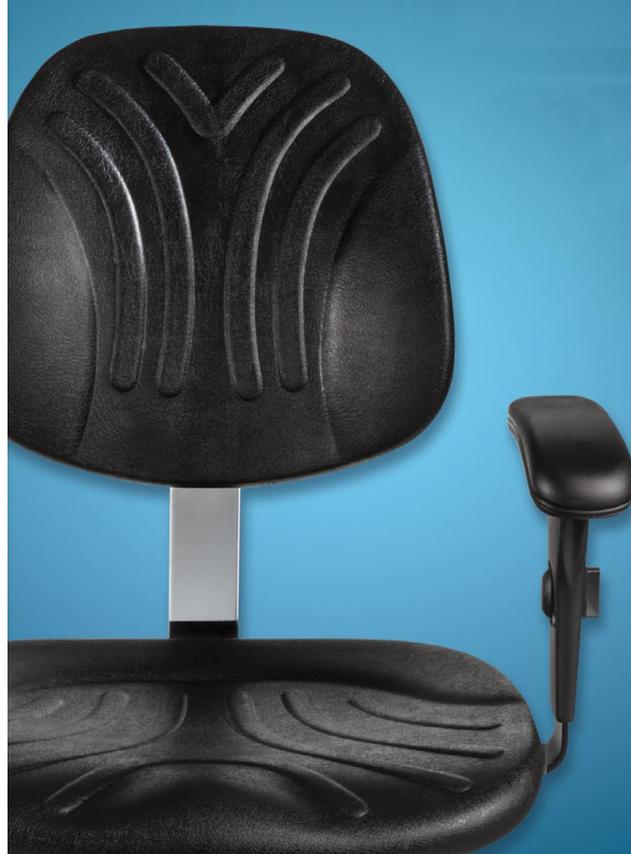


works within a face, and he was fascinated by the opportunity to watch his former student—now an award-winning artist—design this portrait in person. “The way it starts,” he notes, “is something very different than where he ends up.”

Illustrating his process with an analogy, Tonape begins working on portraits the way a contractor approaches a building. He explains that he will spend a short amount of time on one eye, then shift to the nose, and then work on the other eye.

“You keep moving around,” he explains—in the same way that a contractor would work on the entire house: not build the bedroom completely, before beginning to build the kitchen.

Professor Woodson and President Bush stood behind Tonape, and both—as Woodson explains—were intent on teasing the artist, working to help him feel comfortable. As Tonape focused on capturing the first lady’s visage, President Bush would joke, “Oh, I wish you would finish that eye.”



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Eventually, the artist relaxed enough to offer retorts and engage in the fun. Noting that the professor is supposed to harass the students, not the other way around, Tonape told Bush, “You’re going to get a bill from the therapist.”

### Chicken Fried Steak and the Pearly Gates Defense

One of the anecdotes that best illustrates Tonape’s humor and wit comes from one of his first outings in the U.S. When Tonape joined a group of colleagues for a meal, he ordered Chicken Fried Steak. One bite in, and he thought, “Wait a minute—this is not chicken.”

However, the issue was not solely the accidental misstep of one bite, the result of an honest mistake. The problem was larger: he loved it.

He theorized that if someone were to kill one person or ten people, he or she would certainly go to the electric chair—thus, if hell is the end result, he reasoned that he “might as well eat the whole cow.”

Thus, he began working on what he calls his “Pearly Gates” defense, which is based on the compartmentalization of academic disciplines.

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He notes, for instance, that we wouldn't put a Journalism class in the Chemistry department, and we wouldn't be teaching Chemistry in the Journalism department. Logically, he offers, "When I ate beef, I was in the department of Jesus."

Once Tonape had quelled his nerves—as he focused on his artistry and passion for teaching, fully engaging the iconic figures who were ultimately just regular people enjoying an afternoon with a talented artist—he felt comfortable enough to share this charming, self-deprecating story with the Bushes. They loved it.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Dr. Rachel James

Clevenger earned her M.Ed. degree from

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## ATHLETIC FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND SAFETY

by Nik Ditzler

# Planning for New or Renovated Athletic Facilities and Limiting Risk

Sports facilities and gymnasiums can be critical components of a student and athlete recruitment program, and—before making an investment—private colleges and universities must consider these additions or renovations carefully before making an investment. Of course, participant and spectator safety must play a primary role in the design and selection of gymnasium equipment, regardless of the intended level of play that the facility attracts.

### Engaging Leaders, Managers, and Facility Users

As your university begins planning for a new athletic facility or planning to renovate older facilities, a team of executive leadership, athletic directors, facility managers, and potential facility users should be actively involved in the process of brainstorming, planning, and operationalizing a potential new space. Keeping stakeholders involved ensures the finished product fits the needs of the institution, while involving external experts keeps experienced professionals in the process to help control costs and improve the user experience.

Think through how your space will be used. Consider the demographics of your students and staff as well as the potential for community involvement and adapt your plans accordingly. Certain ages and experience levels have preferences for certain sports and geography will play a role in how popular certain sports might be in your facility. Parking, weather, nearby amenities, and more will affect attendance, especially when considering seasonality and daily fluctuations.

Think ahead to possible future phases that maybe aren't in the budget right now. Trends in sports and fitness are a challenge to keep up with. Ideally, you can plan your sports facility to allow for multiple uses in the same spaces now and in the future. Portable equipment might be a good investment even if more expensive initially. Additional equipment can be purchased at a later date, but changing flooring and room dimensions makes a future phase difficult and expensive. Also, an

investment in divider curtains can double or triple the usable space for practices and intramural leagues.

If in doubt, ask someone in the industry about the equipment questions you have (e.g. manufacturers, installers, dealers). Just as in any project, consulting experts in the field can make the difference between a successful ribbon cutting and "failure" (expensive delays or redesigns). You'll likely find that the sports industry is an open, friendly one where the product engineers, installers, and company owners will answer any questions so that you can have the best information on which to base your decisions.

Consider space available for set-up and storage of equipment. Often overlooked in the planning stage, the allocation of equipment storage and set-up space is just as important as the public play areas. Remember, those portable basketball systems, volleyball standards, racquets, nets, and balls need a safe place away from public areas, protected from theft and vandalism. An organized system for storage means less damage, fewer injuries, and reduces the likelihood of loss.

As your university begins planning for a new athletic facility or planning to renovate older facilities, a team of executive leadership, athletic directors, facility managers, and potential facility users should be actively involved in the process of brainstorming, planning, and operationalizing a potential new space. Keeping stakeholders involved ensures the finished product fits the needs of the institution, while involving external experts keeps experienced professionals in the process to help control costs and improve the user experience.

### Limit Risk Exposure: Sports Facility Inspection and Maintenance

Given the long lifespan of a college gymnasium, spending a little more on advanced planning and a small additional investment will result in a significant ROI both in terms of safety and future equipment maintenance costs. It's never good practice to wait for an injury or a report from your Loss Control Department or insurance company to take action for improved safety. There are tips that will help you and

your design and selection team maximize safety in your facility whether it's new construction, a major renovation, or equipment replacement.

### Court Layout

The greater the unobstructed area outside the court, the greater the player safety. Ideally, the minimum unobstructed space would be at least 10' on all four (4) sides outside the court boundaries. If space does not permit these setbacks, then it is important to concentrate on having maximum unobstructed space beyond the

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boundary lines under the basketball goals and to provide appropriate padding on all obstructions including walls, columns, stages, and seating.

## Wall Padding

In all cases when the court design results in a wall or similar obstruction within 15' from the court boundary under the basketball goal,

it is highly advisable to install wall padding to protect players from contact injury. While there is a wide variety of wall padding designs and specifications, all wall padding is typically at least 2" thick and 6' high and, per NCAA rules, should be installed no more than 4" from the floor. Typical padding designs have a wood backing, medium density foam and a colored

vinyl covering. All major gym equipment manufacturers can provide guidance on wall padding specifications including flame retardancy, foam resiliency and other safety related features. In some cases, states have adapted specific codes that must be followed.

## Equipment Positioning

NCAA rules specify where on the court volleyball standards and basketball backstops will be positioned. In the case of volleyball, standards should be at least 1 meter (3' 3") from the outside of the sidelines. This would result in the center line of the posts being at least 36' apart. Most manufacturing instructions call for this to be 37'.

In the case of basketball, the rules state that the face of the backboard is positioned 48" from the end line to allow appropriate space for safe play under the backboard. Any support structure, whether portable, wall-mounted or ceiling suspended is not allowed to protrude below the bottom of the backboard for a distance of at least 8' behind the backboard.

## Restraining Devices on Retractable Ceiling or Wall Mount Structures

Due to the multipurpose nature of most facilities, it is common to have sports equipment such as backstops, batting cages, volleyball standards and divider curtains retract to the ceiling or wall when not in use. Typically, designs use electric hoists with cables and pulleys. While not likely due to durable design by reputable manufacturers, it is possible especially in the case of older equipment and improperly installed equipment, for components or attachments to fail allowing the structure to free fall. All manufacturers offer safety devices that act like "seat belts" to restrain the equipment in cases of cable detachment or other failures.

## Backboard Selection

While fan shaped backboards are acceptable for recreational play, most facilities specify rectangular glass backboards. While 48" high x 72" wide glass backboards are permitted, 42" x 72" backboards are recommended as there is 6" less backboard hanging down below the 10' official rim height lessening the likelihood of player contact.

Improvements have been made by manufacturers of glass backboards in recent years that has reduced the risk of backboard breakage. Many manufacturers now offer backboards that have effectively eliminated any stress on the glass caused by dunks or players hanging on the rim. Usually there is a very small extra cost associated with selecting these "unbreakable" backboards with lifetime warranties as compared to older, standard designs.

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## Multi-Court Facilities

Since floor space is at a premium, it is often appropriate to operate more than one court in a facility. Multiple games being played on adjacent courts create risks for players due to increased distractions and when the game ball crosses into the other court. Court divider nets can help reduce this risk, and a variety of styles and price points are available.

## Floor Surfaces

There are a wide variety of sports floors available, and some are better than others for specific sports. Consult your flooring specialist to see what flooring is best for your facility. Budget is often a consideration but make sure to consider factors such as skid resistance, resiliency, and other factors that affect player safety. Always keep the floor well maintained to eliminate slips and falls and investigate floor covers when non-sports activities are planned on sports flooring.

## Inspection and Maintenance

Even the best equipment needs regular inspection and maintenance when appropriate. Regularly inspect all padding, retractor cables, connecting hardware and other features for loose or worn parts. If desired, there are local and regional gym installation companies that will, for a fee, come and inspect your gym for any possible defects and do the maintenance and replacement work necessary to increase safety.

## Facility Supervision

Finally, one of the most common safety risks in sports facilities is the lack of supervision. Most injuries occur due to improper use of equipment that is otherwise safe. Posting signage that govern player behavior and warning of specific safety risks can have a positive impact on safety if combined with adequate facility oversight and facility maintenance.

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**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Nik Ditzler is

Director of Bison, Inc.'s Specified Products Group, headquartered in Lincoln,

Nebraska. For over 30 years, Bison, IPI by Bison, and brp by bison have provided innovative, safe and sustainable products to schools, park districts, rec centers and private clubs for indoor and outdoor sports and recreation activities.

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## SUSTAINABILITY AND MAINTENANCE

by William Gagnon

### Putting Paper In Its Place: The Case For High-Speed, Energy-Efficient Hand Dryers

In a high-traffic building, the perpetual, twofold mission for facility managers is clear: go green and save green. When facility managers think about potential areas for eco-friendly improvement, restrooms may not immediately come to mind. In fact, if it has manual paper-towel dispensers, filled with recycled-fiber paper towels, managers proudly reason that the lavatory is as green as grass. Regarding the other, traditional green, thoughts about restrooms may border on resignation: They are a messy, demanding cause of particular expense—and always will be.

#### Blowing Away False Beliefs

The facts on this matter blow away the false beliefs. The environmental impact of paper towels begins with their production and continues long after their use. High-speed, energy-efficient hand dryers offer a 95 percent cost savings versus paper towels, eliminating the associated labor, maintenance and waste. These hand dryers use significantly less energy than paper towels, which require 10 times the amount of energy as the dryers per hand dry and represents a 90 percent energy savings compared to paper towels.

The manufacturer of the original, patented, high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryer, who is also a leader in sustainability, was the first to commission a comparative product Life Cycle Assessment of this type of hand dryer (peer-reviewed to ISO 14040 standards). The LCA confirmed that this innovative product reduces the carbon footprint of hand drying up to 75 percent versus even 100 percent recycled paper towels.

The environmental claims were later substantiated by the publication of the hand dryer industry's first Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs). An Environmental Product Declaration is a standardized way of quantifying the environmental impact of a product by studying the raw materials and energy consumption during its production, use and disposal. EPDs are a disclosure tool that helps purchasers better understand a product's sustainable qualities and environmental repercussions so that they can make more informed product selections.

### If Towels Could Talk

In a side-by-side comparison, an electrical appliance looks costlier and more power hungry than a roll of recycled paper. Therein lies the deception. Though silent and plain to the eye, a paper towel would tell quite a tale if it could do so. It is important to understand the full journey of a restroom paper towel use. Where did the unassuming brown sheet come from, and where will it end up?

Typically, a paper towel's short life cycle looks like this:

The environmental impact of paper towels begins with their production and continues long after their use. High-speed, energy-efficient hand dryers offer a 95 percent cost savings versus paper towels, eliminating the associated labor, maintenance and waste.

**Material production:** Today, most paper comes from reasonably sustainable sources, either recycled materials or commercially grown forests. However, trees must still be cut (for virgin paper), and recycled materials must be collected, sorted, cleaned and processed.

**Transportation:** Trucks must carry tons of logs and other raw materials to production sites, deliver cases of the finished product to businesses and regularly carry away the used product (read: trash).

**Manufacturing process:** All paper is born through mechanical or chemical pulping, then sorted and packaged utilizing any number of

materials. Again, though much greener than in decades past, these processes inevitably impact the environment.

**Use:** Here is where paper towels may seem to earn their green star. They do not expend much energy on the job, but what end users do not see is the energy it took just to reach the workplace. Moreover, once used, who knows where the towel goes. Did that toss even reach the trash bin? Paper towels can make quite a mess of restrooms, littering the floor, blocking sink drains and, for a bonus expense, clogging toilets. Then, after a string of high-maintenance situations, there's the constant, costly restocking.

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Some take the term recycled to mean recyclable. Unfortunately, they say very different things. Even a 100 percent recycled paper towel—that is, one entirely made from recycled content—has no postconsumer value. Unless its weave also contains fibers of gold, a used paper towel is destined for one place: the landfill. As one can see, a paper towel incurs a host of monetary and environmental costs at each phase of life.

**End of life:** Some take the term recycled to mean recyclable. Unfortunately, they say very different things. Even a 100 percent recycled paper towel—that is, one entirely made from recycled content—has no postconsumer value. Unless its weave also contains fibers of gold, a used paper towel is destined for one place: the landfill.

As one can see, a paper towel incurs a host of monetary and environmental costs at each phase of life. Unlike a single investment in high-efficiency hand dryers, a commitment to

stocking paper towels means an endless loop of repetition and expense, from creation through disposal. The many facilities worldwide that have switched from paper towels to the original, patented, high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryer have happily ended this resource-sucking cycle for good.

### Green and Clean

While the cost-savings and environmental benefits of high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryers are clear, there are many misconceptions

about the hygienic efficacy of different hand drying methods. It is vital that distributors and end-users be comfortable and assured that high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryers are both sustainable and hygienic, as evidenced by the findings of independent, third-party testing conducted by several leading institutions: Mayo Clinic, Antimicrobial Test Laboratories and Laval University.

First of all, The Mayo Clinic's comprehensive study comparing four different hand drying methods regarding the removal of bacteria from washed hands concluded, "There are no differences in the efficiencies of removing bacteria from washed hands when hands are dried using paper towels, cloth towels, warm forced air or spontaneous evaporation."

Secondly, the manufacturer of the original, patented, high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryer called on the expertise of microbiologist Dr. Benjamin Tanner, president and CEO of Antimicrobial Test Laboratories (now Microchem Laboratory), to conduct a study to assess the bacteria level comparisons for this type of hand dryer versus paper towels. The study evaluated bacteria levels on the hands of volunteers who washed their hands



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While the cost-savings and environmental benefits of high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryers are clear, there are many misconceptions about the hygienic efficacy of different hand drying methods. It is vital that distributors and end-users be comfortable and assured that high-speed, energy-efficient hand dryers are both sustainable and hygienic, as evidenced by the findings of independent, third-party testing conducted by several leading institutions.

then dried them with either paper towels or a high-efficiency hand dryer with the HEPA Filtration System. This system creates a clean air flow by removing 99.97 percent of bacteria at 0.3 microns from the air stream, providing a hygienic hand drying experience with the added benefit of improved air quality in the room. The results indicated that the method of hand drying—paper towel or hand dryer—did not significantly affect bacteria levels on hands.

Next, an international study from Laval University in Quebec and published in *The American Journal of Infection Control* found 17 species of bacteria on unused, recycled paper

towels. The conclusion of that study states, “This pilot study demonstrated that a large community of culturable bacteria, including toxin producers, can be isolated from unused paper towels and that they may be transferred to individuals after hand washing. It may have implications in some industrial and clinical settings as well as in immunocompromised individuals.”

### Throwing in the Towel

Damp, used paper towels pile up in and around restroom trash receptacles on the floor, creating an environment in which bacteria can

thrive, and, when improperly disposed of, can clog toilets and urinals.

Trough-style hand dryers catch and hold water blown off users’ hands, leaving pools of stagnant water where bacteria can additionally grow. Hands-under, high-speed, energy-efficient hand drying is the most efficient and sanitary method for drying hands after washing.

For facility managers pondering new ways to fulfill their green building mission, go ahead and crumple up long-standing myths about the power of paper. Simply put, it is time to throw in the towel.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** William Gagnon

serves as the vice president of marketing and sales at Excel Dryer, Inc., the manufacturer of the original, patented, high-speed, energy-efficient and EPD certified XLERATOR®, XLERATOReco® and ThinAir® Hand Dryers.

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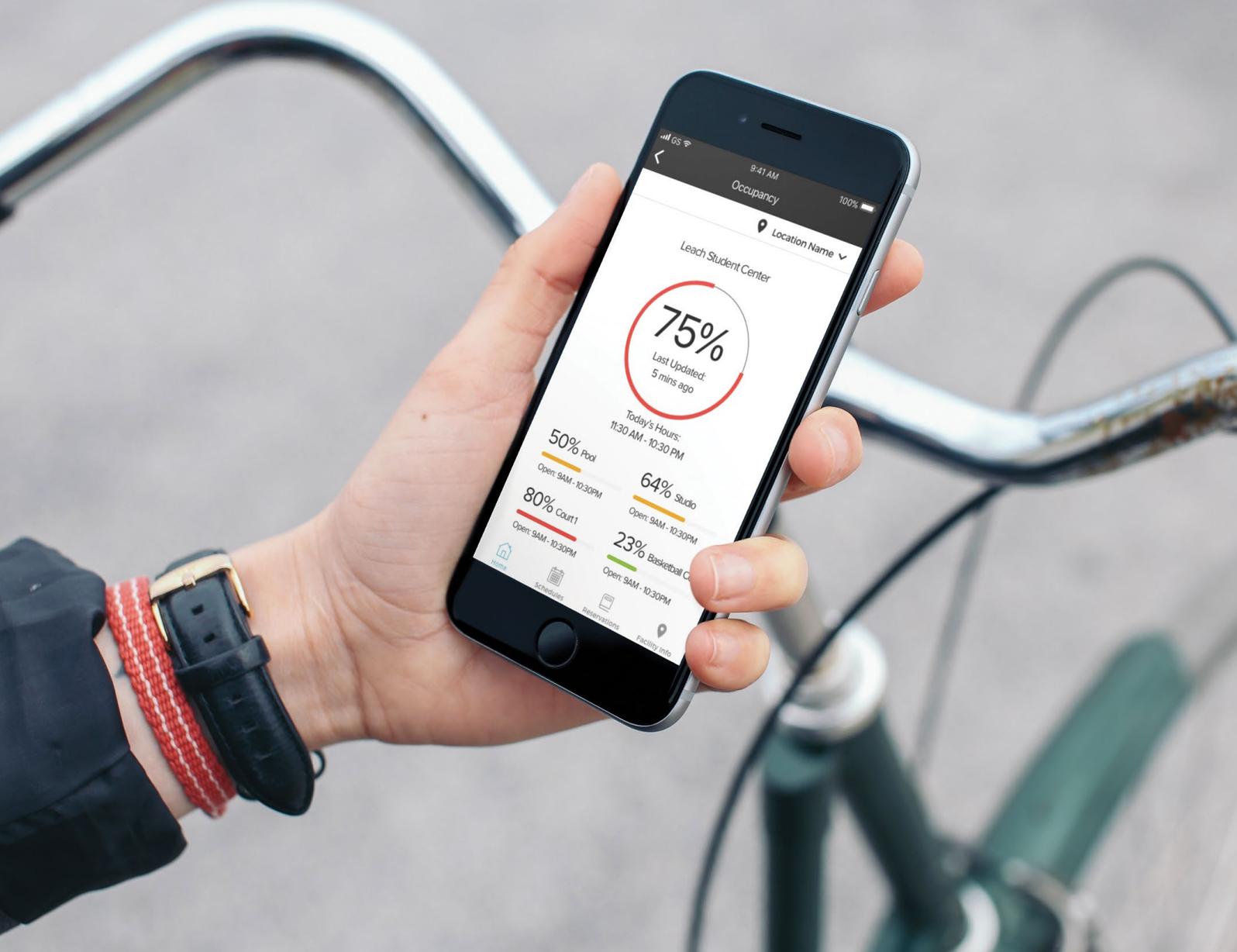
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## Technology Needs to Renovate Campus Recreation

College and university leaders nationwide have slated the next two years for a major push in recreation facilities and services. Whether planning to expand, renovate, or build, they view physical facility upgrades as a way to remain competitive in attracting and retaining students. But, while structural enhancements have their appeal, they don't translate to results like lean operations, effective programs, increased facility usage, and better academic performance.

Technology is the key to achieving those marks. And any college or university recreation center that isn't using technology to automate data collection and analysis is falling behind the curve.

### Grow & Expand Campus Recreation

A shiny new building or addition doesn't have the intended impact if students aren't using the facility and if operations aren't running insightfully. The real goals are how to effectively engage students throughout their matriculation and ensure efficient facility management. Tech-powered data is the answer, and today's fitness apps and mobile platform solutions make that data delivery highly cost-effective.

Pen-and-paper data gathering is obsolete. It decreases staff productivity—not to mention accuracy—and provides little, if any, real benefit to attracting and retaining students. Recreation directors and facility managers need data that is automatically generated by technology. It serves multiple functions and is far more reliable and actionable. It enables informed decision-making that leads to improved staff and facility efficiency alongside increased student loyalty.

If directors and managers can't track how students are using their facilities, they'll miss out on powerful facts and figures that facilitate and expedite:

- Understanding where and when to invest in specific facility expansion and equipment
- Learning how to better manage hours of operation, staffing, and programming
- Utilizing predictive analytics that empower strategic student engagement

Operational decisions and student communications based on hunches or incomplete, inaccurate, or rudimentary data run the risk of failure that results in student loss and budget waste.

### Stay Fiscally Fit

All college and university recreation department directors, in tandem with their rec center and facility managers, are asked to justify their budgets. Whether proposing to add programs and services, purchase new equipment, or undergo extensive renovations and even new construction, any endeavor that's going to cost the school money must have a legitimate need that's provable, and a purpose that aligns with the institution's overall goals. Customized technology provides that proof.

To properly inform operational decisions, a mobile platform should facilitate real-time data collection on facility and equipment usage,

A shiny new building or addition doesn't have the intended impact if students aren't using the facility and if operations aren't running insightfully. The real goals are how to effectively engage students throughout their matriculation and ensure efficient facility management. Tech-powered data is the answer, and today's fitness apps and mobile platform solutions make that data delivery highly cost-effective.

occupancy and attendance rates. Connected to an administrative portal or dashboard, the technology should allow for corresponding reports—complete with options to convert specific data into graphs and charts—that quantify the statistics into actionable information. That way, trends that encapsulate and demonstrate recreation and fitness facility needs can be identified and then justified in the budget submission and review process.

An administrative dashboard can also allow staff to quickly initiate, assign, track,

and draw data from customizable administrative forms. Incident reports, for example, often require staff to set certain stipulations and communication protocols. That can be accomplished easily through an online dashboard and, if the report is marked as an emergency, the dashboard can be configured to automate distribution to the appropriate staff. All of this greatly reduces labor by streamlining the process while increasing accuracy by reducing opportunities for human error.

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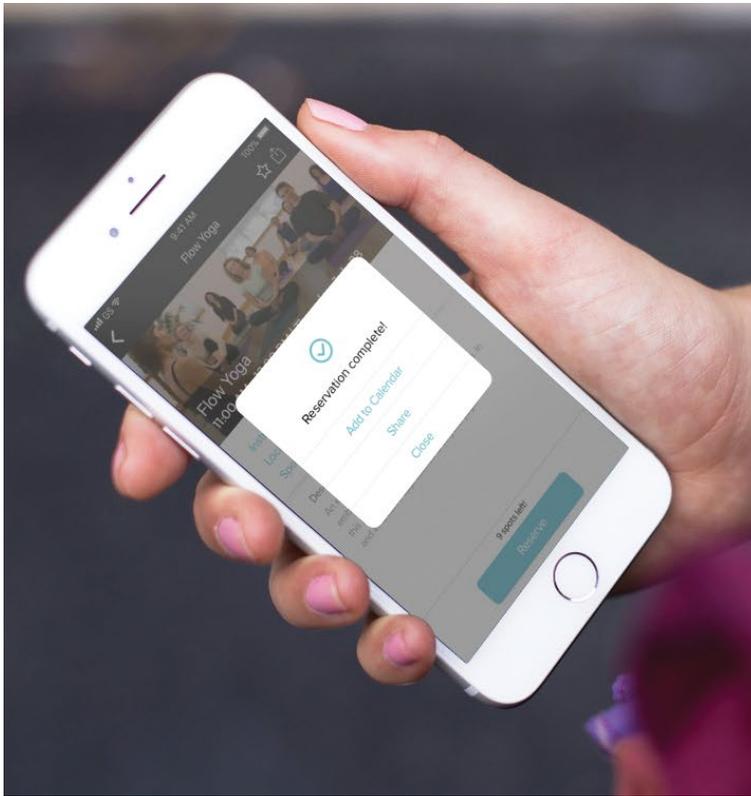
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### Give the Students What They Want

Today's college students love their tech tools and expect – if not demand – that their schools use technology to make their daily life more manageable and convenient. Every student has a smartphone or other mobile device within arms-reach 24/7, and they spend 8-10 hours a day on them. They're also bombarded by an average of 5,000 messages a day, from social media and emails to advertisements and apps. How can a college or university recreation department hope to rise above that noise and grab students' attention?

The trick is strategic messaging that's personalized to the needs and wants of the individual. That's where fitness technology can take what seems an insurmountable challenge and make it achievable. Data on students' center, equipment, and services usage; class attendance; and reservation history—combined with preferences they select on a fitness app—give facility managers a whole picture and allow them to deliver targeted, motivational messages. Those data also empower facility operators, providing predictive analytics that identify when to re-engage a student who has missed several classes in a row or has stopped visiting the center altogether.

In addition, the fitness app should arm students with instantaneous information that helps them stay on track and supports their ideal routines and workout environment. For example, some students prefer a crowded gym because they're driven when surrounded by people who are exercising, or because they want socializing to be part of their visit. Others feel more focused or more comfortable with a smaller crowd.






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Many studies show that students who go to the gym three times a week earn a higher GPA and graduate on time. In turn, higher GPAs and better graduation rates help colleges and universities recruit new students and improve their institutional ranking. So, every tech feature that increases the odds that students remain actively engaged in fitness and recreation represents a win-win.

Whatever the student's preference, a fitness app can offer real-time information, so a person knows whether the current occupancy of the weight room, cardio area or pool matches his or her preference. On campuses that are currently using such technology, students rely on this feature to find their optimal workout time.

Students also require a tech solution that conveys an upbeat energy, has vibrant design, and delivers a seamless user experience. The best solutions allow for staff to add new mobile features and have those immediately appear on the app without requiring students to download an update.

### Win the Desired Results

Many studies show that students who go to the gym three times a week earn a higher GPA and graduate on time. In turn, higher GPAs and better graduation rates help colleges and universities recruit new students and improve their institutional ranking. So, every tech feature that increases the odds that students remain actively engaged in fitness and recreation represents a win-win.

If students can't make class and equipment reservations, and receive reminders and notifications tailored to their preferences—all at their fingertips—the college or university recreation center could easily lose them and all of the related benefits. Conversely, when students feel

they are a valued part of the campus recreation and fitness community, that the staff truly cares about their needs and preferences, they are far more likely to stay engaged and make using the recreation center a priority.

A mobile platform can provide recreation department staff with fast, reliable tools for automating processes while creating a better understanding of students' preferences. As colleges and universities evaluate potential technology partners, it's important to make sure the solution automates data collection that informs decisions and allows for ongoing customization and instantaneous app modifications. Once a school decides on a partner, the platform should do the heavy lifting to better engage students and improve their experience at the recreation center—and it should all start with the touch of a button.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Rachel Koretsky (rachel@upaceapp.com) is the founder and CEO of upace (www.upaceapp.com), a customizable mobile platform that allows fitness and recreation facility operators to effectively engage, communicate with, and retain students as well as efficiently and accurately collect data, distribute forms, and produce analytics.

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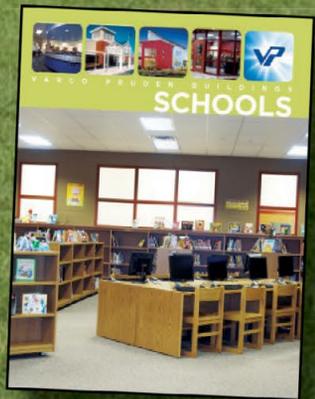
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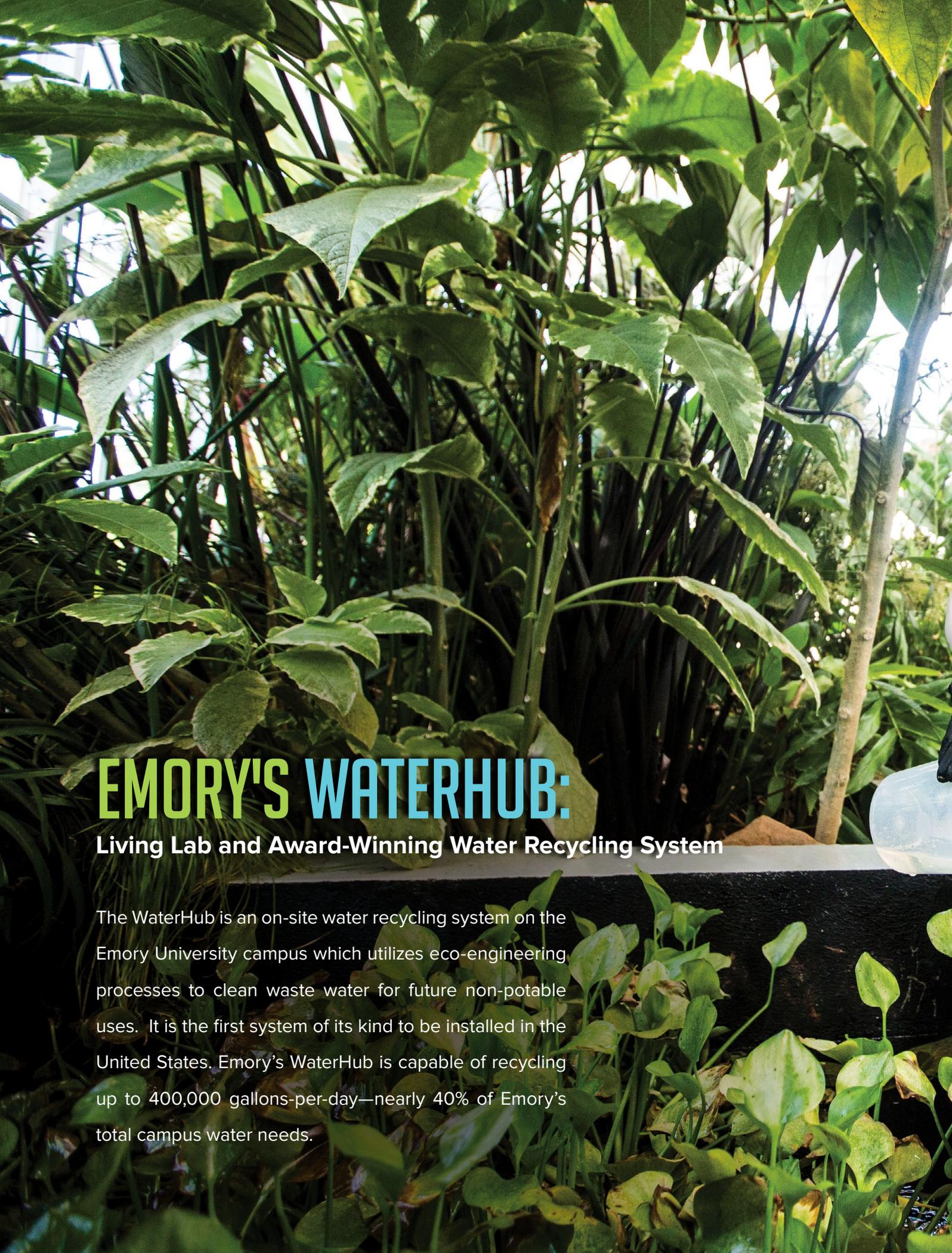
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# EMORY'S WATERHUB:

## Living Lab and Award-Winning Water Recycling System

The WaterHub is an on-site water recycling system on the Emory University campus which utilizes eco-engineering processes to clean waste water for future non-potable uses. It is the first system of its kind to be installed in the United States. Emory's WaterHub is capable of recycling up to 400,000 gallons-per-day—nearly 40% of Emory's total campus water needs.



### Saving Millions in Water Utility Costs

Wastewater cleaned by the WaterHub is used as process make-up water in Emory's steam and chiller plants and for future toilet flushing in select residence halls. The system will reduce Emory's draw of water from Atlanta's municipal water supply by up to 146 million gallons of water annually. The WaterHub includes a 50,000 gallon emergency water reserve which will allow Emory's heating and cooling systems to function for an average of seven hours, depending on seasonal operating demands, in the event of any disruption in water availability.

The WaterHub was made possible by an innovative water purchase agreement between Emory University and Sustainable Water, a water reclamation technology provider. The WaterHub creates lower cost water at a long-term stable rate and is expected to save millions of dollars in water utility costs to Emory over a 20-year period. The WaterHub aligns with the University's vision for a sustainable campus and reduces the overall water demand on one of the smallest municipal watersheds in the United States.

### A Living Lab that Harnesses the Power of Nature

Long before Emory's innovative new water reclamation facility began harnessing the power of nature to clean and recycle wastewater for non-potable uses on campus, the system was already serving as a living laboratory.

Using adaptive ecological technology to naturally break down organic matter in wastewater, the WaterHub is projected to help Emory reclaim some 300,000 gallons of campus wastewater daily, cutting potable water consumption as much as 35 percent and saving the university millions in water utility costs over a 20-year period, according to Matthew Early, vice president for Campus Services.

"Emory is a leader in sustainability," Early says. "With this facility, we're taking a major step forward in becoming one of the first in the nation with this technology for cleaning our own wastewater."

Yet even as the facility was being constructed, it was being put into service—Emory students were beginning to utilize it for research by

monitoring the changing microbiology of wastewater samples as the new project was ramping up.

Analyzing wastewater samples at various stages of treatment afforded rare hands-on exposure to the very kind of field work many of these students will be engaged in, says Christine Moe, Eugene J. Gangarosa Professor of Safe Water and Sanitation in the Rollins School of Public Health (RSPH) and director of the Center for Global Safe Water at Emory. She co-taught a "Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries" course along with Amy Kirby, assistant research professor in Global Health at RSPH.

### Hands-On Lab Experiences Addressing Water Scarcity

"It provided the experience of collecting real data, interpreting results and writing reports," Moe says. "For some students, it may have been the first hands-on lab experience that they've had." In addition to reducing campus water consumption and costs, Moe sees the facility providing exciting possibilities for research,

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scholarship and water conservation applications far beyond campus. "One of the things we talk about in class is the growing problem of water scarcity around the world—globally, we're running out of water," she explains. "Water scarcity will be one of the defining issues during the lifetime of these students."

The chance to engage in research during the start-up of the new facility places Emory students "on the cutting edge of a global revolution," Moe asserts. "As a large institution, we use a lot of water and we generate a lot of wastewater," she says. "We can control that and show innovation by demonstrating smart water conservation and reclamation to the next generation and the Atlanta community. And this facility presents the perfect opportunity."

### A Liquid Revolution

That revolution is literally taking root in a sleek new greenhouse just off Peavine Creek Drive near Emory's baseball fields. It's the first stop in a water reclamation system that utilizes adaptive ecologies, a natural



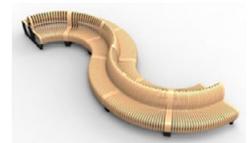
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biological treatment method, to clean and re-purpose campus wastewater, explains Brent Zern, assistant director of operational compliance and maintenance programs for Emory Campus Services.

Raw wastewater first enters tanks at the 2,200-square-foot greenhouse facility, where it is hydroponically filtered and circulated throughout a dense curtain of real and synthetic plant roots—imagine an intricately woven afghan—suspended throughout a series of aerobic and anaerobic underground chambers, Zern explains.

From above, it looks like an attractive botanical garden, with lush beds of native and tropical plants set alongside a burbling fountain. The only odor is the soft, earthy scent of growing plants, typical of any greenhouse.

Below, those plant roots are hard at work, supporting an industrious ecosystem and critical microbial habitat—home to thousands of microorganisms that naturally digest the organic matter in the wastewater with minimal use of chemicals and energy,

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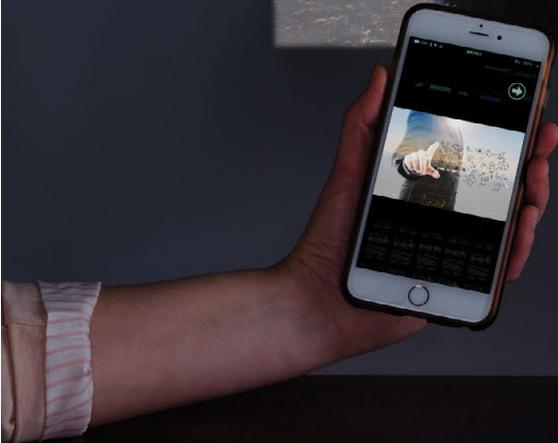
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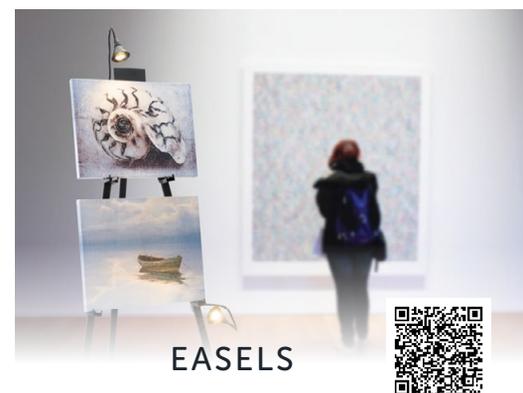
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Zern says. Those root-dwelling microbes consume the very kinds of organic materials commonly found in wastewater. "This is a proven technology—basically Mother Nature tweaked with some engineering concepts," Zern explains.

The water then flows downhill to another 1,800-square-foot hydroponic installation just across Peavine Creek Drive behind the Beta Theta Pi fraternity—outdoor concrete planting beds that continue the same microbial breakdown alongside a small tidal wetlands system demonstration project.

Water returns to the greenhouse for final treatment, a kind of "polishing" required by the state of Georgia. "It goes through a UV-light sterilization process to kill anything that might possibly remain—a standard requirement—and the county has asked us to also add a bit of chlorine," says Zern, stressing that overall, the process requires very little chemical treatment. All together, he explains, the water reclamation cycle takes about 18 hours.

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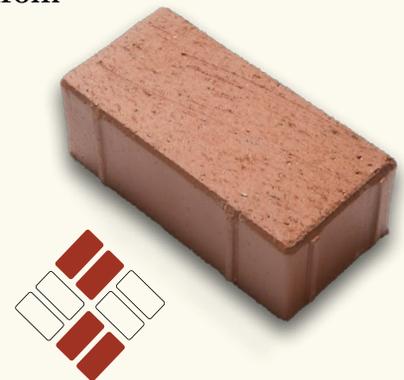
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Emory's WaterHub continued

Using reclaimed water for even some non-potable functions is projected to save Emory University nearly 110 million gallons of potable water per year.

### Conserving Regional Drinking Water

Once treated, the water will replace liquid now being lost through evaporation at Emory's steam and chiller plants and will help flush toilets at Raoul Hall, says Zern, who emphasizes that the reclaimed water will not be used for drinking. "We looked at where we currently use the most potable water in our facilities—applications where we don't really need drinking-quality water—and it came down to our toilets, our steam plants and our chiller plants," he explains.

Using reclaimed water for even some non-potable functions is projected to save Emory nearly 110 million gallons of potable water per year. "And because we're not using that drinking water, the county can use it other places, which is important for a region prone to water crises," Zern notes.

The new WaterHub also treats a tremendous volume of wastewater within a relatively small footprint, Zern explains. Reducing the amount of campus-generated wastewater that was being piped miles away to DeKalb County wastewater treatment facilities offers another layer of energy savings, he adds.

### A Bold Step in Water Conservation

Ciannat Howett, director of the Office of Sustainability Initiatives at Emory, sees the WaterHub as an important next step in Emory's long-term water conservation strategy, which already includes low-flow, dual-flush toilets and collecting rainwater for use in campus irrigation and toilet flushing.

It also helps address a growing problem, Howett says. Atlanta relies upon the smallest watershed in the nation for a metropolitan area of its size. Globally, the demand for fresh water is projected to outstrip availability by nearly 40 percent by 2030, she adds.

"This (facility) offers an interesting case study for how an institution can move a community toward a bold step in water conservation," Howett says. "It's also exactly the kind of reduction we need to see in order to support a more sustainable future.

"I think it also shows an important role the university can play in advancing sustainability and engaging in this idea of the campus as a living laboratory, a place of experimentation and engagement and learning."

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### High risk, low priority.

New Pig, the leader in keeping workplaces clean and safe since 1985, recently surveyed professionals involved in floor safety to find out how they deal with slips, trips and falls in their facilities. Just 39% considered fall prevention a top priority; 42% confirmed at least one fall in the past year and 5% had more than five falls. And while 92% said they place floor mats in entrances, they often overlook potentially

dangerous locations such as employee and customer walkways, break rooms, restrooms, frequent spill areas and loading docks.

### Old solutions are part of the problem.

Aside from yellow caution signs, placing rubber-backed, carpeted floor mats in entrances and other high-traffic areas has been the best practice for keeping floors dry and safe. But more often than not, these mats add a trip hazard to an existing slip hazard because they ripple and flip over, catch in cart wheels and jam under doors. And because the rubber backing doesn't adhere to the floor, they quickly shift out of place.

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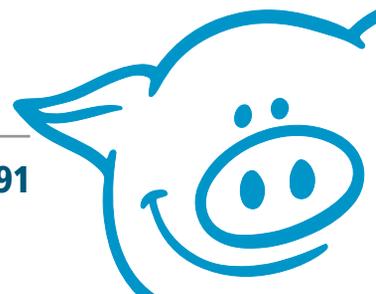
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# LIBERAL ARTS IS ALIVE

THE  
CONTINUING  
VALUE OF AN  
EXAMINED  
LIFE

by Sheila Wagner

Each year, first-year college students enter the world of higher education hoping to chart a course for a career that will justify the years of the substantial investment in their futures—investments not only of money, but also of time and energy. Having a degree that can be measured in a specific dollar amount that accrued each semester, they are expected to produce a return on that investment immediately upon entering the workforce; even still, many students hope that lucrative, steady work can also serve a deeper purpose. Many will still aspire to find jobs that can be meaningful and careers that bring some level of personal satisfaction and allow them to serve their communities.

David Lay Williams, a professor of political science at DePaul University specializing in the history of political thought, reminds us that if we reflect on some of the greatest thinkers in the history of Western civilization, we will find minds that are “equally nimble” in fields as varied as science and mathematics to philosophy, religious inquiry, and the fine arts. The most important kind of learning is about how to learn. The skills of flexibility, judgment, and common sense are the kinds of skills learned in a liberal arts education.

### A Weakening Core

Obviously, some students enter academia already clearly knowing the direction they want their lives to take—or at least imagine they do—and thus they would prefer to concentrate on filling their schedules with courses that move them steadily toward that goal. Those students often view core courses as expensive and fairly pointless hoops they are

forced to jump through in order to get to work that matters. Then, after enduring the core classes, they could finally focus on subjects they enjoyed and classes that they felt were directly connected to their futures.

As the history goes, these core classes in sciences and math—along with English and the arts—helped students who didn’t have a direction to find their passion; thus science, math, English and history were intertwined

in a curriculum that provided a well-rounded education as a basis for whatever road they would eventually travel.

In the last decade or two, an ongoing debate has pitted those who question the benefit of classes outside the STEM curriculum (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) against those who refuse to bow to institutional or cultural pressures to devalue courses in the liberal arts.

### Return on Investment and Higher Education

Proponents of STEM suggest that the fields of engineering and mathematics are growing exponentially, and college graduates are needed to fill positions to help America stay competitive with other countries. They argue that jobs which fall under the science and technology umbrella will be much more lucrative for graduating seniors who are, first and foremost, looking for jobs. When there are not enough jobs for jobseekers, these questions become more pointed, and the argument becomes



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more heated. Educators and administrators must consider the viability of certain degrees in a workforce that continues to devalue those degrees.

With escalating costs of higher education, a big pay-off with a job boasting a substantial starting salary will not only be tempting for those students—the promise of the significant pay-off may seem the only logical option, even if a student’s interests, passions, and talents are not aligned with that field

Another reason oft presented to explain the decline in liberal arts is that colleges are losing money on arts and humanities departments, with not enough students enrolled in these programs to cover the costs. Therefore, there are colleges now that are phasing out offerings in the humanities in areas such as Philosophy/Religion and Literature/Art studies.

### Pushing Against the Tide

There are countless professors who are passionately fighting against this trend. Rosanna Warren, the Hanna Holborn Gray Distinguished Professor at the University of Chicago,



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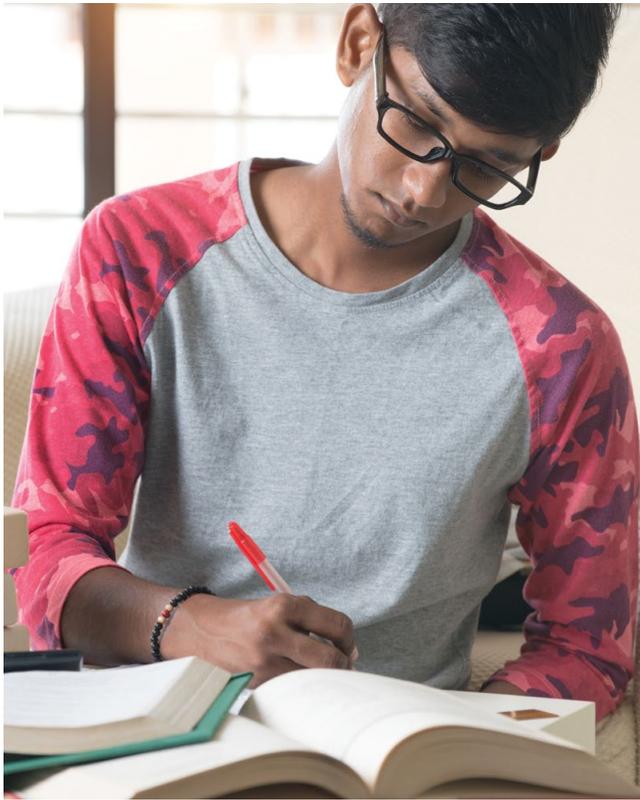
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has said, “Most people need and want the arts in their lives. Our civilization may now be so coarsened that we will eliminate the humanities from our schools, and we will train citizens only for technical skills which give them no sense of what they are living for, or why.”

Many proponents of liberal arts say that anything one learns in computer science and other technology fields will become obsolete within a decade, so the most important kind of learning is about how to learn. The skills of flexibility, judgment, and common sense are the kinds of skills learned in a liberal arts education.

Tim Marshall, Provost of The New School, recently penned a piece for *quartz.com*: “STEM may be the future—but liberal arts are timeless.” Marshall writes that society has come to devalue the study of literature, history, philosophy, and other humanities—viewing those endeavors as pointless.

While Marshall acknowledges that many administrators and educators believe we should just stick to teaching skills such as coding, digital marketing and web development, he argues that liberal-arts-educated leaders are essential in the future to prepare them for the “emergent socio-technical landscape.” He suggests successful students must be able to understand how the world is changing and be able to recognize the implications for the human experience.

David Lay Williams, a professor of political science at DePaul University specializing in the history of political thought, is another passionate voice in the dialogue, as he stresses the importance of liberal arts and humanities. In an article for *Cap Times*, he describes his life of a professor as “joyful” and expresses how grateful he is to have had options in his undergraduate years in college, where he first discovered philosophy and political theory.

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Williams says that he first took these courses to satisfy degree requirements but quickly realized that these classes gave him a purpose. Williams describes how he moved from an aimless, socially awkward student to a purposeful student who was part of a like-minded group of friends leading what Socrates called “the examined life”: reading, engaging in long conversations, and other presumably “pointless pursuits.”

### Eliminating Majors in Liberal Arts & Humanities

Additionally, Williams is grieving the fact that a college where he was previously employed is proposing to eliminate majors in nearly all the traditional liberal arts and humanities. His grief is for his colleagues whose livelihoods are threatened, but also he thinks about the life he would have lived had he not discovered his love of liberal arts. He asserted that he was not well suited for a path in STEM disciplines, and if he hadn’t had the opportunity of expanding his education with liberal arts, he would not have been able to have his life of “joy” in teaching many other students who are like he was, discovering this path.

Williams states, “More times than I can count, I have seen this spark ignite previously uninspired students, discovering who they are and how their brains work.” He shares a story about a student who was drifting until he found some challenging books and compelling conversations; that student then went on to study German philosophy abroad in Germany with Williams as his mentor. Recalling how the students on this trip read Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, Williams considered this trip the highlight of his teaching career. That once-uninspired student he mentions in his narrative went on to get an MFA in writing and is currently working on novels.

### Nimble Minds Crossing Disciplinary Lines

While Williams stresses he is not opposed to STEM courses, as they are an important part of any full education, he believes that we lose something essential if imagining they are the only ones worthy of study. He reminds us that if we reflect on some of the greatest thinkers in the history of Western civilization, we will find minds that are “equally nimble” in fields as varied as science and mathematics to philosophy, religious inquiry, and the fine arts.

In fact, Williams argues, those we revere made little, if any, distinction between those fields that we now often consign to separate fields and disciplines. He concludes, “We lose more than we suppose when we chop up these different dimensions of their thought and pretend that half of it no longer matters.”



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Sheila Wagner has spent the last several years working as a professional editor and recently became the staff writer for *Private University Products and News*. Wagner can be reached at sheila@pupnmag.com.

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# FIRE SAFETY

## IN POSTSECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

by Brandon Gilliland

As colleges and universities begin implementing a variety of safety plans for crisis situations, fire safety policies and procedures have become an integral part of preserving life and property. Not surprisingly, the most problematic areas related to fire safety for postsecondary institutions involve laboratories and residence halls.







Science laboratories, especially chemistry laboratories in postsecondary universities, pose a significant fire threat due to the presence of combustible chemicals. According to the National Fire Protection Association, college residence halls are also at a significant risk due to the number of cooking-related fires that occur. Because fires at colleges and universities often take place in large buildings, it is important that steps are taken to protect students.

### Lab Safety

There are several options for ensuring safety in laboratories when unexpected fires occur. Fire extinguishers are often the first line of defense, but they can only be used to control small fires. If an explosion or flash fire were to occur, or if the fire spread too quickly for the fire extinguisher to control the fire, building-wide sprinkler systems could be used to help protect the building and its contents. Smoke detectors and fire alarms can be used to ensure that others within a building are able to escape before the fire consumes the building. However if a person were unable to get to a fire extinguisher, or unable to pull a fire alarm in time, sprinkler systems become extremely important because they can be used to help save lab workers as well as to protect the building from any fire that may otherwise spread out of control.

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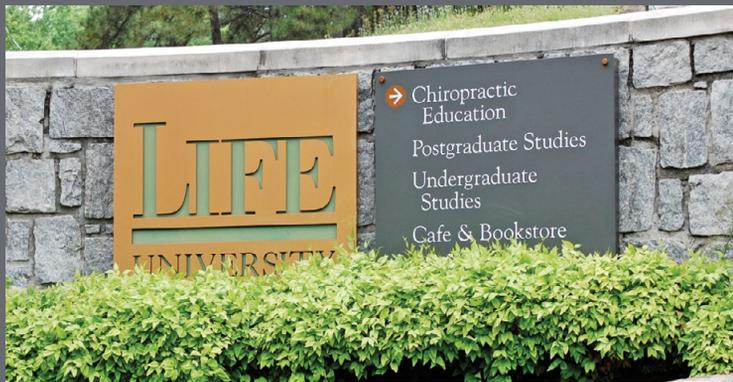
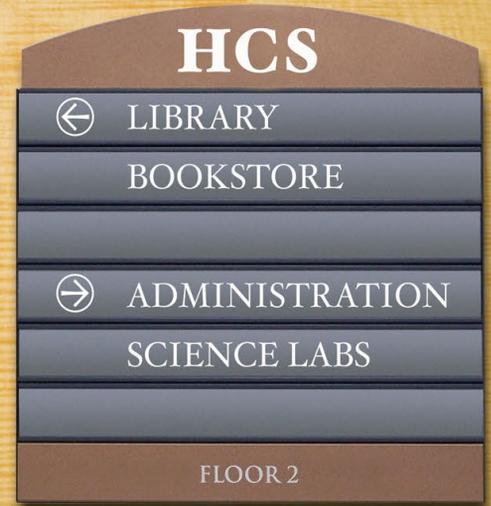


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Colleges and universities have begun to list their laboratory safety protocol on their respective websites. The purpose for making this information available to the public, in addition to their stakeholders, is to ensure that students and staff are aware of the steps and procedures used for each individual building. Posting information about the location of fire extinguishers and exits on their websites is meant to save lives. Lab fire safety plans are written to provide students with information about how to evacuate each specific lab, how to use fire doors, and how to operate other safety equipment such as emergency showers.

### Fire Safety in Residence Halls

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) notes that there were over 4,100 structure fires in college properties from 2011-2015. Additionally, eighty-six percent of fires that occurred on college campuses were cooking-related fires from dorm rooms inside residence halls, as students begin to experiment with cooking. Fires on campus are often a result of students using frequently banned items such as candles or connecting too many extension cords into one outlet. Other fire hazards may occur when students attempt to disable fire alarms inside of their residence halls rooms in an effort to smoke without being detected.

A report from the U.S. Fire Administration, which is a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, notes that the most fires in residence halls happen overnight while many students are in residence and sleeping. Because of this, it is imperative for colleges and universities to add safeguards, such as sprinkler systems, locally placed fire extinguishers, and fire alarm access points across their campuses to ensure safety to life and property. There are no federal statutes that require college residence halls to maintain sprinkler systems, and while many states have laws requiring college residence halls to have sprinkler systems as a line of defense against fires, many states do not. This lack of preparation is exceedingly dangerous, as students may not be aware of the safety precautions that they assume are in place.



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of an emergency. Buildings are required to complete fire drills according to the local laws, and these drills present an excellent time for schools to review the fire safety plans with people who regularly visit, work, or live in each building. According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), in the event of a fire, regulations state that building occupants should train workers to respond to fires accordingly:

Remember the rule of “RACE”

R = Rescue/remove all occupants

A = Activate the alarm system

C = Confine the fire by closing doors

E = Evacuate/Extinguish

Many residence halls, fraternities, and sororities have fire safety rules regarding where students may store things within the building. Bicycles and other large items must remain in places that do not obstruct exits, and items may not be stored in stairwells. Students forgetting to turn off electronics is another potential hazard that must be addressed. Another issue that may lead to fire, according to the NFPA, is the use of adaptors for plugging three-prong appliances into two-prong outlets. This greatly increases the opportunities for electrical fires.

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### Creating New Standards

The Lab Safety Institute has a digital memorial wall honoring the lives of those lost in laboratory accidents. Many of these deaths were due to fires and explosions within labs on campuses across the country. In order to slow or prevent the deaths of anyone else, steps must be put in place to ensure that faculty, staff, and students are safe in their work environments. Laboratory environments require special rules and procedures to ensure the safety of everyone, and having the proper equipment in an emergency situation can be the difference between life and death. By adding new laws and changing legislation regarding the use of sprinkler systems and other fire safety equipment in college residence halls and laboratories, universities can ensure that they are providing a safe environment in which stakeholders can both live and work.



**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:** Brandon Gilliland, Ed.D. is a ten-year veteran educator. His research interests involve school violence prevention and education law. He may be reached at [brandongilliland@gmail.com](mailto:brandongilliland@gmail.com).

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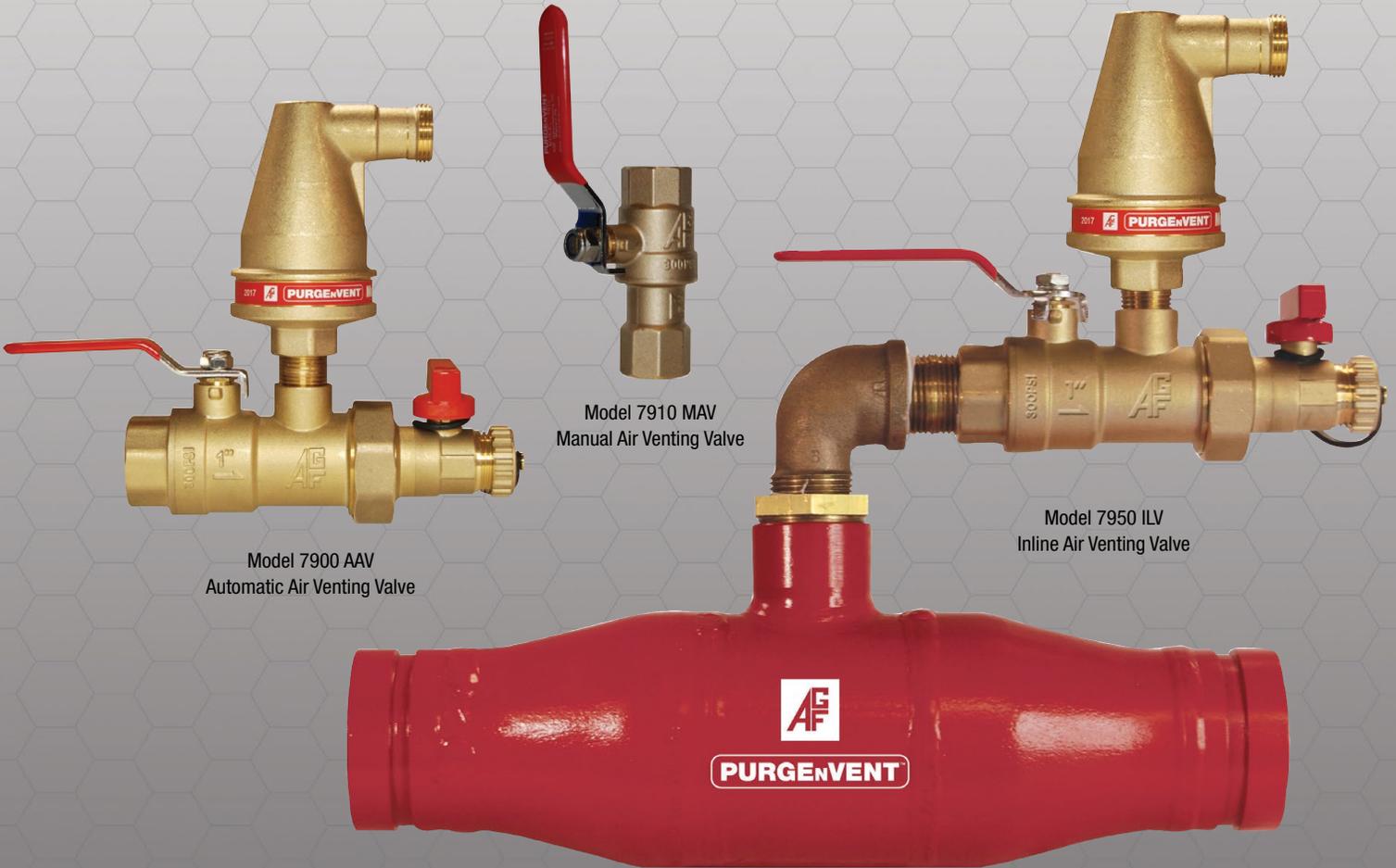
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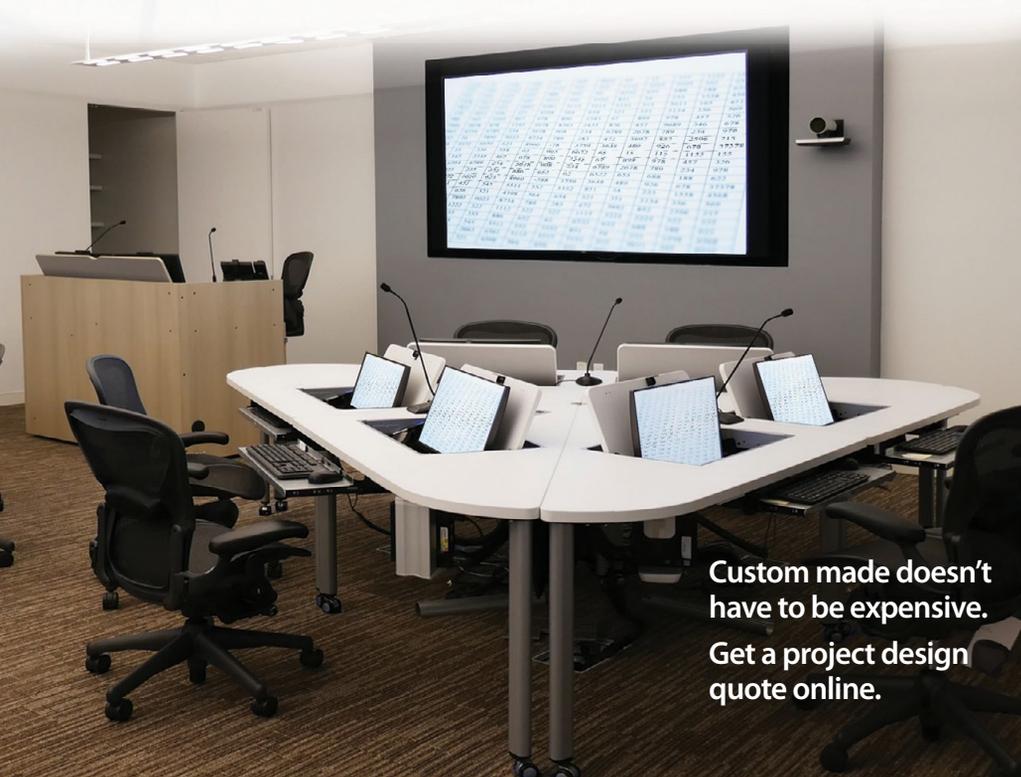
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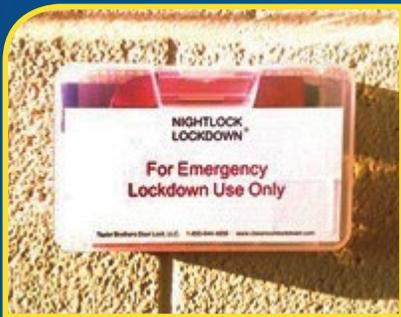
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