



COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund Established

The University has created a COVID-19 Student Emergency Fund to support currently enrolled students who are unable to meet essential expenses because of temporary or unexpected hardship. Application details are being finalized and will be announced this week.

[Online donations to the student emergency fund](#) are being accepted. To date the fund has raised \$2,800 in private donations.

In addition, since March 1, the Mustangs Food Pantry has received gifts totaling \$5,300, and the Canan Food Security Program has received \$1,100.

Gold Crew Initiative Keeps Students Working

The Gold Crew is a flexible, talented pool of compensated students ready to serve MSU. These students can assist your department with project needs or other various tasks and duties, both on campus and abiding by social distancing, and online through technology.

With buildings closed and hours reduced for our student employees, this program is especially important to keep our students employed. This is an opportunity for our students to help meet the evolving needs for departments across campus.

Student Eligibility

- Enrolled MSU Texas student for spring 2020 and employed by an MSU department
- Employing department has reduced hours or stopped services
- Students who meet the criteria can fill out the [Gold Crew Application](#).

MSU Texas Departments

If your department has a need for student workers for projects,

cleaning, etc., please submit the [Department Request Form](#). Once the form is received, student workers will be coordinated for your department's project.

For additional information, contact either Angie Reay at ext. 4466 or angie.reay@msutexas.edu; or Dawn Fisher at ext. 4787 or dawn.fisher@msutexas.edu.

Stay Fit While Learning/Working Remotely

When it comes to fitness and a healthy lifestyle, Wellness Center director Angie Reay is proud of how important the Redwine Wellness Center has become for that objective at MSU Texas.

The Center closed March 19 in response to the state's measures to help contain the spread of COVID-19. It's a change, but Reay is spreading that word that wellness is something that can be achieved regardless of location.

She suggests movement inside and outside daily, prescribing fresh air that will lead to a refreshed mind. And she has some ideas about how to avoid constant snacking in front of your electronics, too.

Read her suggestions for [staying healthy at home](#) at [MSU Texas News](#).



Summer Promotions for Employees, Students

MSU & You is a program designed for MSU staff members in retirement-eligible positions who desire to complete their bachelor's degrees. Benefits of the summer employee program include a waived MSU application fee and class hours that count toward work hours. Part-time, retirement-eligible employees may participate. Reimbursement for the [Staff Education Incentive Program](#) is based on a maximum of three credit hours during each of the summer terms. Reimbursement is determined by the grade received and is issued at the end of each summer semester.

Watch your inbox for more details.

Additionally, students are encouraged to stay on track this summer by taking MSU Texas with them. Students who take online undergraduate core courses in Summer I or Summer II will receive a 25% savings. Full program details are available on the [Summer Courses webpage](#).

Working Remotely Resources

Human Resources continues to update the [Working Remotely webpage](#) with resources for faculty and staff. New this week are [Telecommuting Professional Development and Articles](#) with links to various articles, as well as a listing of book titles for professional development. Additionally, they have provided an [MSU Medical, Retirement and Training document](#) with various links with related topics.

A Message from Dr. Keith Williamson

It's not all bad news.

We are being confronted with unrelentingly bleak forecasts and unprecedented scenarios in which to adapt. The news ranges from depressing to histrionic; the internet is awash in bad information and conspiracy theories – which is really nothing new, it just all centers on one topic: COVID-19.

I want to call your attention to a small miracle that is being taken for granted. While there has been enormous concern regarding the distribution of testing for the SARS-CoV-19 virus, it is a modern miracle that we have a test at all. The first case of this virus infecting humans was sometime in early December. On December 31, the Chinese made formal acknowledgement of a real problem developing in Wuhan, China. On January 10, a lab in Berlin, Germany, published the fully sequenced viral genome. In the space of a week, the German scientists had developed an assay that was, in the lab, 95% sensitive and 100% specific. This is a modern marvel.

Summer is coming, and it brings hope that this coronavirus will demonstrate the typical seasonality of other viral respiratory tract infections even though pandemics don't always follow the rules.

An excellent target for vaccine development has been identified. The spike protein – the same protein that gives the coronavirus its name because it looks like a crown under the electron microscope – is what allows the virus to cling to respiratory cells and initiate infection. It does appear that antibodies against the spike protein would be protective – now if we can just develop a vaccine that induces these antibodies safely, we can beat this virus for good.

I also can report that after 9 weeks of social restrictions and lockdowns, Wuhan is beginning to open up again. The

restrictions have been loosened, and despite justifiable caution, people are back on the street. There is light at the end of this tunnel.

Keith Williamson, MD

In the News

The following stories are available on the [MSU Texas News](#) site.

- [Respiratory Care loans two ventilators, donates supplies to United Regional](#)
- [Faculty focused on new methods, teamwork in delivering online for students](#)
- [MSU's Cavitt appointed president of Council for Exceptional Children](#)
- [Alum Ripley Tate featured in Forbes for nonprofit article](#)
- [Taylor inducted into Commission on Sports Management Accreditation Hall of Fame](#)
- [Student Documentary Team Honored at Competition](#)
- [Educational Leadership degree ranks No. 2 on nationwide list](#)

In the Spotlight

Congratulations to **Jessyca Wagner**, Assistant Professor for The Shimadzu School of Radiologic Sciences, for successfully defending her dissertation and obtaining her Ph.D. in Learning Technologies from the University of North Texas.

Rodney Fisher, Assistant Professor for The Shimadzu School of Radiologic Sciences, was recently elected vice president of the Texas Society of Radiologic Technologists (TSRT).

Jim Sernoe, Associate Professor and Chair of Mass Communication, presented a paper at the National Association of African-American Studies conference in Dallas in February. In addition to presenting his paper, "Progress or Not? Black, Latinx, Asian-American and Native American Musicians on *Billboard* Magazine's Pop Music Charts, 1960-1969," he moderated two sessions.

Roberto Fuertes-Manjón, Professor of Spanish, recently presented the paper titled "La redefinición de la identidad racial del Brasil en la década de los 30: las aportaciones y el papel protagónico de Gilberto Freyre" at the Congreso Internacional de Ciencias Sociales y Humanas in Salamanca, Spain.

Jeffrey Oxford, Professor of Spanish, had his essay titled "*No es fácil ser verde: Minimalist and Realist Tendencias in Sara Mesa's Short Stories*" published in the book *Narrar lo invisible: Aproximaciones al mundo literario de Sara Mesa* (Valencia, Spain: Albatros Ediciones, 2020), edited by César Ferreira and Jorge Avilés Diz, pages 53-73.

Welcome

Joining the University February and March were:

Stacey Quick

Police Communications Operator

April Simpson

Custodian, Facilities Services

Sade Boswell

Assistant Coach, Women's Soccer

Rachel Bagley

Senior Associate Director, Flower Mound

Christian Martinez

Groundskeeper, Facilities Services

Seth Skelton

Senior Associate Director, Global Education

Dylan Taylor

Custodian, Facilities Services

Ryan Rhodes

Custodian, Facilities Services

Garrett Graf

Assistant Coach, Football

Cody Ford

Assistant Director, Recreational Sports and Wellness Center

Juan Cervantes

Custodian, Facilities Services

Robert Parmer

Mechanic/Bus Driver

Cynthia Ngonyo

Human Resources Assistant

Charis Walters

AHEC Community Based Educator

Kylie Kerr

Professional Counselor

Symetha Parker

Custodian, Facilities Services



BOUNDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

2019-20 Faculty/Staff Campaign Update

To date, 348 employees, or 51.10%, have given to the campaign. Learn more at the [Boundless Opportunities webpage](#).

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