

THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



Message from the AVP

Colleagues,

I am pleased to share this inaugural issue of The Seed Sower. This publication aims to provide information and updates on department activities and highlight the stellar contributions each of you makes daily.

Facilities Management continues to evolve as we respond to our changing environment within higher education and the operations and maintenance market. Our department's success relies on everyone working together to achieve a common goal. Our journey will have challenges and will not always be easy. I encourage our team members to provide constructive input on department operations. I am purposeful in using the phrase "constructive input" as it includes background on a perceived issue within the department while also providing possible solutions to improve operations. I want to thank Jonathan Tucci from Landscape Services for recently reaching out and offering a way to enhance Facilities Management. Keep the ideas coming!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Festival.

Be Safe,

*Matthew C. Rom
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management*

UPCOMING DATES

FOURTH QUARTER AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

Oct. 3rd

GREG CORNETT RETIREMENT

Oct. 4th

FALL FESTIVAL

Oct. 7th

THANKSGIVING VACATION

Nov. 23rd-27th

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Dec. 12th-16th

WINTER SESSION HOLIDAYS

Dec. 16th - Jan. 2nd

Do you have a name idea for the quarterly newsletter?
Email Facilities@ou.edu with your idea!

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gillian Stinson



Gillian Stinson is an interior design intern for Facilities Management's Projects and Engineering Team. Gillian was nominated by Architect Stanley Berry for a student employee recognition event during the Spring 2022 semester. Gillian received a \$500 scholarship for her work at FM.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

Gillian Stinson	6/2/21
Nicholas Treaftis	6/7/21
Jeremiah Johnson	7/6/21
Michael Jones	7/6/21
Antonio Record	7/19/21
Gary Poulton	7/19/21
Jordan Ramon	7/19/21
Christopher George	8/4/21
Kevin Briscoe	8/15/21
Brandon Brown	9/7/21
Jeremy Briscoe	9/12/21
Rachelle Buckaloo	9/12/21
Garrett Lester	9/13/21
Michael Miller	9/19/21
John Brown	9/20/21
Joshua Wyckoff	9/24/21
Dustin Browning	9/27/21

5 YEARS

Dustin Bacon	6/19/17
Maria Barrera Ramirez	7/10/17
Joseph Meyer	7/13/17
Bryon Anderson	7/17/17
Lisa Lambrecht	8/23/17
Mackenzie Littleton	9/5/17
Malissa Harbison	9/11/17
Twauna Power	9/18/17
Arthur Patton	9/19/17

10 YEARS

Steven Surface	7/28/12
Kyle McGehee	8/15/12
Lorenza Trejo De Martinez	8/25/12
Christopher Van Buskirk	8/27/12
Rosemarie Starr	9/8/12
Jeffery Privett	9/10/12

15 YEARS

Chester Warner	7/9/07
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25 YEARS

Ryland Lieb	9/15/97
Thomas Tuck	9/15/97

35 YEARS

Glen Gordon	8/29/87
Kenneth Black	8/29/87

40 YEARS

Steven Williams	8/10/82
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NEW HIRES

FACILITY SERVICES

Garrick Smith	Jun 21
Wesley Keller	Jun 27
Andrew Detar	Jul 5
Nieava Carrera	Jun 27
Jeff Mlekush	Aug 30
Caleb Rosenkranz	Sep 13
Blaine Winn	Sep 20
Derrick Titus	Jul 18
Kadin Nicholson	Jul 31
Tonya Magana	Jul 31
Anthony Jackson	Aug 1
Ayana Rembert	Aug 1
Heath Andersen	Aug 1
James Pipestem	Aug 1
Ashley Bowen	Aug 7
Alis Nash	Aug 14
Jesse Dees	Aug 14
Jerry Gamble	Aug 15
Nicholas Leca	Aug 15
Robert Nichols	Aug 15
Michael Bond	Aug 29
Melissa Fredrickson	Aug 29

Nicholas Cardenas	Aug 28
Colby Dover	Aug 29
Isabella Corliss	Aug 28
Maurice Record	Sep 11
Ty Jones	Sep 11
Quinton Crawford	Sep 25
McKenna Langley	Sep 25

LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Bradyn Brown	Jun 30
Ryan Fulton	Jun 30
Stephen Osburn	Jul 5

UTILITIES

Shelby Rubrecht	Jun 6
Lindsey Lee	Jul 18
William Hall	Aug 30

PLANNING/ENGINEERING

Daniel Bernardini	Jul 5
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MAINTENANCE

Haden Settle	Jul 11
Jason Sewell	Jul 11
Robert Weimer	Aug 26

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team members on a recent promotion!

BRADYN BROWN

Gardener

LOGAN BYERS

Access Control Supervisor

RYAN FULTON

Gardener

CHRIS GEORGE

Material Management & Access Control Manager

JIM PAYNE

M RTP Supervisor

JOHN PETROSS

Custodial Supervisor

GARRICK SMITH

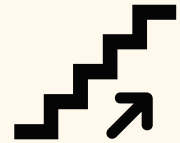
Access Control Specialist



NOW HIRING

A comprehensive list of all OUFM jobs can be found on FM's website at ou.edu/facilities/employment

UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS



GAVIN CAMPBELL

Step 1

Utilities Operator

TYLER DOOLEY

Step 4

Maintenance Technician

MIKE MCMILLIAN

Step 3

Maintenance Technician

DEWEY PRIVETT

Step 2

Maintenance Technician



Pictured: Larry Carter's 'Red Eye' painting. Larry works in OUFM's Planning and Engineering division. This painting will be featured on the cover of Tribes Native American Art Gallery's 2023 Native American artist calendar.

QUARTER 2 AWARD WINNERS

Q2

SUPERVISOR MICHAEL BERGEN



MICHAEL BERGEN IS A LEAD OPERATING MECHANIC IN UTILITIES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 18 YEARS.

“Mike never shies away from all that is on his plate. He steps in whenever it is necessary and is proactive in accomplishing whatever is asked of him. His ability to diffuse tense situations, provide oversight and direction in emergencies, and be decisive, when necessary, compliments his already full repertoire.”

”

MAINTENANCE CHRIS BLACK

Q2



CHRIS BLACK IS A SENIOR ELEVATOR MECHANIC IN THE ELEVATOR SHOP. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 11 YEARS.

“Chris is a true team member always helping the other mechanics with anything that is needed. We recently had a problem with the Lloyd Noble elevator that took a lot of work and expertise. Chris worked several hours of overtime on that elevator to ensure the elevator was running before the NCAA tournament.”

”

Q2

LANDSCAPE CONRAD ZINDEL



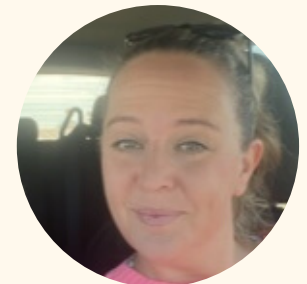
CONRAD ZINDEL IS AN IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN IN THE GARDENING DEPARTMENT. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 23 YEARS.

“Conrad’s exceptional work ethic and team first attitude helped the department during the winter storms. He helped organize training new employees on how to run a plow and plowed and de-iced an entire area of main campus by himself.”

”

FACILITY SERVICES KRISTEN ODOM

Q2



KRISTEN ODOM IS A WORK CONTROL SPECIALIST IN CUSTOMER SERVICE. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 9 YEARS.

“Kristen is a great asset to our department with her knowledge and customer service skills. I have had customers call to let me know how much Kristen helped them and they usually ask for her when they call.”

”

QUARTERS 2 & 3 AWARD WINNERS

Q2

CUSTODIAL GAIL FITE



GAIL FITE IS A CUSTODIAN IN THE CUSTODIAL DEPARTMENT. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.

“Gail is always so kind and pleasant. She keeps our office beautiful and works around us for vacuuming. Our building bathrooms are always clean. She is fabulous and we never want her to leave our building.
-Custodial Customer”

UTILITIES

MIKE COFFMAN

Q2



MIKE COFFMAN IS A LICENSED WATER TECHNICIAN IN UTILITIES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 17 YEARS.

“Mike volunteered to come in and work during the storm closure and is always willing to assist other departments. He always completes his jobs on time, within budget, and gets along well with all.”

Q3

SUPERVISOR SYDNY PETROSS



SYDNY PETROSS IS A CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR FOR FACILITIES SERVICES. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 23 YEARS.

“Syndy is a seasoned and dedicated FM employee. Her ability to adapt to new challenges while staying positive is matched by none. She has taken on an additional responsibility successfully and has been able to keep the Material Management area running smoothly.”

MAINTENANCE

JERRALD 'BAT' MASTERSON

Q3



JERRALD 'BAT' MASTERSON IS A SENIOR HVAC MECHANIC IN MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 37 YEARS.

“Bat helps train our E.S. Service Technicians, which has made our department stronger. He recently repaired the AC unit at the main campus IT station, which prevented the computers from overheating and shutting down campus WIFI.”

QUARTER 3 AWARD WINNERS

Q3

LANDSCAPE LELAND EVANS



LELAND EVANS IS A LANDSCAPE MECHANIC IN THE LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 38 YEARS.

“Leland helps other team members learn proper operation and maintenance of the equipment. He also has been assisting his supervisor with sweeper repairs.”

”

FACILITY SERVICES

Q3

CARMEN DETAR



CARMEN DETAR IS A FINANCIAL ANALYST FOR FACILITIES SERVICES. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 2 YEARS.

“Carmen is a great team player and is always willing to assist workers in the department with AiM questions pertaining to invoices and purchase orders.”

”

Q3

CUSTODIAL TWAUNA POWER



TWAUNA POWER IS A CUSTODIAN FOR FACILITIES SERVICES. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 5 YEARS.

“Twauna is very dependable and helps ensure the library is taken care of on a regular basis. She has also taken the added responsibility of turning in the supply orders to assist her supervisor.”

”

UTILITIES

Q3

MANOLO RAMIREZ FIGUEROA



MANOLO RAMIREZ FIGUEROA IS AN OPERATOR IN THE UTILITIES DEPARTMENT. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.

“Manolo volunteers for hot work such as helping in tunnels and working weekends and midnights when we are short-handed. He does not sit idle and takes the initiative to find work.”

”

FEATURED ARTICLES

Introducing the Advisory Council

To increase communication across the department, an Advisory Council was created in January 2022. Since January, one representative from every division has met with senior leadership monthly to discuss department news, important dates, initiatives, and concerns. Starting in September, each division meets with a representative from every shop and the respective director of that division. One to two representatives from each division council will meet at the department-wide Advisory Council once a quarter. Below are the representatives:

Facility Services: Melinda Clark, Patrick Higdon, Shelli Cossio, Andrew Detar, Dan Alinger, Bonnie Riedmann; **Maintenance:** Jeff Greer, Mike Hammitt, Ronnie Cross, Chris Black, Chris Jones, Jason Gerhard, David Kizer, Curtis Davis, Aaron Brown; **Utilities:** Michael Bergen, Mike McMillin, Jeff Blair, Gary Campbell; **Landscape:** Caleb Blakley, Chester Warner, Bessie James, Alex Dickson, Bailey Smith, Leland Cox



Pictured: Landscape Advisory Council Members

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Facility Services - October 6 at 8 a.m.

Landscape - October 11 at 8 a.m.

Utilities - October 18 at 1 p.m.

Maintenance - October 19 at 9 a.m.

Safety BBQ/Breakfast Recap

FM celebrated its first-annual Safety BBQ and Breakfast back in June. Thank you to all participants!



Pictured: Best in Show winner Kevin McKenna and his show piece, "Frosty"



Pictured from left to right: Best in Show winners Chris Black, Wes Wilson, "Mr. Mike," and Terry Wilson



Pictured from left to right: Best in Show winners Floy Fox and Toby Farrimond with their show piece on Slips/Trips/Falls

FEATURED ARTICLES

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT
The UNIVERSITY of OKLAHOMA

Nominate a Team Member for Employee of the Quarter

Scan the QR code for the nomination form or email Jessica Shinabery at jshinabery@ou.edu

Who can be nominated and how many winners are selected?

Front-line, lead, and supervisor hourly team members across Facilities Management are eligible. Up to six recipients are selected each quarter.

Pictured: How to Nominate a Team Member for Employee of the Quarter

New Service Request Feature

The campus community will now experience more transparency from service requests than ever before with the new service request feature: FixIt.OU.edu! FixIt is the new online platform for submitting service requests at the University of Oklahoma. The feature assigns each individual request an identification number and delivers live updates right to the user's inbox. FM Team Members can also submit service requests or look at floor plan.



Submit a service request at FixIt.OU.edu.

KUDOS KORNER

Trent Eisenman and Haden Settle

"I was at OU Traditions Square West apartments today moving my daughter into her apartment. Her armoire was missing a shelf bracket. So, we couldn't hang her clothes. I saw one of your vans pull into into the apartment parking lot. Trent and Hayden were in the van. I went and asked if they knew where I could get a bracket. They both started working to find a solution. Trent ended up bending a small rod in half to match the size as the missing bracket. It worked! I want you to know those 2 men went out their way to help me. They could have easily said that's not what we do, call maintenance. But, they decided to be problem solvers."

Timothy Winkelman

"Yesterday morning a student in a wheelchair was unable to get to her class on the first floor of Adams Hall due to the Adams elevator being down. Right after I called, the employee working on the elevator found the student and assisted in getting her to class. It was shared with me, he gave her the "white glove" treatment and went above and beyond to ensure she was taken care of. She was also with her father, so this made a very impactful impression of what wonderful staff FM has. I want to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude for the quick and helpful manner this was resolved."

Crystal Noah

"Can I just brag a minute please? I just cannot even tell you how much help Crystal has been to us over the last several months! She is an absolute rockstar! We are so very thankful for all that she does to help processes run smoothly. PS. We need more Crystals in FM!"

FEATURED ARTICLES



SAFETY UPDATES



Pictured: Safety & Training Officer Jeff Mlekush signs the department's Safety Pledge.

New Safety Officer

Jeff Mlekush was hired in September as the OUFM Safety & Training Officer. Jeff will oversee all aspects of the department's safety program, including but not limited to training, injury investigations, the Safety Recognition Program, site visits, and more.

Contact Information

Office Phone: 405-325-4229

Email: jmlekush@ou.edu

Hearing Tests

Hearing tests through the EHSO office will be conducted November 15th and 16th at the Hazardous Material Management Center at 519 Chesapeake Street. Participants will be notified and given specific times within the next few weeks.

SUMMER PROJECTS



Pictured: Turbine Pump Isolation Valves

Utilities System Repairs

OUFM's Utility division performed over twenty system repairs including valve, piping, steam trap, and insulation repairs or replacement. These repairs will ensure reliability in the coming winter months to the 17+ miles of piping included in the steam distribution system.

SUMMER PROJECTS

Recycling Signage

OUFM's Sustainability division designed and posted educational signage in over 3 million square feet of campus facilities. The project aims to increase volume of collected recycling materials, reduce contamination, and ultimately make it easier to access recycling infrastructure.



Pictured: Signage and infrastructure located on the first floor of Gallogly Hall.

Mosier/Everest Floors

OUFM's Custodial Services stripped and waxed the entryway to Mosier/Everest over the summer. Pictures below highlight the differences in floor quality during the stripping process.



Left Picture: Entryway and floor prior to stripping wax.
Right Picture: Half of entryway completely stripped of wax.



Pictured: Work in progress for the project north of the stadium.

North Stadium Lawn Project

A true team effort between Maintenance, Landscape, and Utilities shops with over 750 hours spent on the north stadium lawn project. The purpose of the project was to enhance tailgating atmosphere and create better drainage.

Did you know?

The University of Oklahoma was founded in 1890– 17 years before Oklahoma became a state!

LIKE & FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Have an idea for the newsletter? Email Facilities@ou.edu with your idea!