

THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



Message from the AVP

Colleagues,

The days are getting longer, temperatures are rising, and spring has finally arrived. I wanted to begin my comments by thanking everyone who helped out during the various winter storms this winter. Through your efforts, we minimized freeze-related damage on campus and maintained campus operations for our community. Your efforts were not unnoticed, and you have my sincerest appreciation!

It was great seeing everyone at the wellness breakfast. I was excited to share the department's new core values: Safety, Teamwork, Accountable, Innovative, Reliable, and Sustainable. These core values, along with our department and university strategic plans, are the foundation of our operations and decision-making processes. Thanks to everyone who helped select our core values through surveys and listening sessions.

While April showers bring May flowers, April also starts our preparation for summer activities. The football spring game is set for April 22, 2023, with commencement soon after on May 12, 2023. We will then move into our summer work schedule, where we prepare for the 2023-2024 academic year. I encourage all departments to begin their preparations now for this important period.

*Be Safe,
Matthew C. Rom
Associate Vice President for Facilities Management*

UPCOMING DATES

QUARTER 2 AWARD NOMINATIONS DEADLINE

Apr. 7th

FINAL EXAM PREPARATION PERIOD

Apr. 30th-May 7th

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

May 8th-12th

COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

May 12th-14th

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

May 29th

SAFETY BBQ

June 16th

JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

June 19th

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

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Korey Wheeler Mechanical Engineer

Korey obtained the LEED AP Building Operations + Maintenance Certification on January 7, 2023 by demonstrating the knowledge and understanding of green building practices and principles needed to support the use of the LEED green building program. Congratulations Korey!

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

Jennifer Joyce	1/1/22
Linda Trammell	1/3/22
Jacob Canfield	1/17/22
Donald Dickerson	1/17/22
Maduo Dijeng	1/31/22
Curtis Givens	2/8/22
Michael Turner	3/7/22
Daniel Baker	3/13/22
Bonnie Sawyers	3/14/22
Jessica Shinabery	3/21/22
Zane Blankenship	3/27/22
Juliana Bushong	3/31/22

5 YEARS

Brendan Cox	3/26/18
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10 YEARS

Casey Jones	1/28/13
Mike Call	1/28/13

15 YEARS

Stan Berry	2/11/08
Tim Hogland	3/10/08
Matthew Rom	3/17/08



NEW HIRES

FACILITY SERVICES

Ryan Post	Jan 3
Zack Ragel	Jan 17
Diondre Stead	Jan 27
Liam Moore	Jan 30
Harris Butler	Jan 30
Damian Franco	Feb 13
Joe Stovall	Feb 13
Jada Sink	Feb 20
Gavin Foreman	Feb 27
Keith Koassechony	Feb 27
Andrea Morris	Mar 12
David Church	Mar 13
Tyler Springer	Mar 13
Richard Kellogg	Mar 17
Tessa Pribyl	Mar 27
Kaylee Britt	Mar 27

LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Zach Harger	Feb 13
Aaron Bridwell	Feb 13
Joe Mars	Feb 27

Ryan Waffle	Mar 27
Garrett Mayfield	Mar 27
Kyle Garrett	Mar 27
Patrick Beasley	Mar 27
Roxann Valdez	Mar 27
Ramon Gonzalez	Mar 30
Brian Cole	Mar 30
Mitchel Sheets	Mar 30

UTILITIES

Ryan Bracamonte	Jan 30
Jason Alvarado	Jan 30
James Carson	Mar 27

PLANNING/ENGINEERING

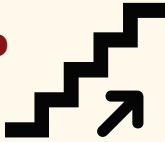
David Ketch	Mar 03
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MAINTENANCE

Seth Yadon	Jan 30
Dante Bickham	Feb 13
Jeff Smith	Feb 28
John Robles	Mar 27

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS



Mike McMillin

Step 4

Utility Maintenance Mechanic

Shelby Rubrecht

Step 3

Utility Maintenance Mechanic

Dewey Privett

Step 3

Utility Maintenance Mechanic

William Hall

Step 1

Operator

Gavin Campbell

Step 2

Operator

PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team members on recent promotions!

SUNNY LIEB

Lead Custodian

JIM PAYNE

M RTP Supervisor

KUDOS KORNER



Aaron Brown & Joshua Cavalier

"I just want to send a positive note both OU Facilities workers who delivered the 8' tables today were awesome! It was very easy working with them and I appreciate their quick help."

Conner Colby

"I just wanted to send you this e-mail to let you know how much I appreciated your response yesterday in regards to the request for a final clean up following a chemical spill located in the Stephenson Life Sciences Building."

Ethan Wisener & Stephen Osburn

"I just wanted to thank {Ethan} and Stephen for the good and fast work that {they} did at the Fears Lab (WO #2340426), cutting the vine around the electrical pole there to allow the electricians to work on it ASAP.

I really appreciate how fast {they} jumped in after {they} were looped in the conversation and got that taken care of in no time.

Thank you for the communication (scheduling beforehand and confirmation once the job was completed)! Lastly, thank you {to them} for sending me pictures and videos of the top of the wooden pole and for bringing to my attention that it might be time to replace it."

QUARTER 1 AWARD WINNERS

Q1

CUSTODIAL SCOTT LOFTON



SCOTT LOFTON IS A LEAD CUSTODIAN IN CUSTODIAL SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 19 YEARS.

“Scott is a big help to everyone. He is always willing to adjust his day to support his entire team. He leads by example and always has a positive attitude.”

MAINTENANCE AUSTIN ROESLER

Q1



AUSTIN ROESLER IS A SENIOR JOURNEYMAN PLUMBER IN THE MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 16 YEARS.

“Austin is our “go to” guy for all the technical jobs. He is always willing and able to assist team members and fills in to help run the plumbing shop when needed. He is a great teacher to our apprentices while engaged in complex tasks.”

Q1

LANDSCAPE ALEX LOFTUS



ALEX LOFTUS IS AN IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN IN LANDSCAPE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 19 YEARS.

“Alex goes above and beyond despite any challenges the shop faces. His knowledge and leadership combined with his drive to go above and beyond has provided the shop with stability as our workload has continued to increase.”

FACILITY SERVICES CHARLIE KELLER

Q1



CHARLIE KELLER IS AN ACCESS CONTROL SPECIALIST IN FACILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 7 MONTHS.

“Charlie is within his first year within the Access Control Department and exceeded expectations on learning key and access systems. He receives several compliments from customers and other members within FM for his professionalism and his outstanding customer service.”

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

Q1

UTILITES SHELBY RUBRECHT



SHELBY RUBRECHT IS A UTILITY MAINTENANCE MECHANIC IN UTILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 8 MONTHS.

“*When critical equipment was not functioning properly, Shelby went above and beyond to troubleshoot, work alongside operations, and help fix the issue. His dedication and teamwork uphold the mission statement of the Utilities department*”



Pictured: Plumber Chris Walsh poses with his local band Heartbreak Rodeo. Follow the band on Facebook for upcoming concert dates.

SAFETY CHAMPION



UTILITIES JUSTIN TRIPP

"Justin Tripp took the initiative to address to long standing safety concerns of team members. Justin is always looking for areas to improve both operations and safety. It is evident in all aspects of his work.

Lighting at UP4: A lack of lighting caused safety concerns when performing maintenance, taking logs, and inspecting equipment. Justin took initiative to investigate different types of lifts to allow the team to perform the bulb replacements, while also working with Tom Hughes to add lights where needed.

Safety Relief Valves: Annual work on the valves above the HRSG caused safety risks due to improper fall protection tie-off and access. Justin worked with a vendor to have a grating extended around the valves and used the lift to install hoists to rig the valves in and out as necessary.

This is just two recent issues he has resolved in a long list of items over the years."

FEATURED ARTICLES



Pictured: OU FM Core Values logo designed by OU Printing Services.

Values

At the Spring Appreciation Breakfast, Facilities Management unveiled the new “Core Values” and logo for the department. These core values were selected through a department-wide initial call for values, then two rounds of votes to ultimately determine the final six values.

Each core value speaks to the commitment Facilities Management has to the campus community, department, and each other through our decisions and behavior. As these core values are guiding principles for the department, OUFM will continuously weave these core values into operations and communications. Social media and the newsletter will highlight team members displaying these core values and initiatives incorporating the core values. The quarterly awards will also be tied to the core values.

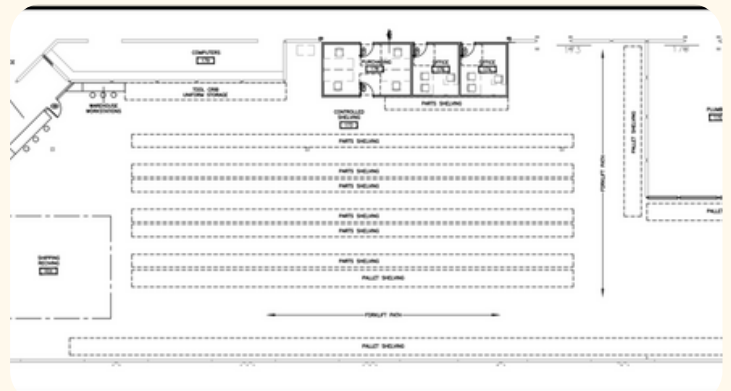
Stickers are available by contacting Meghan Warren at M.Sanders@ou.edu.

Material Management Changes

As part of OUFM’s Strategic Plan, a material management program is being implemented to achieve economies of scale, reduce purchasing workload for team members, and accurately track inventory costs.

In July 2022, OUFM hired consulting firm Ensoft to help guide the project for Maintenance and Facility Services divisions. Material Management and Ensoft have been working with supervisors over the past several months to identify and categorize materials currently located within the shops. The Project Office has also been working on drawings for the renovation at 705 E. Lindsey. The bid for that renovation will be advertised in April with the contract being awarded in mid-June. The renovation consists of relocating the Electrical Shop next to the Carpentry Shop, as well as changing the footprint of the Plumbing Shop. With construction slated for mid-July, the renovation should be completed by mid-November.

As construction takes place, the Material Management team will be working on designing inventory location within the warehouse, creating part profiles and vendor catalogs within AiM, as well as creating procedures for future ordering and receiving. A new warehouse receiving and shipping technician was hired in February, and a new buyer position will be posted on the job board later in the year. More information about the changes will be communicated from the Material Management team over the next several months.



Pictured: Renovation drawings for north side of 705 E. Lindsey

FEATURED ARTICLES

Tree Campus USA

For the first time since 2014, the University of Oklahoma is recognized as a member of Tree Campus USA. To receive this designation, institutions must meet five standards:

1. Establishment of a campus tree advisory committee
2. Evidence of a campus tree care plan
3. Verification of the plan's dedicated annual expenditures
4. Observing Arbor Day
5. Creating a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body

In 2022, a committee was created and comprised of FM team members Sarah Ballew, Brandon Cox, Greg Cornett, Ethan Wisener, and Stephen Osburn, as well as a representative from the School of Geosciences. Over several months, the committee collected the necessary documentation, planted a live oak tree on Arbor Day, and hosted a tree planting service project for students. The service project taught students about proper site preparation, planting procedures, and more. This designation implements a framework that supports the already present efforts to maintain campus trees and also achieve national recognition. To continue receiving this recognition, the committee must continue to meet the five standards and submit the required application annually.



Pictured: (Left to Right) Stephen Osburn, Brandon Cox, Ethan Wisener, and Matt Rom

A Day in the Life of the AVP



Pictured: Matt Rom, Associate Vice President of Facilities Management, meeting with Kyle Isenhour, Sophia Hacker, and representatives from AssetWorks.

The morning always starts with toast and either a hot tea or a Dr Pepper. Then, it's off to Norman for a meeting with supervisors at 8 a.m. Matt Rom, Associate Vice President for Facilities Management, will be sitting at 705, available to chat with supervisors about any questions or issues facing the shop. Between conversations, Matt has his laptop to answer emails and approve PeopleSoft financial transactions, like requisitions, cost transfers, or PCard transactions. At 9 a.m., it's time for a meeting about deferred maintenance projects between the FM Projects office and A&E Services. The morning concludes with a meeting between Matt and Senior Leadership to strategize, discuss critical issues, and give updates regarding the department. Lunch is spent sitting at the desk answering more emails, as Matt receives over 100 emails daily. The afternoon is filled with rotating weekly meetings, such as individually meeting with Vice President Brian Holderread or the Senior Leaders, or weekly committee meetings, like Space Committee, Freshman Housing, and Special Events. Usually, specialized meetings arise depending on the time of year. Currently, those include Spring Game, Commencement, and Kyle's Murray presentation. On this particular day, the specialized meeting includes discussing operations with AssetWorks (AiM developer). Between meetings, Matt is usually taking calls from the campus community or sneaking-in a Dr Pepper. The work day concludes with a weekly update meeting with Human Resources in the office, and then usually a phone call on the commute home.

SAFETY & HR UPDATES



SAFETY UPDATES

Safety Updates

Facilities Management rolled out its core values this month. The core values intertwine and support each other. Safety is one of the core values that team members felt important enough to include. FM is committed to supporting a Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE).

What is SCWE?

Two definitions of Safety Conscious Work Environment (SCWE) from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Department of Energy (DOE):

NRC - A working environment in which employees are encouraged to report safety concerns without fear of criticism or retaliation from their supervisors because they raised the issue.

DOE - An environment in which employees feel free to raise safety concerns to management (or a regulator) without fear of retaliation.

To be successful in our endeavor to foster SCWE, commitment to the process is needed from everyone in FM.

LEADERSHIP

- Commitment to safety from executive level to supervisors to frontline team members
- Risk-informed, conservative decision making
- Management engagement, experience, and transfer of knowledge
- Staff recruitment, selection, retention, and development
- Open communication and fostering an environment free from retribution
- Clear expectations and accountability

TEAM MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

- Personal commitment to everyone's safety
- Teamwork and mutual respect
- Participation in work planning and improvement
- Mindful of hazards and controls

ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING

Credibility, trust and reporting errors and problems

Effective resolution of reported problems

Performance monitoring through multiple means

Use of operational experience

Questioning attitude

Nuclear Regulatory Commission (retrieved 3/13/2023 from www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/basic-ref/glossary/safety-conscious-work-environment.html)

Department of Energy (retrieved 3/13/2023 from www.energy.gov/safety-culture/doe-safety-culture)



HR Updates

OUFM has started offering campus tours to new team members. One of the favorite locations is our very own UP4 Control Room. If you see new team members out on campus - please introduce yourself!

Did you know?

The University of Oklahoma offers over 170 different majors.



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