

# THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



## Message from the AVP

Facilities Team,

Members of the OU Facilities Management Team have worked so hard this summer preparing for the return of students in early August. There are so many projects ongoing across campus that will benefit our campus community. Thank you to everyone who has worked so diligently to finish their projects on time.

I recently had a conversation with the leadership team in landscaping where we discussed the importance of scheduling. Each of us has so many different tasks to complete that proper scheduling is vital to success. A mere few hours later, we received a call that a sector or campus needed immediate attention for a recently scheduled event. So much for our schedule! This event helped reinforce an important concept: that of being *Recruit Ready*.

Universities are always recruiting. Whether students, faculty, staff, researchers, grants, or partnerships, and it is important to always put our best foot forward. While we must plan for special events and projects, we should strive to be *Recruit Ready* in our daily activities. We will continue to emphasize this philosophy throughout the remainder of the year. For now, I challenge each of you to find ways to ensure your areas of responsibility are *Recruit Ready* at all times.

I want to extend my sincerest gratitude for your unwavering dedication and hard work in keeping our department and university running smoothly. Your tireless efforts help ensure that our campus is safe, functional, and welcoming to the campus community. From maintenance and repairs, gardening and turf management, planning and construction to ensuring cleanliness and comfort, your contributions are appreciated. Thank you for being so committed to excellence.

Be well and safe

-Matt

## UPCOMING DATES

SEC KICKOFF EVENTS  
JULY 7

INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY  
JULY 4

QUARTER 3 AWARD WINNER  
NOMINATIONS DEADLINE  
JULY 9

WELLNESS SESSION: RESILIENCE  
JULY 12

FM METOBOLIC SCREENING EVENT  
AUGUST 7

STUDENT MOVE-IN  
AUGUST 12 - 14

FALL 2024 CLASSES BEGIN  
AUGUST 19

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY  
SEPTEMBER 2

Have an idea for the next quarterly newsletter? Email [Facilities@ou.edu](mailto:Facilities@ou.edu) with your idea!

# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Kyle Brunsmann



Kyle began his career in Facilities Management as a Supervisor in Custodial Services. In January 2022, he accepted the position as Area Maintenance Supervisor in Maintenance Services, a role he continues to hold today. This past May, Kyle earned his Associate of Arts in History from OCCC and was accepted at OU to start classes in the Fall. Recently, Kyle was appointed as a Staff Senator for the 2024-2026 term.

## NEW HIRES

### FACILITY SERVICES

Jada Tyus | March 10  
Hunter Riley | March 25  
Rhonda Thompson | April 22  
Dominick Potter | April 29  
Joslin Ricky | May 4  
Danny Poco | May 6  
Sam Ratcliff | May 10  
Natalie Smith | May 21  
Mark Edwards | June 1  
Randy Gaynor | June 3  
Lance Lee | June 15  
Mason O'Brien | June 16  
Shirley Wiggins | June 16  
Tamara Leighton | June 17

### LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Michael Childress | April 8  
Kristin Fulton | April 22  
Chance Martin | May 9  
Charlie Baker | May 15  
Jared Knox | May 20  
Garrett Mayfield | June 3  
Jeremy Crites | June 4  
Trestan Day | June 17  
Jayden White | June 17

### MAINTENANCE

Hayden Lingle | May 20  
Michael Woods | June 3  
Cooper Black | June 17

### UTILITY SERVICES

Jaden Thompson | June 3

### ENGINEERING/PLANNING

Jada Higgins | May 28

## WELCOME



## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 YEAR

Dakota Hill | April 3  
Steven Evans | April 3  
Bailey Miller | April 3  
Eric McClarence | April 10  
Tim Drinkard | April 24  
Michael Smithmier | April 28  
Michael Brooks | May 15  
Ryan Salsman | May 22  
Ian Chilson | May 22  
Mike Kirkpatrick | June 20

### 5 YEARS

Kevin Connywerdy April 29  
Colin Barbour | May 19  
Ronald Brawley | May 20

### 15 YEARS

Sandra Anderson | March 3  
James Salsman | April 6  
Stephanie Mercer | April 30  
Ausencia Chavez de Jurado | June 22

### 20 YEARS

Toby Roberts | April 5  
Hongthong Dunsworth | May 10

### 30 YEARS

Chris Walsh | May 24



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# QUARTER 2 AWARD WINNERS

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Q2

## CUSTODIAL ROSEMARIE STARR



ROSEMARIE STARR IS A CUSTODIAN FOR FACILITY SERVICES. SHE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 11 YEARS.

“

*Rosemarie is an excellent cleaner and a team player on the athletics daytime crew. She always responds to special needs at the LNC and the stadium!*

”

Q2

## MAINTENANCE SPENCER KEELY



SPENCER KEELY IS A WELDER FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.

“

*Spencer was critical in making a repair during a steam leak. His determination and resourcefulness were instrumental in completion of the emergency repair.*

”

Q2

## LANDSCAPE DAKOTA HILL



DAKOTA HILL IS AN IRRIGATION MECHANIC FOR LANDSCAPE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.

“

*Dakota shows teamwork in his willingness to be patient and explain to leadership and customers about the situation and how the different parts of the waterline system worked. Dakota exemplifies all the characteristics of being an excellent Facilities Management team member.*

”

Q2

## FACILITY SERVICES KYLE LEFFLER



KYLE LEFFLER IS GENERAL MAINTENANCE SPECIALIST FOR FACILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 5 MONTHS.

“

*Kyle stays very attentive to the details associated with the help he has provided Utility Services. He ensures quality work is done and if there's a question, he is not scared to ask!*

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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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**Q2**



## **SUPERVISOR JASON GANN**

**JASON GANN IS A CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR FOR FACILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 4 YEARS**

“

*Jason was instrumental in responding to several on-call requests. Even when he wasn't the designated individual on call, he steps up to assist teams in need. This shows his commitment to the team and Facilities Management!”*

**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](mailto: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.

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## **KUDOS KORNER**



### **Chris George, Jonathan, Jordan, and Team**

“I wanted to reach out to thank you for getting the garage door up and running. It will greatly improve the quality of life here at the lab, previously I've been needing to drive around the building to get materials into the lab. I'd also like to highlight the hard work the electricians, Jonathan and Jordan. We are secluded out here on this side of campus and normally I don't get a lot help so I appreciate your aid and professional manner.”

“Sincere thanks to you, Jonathan, Jordan, and everybody else involved in this work. It might not seem like it, but that door is key to a smooth operation of the lab, from deliveries of materials to moving test frames to and from the lab to the boneyard to removing very large, tested specimens. We can work around it, when necessary, but with much greater effort and time. Thank you for how quickly this issue was resolved, much appreciated.”

### **Derrick Titus and Tim Drinkard**

“I just wanted to send you a quick note to say how much I appreciate the job our housekeeping team (two gentlemen) is doing! Thanks so much! They're awesome and I know it's a thankless job, so I am grateful.”

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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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## UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS

**Javier Contreras**  
Step 1, Operator Program  
Operating Engineer

**James Carson**  
Step 1, Maintenance Mechanic Program  
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

**Brandon Doty**  
Step 3, Operator Program  
Operating Engineer

**Zach Blanchard**  
Step 4, Operator Program  
Operating Engineer

**Zack Moore**  
Step 4, Operator Program  
Operating Engineer

**Shelby Rubrecht**  
Step 5, Maintenance Mechanic Program  
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

## PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team members on recent promotions!

**Noel Matta**  
Senior HVAC Mechanic

**Kenny Trammel**  
Lead Operator

**Seth Yadon**  
Senior HVAC Mechanic

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## Lead Sooner Graduates



(Left to Right) Sarah Ballew, Matthew Rom, and Kyle Brunsmann at the HSC campus for Lead Sooner Program Graduation. Congratulations to Sarah and Kyle for completing the eight-month leadership program!

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## KUDOS KORNER



### Derrick Titus

"I am writing to express my appreciation for the outstanding work of Derrick T. I work in Buchanan Hall, and I'm always impressed by how clean and well-maintained the space is on days when Derrick has been in the building. It's clear that he takes pride in his work, and Buchanan Hall really shines because of his efforts.

I also want to commend Derrick on his courteous demeanor. He is always focused on his tasks, but pleasant and professional whenever we've interacted."

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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

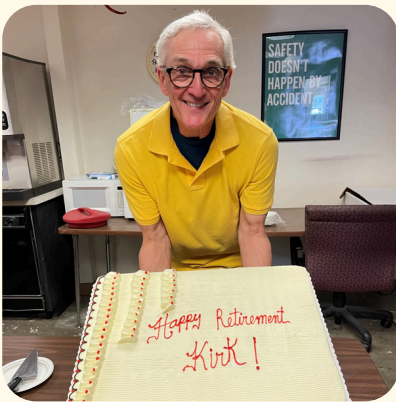
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## Congrats, Retirees!

Jackie Whitehead, Electrician, 43 years of service



Kirk Wettengel, Zone Maintenance Technician, 18 years of service



## Congrats, Journeymen!

Seth Yadon and Noel Mata recently completed the State of Oklahoma requirements and testing to becoming licensed mechanical journeymen.



Seth Yadon

Noel Mata



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## Congrats, Staff Senate Senators!

Area Maintenance Supervisor Kyle Brunsmann and Pest Control Supervisor Stuart Simpson were recently voted by the University community as Staff Senate Senators for the 2024-2026 term. Senators are responsible for attending the monthly Staff Senate meeting and voicing staff's ideas, concerns and questions. All staff are welcome to attend the meetings. Next meeting is July 17, 2024.



Kyle Brunsmann



Stuart Simpson

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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Safety Rodeo Recap

FM hosted the third annual Safety Rodeo. Thank you to all the presenters and judges!



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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Summer Projects



FM crews are busy this summer prepping campus for the largest freshmen class to date! Some large projects include a new bus turnaround and ADA ramp at Lloyd Noble Center, phone booth restoration, North Lawn regrading, Field House tunnel and sidewalks, Dale Hall Classroom access control installation, and exterior power washing at Chemistry. Other routine summer work, such as floor restorations, sod planting, Headington Hall turnaround cleans, are also being completed by FM's dedicated teams. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to making campus

*"Beautiful by Day and Night"*



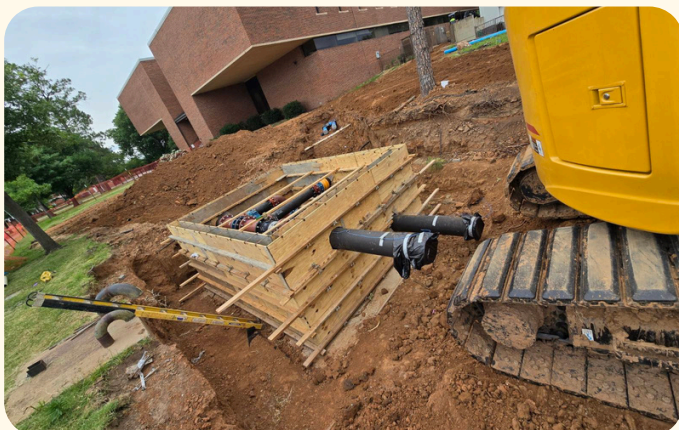
Landscape Services - South Oval Mum Planting



Maintenance Services - 705 Computer Lab



Projects and Engineering - Evans Hall Hedges



Utility Services - Law Center and Sam Noble Chilled Water Expansion



Facility Services - National Weather Center Floor Refinishing

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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Goodbye Big 12, Hello SEC!



On July 1, OU will officially become a member of the SEC after 28 seasons in the Big 12. Since the Big Eight Conference changed to the Big 12 in 1996, the Sooners have won 25 National Championships, 41 Big 12 Regular Season Championships, and 62 Big 12 Post-Season Championships across a variety of sports.

Facilities Management has worked as a partner with the Athletics Department during OU's tenure in the Big 12, supporting over 140 home football games.

This partnership will continue in the SEC, with the support of the SEC kickoff events beginning the night of June 30 for a 5K "Race to the SEC." A list of events for the SEC kickoff can be found at [SoonerSports.com](http://SoonerSports.com).



# BOOMER SOONER



## Arbor Day Event



FM, in partnership with the campus Tree Committee, planted a Shumard Red Oak tree ("nicknamed Oklahoma") to commemorate Arbor Day on April 26th. Trees play a crucial role in our campus ecosystem by providing shade, enhancing the campus aesthetic, improving air and



water quality, and supporting local biodiversity. We estimate that over the next 20 years, our Arbor Day tree will reduce the energy consumption of surrounding buildings by more than 1200 kilowatt hours, intercept rainwater and avoid close to 400 gallons of water from entering the stormwater system, sequester 650 pounds of carbon dioxide, and filter air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, ozone and particulate matter from our air. Here at OU, we are part of the Arbor Day foundation's network of Tree Campus Higher Education institutions. Collectively, this group engaged 25,000 students and planted more than 30,000 trees in the most recent year of activity.

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# FEATURED ARTICLES

## Customer Service Staycation



The Customer Service team issues approximately over 100 work orders, receives over 50 calls, and answers over 60 emails daily regarding buildings and spaces across campus, yet they do not get the opportunity to ever visit the site. This summer, Customer Service is taking a mini-staycation by visiting different buildings across campus. Earlier this month, the team received a tour of two utility plants. Upcoming tours include Athletics, Cross Village, Evans Hall, Dale Hall Tower, and Dale Hall Classroom.



Having a greater understanding of the different facilities across campus and their functions will aid the Customer Service Team in providing quality service to the department and University community.

Above. Kirk Bevins shows Kristen Odom and Steph Cunningham the touch screen Wonderware control center for operation of equipment inside the Combined Heat and Power Plant (CHPP)

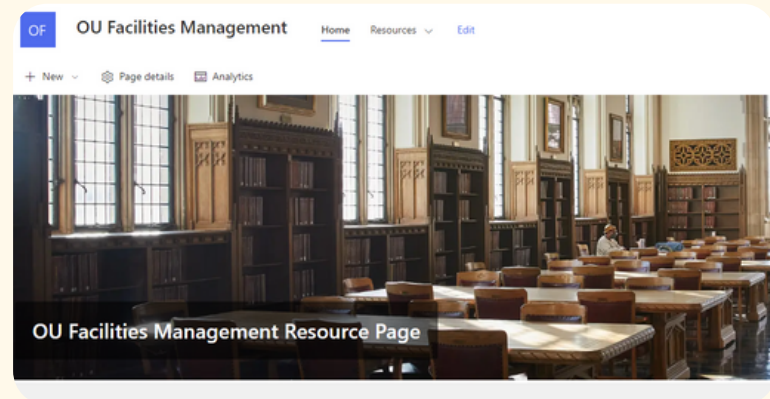
Right. Shelli Wyatt and Steph Cunningham at CHPP.



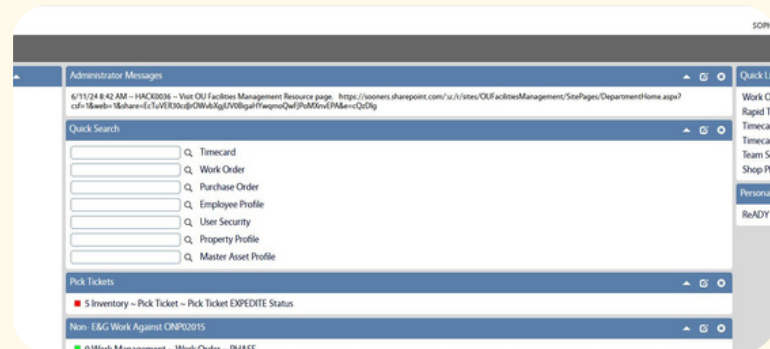
## New SharePoint Page



Below. Screenshot of the top of the new SharePoint Page



The Business Operations team have completed a new SharePoint page designed to share department policies, procedures, events, contacts, and more. All team members have access to this page by using your 4x4 and password. There are three ways to access the page:  
*First Option:* Go to your AiM homepage, then copy the link in the Administrator Messages. Paste that link into your web browser.



*Second Option:* Type [sooners.sharepoint.com](https://sooners.sharepoint.com) in your web browser, sign-in, and select OU Facilities Management under "Following."

*Third Option:* Type [sooners.sharepoint.com/sites/OUFacilitiesManagement](https://sooners.sharepoint.com/sites/OUFacilitiesManagement) in your web browser and sign-in.

Bookmark the link to make it easy to access in the future!

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# HR UPDATES

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## SAFETY UPDATES

### 2024 Annual Safety Breakfast and BBQ

The 2024 Annual Safety Breakfast and Barbeque was held on June 12. This year's challenge was for teams to find new tools and technologies for their department and to present those ideas at their tables. The presentations were great! As can be seen by the photos – they found some creative tools and tech! Congratulations to the Plumbing Shop for your winning presentation. Everyone's participation is greatly appreciated! Only through your engagement, participation, and support can we make the work we do on campus as safe as possible.



Above. 1st place winners, Pablo Osuna and Greg Moser, at the Safety Breakfast.



Right. 1st place winner, Austin Roesler, at the Safety Lunch

## HR UPDATES



The University of Oklahoma values the mental, physical, and emotional health of its employees! To assist in prioritizing the importance of wellness, FMHR has been organizing quarterly wellness sessions. This summer, we have two wellness events available for team members:

Magellan will be hosting a wellness session on Growing Your Personal and Professional Resilience on Friday, 7/12 from 8 AM-9 AM in the 705 training room. All FM team members are invited to attend. Make sure you coordinate with your supervisor if you're interested in attending.

Facilities Management has partnered with OU Health and will be hosting an onsite biometric health screening event for FM team members! The event will be held on Thursday, August 1, from 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM in the 705-training room. The OU Health Physicians Corporate Health and Wellness team will be testing for cholesterol, blood glucose, blood pressure, and body composition. Appointments take approximately 15-30 minutes to complete, fasting is recommended for the most accurate results. An appointment link will be emailed to all team members.

Have an idea to share for a wellness event? Email me! [jshinabery@ou.edu](mailto:jshinabery@ou.edu)

### Did you know?

A floor-to-ceiling tornado simulator is featured in the lobby of the University's Radar Innovations Laboratory.

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