

# THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



## Message from the AVP

*OUFM Team Members,*

*The days are getting longer, and flowers are starting to bloom, which means we are moving into the spring season! We have had a good semester, and I look forward to finishing strong. Thank you to everyone who contributes to the success of OU Facilities Management.*

*The focus of this quarter's AVP message is celebrating successes. The work performed by OU Facilities Management is often unseen when everything goes right, and highly visible when things do not go as expected. I want to share our successes with each other and the university community. Our work is integral to the institution's success and should be celebrated. You will begin seeing articles in campus publications outlining our efforts. I would also like to celebrate them internally as they occur. I ask that division advisory councils outline these successes as part of their routine meetings so they can be shared during department advisory council meetings.*

*As you all know, we are moving to the Southeastern Conference on July 1, 2024. There will be much fanfare around campus during the transition and we must be ready for the extra attention Norman will receive. Our grounds, buildings, and overall campus appearance will need to be at their best. I look forward to all our collaborative efforts to put the best foot forward as the University of Oklahoma begins a new and exciting era.*

*Be well, Stay safe, and Be purposeful!*

*-Matt*

## UPCOMING DATES

### OU GIVING DAY

April 2nd

### PATTY GASSO STATUE DEDICATION

April 20th

### SPRING FOOTBALL GAME

April 20th

### SOONER SATURDAY

April 20th

### STAFF WEEK

April 22nd - 26th

### ARBOR DAY

April 26th

### FINALS WEEK

May 6th - 10th

### COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

May 11th - 12th

### MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

May 27th

### FM SAFETY BBQ

June 12th

### JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY

June 19th

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

### Jackie Whitehead



Jackie recently celebrated an impressive milestone of reaching 43 years with Facilities Management, naming him the most tenured team member in the department. Jackie is an integral part of the Electrical shop within Maintenance Services, where he diligently manages a network of over 350 alarm systems spread across the campus.

Congratulations on 43 years, Jackie!

## MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

### 1 YEAR

Zackery Ragel	01/17/23
Diondrez Stead	01/27/23
Jason Alvarado	01/30/23
Ryan Bracamonte	01/30/23
Liam Moore	01/30/23
Seth Yadon	01/30/23
Dante Bickham	02/13/23
Keith Koassechony	02/27/23
Joseph Mars	02/27/23
Jeffrey Smith	02/28/23
David Ketch	03/20/23
James Carson	03/27/23
kyle Garrett	03/27/23
John Robles	03/27/23
Roxann Valdez	03/27/23
Ron Stewart	03/29/23

### 5 YEARS

Brandon Marlow	01/01/19
Tammara Powers	02/17/19

### 10 YEARS

Evan Wardwell	01/13/14
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### 15 YEARS

Miguel Morales	01/26/09
Sandra Anderson	03/03/09
Deborah Foreman	03/14/09

### 20 YEARS

Sandra Gonzalez	02/07/04
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### 30 YEARS

James Lambert	02/28/94
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### 35 YEARS

Paul Mitchell	12/31/88
Tom Hughes	01/28/89

### 40 YEARS

Leland Evans	03/19/84
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## NEW HIRES

### FACILITY SERVICES

Kyle Leffler | Jan. 2  
 Vincent Lewis | Jan. 3  
 Jonathan Wheeler | Jan. 15  
 Leslie Dehaven | Jan. 16  
 Samuel Hill | Jan. 16  
 Jaxon Kitchell | Jan. 16  
 Freeman Rumley | Jan. 16  
 Austin Jaynes | Jan. 27  
 Asher Shryock | Jan. 27  
 Christian Lopez Orozco | Jan. 29  
 Marc Davis | Jan. 31  
 Jadi McGill | Feb. 11  
 Keyunray Simon | Feb. 11  
 Dylan Bors | Feb. 12  
 Jameson Brittain | Feb. 12  
 Raquel Chavez Resendiz | Feb. 12  
 Patricia Guerrero-Saucedo | Feb. 12  
 Matthew Prindiville | Feb. 12  
 Ariam Harris | Feb. 14  
 Amanda Tucker | Feb. 25  
 Stephanie Ogg | Feb. 26  
 Odette Duggan | Mar. 9  
 Christopher Owens | Mar. 9  
 Rebecca Sargent | Mar. 10  
 Jay Tyus | Mar. 10  
 Angelique Dew | Mar. 11  
 Cheyenne Farris | Mar. 11  
 Leonor Fuentes | Mar. 11  
 Frailan Ibanez | Mar. 11  
 Joe Martin | Mar. 11  
 Claudia Sanchez Luna | Mar. 11  
 Ma De Sanchez Martinez | Mar. 11  
 Kenneth Brake | Mar. 13  
 Yvonne Robbins | Mar. 13  
 Patrick Crittenden | Mar. 25

### MAINTENANCE

James Stromberg | Jan. 29  
 Teagan Qualls | Jan. 29  
 Carlos De La Cruz | Feb. 12  
 Jared Julian | Feb. 12  
 Logan Harjo | Feb. 12  
 Charles Phillips | Feb. 26  
 Kenneth Credille | Mar. 25  
 Marta Morgan | Mar. 25

### LANDSCAPING/GROUNDS

Brandon Evans | Jan. 2  
 Robert Pigg | Jan. 2  
 Mason Smith | Jan. 2  
 Gunnar Delaplain | Feb. 12  
 Keith Krebs | Feb. 12  
 Tristan King | Jan. 16  
 Kaytlin Lewis | Jan. 16  
 Tyler Pool | Jan. 16  
 Javier Rodarte | Feb. 26

## WELCOME



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# QUARTER 1 AWARD WINNERS

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**Q1**

## **CUSTODIAL DANIEL CROWE**



**DANIEL CROWE IS A CUSTODIAN FOR FACILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.**

“

*Daniel takes pride in his work, we receive compliments from staff in the buildings regarding his personality and performance!*

”

**Q1**

## **MAINTENANCE KENNY BLACK**



**KENNY BLACK IS A SENIOR PAINTER FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 36 YEARS.**

“

*Kenny always goes above and beyond. Customers always say how friendly, professional, and thorough he is. He can always be counted on!*

”

**Q1**

## **LANDSCAPE CALEB BLAKLEY**



**CALEB BLAKLEY IS A IRRIGATION TECHNICIAN FOR LANDSCAPE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 8 YEARS.**

“

*Caleb is reliable and sustainable, because of him, we're able to preserve our infrastructure from being unnecessarily and sometimes irreparably damaged. His work is invaluable to helping the university save resources!*

”

**Q1**

## **UTILITIES MIKE MCMILLIN**



**MIKE MCMILLIN IS A UTILITY MAINTENANCE MECHANIC FOR UTILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 3 YEARS.**

“

*Mike is a great team player. He helps everyone with either his knowledge or lending a hand because he is always willing to help out by any means necessary. He plays a valuable role in maintaining the operations within the department!*

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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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## Q1 FACILITY SERVICES LOGAN KUHN



**LOGAN KUHN IS A SHIPPING AND RECEIVING TECHNICIAN FOR FACILITY SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 5 MONTHS.**

“*Logan has a positive attitude, enthusiasm to learn, and has a constant drive to make improvements to the department. Logan takes the initiative to learn more about his customers to better serve them as we develop the warehouse!*”

## Q1 SUPERVISOR BILL DADY



**BILL DADY IS A SUPERVISOR FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. RECENTLY RETIRED, HE WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 8 YEARS.**

“*Bill ensures all team members have what they need and helps whenever needed. He cares about his team members not just in their professional life but personal life too!*”

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## KUDOS KORNER



### Demetri Davis and Raymond Jones

“I just wanted to let you know that the gentleman that has been taking care of Adams Hall is amazing! Our building looks great. I just wanted you to know he’s doing a tremendous job!”

### DeDe Brannon and Crew

“I wanted to let you know that DeDe and the crew that stripped and waxed the Forum floors did an AWESOME job! They look INCREDIBLE and are always very easy/nice to work with and I wanted to pass that along!”

### Fred Bettencourt

“I want to express my appreciation for the work that Fred does for the third floor and tower cab. He is always courteous and friendly with a quick smile. Fred performs his duties in a professional manner. He is thorough and detailed oriented. Fred will always inquire if anything else needs attention. I have also observed him working in other areas of the building with the same detailed enthusiasm. Fred is truly a valuable asset to his team. This gratitude is from ALL the tower personnel.”

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# FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

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## PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team members on recent promotions!

**Ashley Bowen**  
Custodial Supervisor

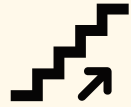
**Brandon Evans**  
Gardener

**Floyd Lehman**  
Supervisor, Roads & Hauling

**William Henry**  
Custodial Lead

**Joe Martin**  
Business Solutions Specialist

## UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS



**Brandon Doty**  
Step 2, Operator Program  
Operating Engineer

**Mike McMillin**  
Step 5, Maintenance Program  
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

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## SAFETY PROGRAM



Stuart Simpson, pest control supervisor, completed the Safety Recognition Program in December 2023. Congratulations, Stuart!

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THANK YOU

for keeping campus  
operating through  
the snow, ice, and  
freezing  
temperatures!



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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Meet the FM Business Operations Team



The Business Operations team is responsible for AiM functionality, processes, and data extraction. Over the last several months, the team has been working on a variety of new initiatives, such as the new Energy Management module, work code revisions, PowerBI reports, and landscape operations.

The team is comprised of:

- Terry Coltharp
- Sophia Hacker
- Joe Martin
- Christian Lopez Orozco

Have a question or issue with AiM? Need a report? Need a training for your team? Email [FMBO@ou.edu](mailto:FMBO@ou.edu). They are here to help!

Did you know? A&E Services and Housing Operations utilize AiM on a daily basis and use the FM Business Operations team for support.



## New Indoor Bins Coming Soon!

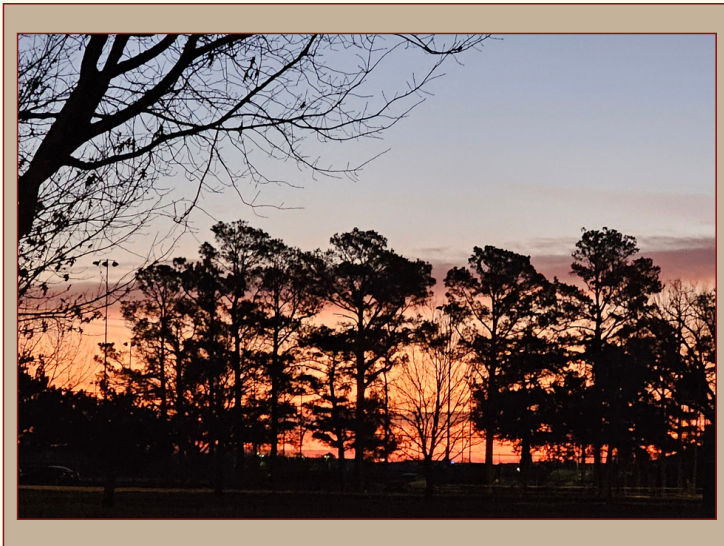


Thirty new interior recycling and landfill cabinets will be placed in academic buildings across campus in an effort to increase diversion and lower contamination rates. The diversion rate is calculated by dividing the total weight of recyclable materials by the combined weight of all waste and recyclable materials. As part of the department's Continuous Improvement Plan, the diversion rate is calculated monthly and annually, with a goal of 20%. Over the last three years, the annual average rate is approximately 11%.

The new bins are made from recycled plastic and follow best-practices, such as educational signage, color coding, and specific slot shapes for each material.

The indoor bins will be located near building entrances and high-traffic classrooms. These bins, along with the deployment of Bigbelly outdoor units, are all initiatives planned by the Energy & Sustainability and Facility Services divisions to increase recycling education and infrastructure.

Check out the demo bins outside Sarkey's Energy Center A235 and Adams Hall 150.



Pictured: An OU sunrise taken by Tammie Mitchell from Landscape Services.

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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Landscape in the Winter



Team members in Landscape Services captured photos of statues and gardens on a snow-filled campus. During the winter months, the tree crew prunes, as winter is the best time to prune trees, and the crew can access areas challenging to access during the semester. Gardeners mulch the perennials, and later in winter, trim hedges and crepe myrtles. Gardeners pair up with the mowing shop for leaf control. Mowers also handle low spots, remove tree stumps left in the ground, and train team members on various machines. Irrigation winterizes equipment and works on routine maintenance for sprinkler heads and drip.



Pictured above: The Parrington (North) Oval entrance featuring OKLAHOMA U and the 11-foot-tall bronze May We Have Peace American Indian man holding aloft a peace pipe. The artist is Allan Houser.

Pictured left: *Homeward Bound* is located between Bizzell Memorial Library and Adams Hall. It is a bronze depiction of a Navajo woman with her sheep and dog crossing a bridge, located in the Peggy V. Helmerich Park. The artist is Allan Houser.

Pictured right: The statue of William Bennett Bizzell, OU's fifth president, on the South Oval facing the library that bears his name. The artist is the late OU art professor Joseph Taylor.



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# FEATURED ARTICLES

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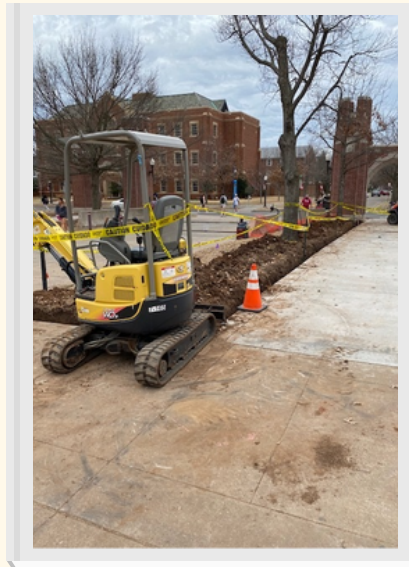
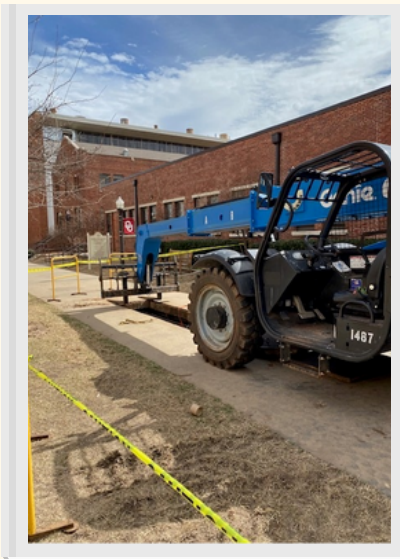


## South Oval Bed Rework

The Landscape team has been working on removing soil 1 foot down to till the remaining soil in the South Oval rocker beds. Soil will be added back to the pans before growing season. The goal is to have fresh lively soil easier to till, plant, and grow in.

## Felgar Tunnel Project

Medium pressure steam piping replacement and installation of expansion joint on a section of piping was a critical failure point.



## Irrigation Rework

The Irrigation team worked on repairing irrigation lines after the sidewalk expansion project at the intersection of Elm and Brooks Street on the west side of campus.

## Custodial Forum Floor Project

The Custodial team worked on refinishing the floors at the Forum building on south campus.





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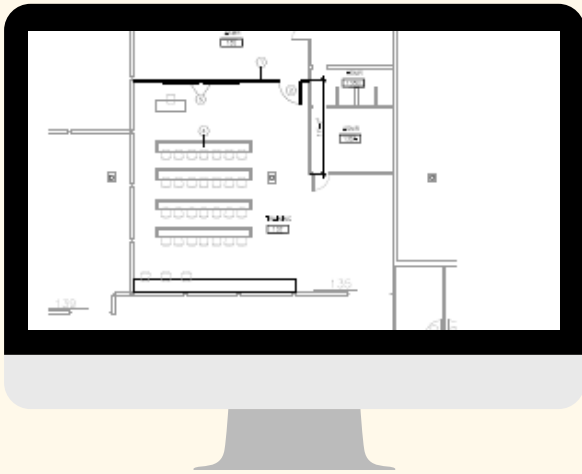
# FEATURED ARTICLES

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## Computer Lab at 705



A new computer lab will be constructed at 705 E. Lindsey in the former ACM shop. This lab will replace the computer bays on each end of the building. The computer lab will also be available for AiM, WorkForce, onboarding, and other relevant trainings and feature brand new computers. The lab is currently in the design phase.



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## Arbor Day Plans



A Red Oak will be planted on Arbor Day on the south side of Lindsey just north of the Residential Colleges. The campus community will vote on the name of the tree. Have a name suggestion for the tree? Email Sarah Ballew at [sarah.ballew@ou.edu](mailto:sarah.ballew@ou.edu) by

Monday, April 1. Naming suggestions can be related to:

- Tree species
- A facility the tree is near (Stadium, Headington Hall, Residential Colleges)
- Transition to the SEC
- Anything!

Join FM Landscape and Energy & Sustainability on April 26th at 1:30 to celebrate the planting of the new tree.



## Staff Senate Service Awards

Facilities Management has many team members who will be awarded Staff Senate Awards this year! The Awards Ceremony will be on Tuesday, April 23rd, at 11:00 a.m. in the Molly Shi Boren Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom. Those planning to attend are encouraged to arrive around 10:45 a.m. to secure a seat. Staff members with 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service, as well as staff retirees, will be honored individually. Staff with 10 and 15 years of service will be recognized in groups at this ceremony.

### Facility Services

Matthew Stephens, Custodial - 10 years  
Olga Modesto, Custodial - 10 years  
Kristen Odom, Customer Services - 10 years  
Angela Maddux-Tannehill, Custodial - 10 years  
Aaron Ogg, Refuse/Recycling - 15 years  
Toby Farrimond, Custodial - 15 years  
Jason Jones, Custodial - 30 years  
Scott Lofton, Custodial - 20 years

### Landscape Services

Torrey Redmon, Gardening - 10 years  
Bessie James, Gardening - 15 years  
Alex Loftus, Irrigation - 20 years

### Maintenance Services

Chris Thompson, Roads and Hauling - 10 years  
Casey Jones, MRTP - 10 years  
Floyd Lehman, Roads and Hauling - 20 years  
Tim Hogland, Electrical - 15 years

### Planning and Engineering

Ricky Pope - 10 years  
Bill Cooper - 10 years  
Stan Berry - 15 years

### Utilities

Alek Zakaryan, Admin - 10 years

### Administration

Matt Rom - 15 years

### Retirees

Evelyn McGraw, Facility Services  
Ruby Rollyson, Facility Services  
Paul Box, Maintenance Services  
Robert Kent, Maintenance Services  
Tom Tuck, Maintenance Services  
Ryland Lieb, Facility Services  
Robert Spoon, Landscape Services  
Jeanne Chase, Landscape Services

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# HR UPDATES

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## SAFETY UPDATES

### Note from the Safety Officer

#### Safety Champions

Stuart Simpson completed the Safety Recognition Program in January and is making a positive impact in creating a safer work environment for Facilities Management and the University overall. He is the University's Pest Control Specialist and has been actively reviewing the pest control program and bringing it up to current State and Federal requirements.

I would like to see more participation in the program. Remember as you work through the program and complete milestones you are rewarded with swag, food, a Safety Champion plaque to proudly display, and a \$500 supplement.

If you are interested in participating in the program, feel free to contact me: (405) 325-4229 or [jmlekush@ou.edu](mailto:jmlekush@ou.edu).

#### Instructor LED Safety Training

The 2024 Safety Training program is off to a good start with great attendance so far. Each topic is offered two times each quarter. Since the 1st quarter is over, you have six more opportunities to attend each training in 2024. Keep up the good work!

#### OnPoint Safety Training

Twenty-nine Safety Training modules are available in OnPoint. Many of you will have already received emails from OnPoint notifying you that training has been assigned to you. Expect more to come over the course of the year. Depending on the requirements of your job, you may end up taking 10 to 15 modules. Some of the modules will be taken every year while others will be on a three years refresher frequency.

Thanks to everyone in Facilities Management for helping create a safety-conscious culture! It's not me that makes the culture...YOU are the culture!

- Jeff

## HR UPDATES



#### OU Employee Engagement Survey

The University has partnered with Gallup, to conduct an employee engagement survey to provide staff and faculty an opportunity to share feedback on their workplace environment. On Wednesday, April 3, you will receive an email invitation directly from Gallup ([support@mail.gallup.com](mailto:support@mail.gallup.com)) inviting you to participate in the Employee Engagement Survey. It will only take about 10 minutes to complete, and the survey will remain open through April 17. Learn more here: <https://hr.ou.edu/Engage>

#### OU Dependent Eligibility Verification

The University is conducting a dependent eligibility verification audit to effectively manage our benefit plans. If you have dependents enrolled in medical, dental, vision and/or life insurance benefits, you will receive a verification packet from UnifyHR to your home address with instructions for completing the verification process. Learn more here: <https://hr.ou.edu/Employees/Insurance/Dependent-Audit-Information>

### Did you know?

The University of Oklahoma has over 500 active registered student organizations across many different interests.

### LIKE & FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



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