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

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

NEW HIRES

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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
- 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
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- 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
- 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
- Dustin Bacon 6/19/17
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- Arthur Patton 9/19/17
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- 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
- Lorena Trejo De Martinez 8/25/12
- Christopher Van Buskirk 8/27/12
- Rosemarie Starr 9/8/12
- Jeffery Privet 9/10/12
- Chester Warner 7/9/07
- Ryland Lieb 9/15/97
- Thomas Tuck 9/15/97
- Steven Surface 7/28/12
- Kyle McGehee 8/15/12
- Lorena Trejo De Martinez 8/25/12
- Christopher Van Buskirk 8/27/12
- Rosemarie Starr 9/8/12
- Jeffery Privet 9/10/12
- Chester Warner 7/9/07
- Ryland Lieb 9/15/97
- Thomas Tuck 9/15/97

25 YEARS

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

35 YEARS

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

40 YEARS

- Steven Williams 8/10/82
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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**
MRTP 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.
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.

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.

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.

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.
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

Gail Fite is a custodian in the custodial department. She has worked at the University of Oklahoma for 1 year.

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.

Mike Coffman is a licensed water technician in utilities. He has worked at the University of Oklahoma for 17 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.

Sydny Petross is a customer service supervisor for facilities services. She has worked at the University of Oklahoma for 23 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.

Jerrald 'Bat' Masterson is a senior HVAC mechanic in maintenance services. He has worked at the University of Oklahoma for 37 years.
QUARTER 3 AWARD WINNERS

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
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.”

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
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 shorthanded. He does not sit idle and takes the initiative to find work.”
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

Safety BBQ/Breakfast Recap

FM celebrated its first-annual Safety BBQ and Breakfast back in June. Thank you to all participants!
Submit a service request at FixIt.OU.edu.

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.

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!"
New Safety Officer

Jeff Mlekush was hired in September as the OU FM 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.

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.
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.

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.

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

@oufacilities

@oufacilities

@oufacilities

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