

THE SEED SOWER

OU Facilities Management Quarterly Newsletter



Message from the AVP

OUFM Team Members,

It is hard to believe that we are already three months into the year and Spring is upon us. The end of the semester is quickly approaching, and the students will soon depart for summer break. I enjoyed seeing many of you at the spring appreciation breakfast a few weeks ago. While it is only a small token of appreciation, I hope it is a reminder of how important you are to the department's overall success.

As we begin the next quarter, I want to take a moment to recognize and celebrate the incredible hard work and dedication each of you bring to Facilities Management. Each day our team shows up with passion, perseverance, and a drive to contribute to the shared goals of our department – and for that, I am truly grateful. The commitment and energy each of you invests in your work does not go unnoticed. Whether it is going the extra mile for a customer, stepping in to support a fellow team member, or bringing innovative ideas to the table, each action helps drive us forward.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. I encourage everyone to submit pictures and articles for future publications. I highly encourage you to read about the newly established FM committees detailed in the Featured Articles section near the end of the newsletter. Congratulations to everyone who will be recognized at the Staff Awards Ceremony in April. A full list of team members being recognized can be found on the last page of the newsletter.

I am looking forward to our progress over the coming quarter! As always, let me know if I can be of service.

Be Safe,

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

UPCOMING DATES

CRIMSON COMBINE (SPRING GAME)

April 12th

STAFF WEEK

April 21st - 25th

STAFF WEEK AWARDS CEREMONY

April 22nd

ARBOR DAY TREE PLANTING

April 25, 10:30 AM

FINAL EXAMINATIONS

May 5th-9th

COMMENCEMENT

May 9th - 11th

MEMORIAL DAY

May 26

JUNETEENTH

June 19

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

FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Malissa Harbison

Malissa Harbison is the first Custodian to successfully complete the Safety Recognition Program. She has been a dedicated member of the University for seven years and currently works on the day team on the main campus. Malissa provides services to Dale Tower and Ellison Hall and serves as the head custodian at the Boyd House. She also represents her team on the advisory council. Outside of work, she enjoys playing BINGO and takes a cruise every year.

Congratulations, Malissa, on becoming the first Safety Champion in Custodial Services!



MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

1 YEAR

Samuel Hill | Jan. 16
Raquel Chavez Resendiz | Feb. 12
Jenny Berkowitz | Feb. 26
Odette Duggan | Mar. 9
Tyler Pool | Jan. 18
Kyle Leffler | Jan. 2
Karma Brittain | Feb. 12
Leonor Mejia Fuentes | Mar. 11
Patricia Guerrero-Saucedo | Feb. 12
Frailain Ibanez | Mar. 11
Ma De Sanchez Martinez | Mar. 11
Cheyenne Farris | Mar. 11
Teagen Qualls | Jan. 29
Mason Smith | Jan. 2
Carlos De La Cruz | Feb. 12
Tristan King | Jan. 18
Christian Lopez Orozco | Jan. 29
Amanda Tucker | Mar. 9
Gunnar Delaplain | Feb. 12
Yvonne Robbins | Mar. 13
Stephanie Ogg | Feb. 26
Timothy DeHaven | Jan. 16
Christopher Owens | Mar. 9
Claudia Sanchez Luna | Mar. 11
Marta Morgan | Mar. 25
Charles Phillips | Feb. 26
Brandon Evans | Jan. 2
Vincent Lewis | Jan. 3
Austin Jaynes | Jan. 27
Joe Martin | Mar. 11
Patrick Crittenden | Mar. 25
James Stromberg | Jan. 29
Jared Julian | Feb. 12
Kenneth Credille | Mar. 25

5 YEARS

Carmen Detar | Jan. 6
Erwin Loving II | Mar. 15
Guillermo Alvarez Alvarez | Feb. 17
Collin Longman | Mar. 9
Cory Sausser | Jan. 2

10 YEARS

Michael Bergen | Jan. 20
Michael Hammit | Mar. 23
Michael Coffman | Mar. 20

15 YEARS

Mae Etta Laster | Jan. 16
Darren Bean | Jan. 4

25 YEARS

Johnathon Petross | Feb. 26



NEW HIRES

FACILITY SERVICES

Sarah Hartford | Jan. 13
Matthew Jewell | Jan. 13
Torreyun Bumpus | Jan. 2
Tamara Leighton | Feb. 24
Marissa Krush | Jan. 13
Quinton Hukill | Jan. 17
Brody Crisp | Feb. 10
Billy Jackson | Mar. 10
Carey Madsen | Mar. 9
Don Bruner | Mar. 8
Brieanah Rowden | Mar. 9
Alyssa Williamson | Mar. 10
Parker Rottschaefer | Mar. 9
Tiffany Padilla | Mar. 8
Zane Timmerman | Feb. 3
Mason Mitchell | Feb. 24
Elizabeth Seiden | Mar. 22

LANDSCAPING/ GROUNDS

Bradley Dixon | Feb. 10
Dennis Autry | Mar. 24
Amir Johnson | Jan. 27

MAINTENANCE

Samuel Cooper | Jan. 13
Troy Riley | Jan. 2
Jarrod Ethridge | Mar. 24

PLANNING AND ENGINEERING

Jennifer Fuentes | Jan. 13

UTILITY SERVICES

Blake Lindert | Jan. 27
Hunter Stephens | Jan. 27
Chloe Brooks | Jan. 24

WELCOME



QUARTER 1 AWARD WINNERS

Q1

LEAD/SUPERVISOR JASON GANN



JASON IS A CUSTODIAL SUPERVISOR FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES. JASON HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY FOR 5 YEARS.

“

Jason is the only person I know that can keep being the kindest, friendliest, and most caring supervisor around and still do the tough job of correcting situations where better work or better attitude towards work is concerned.

”

Q1

CUSTODIAL VINCENT LEWIS



VINCET IS A CUSTODIAN FOR CUSTODIAL SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 1 YEAR.

“

Vincent always shows a willingness to jump in and help others when needed. He will often finish his area early and then look for other custodians who may need assistance.

”

Q1

UTILITIES RICK STEELY



RICK IS AN ELECTRICAL LINEMAN FOR UTILITIES. HE HAS WORKED ON THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA CAMPUS FOR 42 YEARS.

“

Rick has been a dedicated employee of OU for many years. His extensive knowledge and experience are undeniably top-tier, and he has leveraged his skills to train numerous individuals. He is always willing to stop, listen, and teach.

”

Q1

MAINTENANCE BRENDAN COX



BRENDAN IS AN ELECTRICAL TECHNICIAN FOR MAINTENANCE SERVICES. HE HAS WORKED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA FOR 7 YEARS.

“

Brendon consistently shows up on time and in a positive mood, creating a welcoming and collaborative atmosphere. Over his tenure at the university, he has built meaningful connections and friendships, earning the respect of his colleagues and peers alike.

”

Team Member of the Quarter FAQ

How do you nominate someone for team member of the quarter?

It's easy! All nominations are submitted through an online Qualtrics form, which can be accessed via the QR code on the nomination posters. These posters are placed in FM break areas and at clock-in/out locations. Additionally, all FM team members receive an email reminder with a direct link to the Qualtrics form before the nomination deadline. When completing the form, the nominator will need to answer a few questions:

1. How has this team member exceeded in their position this quarter?
2. What FM core values has these team member displayed?
3. Provide any additional information regarding that team member's significant impact.

Make sure to include plenty of details (don't be afraid to brag!) and share as much information as possible about what makes this team member exceptional this quarter.

How are the winners chosen?

At the end of the quarter once all nominations are received, all submissions are categorized by division (Utilities, Custodial, Facility Services non-custodial, Landscape, Maintenance, and lead/supervisors). The nomination review committee then meets to discuss all the nominations received. The nomination committee is made up of a representative from each division. In some cases, it's the division Director, but the Director can also designate someone from their team to represent them for that quarter. During the meeting, the committee reviews and discusses each nomination before scoring them. The nominees with the highest scores in their respective division are then selected as Team Member of the Quarter.

The Team Member of the Quarter receives a framed certificate and a one-time \$100 supplement. All Team Members of the Quarter are then eligible for the Team Member of the Year award, which is presented in the Fall.



FEATURED TEAM MEMBERS

UTILITIES STEP COMPLETIONS



Michael McMillin

Step 6, Maintenance Training Program
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

James Carson

Step 2, Maintenance Training Program
Utility Maintenance Mechanic

PROMOTIONS

Congrats to the following team
members on recent promotions!

Ethan Lehman

Refuse/Recycle Driver

Patrick Crittenden

Materials and Equipment Mechanic

KUDOS KORNER



Dominick Potter

“Dominick was at Gaylord Hall and resolved those issues and more, and all those things are now perfect. We’re always happy to see his face because he has solved our problems quickly and properly in the past.”

Patricia Rettig and Malissa Harbison

“I am writing to brag on Trish and Malissa, our wonderful custodial staff. They are dedicated, hardworking, and they take pride in what they do. They are a pleasure to have on our team. I thought you should know how much we appreciate them.”

FEATURED ARTICLES

Spring Appreciation Breakfast

On Tuesday, March 18, the department held the Spring Appreciation Breakfast—an annual event where we celebrate and express appreciation to Facilities Management team members for their hard work and dedication to the department. The menu featured delicious breakfast burritos and sandwiches, home fries, fresh fruit, and pastries. A special thank you to OU Food Services for accommodating our event and starting their day early just for us!



Pictured Above: team members from the overnight Custodial Athletics team



Pictured Above: team members of the Access Control Shop



Pictured Above: Supervisor, Jim Oliver, being served home fries

FEATURED ARTICLES

Spring Break Projects

Several projects across all divisions with Facilities Management took place over Spring Break.



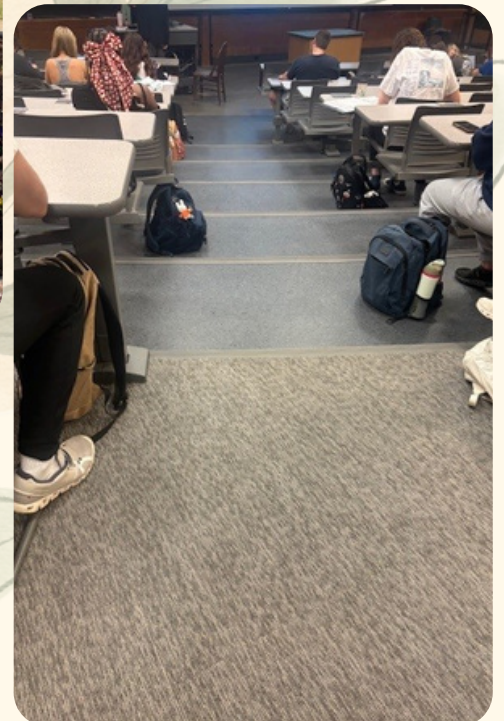
Pictured Above: Several sidewalks, including this one by Nielsen, were redone by Maintenance Services.



Pictured Above: Custodial Services scrubbed and waxed the atrium at the National Water Center.



Pictured Above: Landscape Services prepped beds on the South Oval for new spring flowers.



Pictured Below: Planning & Engineering completed a floor project in Nielsen Hall.

FEATURED ARTICLES

Record Cold Weather

The University encountered several snow/ice events and below-freezing temperatures over the past few months. Snow and ice removal crews from multiple shops reported to campus in January and February. On January 17, Oklahoma experienced the lowest average statewide temperature since February 16, 2021 at -6.7 degrees, with that arctic front producing below freezing temperatures for more than 100 consecutive hours in some areas. The FM team plays a crucial part in getting campus back to full operations for teaching, research, athletic, and student-led events. Thank you to all team members who worked this past winter season!



Pictured Above: Chester Warner from Landscape Services shovels snow in front of Evans Hall. The photo was shared on OU's official social media pages.

So Long, Sutton



The demolition of Sutton Hall took place over Winter Break, coordinated by the Planning & Engineering team. The facility, built in 1925, was named after professor George Miksch Sutton, a bird expert. Dr. Sutton famously discovered the nests of the Blue Goose at Hudson Bay in 1930. Sutton Hall was the current home of the School of Biological Sciences and former home of the College of Pharmacy. The site will serve as the new home of the Life Sciences Laboratory, housing modern teaching labs and flexible classroom spaces for biology and chemistry education.



FEATURED ARTICLES

FM Committees Kick Off

FM has rolled out several committees this quarter, each responsible for making recommendations beneficial to all Facilities Management divisions. If you have ideas or thoughts for improvements within your department, reach out to one of the Committee Chairs. The committees are:

Events, Recognition, and Engagement chaired by Bailey Miller (Landscape & Grounds Specialist) is responsible for organizing departmental events, celebrating achievements, and enhancing engagement. The committee acknowledges the hard work and dedication of FM team members, upholding the department's core values of safety, sustainable, teamwork, accountable, innovative, and reliable. The committee's efforts not only recognize individual contributions but also build a sense of community and appreciation among all team members, fostering a positive work environment.

Policies Committee chaired by Stuart Simpson (Pest Control Supervisor). It is responsible for an annual review of all standing departmental policies. This committee ensures all policies and procedures adhere to the highest standards by aligning with current operations and adhering with relevant laws and regulations. The committee also reviews and proposes new policies, procedures, or standards that enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the department, fostering an environment that supports the university's educational and research missions.

Safety Committee Chaired by Logan Byers (Lead Locksmith) is responsible for fostering a secure and healthy environment for team members. Its primary purpose is to oversee the implementation and management of the department's safety programs. This committee serves as a proactive body that voices concerns and suggestions, providing a platform for health and safety issues to be submitted, evaluated, and addressed effectively. It supports the development and implementation of best work practices, safety communications, and resources necessary for maintaining a safe work environment. The committee also acts as an advisory group, offering recommendations for safety improvements to ensure a consistent safety culture is promoted across the department.

Learning and Development chaired by Korey Wheeler (Mechanical Engineer) is responsible for fostering an environment of continuous improvement and professional growth. This committee is tasked with identifying and addressing the educational needs of the department's team members, from technical skills to leadership and administrative capabilities. By promoting a culture of learning, the committee ensures department team members are equipped with the latest industry knowledge and best practices.



HR UPDATES



SAFETY UPDATES

Oklahoma's hotter months are just ahead! So, start thinking about preventing heat-related illnesses. OSHA is. They are concerned about workers in hot environments. To that end, OSHA has proposed a new standard for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings. This proposed rule aims to protect workers from hazardous heat exposure, which can lead to serious health issues like heat stroke and even death.

Key Points of the Proposed Standard:

- Scope: Applies to all employees in general industry, construction, maritime, and agriculture sectors.
- Exclusions: Short duration exposures, emergency response activities, indoor sites below 80°F, telework, and indoor sedentary work activities.
- Employer Requirements:
 - Develop and implement a heat injury and illness prevention plan (HIIPP).
 - Identify heat hazards in both outdoor and indoor work sites.
 - Implement control measures when the heat index reaches 80°F or higher.

Control Measures:

- Provide cool drinking water.
- Establish break areas with cooling measures.
- Implement acclimatization protocols for new and returning employees.

The comment period for this proposed rule opened until January 14, 2025. An informal public hearing will be held virtually June 16, 2025.

Expect that OSHA will make this a regulation in the next couple of years. In the meantime, I will continue to send out heat-related prevention information during the hotter months to all of you.

-Jeff

LIKE & FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA



Did you know?

The University of Oklahoma Libraries remains the state's largest research library.

HR UPDATES



Facilities Management has many team members who will be awarded Staff Senate Awards this year! The Awards Ceremony will be on Tuesday, April 22 at 11:00 a.m. in the Molly Shi Boren Oklahoma Memorial Union Ballroom. Please encourage your award-winning team member(s) to attend to receive this recognition! Those planning to attend are encouraged to arrive around 10:45 a.m. to secure a seat.

Retirees

Kirk Wettengel, Area Maintenance
Davina Bettis, Custodial Services
Vincent Danna, Custodial Services
Gloria Killingsworth, Custodial Services
Jimmie Beam, Electric
Jackie Whitehead, Electric
Stanley Berry, Engineering and Design Services
Christopher Van Buskirk, Engineering and Design Services
William Greer, Environmental Systems
Marian Holley, Landscape & Grounds
David Mangus, Landscape & Grounds
Glenn Roberts, Landscape & Grounds
Mike Call, Masons, Roofers, Tuckpointers
Anthony Payton, Paint Shop
Jeffrey Privett, Roads/Hauling

Anniversaries

Evan Wardell, 10 yrs, Custodial Services
Lois Arnold, 10 yrs, Custodial Services
Nancy St. Clair, 10 yrs, Custodial Services
Patricia Rettig, 10 yrs, Custodial Services
Ausencia Chavez de Jurado, 15 yrs, Custodial Services
Deborah Foreman, 15 yrs, Custodial Services
Miguel Morales, 15 yrs, Custodial Services
Sandra Anderson, 15 yrs, Custodial Services
Stephanie Mercer, 15 yrs, Custodial Services
Darvin Mcelhany, 20 yrs, Custodial Services
Elma Melton, 20 yrs, Custodial Services
Hongthong Dunsworth, 20 yrs, Custodial Services
Sandra Gonzalez, 20 yrs, Custodial Services
Willie Finley, 20 yrs, Custodial Services
Karen Brannon, 35 yrs, Custodial Services
Timothy Winkelman, 25 yrs, Elevator Shop
Kiff Day, 10 yrs, Landscape & Grounds
Conrad Zindel, 25 yrs, Landscape & Grounds
Tommie Stapp, 25 yrs, Landscape & Grounds
Lyle Belcher, 30 yrs, Landscape & Grounds
Leland Evans, 40 yrs, Landscape & Grounds
James Lambert, 30 yrs, Lock Shop
Toby Roberts, 20 yrs, Toby Roberts
Justin Combs, 10 yrs, Planning and Engineering
Sarah Ballew, 10 yrs, Energy and Sustainability
Synthia Petross, 25 yrs, Customer Service
Greg Brezinski, 40 yrs, Refuse/Recycling
Aaron Brown, 10 yrs, Roads/Hauling
James Salsman, 15 yrs, Roads/Hauling
Dennis Ingraham, 25 yrs, Roads/Hauling
Crystal Noah, 10 yrs, Customer Service
Shelli Woolvertson, 10 yrs, Customer Service

