Summer 2020
01. Faces of Facilities Services

Facilities Services is a large department with a lot of diverse backgrounds, skillsets and interests. Spread out across four shifts, it's not easy to get to know everyone outside of your own unit and/or sub-unit. We want to change that one friendly face at a time. In each issue of The Facilitator, we will feature a Facilities Services employee to help you get to know a bit more about them. Namely, their history in the department and how they like to spend time outside of work. In a lot of ways, Facilities Services employees are the very heartbeat of UT Knoxville, and this feature helps our community get to know the stories behind the staff.

Meet Joe Suits

1. Where did you get your start in Facilities Services?
I got my start with building services as a service aide cleaning floors at Dunford Hall on 3rd shift.

2. What’s your favorite thing about the work you do now?
My favorite thing about the job I do now is the ability to train and empower the foreman and service aides among many of my zones to learn new skill sets.

3. If you could go to lunch with one person from Facilities Services who would it be?
I would like to take the most recent new hire to FS, just to see what brought them to UTK FS.

4. Who is your oldest friend at Facilities Services?
Ashley Gilliam (my first foreman)

5. What would you do on the perfect day off?
I would love to be up early and go fishing on the trout streams for hours.

6. If you could magically do one thing what would you do?
I would love to be able to read minds.

7. Who is the funniest person you have ever met in Facilities Services?
Jawan Payne, he’s a quite comic relief.

8. What smell brings back great memories for you?
Spring time, it brings great memories back of years being able to work along side my dad.

9. If you ever become famous what will it be for?
Talking- (Some say I don’t know how to be quiet) :)

10. What hobbies/interests would you like to share with our department?
I love to fish as a hobby when time allows! Because I have five kids and a great job that keeps me plenty busy! As cliche as it sounds, the cleaning industry really interest me and learning new technologies and processes.
EXCEPTIONAL TEAMS

With our focus for the past four months shifting exclusively to COVID-19 prevention, it was difficult to choose one exemplary employee or team to honor. That’s why our departmental leadership has decided to honor several teams July - September as a way of saying thanks to the many teams who have worked tirelessly to prepare campus for the return of staff, students, faculty and fans. July’s honorees are as follows:

Building Services Volunteer Team for In-Depth Decontamination – These folks go in after someone who has been on campus tests positive. They suit up in Tyvek gear and do full disinfection to ensure that those spaces are safe. They’re true heroes of this pandemic.

Team Members include: Katie Brown, Jonathon Gilman, Jessica Blair, Melinda Townsend, Brittany Wolfenbarger, Rebecca Cinnamon, Greg Porter, Ray Davis, Ruby Strange, Michelle Lawson, Michelle Smith, Cedric Mattress, Bill Matthews, Richard Archer, Tyler Vandiver, Kevin Ammons and Mike Young

IT Team – This team jumped into action to ensure that all who could were able to work from home without interruption to their productivity. They set them up with hotspots, equipment, and laptops when needed to allow us to continue to function as a team in a new way.

Team Members include: Tim Baker, Jim McCarter, Shawn Benson and Garrett Jones (photo pre-pandemic)

Concord Warehouse Cleaning Team – We needed a storage solution for excess campus furniture as we prepare for social distancing. Some can be stored in the buildings, but that wasn’t a one size fits all solution. The best solution was the warehouse on Concord, but unfortunately, it was in bad shape and home to several raccoon families. We had holes in the wall, insulation all over, it wasn’t water tight, and quite frankly, it was a complete mess. We knew furniture could be arriving in less than a week, so we had individuals from RRT, Zone Maintenance, Sanitation Safety and Landscaping that stepped in to overhaul this space in a matter of days.

Team Members include: Johnathan Sawyer, Grant Jackson, Mike Huber, Jim Hastie, Eric Stewart, Chris Merical, Mike Steeves, Mike Raper, Don Turney, Tony Bunner, JD Zimmerman, Caleb Walker, Kerry Randles, Cory DeBusk, Jesse Standifer, Patrick Childress and Steve Kerley.

Central Supply Warehouse – On their own, they decided to take action to make sure all packages received into Facilities Services were delivered and distributed safely. They’ve enforced our mask policy even when it’s been tough, and they’ve created their own protocol for package receiving that involves settling, decontamination and other measures that protect themselves and those who receive the packages. No one asked them to do this, but that’s what being a Vol is all about.

Team members include: Bill Wilson, Jeff Talley, Ryan Carpenter, Raymond Keith and Donnie Carden (photo pre-pandemic)
Classroom Plans - This team looked at all possible campus spaces where we’d need to do social distancing. They’ve done a tremendous amount of work to produce detailed layouts/drawings of hundreds of spaces that are safe and functional for instruction. They did this in an extremely short amount of time.

Team members include: Maria Martinez, Tiffany Shuler, Tiffanie Casteel, Barbara Tallent, Barbara King, Justin Dotham, Bethany Morris, Keith Downen, David Crigger, Nick S., Alex H. and Gerald G.
Bee Campus Designation

Did you know more than 150 food crops in the US depend on pollinators? This is just one of many reasons our Landscape Services and Office of Sustainability have worked together to achieve a Bee Campus designation for UT Knoxville for the past few years. This designation is a national effort among colleges and universities to raise awareness about the importance of pollinators and provide new and improved pollinator habitats. To learn more, click here.

Click here to watch a short video about UT's involvement with the Bee Campus program.

Susan Gibson - Our Very Own Grad!

Congratulations are in order for our very own Susan Gibson! Susan works in our Admin Services unit and finished her last semester to graduate with her Bachelors in Political Science from UT Knoxville while working full time in the midst of a pandemic! Some of her friends from a UT Employees-as-Students Group painted The Rock in celebration of her hard work and accomplishments. Susan, we are so proud of you!
How Facilities Services is Fighting COVID-19

As Spring Break brought with it the closure of much of campus due to COVID-19, Facilities Services stepped up to the challenge of fighting germs on the frontlines in a big way. Building Services, Zone Maintenance and Utilities all sought ways to provide service while adhering to or exceeding CDC recommendations, and the efforts of our team did not go unnoticed. In fact, UT shared a really great short video clip to social media about our Building Services team and what they were doing in the early stages of COVID-19 management. You can view the video here. Kudos to Jerry Shackelford on the wonderful interview he gave!

Media Coverage for FS

Facilities Services was making headlines for a variety of positive reasons these last few months! Our team has been recognized for our cleaning and disinfecting efforts, continued construction on campus and the hard work Design has put into the Pedestrian Walkway extension. These stories help us share the mission of Facilities Services with the community around us, and we’re always happy to brag on our team!

Volunteer First Impressions Surprise Check Presentations

The 2020 Volunteer First Impressions Contest was a great success! For the 2nd Annual contest, we received 63 total submissions from students, faculty, staff and visitors to the university. Winning Projects can be viewed here. Check out these photos from our check presentations.
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Volunteer First Impressions Surprise Check Presentations

#MaskUpMonday

As it became evident that masks would be a necessity, Facilities Services reached out to our team encouraging staff to submit selfies that showcase the faces of Facilities and how so many of you are letting your personality shine with your mask designs! It’s been so fun to see how you’re adapting to the many changes we’ve faced in such a positive way.

Facilities Services Flat Smokey

Meet Flat Smokey! Every Friday up until Fall semester, Flat Smokey will be traveling around campus to see all that our department is doing to keep campus safe for students, staff, faculty and fans. Since the first appearance of Flat Smokey in early July, many departments across campus have shared his photos and expressed appreciation for all you’re doing on their behalf. Flat Smokey may make an appearance in your unit soon!
Congrats to Randy Hamilton

Congratulations are in order to Randy Hamilton, Assistant Director over Sanitation Safety! Randy has recently been awarded a scholarship to attend the APPA Institute for Facilities Management or the Leadership Academy. The scholarships were awarded based on background, special achievements, awards or career-related volunteer work, career and educational goals, leadership and potential for upward mobility. This scholarship is well-deserved, Mr. Hamilton! We are so proud of you.

Shout Out to Josef Wilson

I know this isn’t a normal work email, but one I thought worth sending. Tonight, just about our quitting time Sharon Hale (works in an office Perkins) realized her car had no oil in it. Unable to drive her car, Mrs. Hale was going to ride her bicycle to the nearest gas station to get oil for her car (Now mind you its almost 1:30 a.m.). Josef Wilson (works in Tickle) heard what was going on and after clocking out, stopped Mrs. Hale from riding her bicycle and went to the gas station to get the oil for her. I sat with Mrs. Hale until Josef returned with the oil. We put the oil in her car and made sure she was able to drive home safely. I am proud of Josef’s kindness and it also proves we all are one big family at UT, looking out for one another. I just wanted to take a moment to share this with you.

Sincerely,
Jessica Blair

Classroom Preparation Video

“It really has been, in some ways, our finest hour. Not something we’d want to do, but in terms of how we’ve responded as a campus...it really is amazing. It speaks to what a great place this is.”

Associate Vice Chancellor Dave Irvin is right. This is a great place, and we’re here to give our all for Tennessee each day as we work to create clean and safe socially distanced learning environments before students return in August. Check out this great video to learn a little more about how we’re preparing for fall.

Shout Out to Facilities Services on the Tony Kornheiser Show!

It’s not every day one of our #UTFacilitiesServices employees has a letter read on a popular podcast! Toward the end of June, our very own Chris Morris was featured on The Tony Kornheiser Show! The topic? Flushing toilets at Neyland Stadium. You’ve probably never thought about it, but each year, our department has to make sure that the pipes in the stadium can handle game day capacity. Want to hear more? Listen to Chris’s letter at the 58:29 mark of the podcast episode “Take your dog to work day.”
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Our Newest US Citizens

We want to extend our most heartfelt congratulations to two of our own, Martine Lubelanu and Raheem Obaid as they celebrate receiving American citizenship!

They are an integral part of our team with powerful stories that help to shape #UTFacilitiesServices in incredibly meaningful ways. They’ve overcome adversity and faced hardship with grace and resilience, and they do more than their part to make us better as a whole.

Raheem and Martine, we are so incredibly grateful for you and proud of you. It’s an honor to call you our fellow Americans.

OSHA 10 Completion

OSHA 10 is a ten hour supplemental training that is part of the OSHA Outreach Training Program. The goal of OSHA 10 is to empower employees by making sure they’re knowledgeable regarding their rights related to workplace safety and overall workplace hazards. As #UTFacilitiesServices has been diligent in maintaining social distance, many on our team were able to complete this training on the days they were scheduled to telecommute. This training is thorough, and the quizzes can be tough. We’re so proud of all who took on this training, and while we can’t see their smiling faces, we know they’re proud of themselves too! Great work, everyone!

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Training While Telecommuting

As most of Facilities Services spent some time working from home, the Training team was busy assembling materials and providing ample opportunities to continue training while offsite. During the past 2.5 months, Facilities Services has completed 7,116 hours of training on everything from FEMA Incident Management to OSHA 10. You’ve learned new skills such as typing, mindfulness, safety procedures and website building. Thanks to this training, we are a stronger, better equipped department, and your expertise and gained knowledge help us to better support the University each day. Great work, everyone!

Employee Comment Box Locations:

- Facilities Services Complex Break Room
- Facilities Services Shop Area
- Hodges Library outside room 171a (new)
- Steam Plant (near time clock)
- Steam Plant Hill Breakroom (new)
- Neyland Biology Annex near room 128
- Ellington Plant Science room 4
- SERF outside of room 426
- Former Sanitation Safety (Pest Control) Area at Facilities Services Volunteer Blvd. Location
- The electronic employee comment box can be found at tiny.utk.edu/fscommentbox.
AUGUST

Emily Lingerfelt  8-01
Norris Samuel  8-01
Sam Adams  8-01
Cecil Woody  8-01
Nicole Davis  8-02
Chhorvy Sullivan  8-03
Brickey Hearon  8-03
Harley Mathews  8-03
Garrett Lett  8-03
David Brown  8-04
Bobby Tharp  8-04
Justin Brooks  8-05
Steven Henry  8-05
Charles Tolbert  8-06
Douglas Giles  8-07
Shawn Benson  8-07
Mary Jones  8-08
Makiah Williams  8-08
Martin Pearson  8-09
James Norris  8-09
Randall Huelsman  8-10
Veronica Cross  8-10
Mark Carver  8-11
Joseph Winston  8-11
David Sutton  8-11
Peyton Ogle  8-12
Darren Latham  8-13
Jackie Stevens  8-13
Clay Miller  8-14
Wes Hinshaw  8-15
Esther Dairem  8-15
Chris Fritts  8-15
Ashley Savage Gilliam  8-16
Mike Cain  8-19
Kenny Reynolds  8-20
Jason Staley  8-20
Austin Sutton  8-20
Jonathan Hutsell  8-20
Travis Reno  8-21
Andrew Gillenwater  8-21
Thomas Herrell  8-22
Charlotte Clabough  8-22
A’deidra Wells  8-22
Darrell Brooks  8-23
Jeremiah Cook  8-23
Joseph Murray  8-23
Judy Welch  8-24
Sandra Kelly  8-25
George Rivera  8-25
Hannah Hayes  8-26
Jason Hughett  8-26
Hannah Wallace  8-27
Elizabeth Thomas  8-28
Robert Moore  8-29
Allen Flowers  8-29
James Symington  8-29
Meseret Zewde  8-29
James Yearber  8-30
William Witzuki  8-30
William Freeman  8-31
Terry Eubanks  8-31

SEPTEMBER

Darren Mullins  9-01
Bryan Lord  9-01
Donald Glover  9-01
Kyle Moffett  9-02
Richard Cannon  9-02
Channing McDonald  9-03
Dewain Day  9-04
Eric Stewart  9-04
Gary Thaxton  9-04
Ted Coward  9-04
James Saunders  9-05
David Bryant  9-05
Rebecca Cinnamon  9-06
Tristan Conard  9-07
Roger McDonald  9-08
Marty Seymour  9-08
Clifford Ulman  9-08
Steven Andrews  9-09
Juanita Brogan  9-10
Daniel Stoker  9-10
Ray Davis  9-10
Dale Fisher  9-11
Joshua Hearon  9-11
Britt Patterson  9-11
Millard Lett  9-12
Ali Chalabbee  9-14
Helen Hennon  9-14
Michael Gage  9-14
Paul O’Brien  9-15
Mark Wagner  9-16
Kenny Lane  9-17
Harold Middlebrook  9-17
Chris Morris  9-17
Michael Musselman  9-18
Juliea Sothen  9-19
James Reno  9-19
Caleb Walker  9-20
Luke Hanley  9-20
Tom Anderson  9-20
William Messamore  9-20
Jim Hastie  9-21
Jawan Payne  9-21
Kevin Dickson  9-22
Matthew Barlow  9-23
Dedra Giles  9-23
Edward Oliveri  9-24
Melissa Hatfield  9-24
Brian Bridge  9-25
Mark Ford  9-25
Michael Leppe  9-25
Melissa Connell  9-26
George Clevenger  9-26
Barbara King  9-27
Ronald Gibson  9-28
Jim Tolbert  9-30