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Visit the UT Facilities Services Website at fs.utk.edu

Facilities Services Department
2040 Sutherland Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37996
Phone: 865-974-2178
Fax: 865-974-7786
Email: adminfs@utk.edu
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 Val Brooks

5. What did you want to grow up to be as a child?
I wanted to be a veterinarian.

6. Who is the funniest person you have ever met in Facilities Services?
Johnathan Brooks

7. What was the best gift you’ve ever received?
The birth of my grand baby.

8. What’s your best Facilities Services memory?
Getting my Assistant Foreman position.

9. If you could tell all of campus one thing about Facilities Services, what would you want them to know?
The skills and opportunities offered in this department are life changing, I really wish I would have applied here long time ago.

10. What’s your favorite food? Least favorite?
Favorite - fried potatoes and onions
Least favorite - okra

Is there someone interesting on your team that you’d like to nominate for a future issue? Send your nominations to Sam Ledford at sjones80@utk.edu!

1. When did you get your start in Facilities Services?
May 26, 2020

2. What’s your favorite thing about the work you do now?
I really love learning how to use different floor machines.

3. How would you spend the perfect day off?
Any place that I can go with my family, that have a beach and clear water.

4. Who was the first friend you made in FS?
Shelton Woodruff
SOCIAL MEDIA SPOTLIGHT

Grateful for our incredible @utfacilities team today and every day! Thanks for keeping Rocky Top cool during these summer days.

-No donuts were harmed in the making of this bad pun.

#UTFacilitiesServices

utk.cehhs

Now that commencement ceremonies have ended and campus is quiet, our team is dreaming of vacation! We asked a few of our staff where they’d travel if time and money were unlimited. Here’s what they shared! We’d love to hear about your dream vacations, too! Drop them in the comments!

utm.tce

Thanks for all the great work you dough, Facilities friends! ;)

@utfacilities campus looks great!

@tnhiker73 on behalf of the best Landscape team in higher ed, thank you!

The campus has always looked beautiful due to these hard working people

A special shout-out to Hannah Wallace of @utkfacerv who received the library’s partner award for her exemplary service. The award is given to members of the @UTKnoxville community who have made a positive and substantial impact on the library. Thank you!

utk_cehhs

Not all heroes wear capes

drmissina

 Shades, thank you!!

utk_cehhs

With unlimited time and money it would be a tossup between Australia and Japan.

5 likes

Reply to utk_cehhs...

1 like

Reply to utk_cehhs...

1 like

Reply to utk_cehhs...

1 like

Reply to utk_cehhs...

1 like
In early April, Facilities Services hosted our spring Facilities Fundamentals online DIY workshop which was facilitated by Greta Buckman of Construction Services. Greta shared practical tips for home organization that made the task of spring cleaning less daunting for all in attendance.

If you’d like to go back and watch this session, click here.

Kicking Off Earth Month with Big Green Friday

On Friday, March 31st, Facilities Services team members swapped out the usual orange for green in celebration of the kick-off for Earth Month! The UTK Office of Sustainability used this event as a catalyst to promote an entire month of events and activities designed to encourage attendees to take better care of the one earth we have.
Heavy Equipment Assists with UTIA Hopyard

Our Heavy Equipment team was instrumental in assisting with the installation of the trellis needed for UTIA’s hopyard at the East Tennessee Research and Education Center (ETREC). This new space will be used to study hops production and management practices and will serve as a location to host UT Extension programs and field days. Our team dug space for and helped secure the large posts so this project can move forward. Great work, team!

The Daily Beacon Highlights Facilities in “UT & ME” Episode

In April, The Daily Beacon published their first episode of their new video series, “UT & Me.” The first episode focused on our Building Services and Zone Maintenance teams and provided a behind the scenes glimpse of the daily lives of our crew.

We appreciate The Daily Beacon’s efforts to recognize our team, and we hope this series will continue to shine a light on all of the staff who keep campus running.

To view the first episode, click here.
Leo Pedigo Retirement

On April 27, we held a retirement reception for Leo Pedigo after many years of dedicated service. Leo served in different administrative functions over his time at UT with his most recent appointment being that of Director of Special Projects. We miss Leo’s jokes, and we are forever grateful for his contributions to the department.

Turf Team’s Duckling Rescue Mission

Our team takes our commitment to campus seriously, and that is what inspires us to go above and beyond the call of duty. Outside of the Communications building, Curtis Pique and Travis Sturdivant, went out of their way to rescue 5 baby ducks that had slipped into a storm drain. The ducklings were reunited with their mother and led to safety along the river bank, and Curtis and Travis are now local heroes among our animal friends! Thanks to UTPD for the assistance in creating a safe space for this rescue mission!
Vendor Fair Fun with Ferguson

Shout out to our friends at Ferguson and our Central Supply team for organizing a wonderful vendor fair in our warehouse in early May! Lunch was provided for all attendees which helped produce a great turn out! Many on our team had a chance to interact with our vendors and ask questions about their products. We look forward to the next vendor fair because partnership is key to what we do!

Sam Ledford Graduates with Master’s in Spring Ceremony

Congratulations to our communications coordinator, Sam Ledford, who is wrapping up a Master’s of Science in Communication & Information with a concentration in Strategic and Digital Communication! She will officially finish her degree program this summer, but she had the opportunity to participate in the spring graduate hooding ceremony. Sam was able to take advantage of the university’s tuition fee waiver for staff which helped her graduate with no additional debt. If you’re interested in pursuing a degree through UT, see HR to learn more about this waiver.
Rebecca Alcorn Named Title IX’s Partner of the Year for Employee Service

Congratulations to our training coordinator, Rebecca Alcorn, for being named the Office of Title IX’s Partner of the Year for Employee Service! Rebecca works hand-in-hand with the Office of Title IX to ensure that our employees are aware of the resources available to them through the Office of Title IX. She also helps instill a sense of responsibility in our staff that speaks up for those who have been harmed or are at risk. Check out page 20 of the 2022 Office of Title IX 2022 Annual Report to learn more!

FS Team Members Attend Diversity Business Meet & Greet

Back in April, Michael Hewitt, Tom Anderson and Alberto De La Garza attended a Diversity Business Meet & Greet to better understand how we can broaden our purchasing to support a variety of businesses. The quarterly Diversity Business Meet & Greet is hosted by the East Tennessee Purchasing Association Diversity Business Alliance Committee. It was held at the John T. O’Conner Senior Center on Winona St. on 4/27. The focus for the second quarter event is on businesses in the construction industry. Small and diversity-owned businesses will have the opportunity to connect with at least ten Tennessee government agencies and with prime contractors.
Hannah Wallace Receives the Paul E. Trentham Sr. Library Partner Award

We want to give a special shout-out to Hannah Wallace of UT Facilities Services who received the Paul E. Trentham Sr. Library Partner Award for her exemplary service. The award is given to members of the UT Knoxville campus community who have made a positive and substantial impact on the UT Libraries. Thank you for all you do! To read more, click here.

Keith Downen Retirement

In early May, Keith Downen retired from our Design Services team. This milestone was celebrated with a private reception here at the Facilities Services Complex. Keith had a long career in Facilities Services, and he is already missed by his colleagues and those he partnered with on campus.
Celebrating a Successful Steam Outage

At the completion of another successful campus-wide steam outage, crews from Utilities Services gathered together for a cookout in appreciation of the hard work. Before eating commenced, we challenged these teams to get to know one another a bit better with a round of “human bingo!” Each person was given a bingo card and had to find others who could sign squares based on where they work and what they enjoy off the clock. It was fun to see these people connecting and laughing when so much of their work days are spent problem solving and putting in hard work.

Larry Pickel Retirement

At the end of May, Larry Pickel retired from Zone Maintenance after 6 years of service on our team. Larry was a wonderful addition to the team, and we wish him a happy retirement!
**Praise from UT Libraries**

I just wanted to compliment Carey, who’s been cleaning the fifth floor. She’s been vacuuming the carpets. She not only vacuums but she wields a vacuum in one hand and a small broom in the other to dislodge bits of paper, etc. that have become embedded in the carpet. She’s very meticulous.

Thanks.
Martha Rudolph
Editor
Marketing & Communication
University of Tennessee Libraries

**Praise for RRT from UTIA**

I wanted to drop you an email to compliment the moving crew from yesterday. Thank you so much for sending this crew! They were punctual and completed the work quickly. I was so impressed that they were so professional and no complaints about the elevator not working. Keep in mind they had to move a lot of boxes up 3 flights of steps and they move several printers down to the basement. They were so accommodating and easy to work with. They completed the job with very little noise and made sure to take care with all our belongings and the facilities. I can’t say enough good things about them and how wonderful it was to work with them. I hope when we move back in that we can have the same crew (and the elevator working!).

Sincerely and thankfully,
Carla

Carla Phillips
Carla Phillips, APC
Business Operations Specialist
Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Business and Finance
Praise from Department of Microbiology

I wanted to let you know how happy we are with the work that Malcolm and Garrett did in replacing the floor this week in 409 Hesler. They worked carefully but at a good pace, and seemed to take pride in their work. They were pleasant to have around and we all enjoyed talking with them this week. In a world where people often want to get a job finished so they can go home, Malcolm and Garrett stand out because they do good work and they take the time to ensure it is done right.

Thank you!

Elizabeth McPherson, Garret Huff, and Jessica Pyle

Praise from College of Communication & Information

I just wanted to say wonderful your team is- they stepped in to help save some ducklings today when no one else would help us. Curtis, especially, jumped into action and got in the storm drain to rescue them.

Thank you to your team!

All the best,

Virginia W. Kupritz, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Graduate Programs
College of Communication & Information

Praise for Building Services from Department of Geography & Sustainability

I wanted to let you know what a fantastic job the crew did last evening regarding the stripping and waxing of Room 303 Burchfiel Geography Building (kitchen/workroom). The floor was filthy and the layers of dirt could not be mopped clean. The floor is beautiful and looks brand new. So we would appreciate it if you could please let the crew know what a wonderful job they did and how the faculty and staff sincerely appreciate the hard work.

Also, the building has had general cleaning services again and the faculty and staff also appreciate that good job. The main office had not been mopped and swept since the middle of December among other problems in other areas of the building. We used our own broom to sweep but did not have a mop.

Sincerely,
Pam Sharpe, Business Manager
Department of Geography & Sustainability
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

FS Scholarship Golf Tournament Recap

In spite of the weather, we had a great time raising money for Facilities Services scholarship funds! Thanks to our scholarship committee for all of their hard work on putting together a successful event. As a result, we raised roughly $20,000 for the Bob Evans Scholarship Fund. Stay tuned for information on next year’s tournament!

Employee Comment Box Locations:

- Facilities Services Complex Break Room
- Facilities Services Shop Area
- Hodges Library outside room 171a
- Steam Plant (near time clock)
- Landscape Trailer Breakroom
- SERF outside of room 426
- The electronic employee comment box can be found at tiny.utk.edu/fscommentbox.
FACILITIES SERVICES

SUMMER PICNIC

TUES.
JULY 25th

12:00 PM

JOIN US FOR HAMBURGERS, HOTDOGS, AND DOOR PRIZES!

STUDENT UNION BALLROOM 272
SHUTTLE SCHEDULE TO BE ANNOUNCED

THIS EVENT WILL BE ZERO WASTE

For more information, contact:
Alyssa Antal at 974-7778 or aantal@utk.edu
JUNE

Katie Brown   6/1
Barbara Tallent   6/1
Steve Bodenheimer   6/1
Chris Hinshaw   6/2
Douglas Grant   6/2
Vernon Smith   6/2
Zachary Childs   6/3
Michael Roysdon   6/4
Earl Miller    6/4
Matthew Murphy   6/5
Kimberly Smith   6/6
Alexander Potts   6/6
Tim Metzger   6/6
Alexander Potts   6/7
Sharon McKinney   6/7
John Hatfield   6/7
Donovan Ady   6/7
Shane Jones   6/7
Connor Huddleston   6/8

JULY

Samuel Norris   7/1
Emily Lingerfelt   7/1
Sam Adams   7/2
Patrick Richter   7/2
Cecil Woody   7/2
Austin Patrick   7/2
Tina Davis   7/2

AUGUST

Rickey Parton   7/3
Brickey Hearon   7/3
Timothy Lett   7/3

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AUGUST (CONT.)

Travis Reno 8/21
Charlotte Clabough 8/22
A'Deidra Wells 8/22
Thomas Herrell 8/23
Charles Humphrey 8/23
Jeremiah Cook 8/23
Joseph Murray 8/23
Brian Guinn 8/24
Judy Welch 8/24
Jorgie Gross 8/25
Sandy Kelly 8/25
Jason Hughett 8/25
Hannah Wallace 8/26
Derek Poole 8/26
Taylor Swann 8/27
Royetta Roop 8/28
Meseret Zewde 8/29
Jimmy Harber 8/29
William Witucki 8/29
Gilbert Cuaron 8/30