

## Fans asked not to roll Oaks as they continue to progress



University officials are asking for university patrons to hold off for another year on rolling the Auburn Oaks and descendants along Samford Park.

While the trees received a positive report showing strong establishment, including root and shoot growth, holding back another year further increases the likelihood of full establishment, University Arborist Alex Hedgepath said.

“The trees have made excellent progress in the growing season of 2021,” Hedgepath said. “Since then, the trees have pushed new growth with no additional signs of stress. We will be initiating soil enhancement projects to encourage even more root growth in the coming months.”

It has been a few stressful years since the two Auburn oaks were planted in 2017 at Toomer’s Corner and the 10 descendent oaks were

planted in 2016 from the corner to Samford Hall. Besides celebrants and Charmin, inclement weather and general stress have played their part in impeding the growth of the oaks, but the trees are bouncing back with roots inching closer and closer to full establishment.

But we’re not there quite yet.

“While we all would like to get back to the traditional rolling of the two Auburn live oaks located on the corner, our position and decisions made therein reflect what is best for the trees,” said Justin Sutton, director of Landscape Services. “The long-term establishment, overall health and projected long life of these new trees is our goal.”

The original Auburn Oaks planted between 1937 and 1939 were removed from the corner in April 2013 after being poisoned in 2010 following that year’s Iron Bowl. A

duo of new live oaks was planted in February 2015, but one of the trees was lit on fire following rolling being allowed for fall 2016. Both trees were damaged and removed.

The university is being protective of the trees, Sutton said, to make sure the Auburn tradition is made possible for generations of students. They want it to be perfect.

“We appreciate the Auburn Family’s dedication to this same goal,” Sutton said, “and helping us through these growing pains by not rolling the live oak trees which in time will allow us to bring this cherished tradition back to the corner.”

The exact date rolling Toomer’s became Auburn canon isn’t known. Some people claim the mid- 60s with a few errant rolls following away game victories. Others claim the come-from-behind September 1971 win against Tennessee. The earliest official mentioning of toilet paper at the corner was a Plainsman article from Nov. 18, 1971, following Auburn’s 35-20 win over Georgia at Sanford Stadium.

It’s as much tradition as tradition can get, rolling the Auburn Oaks, but waiting to roll the iconic trees is a small price to pay for lifetimes of memories. The Auburn Family is strong down to the roots and beyond, but the current oaks and their roots need a little more time before they’re just as strong.

# Employee Communications *from the Office of Employee Engagement*

## General Announcements

The **Waste Reduction and Recycling team** was tasked with managing thousands of pounds of additional waste and recycling generated by about 4,000 university students moving in from July 27 through Aug. 12. Working in conjunction with campus and community partners, we set up 20 additional waste and recycling stations throughout the five residential life housing areas of Cambridge, Hill, Quad, South Donahue and Village. Staff maintained the sites, assisting parents and students with recycling cardboard and disposing of trash, and ensuring the stations were serviced throughout the move-in period.

**Mary Park** will be out of the office through November. **Matt Wagner** will be the alternate contact at (334) 750-7574.

## Congratulations

**Joe Potts** who was promoted to Tech II, HVACR.

**Grant Kirby**, Plant Operations, for passing his NIULPE Third Class Power Engineer Certification exam.

**Utilities & Energy** for passing 300 days since their last vehicle incident.

**Wesley Burt**, Electrical Distribution, and his wife Kai on the birth of their son, **Kyler James Burt**. **Kyler** was born on July 23. He weighed 7 pounds and was 20 inches in length.

Employees who received a cash award for July 2021:

- **Preston Arwood**
- **John Askw**
- **Michael Barron**
- **Daniel Brand**
- **Charles Brock**
- **Walter Brooks**
- **Tyler Brown**
- **Wesley Burt**
- **Charlie Chappell**
- **John Clark**
- **James Duncan**
- **Rob Engle**
- **Lawrence Estes**
- **Lamar Finley**
- **Cort Fisher**

- **Jerontavious Flournoy**
- **Broderick Gibson**
- **Robert Horn**
- **Robert Joyce**
- **Doug Kennedy**
- **Grant Kirby**
- **Charles Maddox**
- **Scott McClure**
- **Ethan Merritt**
- **William Mooror**
- **Jonathan Morgan**
- **Sarah Rollins**
- **Cole Shafer**
- **Scott Simpson**
- **Travis Tally**
- **Andra Thomas**
- **Brook Ward**

## New Employees/Welcome

**Belinda Moore** | TES to full-time Custodial Services | *Aug. 1*  
**Troy Futral** | TES to full-time | Zone 2 *Aug. 1*

## Retirements/resignations

**Arnold Pattillo** *retires Aug. 1.*  
**Wayne Walker** *retires Aug. 1.*  
**Steven "Beaver" Johnston** *retires Oct. 1.*

## Facilities Training

The following upcoming MANDATORY Training classes are open for registration on the Fall Training Calendar:

1. **Customer Service Training** – 8/26/21
2. **Workplace Diversity and Inclusion** – 10/14/21
3. **Green Dot Training** – 10/22/21

*All 3 of the above classes will be conducted via ZOOM.*

Additional training opportunities highlighted on the Fall 2021 Training Calendar:

- **Management Fundamentals** – 9/17/21.
- **Coaching Fundamentals** – 10/8/21.

*Both classes will be taught by AU's HRD Director, Bill Shannon via ZOOM.*

## Training Tip of the Month:

**Ways to Apply Training that you attend:**

1. During the training, think of and

ask questions of the instructor that apply to scenarios that might happen on your job.

2. After the training, jot down at least one way that you will apply what you have learned on your job.
3. If you are a Supervisor, when an employee returns to work after a training session, ask him/her what they learned that they can apply in their job(s); help them find ways to apply the new knowledge in their jobs.

## Contact for training sessions:

**Kathleen Jones** | [ktj0004@auburn.edu](mailto:ktj0004@auburn.edu) | 334-844-9411 | Building 1, Room 1173D

The training calendar can be found at <https://aub.ie/trainingcalendar>.

## Employment Opportunities

**For positions currently posted, please scan the QR code below:**



## We have the following internal-only positions available:

- Supervisor, Access Control (*open until filled*)
- Assistant Supervisor, Access Control (*open until filled*)

*The close date for a posted position occasionally is extended. Check the dates at [auemployment.com](http://auemployment.com).*

*For more information about, or to apply for the jobs listed above, visit the Auburn University online employment site at [auemployment.com](http://auemployment.com).*

These announcements are gathered by the Facilities Management Office of Employee Engagement. Submit announcements via email to **Cynthia Baccus** at [geercyn@auburn.edu](mailto:geercyn@auburn.edu).

# Congratulations to teammates who passed CEFP exam

The following Facilities employees recently passed APPA's Certified Educational Facilities Professional credential (CEFP) examination.

Congratulations to **Dan Whatley**, Maintenance; **Joe Hunter**, Shops Maintenance; **Hank Moreman**, In-House Construction; **Travis Tally**, Maintenance Zone Supervisor; **Dee Sneed**, Campus Services; **David Bess**, Planning, Design and Construction;

**Vic Walker**, Campus Services; **Shanda Foster**, IT; **Kristy Cannon**, Campus Services; **Ken Martin**, Utilities and Energy; **Malcolm Dailey**, Utilities and Energy, and **Rob Engle**, Utilities and Energy.

The CEFP is a certification designed for both aspiring and existing educational facilities professionals with eight years of combined education and professional facilities

management experience. Earning the CEFP demonstrates a mastery of professional expertise and is a mark of superior proficiency in the core competencies for education facilities professionals.



# Paul Dickinson, James Peters go the extra mile

A few Mississippi residents in town for the Auburn football game on Sept. 3 got a bit of a helping hand from second shift Preventative Maintenance workers Paul Dickinson and James Peters.

Gordon and Rhonda Myrick from Gulfport, MS, came to Auburn Friday afternoon for the Akron football game. They arrived about 5:30 p.m.

Upon their arrival, they had a flat tire and knew they would not be able

to get the tire repaired or changed before the shops closed.

Paul Dickinson and James Peters happened upon them as they were headed to perform preventative maintenance on their next building.

Paul and James stopped and changed their tire, and the Myricks were very appreciative of the help.

Paul and James went above and beyond for the campus visitors,

showing compassion with their good deed. Great job!

*Contributed by Donna Giles*



# Gameday prep is another Facilities success



Gameday preparations are some of the busiest times for Facilities Maintenance as the campus welcomes thousands of visitors each year during the football season. We install various posts and fencing to ensure our landscaping is not damaged from vehicles and to keep people out of hazardous areas. The total amount installed is about 22,000 linear feet, which is more than 61 football fields long.

## WRRD gives out more than 500 binders



The Waste Reduction and Recycling Department wasted no time in welcoming students back to campus. Manager Joan Hicken and her crew passed out more than 500 binders to students during their annual Binder Giveaway on Haley Concourse on Aug. 16. They collect binders from various departments throughout the year and give them to students, diverting the binders from the landfill and giving them a new purpose!

## WRRD provides Move-In support



Auburn's annual Move-In was a busy time for Waste Reduction and Recycling as hundreds of boxes were broken down to make room for others as well as cleaning up around the different drop off sites. Thanks to everyone for doing their part in making it another smooth event!

Follow our social media accounts:



@au\_facilities



@AU\_Facilities



@au\_facilities



[aub.ie/fmyoutube](https://www.youtube.com/au_facilities)