

THE FACILITIES TIMES

A FACILITIES MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE UPDATE



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Martha Gentry, Communications; Ben Burmester, Office of the University Architect; and Justin Sutton, Landscape Services, look on as the new College Street Oak is planted.

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Boot Truck

The Grainger Boot Truck visited the Facilities complex on Jan. 24 and 25.



Facilities' employees are given the opportunity to select a pair of work boots from the truck each year. Frank Bentley, Plumbing Shop and Terry Pennington, Materials Management, are pictured.

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New Oaks for Toomer's Corner

Facilities Management played a vital role in the planting of the new Auburn Oaks.



By: Maggie Barlow

Numerous Facilities' shops had a hand in ensuring the removal and replanting of the Auburn Oaks on Feb. 18.

Landscape Services assisted throughout the entire process, from helping to choose the trees from a nursery in Florida and providing planting specifications to the contractors for installation, to assisting in the day-of execution. It also provided an area to load and unload amended soil and equipment used for the installation, as well as a location to dispose of the previous trees.

Prior to planting the new oaks, Heavy Construction placed barricades around the area to create a safe construction zone. The Sign Shop removed the old signage from the decorative fencing around the trees, and Utilities and Energy marked lines at Toomer's Corner to ensure utilities were not damaged.

Justin Sutton, Landscape Services manager; Ben Burmester, Campus Planner; Dr. Gary Keever, professor of Horticulture; and Alex Hedgepath, Auburn University Arborist, were present for the planting of the oaks providing assistance and consulting with the contractors during the removal and installation. Stephen Stroud, Landscape Services equipment operator, was present to assist with any needs throughout the entire day. The Electrical Shop was present during the removal of the previous trees to ensure lighting was not damaged.

Two days after the trees were installed, Landscape Services crews installed drip irrigation around each tree along with tensiometers (help monitor the soil moisture content to ensure the trees are receiving the proper amount of water). Lastly, mulch was placed around both trees.

Since the planting, Alex has been routinely checking the trees to monitor their progress and so far, so good. Once a new rolling campaign is released, the Sign Shop will return to place signage on the decorative fencing around both trees.



Thank you!

**Landscape Services • Heavy Construction • Electrical Shop
Utilities and Energy • Sign Shop • Office of the University Architect**

Facilities Feature - Larry Watkins

By: Beth Gill



Larry Watkins with his wife, Ana, at an Auburn football game.

In January, Larry Watkins began working for Facilities as the manager of Mail Services. A native of Baltimore, Md., he graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He later earned his master's degree in military operational art and science from Air Command and Staff College. He joined the Navy in December of 1989 and retired from the United States Navy in February 2016 after serving over 26 years. He has been married to his wife, Dr. Ana Franco-Watkins, for 24 years.

What do you like most about working for Auburn University? The family atmosphere. It is just a wonderful university and community. I am very happy to be here, and I hope that I have a positive impact on the Facilities Management team.

What do you enjoy doing outside of work? Outside of work, I love to run and play golf. Both just for fun, my golf game isn't quite ready for competition.

Is there any place that you toured while in the Navy that you enjoyed the most? I have been all around the world, but after 26 years of traveling, I've learned that there is no place like home. However, golfing in Scotland was pretty awesome.

You achieved many awards in your time serving. Is there any one you are most proud of? All I can say is no award is accomplished alone. Being a part of some great teams and having outstanding mentors allowed me to have a successful Navy career.

What do you hope to improve upon or to accomplish at Mail Services? I want to help Mail Services provide the best customer service to all the faculty, staff and students at Auburn University.

Ginn Concourse Clean-Up

By: Beth Gill



The solution was painted onto the concourse and left for two days.



There is no sign of the spill left on the concourse.

Working from 3:00 p.m. on a Friday afternoon until early Saturday morning, a crew of employees from various Facilities' shops worked to remove the hydraulic fluid spill from the Ginn Concourse. Some of the crew worked until midnight, while others clocked out between 3:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m., working hard to make sure the concourse looked as good as new. A solution of Tide laundry detergent and water was mixed to create a caulk-like paste, which was then applied to the spill. Justin Sutton, Landscape Services manager, found this solution by contacting a local company. The solution was left on the spill for two days prior to removal.

They scraped and swept off as much of the dried solution as possible, and then pressure washed the remaining solution away from the storm drains. The shops involved included Service Support, Heavy Construction, Waste Reduction and Recycling, Landscape Services, Electrical Shop and Materials Management.

Boot Truck



Frank Bentley, Plumbing Shop, tries on a pair of boots.



Paul Barringer, Landscape Services, inspects his boot options.

The Grainger Boot Truck visits the Facilities complex once each year and is available to Facilities' employees looking for new work boots. The truck stays for two days to allow employees the chance to choose new boots. Usually the truck returns for one additional day, at a later date, for those that couldn't catch it the first time.

This year, 241 pair of men's boots and 28 pair of women's boots were purchased. Facilities allots a certain amount of money for each employee to use towards a new pair of boots. Any additional cost must be paid by the employees.

Spirit of Excellence



Congratulations to **Betty Terry**, Custodial Services, winner of a January Spirit of Excellence award. Betty won in the category of Service/Maintenance.

Spirit of Excellence awards are given in four categories: Service/Maintenance, Secretarial/Clerical, Technical and Administrative/Professional. To learn more or to nominate one of your employees, visit: www.auburn.edu/human_resources/forms/spirit.pdf.

March is Ladder Safety Month – Don't forget these helpful ladder guidelines:

LADDER RULES



- ALWAYS FACE LADDER WHEN ASCENDING OR DESCENDING
- USE AT LEAST ONE HAND TO GRASP LADDER
- TOP OF LADDER SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS A STEP
- LADDERS SHOULD NEVER BE MOVED, SHIFTED, OR EXTENDED WHILE OCCUPIED
- NEVER CARRY AN OBJECT OR LOAD THAT COULD CAUSE YOU TO LOSE YOUR BALANCE

AMSTI Box Giveaway

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Department (WRRD) recently teamed with the College of Sciences and Mathematics (COSAM) and the Alabama Math, Science, Technology Initiative (AMSTI) to host a reusable box giveaway. COSAM teachers had an abundance of leftover cardboard storage boxes from AMSTI training sessions and contacted Facilities' WRRD seeking a way to recycle the boxes. Instead of breaking down the boxes and sending them off to be recycled, WRRD hosted a giveaway drive. Auburn's faculty, staff and students were given the opportunity to reserve and pick up these boxes for reuse. Within a few hours, all of the boxes had been reserved. Seventy-five small boxes and 430 large boxes were then given away at a predetermined pick up day and place. Because of the great success, WRRD hopes to team up with COSAM and AMSTI again in the future to host another giveaway.



Kermit Davis, Joel Hill and Derek Davis, of AMSTI, helped organize the giveaway.

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Submit Ideas & Feedback

Via online form:

<https://aub.ie/Q3Rjg4>



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BECAUSE THIS IS AUBURN.
A Campaign for Auburn University

Don't forget, the Faculty Staff Campaign is still going on! The campaign will run until **April 30.**