



JOHN THOMAS VAUGHAN
LARGE ANIMAL TEACHING HOSPITAL

THE FACILITIES TIMES

May 2020

FM donates gloves and surgical gowns for first responders



Dan Whatley and Dr. Fred Kam

Auburn University's Department of Facilities Management recently donated 180 surgical gowns and 1,000 pair of gloves to help safeguard health care workers at the Auburn University Medical Clinic and the East Alabama Medical Center, or EAMC, from COVID-19.

"It is very important for people on the front lines to have personal protective equipment such as gloves and gowns. This equipment is critical to health care workers' safety," said Dr. Fred Kam, medical director of the Auburn University

Medical Clinic. "Being able to acquire these items has been hard because there is a worldwide shortage. Every little bit helps."

According to Executive Director of Facilities Operations Dan Whatley, when the email came out from the university stating that EAMC could use additional personal protective equipment, or PPE, Facilities Management began thinking of ways to help.

"We started by comparing the needed items to what we keep in stock to determine if we had PPE that could be shared," said Whatley. "We looked at our current inventory and paired that with the rate at which we have been using the items recently and projecting future use. It was then that we identified that we could donate a number of gloves and gowns. We donated as many as we felt we could at this time without compromising the ability to provide the needed PPE for our Facilities team.

"We are all in this together," he said. "Helping equip front line medical

workers with needed PPE was a way that we were able to pitch in."

In Facilities Management, custodians wear the gloves daily while cleaning. Plumbers use them when they are dealing with sanitary sewer issues. The surgical gowns in stock are not part of the standard PPE for Campus Services employees but were purchased in preparation for the unknown.

The Campus Services and Materials Management Departments within Facilities Management stepped in to make sure both donations were packaged and delivered to the University Medical Clinic.

"We understand health care workers critically need these items, and the gowns will be more useful to them than sitting on our warehouse shelves going unused," said Dee Sneed, Facilities Management's director of campus services. "It was our honor to donate the gowns."

Facilities continues to maintain and improve campus during COVID operations



Facilities Management sends out a "Thank you!" to Tripp Thrash, Sign Shop, who recently restriped the Facilities Management parking lot. Even though we didn't catch him in action, we can easily see and appreciate the results of his work. Tripp also restriped parts of the Arena and Funchess Hall lots.



Steven Neighbors and John Askew, linemen in the Utilities and Energy Department, install a new high voltage switch vault near Samford Hall. Right, Steven replacing the lid on the vault. This work took place as part of the Northeast Campus Utilities Expansion project that will provide utility services to the future Tony and Libba Rane Culinary Science Center.



Employee Communications for April and May 2020



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT EMPLOYEE INFORMATION FROM THE OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

General Announcements

Benefits Reminder – As we all navigate the changes COVID-19 has brought to our daily lives, please keep in mind that Auburn University's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) has updated its benefits to include 6 free 30-minutes tele-sessions to better assist employees dealing with enhanced anxiety and stress, strained family relations, and/or other emotional hardships. For more information, please call (800) 925-5327 or visit <https://americanbehavioral.com/#American%20Behavioral%20website>.

New onsite IT support hours – While we remain in our Covid-19 work mode, Facilities IT will be offering onsite support Monday – Friday from 1:00 to 3:30. Please stop by our work area during this time if you are in need of some hands on support. Otherwise, our remote Zoom Tech Support service is always available Monday – Friday from 7:30 to 4:45 with IT staff ready to serve. Also, just as a reminder, please continue to submit ReADY requests for normal IT services as needed that don't fall into the category of a virtual or physical "walk up for quick support".

Help spread the word about the 2020 Census! Alabama has much at stake this year.

– Rural Growth: The Census will play an important role in determining funding that positively impacts rural Alabama. The data collected will inform more than \$675 billion in federal funding allocations to the states for programs like water and waste disposal systems in rural communities. Programs like Cooperative Extension Program, Community Development Grants, and Rural Rental Assistance Program are depending on this complete count.

– Congressional Representation: Without a complete count, our state will lose one or possibly even two congressional seats in Washington D.C. That is two less voices to stand up for Alabama.

– Federal Funding: \$13 billion is on the line. Without a complete count, Alabama will lose money that supports our education system, police force, infrastructure, roads, and healthcare.

– Economic Development: It is important that Alabama have accurate data to encourage new businesses to enter the state and to encourage local retail growth. Economic development and industry are critical to the quality of life here.

– Now that you know how important this Census is for Alabama, here is what you can do to help: Take the Census for your family today at www.my2020census.gov

Congratulations

Congratulations to Utilities & Energy for passing 2 years since both our last personal injury and vehicle accident. Great Job!

Congratulations to Ben Burmester – He successfully defended his doctoral thesis on Thursday, April 2. He earned a doctorate in Civil Engineering.

Congratulations to Oshia Cason who was promoted to Tech, Infrastructure – Heavy Construction effective March 1.

Congratulations to the following Facilities employees who received a cash award for March 2020:

- Cory Akers
- Cedric Patterson

Congratulations to Rob Engle for passing his Professional Engineers Exam

Congratulations and best wishes to Mary McMullen, Graduate Assistant in Construction Management & Client Relations, on earning her Master of Accountancy Degree.

Congratulations to Darrin Moody for being promoted to the Supervisor, In-House Construction Facilities

New Employees/Welcome

Bobby Horn – Manager, Materials Management – start date TBD.

Darryl Mitchell – Tech II, Infrastructure – Heavy Construction – effective March 2.

Retirements:

Materials Management

Nickey Jackson will retire on May 31.

Custodial Services

Annette Ezell retired May 1.

Linda Payne will retire on May 31.

Training

Contact for training sessions:

Kathleen Jones | [ktj0004@auburn.edu](mailto:k tj0004@auburn.edu)
(334) 844-9411 | Building 1, Room 1173D

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

Employment Opportunities

Landscape Services

- Manager, Landscape – 2 positions
- Supervisor, Tree Care
- Tech II, Irrigation
- Groundskeeper II
- Groundskeeper I – 2 positions

Utilities and Energy

- Tech I/II, Plant Operations – interviews being scheduled
- Spec II/III, Energy Management – finishing interviews
- Tech I/II, Utilities – interviews conducted

Maintenance

- Construction Tech, IHC
- Electrician, IHC
- HVACR Tech, Zone 4
- Roofer, Heavy Construction
- Supervisor, Preventative Maintenance
- Assistant Supervisor, Preventative Maintenance (2 positions)
- HVACR Tech, PM

For more information about, or to apply for, one of the jobs listed above, visit the Auburn University online employment site at www.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.

Auburn Family recognizes FM employees

The university's Human Resources Department created a webpage to recognize employees who are taking extraordinary measures to help maintain business operations, assist students and staff and ensure the safety of all of Auburn University during COVID-19 operations. With the help of Nina Hollingsworth, we pulled all the Facilities Management employees who have been recognized as of May 20, 2020 and placed them on this page.



Angelo Hatchcock and Ken Ervin

Angelo and Ken have reported to work as usual every single day since the university switched to remote operations. They worked tirelessly with IT to acquire the equipment necessary for our shop's Key & Card Access Management personnel to be able to work from home. They take calls at all hours of the day and night. Our shop has 14 employees; but our supervisors show up every single day so that we can stay home and stay well. They truly value every member of our team. Angelo and Ken deserve a huge shout out of recognition for keeping our campus secure amid the constant changes of COVID!

Nolan Torbert, Jr., Facilities

Management Campus Services

I would like to acknowledge and recognize Nolan (Building Manager/Coordinator III) for his outstanding, dedication and hard work in ensuring the job/work orders gets completed in a timely manner. He always goes above and beyond with a spirit of meekness and excellence. Nolan always makes himself available, no matter the time of day or night. Nolan is always friendly, respectful and humble. I have heard him say teamwork makes the dream work!! War Eagle!

Mail Services

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the change in campus operations, the Mail Services team has truly gone above and beyond to ensure the campus is still being serviced. They are not able to do their work from home and they have been willing to put themselves at risk to keep the mail

moving. We truly appreciate them and we are lucky to call them part of the Auburn Family.

PM Techs

Thank you to the group of folks in the PM shop who are working throughout the COVID pandemic. They are still trying to keep all the buildings up and running, making sure that they are in prime condition for when everyone shows back up when all this is over. They have handled a constant workload and have also handled emergencies as they have happened..

Building Services

Some of our building services employees have been working keeping our buildings clean since this coronavirus pandemic started. I think that we all should be recognized as well as others.

Dan Berry, Facilities Management

Dan initiates all projects across the entire university and without him, keeping the University operating through this pandemic would not be possible. He has gone above and beyond with his initiative to maintain incredibly quick turn-around on project initiation, even while working remotely. And even though the process has been incredibly complicated during this transition, he remains patient and provides excellent support, always ready to answer questions. THANK YOU DAN!! FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE TO HELP!!

HVAC and Electricians Working 2nd Shift

These HVAC Techs and Electricians are continuing to maintain the campus heating/air conditioning and electrical systems during this period. They practice safety and look after one another during these trying times and keep Auburn University ready for the return of our faculty, staff and especially our students when this is over.

Construction Management

While most departments have seen a decline in productivity, Construction Management has ramped up forces. They have been working even harder while everyone is away. They have not missed a beat, and even taken on some additional projects during this time. They are continuing to support the campus by making sure that the new buildings and renovations are complete once campus opens back up and normal operations resume. For this I am deeply grateful.

Loren Allday, Cole Shafer, Shanda

Foster and Glen Granberry

Once it was determined that the FFCRA leave laws would apply to Auburn University, Loren Allday immediately offered assistance to Human Resources by offering her and her team's expertise via an electronic format that is used in Facilities. Many hours of work, programming, creation and even cool videos went into the process and I wish to highlight how appreciative we are to Loren Allday, Cole Shafer, Shanda Foster and Glen Granberry. What an AUsome example of collaboration and teamwork between Facilities and the Payroll and Benefits areas of Human Resources!!! MANY thanks to this group. You are all wonderful, patient, smart and a lifesaver to us! Thank you so much!

To read all the employee recognitions visit: auburn.edu/administration/human_resources/covid-recognition.html



Access Control has been a key resource to the university



Phil Gohman works to remove a paper clip jammed in a door lock.

Tucked away inside the Stadium Parking Deck, Facilities Access Control Center has literally controlled what portions of campus are open or closed (locked or unlocked) during the COVID operations period.

"Access Control has been extremely instrumental during this time period," said Dan Whatley, executive director of Facilities Operations. "In coordination with our Facilities IT team, they developed new ways to use our card swipe system to meet the continually evolving security needs of the campus. They have been quick to rise to each new operational mode that has been implemented, and have shown great professionalism and commitment!"

The Access Control team has also developed an innovative way to sanitize returned keys by repurposing Barbicide, a popular salon disinfectant, so that it is used to disinfect keys instead of combs and razors. Once keys are returned, they are dipped in the Barbicide before being returned to storage.

Also, once the team realized Auburn University employees were trying to return keys when the office was closed, they put up a drop box outside of the office and even provided envelopes for employees to use.

This flexibility, teamwork and innovation is a great example of Facilities Management's mission.



From left: Phil Gohman, Cathy Blumenthal, Nina Hollingsworth, Lexi the dog, Ken Ervin and Angelo Hathcock.



Nina Hollingsworth organizes the key wall where all keys are placed until assigned to an AU employee.



Cathy Blumenthal places a returned key in Barbicide for disinfection.

Maintenance team's quick response limits water damage



The saying, "April showers bring May flowers," is well known, but the Facilities Management maintenance team knows it also brings unexpected surprises that unearth themselves during heavy rainfall.

On Sunday, April 12, 2020, the Auburn area received long periods of heavy rain. Monday, April 13, Maintenance received a call from a contractor reporting standing water and mud in the recently renovated Student Activities Center corridor. Servpro was called in and cleaned the area.

With no plumbers available at the time, **Eric Moore**, director of Maintenance, with the support of **Josh Conradson**, assistant director of Construction Management, began investigating what might have caused the incident. Eric put in a call and a team

of Facilities employees arrived ASAP to assist. They include: **George Kirkpatrick**, zone assistant supervisor; **Lamar Finley**, tech advisor TES; **Derrick Bullard**, second shift plumber (who came in early); and **Cedric Patterson**, first shift zone 4 plumber.

They all worked together and found an eight-inch metal pipe (located underneath the floor) had collapsed letting water seep out into the flooring. Repair of the floor is currently underway and expected to be complete by the end of June.