

Facilities & Grounds Quarterly

FALL 2025 | ISSUE 4

SAFETY FIRST. INTEGRITY ALWAYS. SERVICE EXCELLENCE. TEAMWORK.



Fall has arrived on The University of Alabama campus.

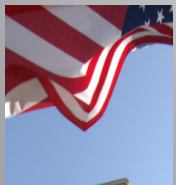
CAMPUS NEWS & UPDATES



Video and Photos: Carpentry shop helps Bama Dining Deck the [Gingerbread Halls](#).



Celebrate the Holidays with [Free UA Museums Events](#)



Honoring Alabama's Rural Veterans: [Supporting Service](#) and Strengthening Communities

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

Division of
Finance and Operations
Facilities and Grounds

FROM THE AVP’S
DESK

Celebrating the Spirit of the
Holidays

A Heartfelt Thank You to the
Dedicated Employees on a Year of
Excellence

As the holiday season approaches, this is a time for reflection, gratitude, and celebration. First, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a joyous Holiday Season! I also want to personally say ‘thank you’ for your dedication, hard work, and all you do to make this University so exceptional.

As this year comes to a close, I pause to reflect on everything we have accomplished together. Each problem solved, each goal met, and every success story has been made possible because of you — the outstanding individuals of the Facilities and Grounds Organization who give your best each day. This Holiday season is the perfect moment to recognize and celebrate the dedication, skill, and resilience that define our team.

This year has been filled with achievements, challenges, and unexpected obstacles, yet through it all, you continued to deliver remarkable results. Your determination, commitment, and passion have been the driving force behind our success. Your ability to adapt, innovate, and collaborate has been truly inspiring. Your commitment to quality work, your dedication to getting the job done, your willingness to support one another, and your resolve to uphold high standards have strengthened our organization and moved us forward in meaningful ways. It is because of your hard work and perseverance that we have been able to achieve our goals, to continue to grow as an organization, and to set new benchmarks for success.

Your contributions go far beyond daily tasks. You are the heart of this organization, and our success is a direct result of your enthusiasm and talent. You bring ideas to the table, take pride in a job well done, and consistently demonstrate what it means to work with purpose.



Your efforts make a lasting impact — not just on the University’s faculty, staff, and students, but also on the many visitors we serve and support throughout the year. I feel fortunate to work alongside individuals who demonstrate such ingenuity, dedication, and pride in their work and I look forward to another successful year of growth, achievement, and collaboration.

Each of you should feel proud of the work you have accomplished and the difference you made. May this holiday season bring you peace, joy, and well-deserved rest. You have represented this institution with excellence, and now I hope you are able to spend meaningful time with family and friends.

As I look ahead to the new year, I do so with excitement and confidence — knowing we will find ways to continuously improve and get better each day.

Throughout 2026, we must continue to focus on providing superior customer service and delivering the highest level of quality work possible. I know that with this incredible team, there is no challenge we cannot navigate and no goal out of reach. I have full confidence that you will once again rise to the occasion, achieve great things, and continue to shape our campus in the best ways possible.

Thank you for the extraordinary impact you have had on The University of Alabama.

Warmest regards,

Greg McKelvey
Interim AVP, Facilities and Grounds



EXECUTIVE INSIGHTS

The Critical Role of Continuous
Quality Improvements in Facilities
& Grounds

The University of Alabama’s campus, with our iconic Quad, historic buildings, and sprawling grounds, is more than just a collection of structures; it’s the foundation for academic excellence, vibrant student life, and a strong athletic tradition. Maintaining and enhancing this physical environment through Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) is not merely a matter of maintenance, but a strategic imperative that directly impacts the university’s mission and reputation. CQI in Facilities & Grounds should be an ongoing, proactive approach to finding and implementing better ways to operate, maintain, and upgrade campus infrastructure, ensuring it remains safe, functional, and aesthetically pleasing.

The Direct Impact on the UA
Experience

The physical environment profoundly influences the experience of all members of the UA community.

Supporting Academic and Research
Excellence

Modern, well-maintained facilities are crucial for supporting cutting-edge research and effective teaching. Outdated, poorly managed, or uncomfortable spaces can hinder faculty productivity and students’ learning potential. CQI in this context means working with campus partners to regularly assess and upgrade classrooms, laboratories, and study areas for technological readiness, environmental comfort, and safety.

Enhancing Student Recruitment and
Retention

The first impression a prospective student and their family get of UA is often the campus itself. Pristine grounds, well-kept residence halls, and impressive athletic facilities serve

as powerful, tangible evidence of the university’s commitment to its students. Effective CQI can ensure that all facilities are consistently maintained to the highest standards, helping UA attract and retain top talent nationally and globally. A systematic approach to addressing minor issues before they become major deterrents is key to this effort.

Strategic and Financial Benefits of
CQI

Beyond the immediate user experience, a CQI approach yields significant strategic and financial advantages for the university.

Sustainability and Energy Efficiency

CQI initiatives can be instrumental in advancing UA’s sustainability goals. By continuously reviewing the performance of building systems, such as HVAC, lighting, and water usage, facilities staff can identify and implement efficiency upgrades. This continuous effort reduces the university’s environmental footprint and leads to substantial savings on utility costs over time, freeing up resources that can be redirected to core academic programs.

Risk Mitigation and Safety

Proactive maintenance, a core tenet of CQI, is far more effective and less costly than reactive emergency repairs. A systematic, continuous review of facilities ensures that potential hazards—from failing roof structures to outdated fire suppression systems—are identified and addressed before they lead to costly damage, operational downtime, or safety incidents. This commitment to a safe environment is non-negotiable and protects the university’s assets and, most importantly, its people.

Institutionalizing the Improvement
Mindset

For CQI to be successful at an institution the size of UA, it must be ingrained in the Facilities & Grounds culture. This involves data-driven decision-making, where metrics on work order completion times, equipment lifespan, and user satisfaction surveys guide action. Furthermore, it necessitates cross-functional collaboration, ensuring that facilities staff work closely with the academic affairs, student life, and financial departments to align improvements with the university’s overarching strategic plan.

In conclusion, Continuous Quality Improvement is not a project; it is an institutional philosophy that views every Facilities & Grounds operation as an opportunity for enhancement. By prioritizing this ongoing commitment, the University of Alabama secures a physically superior, safer, and more sustainable campus, thereby upholding its legacy and strengthening the foundation for future generations of students and scholars.

Greg Gettings
Executive Director, Maintenance and Support

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

CHAD TUCKER
BUILDING MAINTENANCE



Chad Tucker with Interim AVP Greg McKelvey

Chad demonstrates exceptional leadership and efficiency in guiding the Painting Team through high-profile projects and events, including the HM Comer College of Engineering renaming, preparations in Russell Hall for the President’s Cabinet, and serving as the lead painter for the Guildswood property.

Despite the volume and visibility of these projects, he consistently maintains a minimal work-order backlog for himself and his team. Chad’s strong work ethic and positive leadership style motivate those around him and inspire his team to deliver high-quality results with efficiency and effectiveness.

Congratulations, Chad, and thank you for your outstanding work!



Manager’s Spotlight

Be a Better Listener

If we all asked ourselves whether we are good listeners, most of us would probably say yes—but the reality is that many of us are not. We often hear only what we want to hear.

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, listening has three meanings:

- 1. To pay attention to sound.
- 2. To hear something with thoughtful attention; to give consideration.
- 3. To be alert to catch an expected sound.

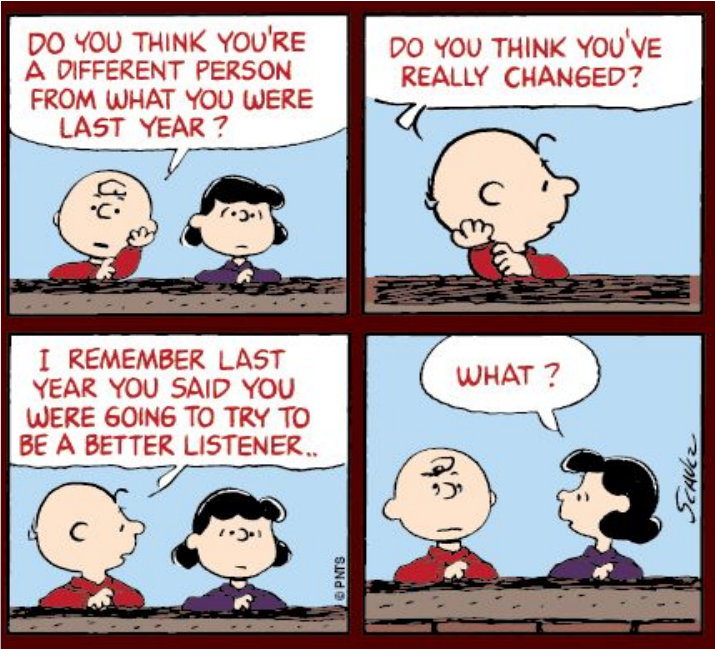
While we all pay attention to sound, it’s the second definition that captures the true essence of listening: giving thoughtful attention and genuine consideration. Too often, we only hear selectively or focus on what we want to respond to. We may start a conversation intending to listen well, but soon we tune out, fixate on one part of what’s said, or interrupt before the other person finishes.

One way to become a better listener is by practicing active listening. Active listening goes beyond simply hearing

words—it means making a deliberate effort to understand the full message, both verbal and nonverbal, while remaining fully engaged. Practicing active listening helps build trust and understanding, creating a more positive and productive environment.

In the workplace, listening can make us better employees and colleagues. It strengthens relationships and builds trust by showing that we truly value what others have to say. Through deeper understanding, we become better problem solvers and decision-makers. Ultimately, effective listening boosts productivity by preventing miscommunication and missed information.

Tiffany Tant
Director, Custodial Services



Applause Around Campus



THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Lucy Arnold Sikes

October 27, 2025

Mr. Greg McKelvey
Box 870294
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35487

Dear Greg:

Thank you and your team for your help with the fall President’s Cabinet meeting. The grounds around Russell Hall were neat and clean, ready to welcome our guests. I appreciate your team’s work to get the area ready for the meeting. Please pass on our thanks to them for their hard work.

Regards,

Lucy Arnold Sikes

c: Dr. Peter J. Mohler
Dr. Dan Layzell

Thank you for making things easy for us!

Greg,
I hope you have recovered from an extremely busy Homecoming week.

I wanted to take a moment to commend your entire team in Facilities and Grounds for the outstanding work they did this past weekend for Homecoming.

The amount of effort required for an event of this magnitude is significant, and every member of your team did a great job helping us with everything we needed.

From start to finish, everyone we interacted with was cooperative, helpful, and very courteous. Each person went out of their way to assist us, and their professionalism made a tremendous difference in ensuring that Homecoming ran smoothly.

Homecoming truly could not have been a success without the support and dedication of your staff. They represented the University with excellence and made us proud to work with them.

Thank you again for their exceptional work. Please extend our appreciation to your entire team.

Roll Tide!

Jimmy Warren
Assistant Vice President for Alumni Affairs
Executive Director, National Alumni Association

I attend the home football games and spend a lot of time in the Quad and other areas on campus. The number of people on campus is unbelievable—especially the Tennessee game, LSU and Oklahoma. All over campus I would see our grounds people, facilities crew, custodial and others who are making sure our campus is kept beautiful.

Garbage cans have always been available because these hard-working people do a great job driving around and replacing the trash bags as often as they can. The restrooms in the student center are kept clean as well as the areas where THOUSANDS of people are walking in and out.

Before the LSU game, I saw a couple of our guys assisting a lady in LSU attire as she was carrying a cooler to her tailgating area. It was thoughtful and they were true gentlemen. It was represented The University of Alabama quite well. No doubt, she went back to Louisiana knowing those folks from Alabama are good people.

We have the absolute most beautiful campus in this country. Even 150,000 crazy fans who try to trash it can’t compare to the outstanding job done by our crew here at UA. I appreciate you all greatly.

ROLL TIDE!!
Cindi A. Bradley | Benefits Specialist II

Applause Around Campus

Cravens and Patrick,

I am writing to formally commend the entire Coleman Coliseum staff for their extraordinary effort and dedication over the past few months. The volume of work accomplished to prepare the facility for the imminent start of the Basketball and Gymnastics seasons is nothing short of remarkable.

Since the conclusion of summer camps and moving forward into to the start of Basketball and Gymnastics, the team has consistently executed major deep-cleaning and maintenance projects. The scope of this preparation has been extensive:

- Comprehensive Floor Treatment: This included stripping and waxing all entranceways and various internal rooms to restore their brilliance.
- Detailed Pressure Washing: A crucial effort that involved pressure washing carpets at every entrance, as well as the aluminum steps leading to the court and all main floor risers.
- Arena Seating Overhaul (A Major Task): The team successfully undertook one of our most labor-intensive projects to date: meticulously pressure washing and extracting between every row and along every step of the arena seating. This time-consuming task was managed alongside all other crucial preparations.

Your daily commitment has been key to the successful completion of these large-scale tasks. Thank you for your continued hard work; it is what ensures Coleman Coliseum maintains its immaculate standard and continues to shine.

Greg Gettings
Executive Director, Maintenance
and Support

WORK IN PROGRESS



BEFORE



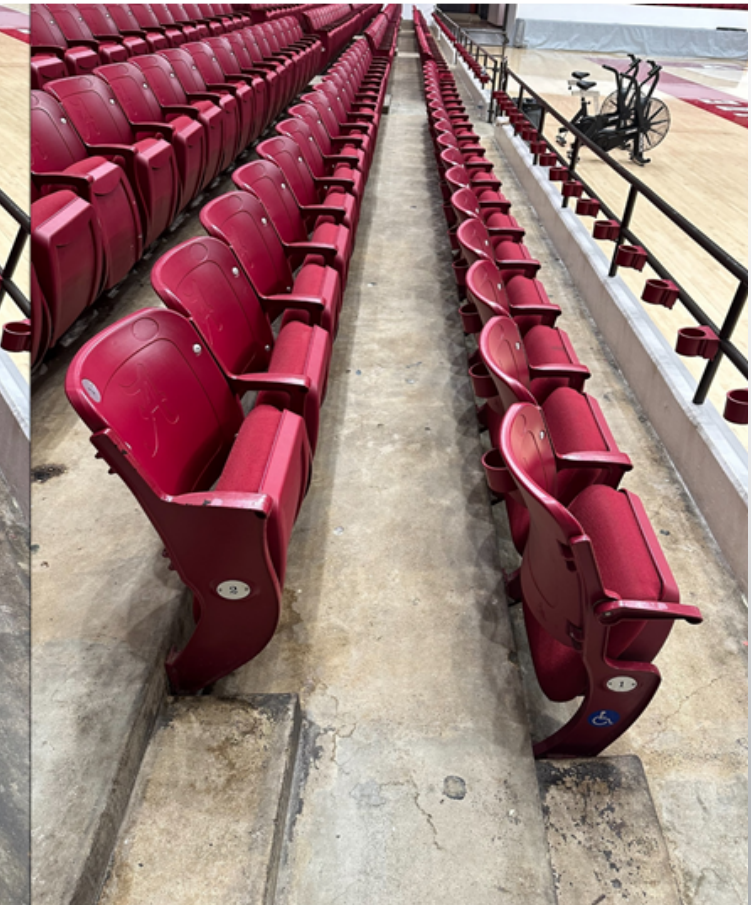
AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



Applause Around Campus

Dru,

I wanted to let you know what a great job Randy and Brigett did during our home tournament last weekend. We had 8 teams here for 16 games over two days, and Randy and Brigett did a great job keeping everything clean, especially the bathrooms. I have thanked them but wanted to let you know how much we appreciate their care and effort overall but especially when we host events.

Margaret

Margaret Stran, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Adapted Athletics
Clinical Associate Professor, Kinesiology

Applause Around Campus

David,

You made Mrs. Pattie Starnes’s day, today. She called to let us know you went above and beyond this morning to help her find a cart this morning at Tutwiler to move her daughter out. She said you de-served a thumbs up!

Thank you for helping her out. I told her I would pass this along to you.

Thanks again,

David Marlowe, CEF
Assistant Manager
Facilities Maintenance Building

TEAMS OF THE
QUARTER

Congratulations to our Teams of the
Quarter!

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Guildswood property—originally built in 1930 and expanded over the decades—to prepare it for Dr. Mohler and his family while the President’s Mansion undergoes renovation this coming spring.

Your dedication and craftsmanship brought this historic home up to the University of Alabama’s standard of excellence. Since July, more than 3,493 labor hours have gone into this project. Every part of the house—inside and out—was thoroughly inspected, evaluated, and repaired where needed.

Your attention to detail and commitment to quality made it possible to ready this property in just a few short months.

Thank you for your exceptional work and well-deserved recognition!

HVAC
TEAM OF THE QUARTER



Pictured L to R: Randy Mathis, Lee Craft, Joey Parramore, Greg McKelvey, Dalton Hon-eycutt, Boo Morrison

PLUMBING
TEAM OF THE QUARTER



Brandon Pickell, Mike Kornegay, Glenn Hicks, Ryan Colburn, Justen Barkdoll, Chris Black, Cedric Lawson.

GROUPS *TEAM OF THE QUARTER*



Pictured L to R: Daniel Fleet, Johnny Parr, Robert Tyler, Lukas Sullivan, Kim Byram, Jordan Williamson, Carra Freeman, Chrissy Plowman, Greg

ELECTRICAL *TEAM OF THE QUARTER*



Brent Hagood, Eugene Coleman, Greg Hall, Chad Jones, Jon Battle, Dustin Mullenix, Johnny Estes, Roger Stockton, Nick Cheval, Josh Hughes, Brad Noland, Terry McMillian

BUILDING MAINTENANCE *TEAM OF THE QUARTER*



Pictured L to R: Greg McKelvey, Johnny James, David Gregory, Tony Frizzell, Drake O'Bryant, Leon Gourdouras, Chad Tucker, Chad McRae, Wayne Reach, Shane Riter, Justin Holt, Chris Wilkins, Cody Woods, Brian Morris, McCain Clowers, Jennifer Boatner, Thomas Dodson, Bill Riser, James Booth, Davod marlowe Doc Crumrine, and Collin Sewell

BUILDING MAINTENANCE *TEAM OF THE QUARTER*

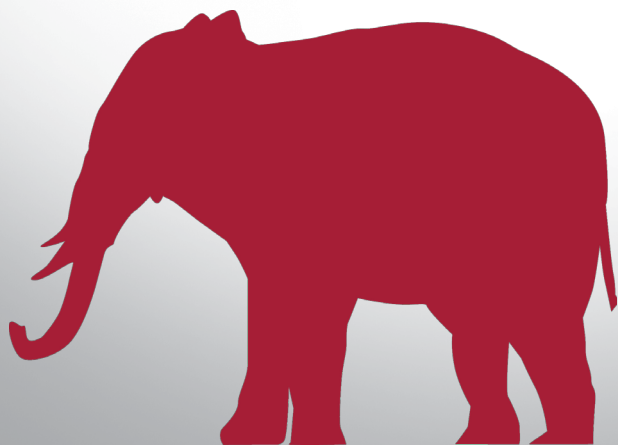


Pictured L to R: Greg McKelvey, Michael Sumners, Joshua Jackson, David Anderson, Jeff Kizziah, Deuce McCurley, Mason Heany, Johnny Bristol, MJ Harris, Chris Barkdoll, Tim Bolden, Kendall Smith, Frank Lee, PJ Pearson, Mike Emhke, Mason Meggs, Andrew Gardiner, Mark Tidwell, Jason Gamble, Tracy Free, Kyle Cousins, Darrel Lindsey

LOGISTICS
TEAM OF THE QUARTER



Pictured L to R: Julian Turner, Jlon Murry, Quindarius Cousette, Dormain Neal, David Crossno, and Eric Samuel



GROWING OUR F&O
FAMILY

Congratulations to McKenzie Parham (*Elevator Associate III*) on the newest addition to the family!
Fletcher James Parham was born on Sept. 13, 2025, weighing 6 lbs., 13 oz, and 19.25 in. long.

Welcome to the World!

New Hires & Promotions

Building Maintenance

New Hires

- Luke Jackson – Painter II
- David Gregory – Trades Helper
- Mason Meggs – Trades Helper

Grounds

Promotions

- LA Goree – Street Sweeper
- Brent Cook – Spray Technician

New Hires

- Camron Anderson -Groundskeeper

HVAC

New Hires

- Jamie Hodo – HVAC Mechanic I
- Hailee Payton – Controls Technician

BROWN-DUFFY
SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Brown-Duffy Memorial Endowed Maintenance Scholarship Fund was established by employees of the Maintenance Department at The University of Alabama to honor the memory of former Maintenance staff members Henry Brown and Jerone Duffy.

This scholarship supports deserving Maintenance Department employees, as well as their dependents, grandchildren, and future descendants, who attend the University.

Application Information:

- Applications are accepted annually in February.
- Upon submission, applications are forwarded automatically to the designated contact.

Award Details:

- The total amount awarded annually varies as determined by the selection committee.

- The scholarship is awarded for one academic year and credited to the recipient's account at the start of each semester.
- Award announcements are made in April.

Additional Benefit:

Eligible full-time Maintenance Department employees may receive an educational benefit covering 100% of tuition for up to 3 credit hours each fall and spring semester, and up to 6 credit hours in the summer semester.

For more information or to submit for your application visit the [Brown-Duffy Scholarship Fund website](#).

Additional information on The University of Alabama employee education benefit can be found on the [HR website](#).



A WINNING TRADITION

ELEPHANT TOPIARY BRINGS HOME HONORS

We are pleased to share that the University of Alabama has received a 2025 PGMS Green Star Honor Award for the outstanding care and maintenance of the topiary elephant at the Rose Administration Building.

The PGMS Green Star Awards recognize exceptional grounds management achievements nationwide, and this Honor Award highlights the skill, creativity, and year-round attention required to maintain one of UA's most recognizable landscape features.

Congratulations to our Grounds team for earning national recognition for their craftsmanship and dedication. This award reflects the pride and professionalism that define Facilities & Grounds across our campus.

