

# Facilities & Grounds Quarterly

SPRING 2026 | ISSUE 5

**SAFETY FIRST. INTEGRITY ALWAYS. SERVICE EXCELLENCE. TEAMWORK.**



Spring has arrived on The University of Alabama campus.

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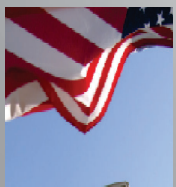
## CAMPUS NEWS & UPDATES



On the [Weather Watch](#) with UA's Meteorologist, Sarah Johnstone



[Capstone Convergence](#): The University has embarked on bold initiative to modernize its enterprise system.



UA Breaks Ground for [ROTC, Student Veterans Center](#)

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**

Division of  
Finance and Operations  
Facilities and Grounds

## FROM THE AVP'S DESK

### *Taking Pride in the Work You Do*

Every day, the work of the Facilities and Grounds team quietly shapes the experience of everyone on our campus. Our impact may not always be easily noticed, but it would certainly be felt by everyone on campus if our work were not done correctly. Buildings that function properly, the clean and welcoming spaces, the well maintained grounds everyone enjoys, and the many successful campus events are all the direct result of your hard work, your commitment to quality, and your attention to detail.

Being the best is not always about trying to be perfect; it's about taking ownership, being accountable for your work assignment, caring about the result, and giving your absolute maximum effort every time. When we focus on improving the quality of our work, we aren't just serving the campus; we are doing it for ourselves. There is real sense of accomplishment in knowing you did the job right the first time with the highest level of quality possible.

Excellence is built through consistency. It's not the big, visible moments that define great work - it's the small details handled to the very best of your ability every single day. Cleaning every corner thoroughly, repairing something the right way instead of the fast way, pulling the small weeds along with the big ones, identifying and addressing an issue before it becomes a problem, or taking a few extra minutes to ensure work meets the highest quality standards are the actions that separate good work from exceptional work.



Quality work requires taking pride in what you do. When you look at a building, a flower bed, a piece of equipment, a cleaned room, or a job well done and can confidently say, "I made that better," that's something to be proud of. Your work reflects not only on Facilities and Grounds as a team but should also provide you with a sense of accomplishment.

As we continue striving for excellence, I encourage everyone to keep three simple principles in mind:

- **Do the job right the first time, to the very best of your ability**
- **Pay attention to the small details**
- **Strive every day to be better than you were the day before**

Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant said it best:

***"Little things make the difference. Everyone does the big things well, but only the winners perfect the little things."***

When each of us commits to doing even the small things well

and improving just a little every day, the results show quickly. High expectations and standards, teamwork, attention to detail, and pride in our work are what make a great team even better.

Thank you for the high quality of work you deliver every day. Continue to take pride in your work and the difference you make. Your work matters, and it never goes unnoticed.

- Greg Mckelvey

*Interim Associate Vice President  
Facilities & Grounds*



## EXECUTIVE INSIGHTS

### *Building the Foundation: The Pillars of Excellence in Facilities Management*

At the University of Alabama, our campus is more than just a collection of historic buildings and manicured green spaces; it is the physical stage upon which the future is built. For the Facilities & Grounds team, our work ensures that the Crimson Tide mission—teaching, research, and service—can thrive.

To maintain a premier environment, we must look beyond the immediate task at hand and focus on the strategic principles that elevate our operations from "maintenance" to "mission critical."

#### **1. Connecting the Wrench to the Vision - Strategic Alignment of Day-to-Day Work**

It is easy to view a work order as just a repair, but every task we complete is a direct investment in the University's strategic priorities. When we align our daily operations with institutional goals, we transition from being reactive to being intentional.

**Student Success:** A well-lit library or a climate-controlled classroom isn't just a comfort; it's a prerequisite for academic focus. Research Innovation: Maintaining the precise infrastructure required for high-level labs allows our faculty to push the boundaries of knowledge.

**Institutional Growth:** Every time we care for our grounds, we are participating in the recruitment of the next generation of legends.

By understanding why a task matters to the University's broader vision, we ensure that our resources—time, budget, and labor—are always supporting the most impactful outcomes

#### **2. Empowering Our Greatest Asset - Leadership and People Management**

The strength of our facilities lies not in our machinery and equipment, but in our people.

Effective leadership is the engine that drives our department forward. For our supervisors and managers, people management is about more than oversight; it is about mentorship and empowerment.

A great leader doesn't just manage a workflow; they cultivate a culture where every team member feels valued and equipped to succeed.

Strong leadership in Facilities Management involves:

##### **Professional Development:**

Encouraging teams to master new technologies and sustainable practices.

**Safety Culture:** Prioritizing the physical well-being of our staff above all else.

**Clear Expectations:** Providing the "why" behind the "what," which builds trust and accountability within the shops.

#### **3. Breaking Down Silos - Collaboration and Communication with Stakeholders**

We don't work in a vacuum. Our "customers" are the students, faculty, staff, and visitors who call this campus home. Successful facilities management requires a seat at the table with campus stakeholders to ensure our work reflects the needs of the community.

**Proactive Dialogue:** By communicating early with department heads about upcoming renovations or seasonal maintenance, we minimize disruption to the academic calendar.

**Transparency:** Keeping the campus informed about project

timelines and "behind-the-scenes" challenges builds a partnership of mutual respect.

**Shared Ownership:** When we collaborate with Athletics, Housing, and Academic Affairs, we create a unified campus experience that feels seamless to the end user.

#### **Moving Forward Together**

As we continue to grow and evolve, these three pillars—Strategic Alignment, Leadership, and Collaboration—will remain our guiding lights. Thank you for the hard work, the "Roll Tide" spirit, and the dedication you bring to every corner of this campus.

- Greg Gettings, CEFP  
*Executive Director  
Maintenance & Support*



## EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

### LAMICHAEL MCCLYDE CUSTODIAL SERVICES



LaMichael McClyde with Interim AVP  
Greg McKelvey

LaMichael has shown his commitment to exemplary work over the spring break holiday.

LaMichael volunteered to work over spring break at University Medical Center and not only did he complete his normal functions as team leader, he went on to refinish floors in several areas of the medical center as project work, responded to multiple call outs to various buildings over the holiday, and went on to work the final Saturday in our spring break, along with the evening project team, to pressure wash two important areas for an upcoming event.

LaMichael's work is always top notch but over this last holiday while most of us were enjoying a bit of time off, he was here not only performing what was assigned and expected, but going above and beyond to complete several needed tasks on his own accord, responding to emergency calls, setting equipment and reporting on the calls, and taking the time to set the department ahead on necessary project work.

I really appreciate having LaMichael on our team, He can always be counted on to give it his all.

## Manager's Spotlight

### Why We Do the Work

I was in a meeting with Facilities and Grounds leadership staff recently and we were asked by one of our customers on campus "why do we do our jobs". They weren't looking for obvious reasons like having a job or providing for our family, but specifically why do we do this job with other options available.

To achieve personal success and hope for more opportunities in the future, we must enjoy what we are doing and do it for a reason. For me, every day brings a new opportunity to improve the experience of at least 1 of the 42,360 students on campus. I was once one of those students. I benefited daily from the work of this organization, and now I hope to give a little bit of that back to the University.

Sometimes that means removing a small barrier for a student, helping a parent find a building, a professor avoid a disruption, an executive figure out how to solve a big problem, or providing support and resources to one of the many great employees that work for Facilities and Grounds. No matter who is asking, the work is important and critical to their success in providing the best environment possible for our students to learn, discover, and enjoy their short time on our campus.

Over time, we discover that the efforts we make day in and day out positively impact far more than 1 student at a time. Often, thousands of people benefit from the direct and indirect impact we all make every day on this beautiful campus.

One of my coaches from high school would often repeat,

**"When you look good, you feel good. When you feel good, you play good. When you play good, you win."**

Those words have stuck with me for years and applies to our work too. When you feel good about what you do, you do well. When you feel good about your environment, you perform well.

So, the next time you are doing one of the many important things you do every day, think about how it will benefit that customer. Then how that benefit will have a ripple effect from them all the way to the students that ultimately mean the most to this University.

#### - Michael Sumners

Director  
Building Maintenance

# WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE



## Applause Around Campus

Good morning, Michael and Brian.

Recently we have had the pleasure of working with your guys in the cabinet shop to resurface our circulation desk, a desk that has been through much since its installation in the late 1970s. From start to finish, everyone that we have worked with and came into contact with has been delightful, attentive, and extremely helpful. Tony really leads his team well!

When this project started, we had very low expectations given the current state of the desk and the budget that we had to refinish it. When the crew arrived early this week, we were completely blown away with not only their speed, disturbing the students and our desk operations very minimally for 2 short days, but with their incredible work product. We never dreamed that this desk could look so darn good! The students and staff alike have been watching them all week and commenting on how wonderful it looks and at how attentive your team was to every possible nook and cranny. I just wanted to let you know how appreciative we are of their hard work and kindness during this process and what a difference they have made. Please thank the team: Justin, Frank, David, Steve, Andrew, Johnny, and the guys in the spray shop, for everything they have done and for making this such a smooth process. We are very grateful and I invite you to stop by and see their beautiful work for yourselves!

Have a beautiful rest of your week,

Jennifer

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#### Jennifer Mart-Rice

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[Schedule a meeting with me!](#)



More kudos around this project found on the next page.

## Applause Around Campus

Saw the finished product earlier this morning and could not agree more about how great it looks. Thanks everyone for doing such great work and making it so easy on everyone in our building. Amazing what a difference this piece makes in the whole feel of our law library.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Bill

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Michael and Bryan,

Thanks to you and especially to John and the team for the great work on this project. I agree that it's a really good final result, and I'm glad to hear also from Jennifer about the ease of the process and working with them.

All my best,

Joel

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## Applause Around Campus

Good morning, I would like to commend the cabinet shop for the work that you all provided for the elevator shop. Everything looks absolutely wonderful. The craftsmanship is second to none, especially the medallion inserts in my desktop! Every person that has visited since the cabinets and desk were installed has raved over how good they look and how much more professional the shop looks. Again, thank you so much to the builders, stainers, and installers. From start to finish, this job was handled professionally, and you all were a pleasure to deal with.

Sincerely,

**Stephen Dockery**

Assistant Manager Elevator Maintenance

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## ELEVATOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Associate Elevator Technician Jon Fleenor completed all apprenticeship program and testing requirements on Jan. 28, 2026 and is now a Certified Elevator Technician – Supervisor (CET-S). Congratulations, Jon! Your hard work and perseverance have paid off!
- Associate Elevator Technician Tyler Garrison completed his Level 9 requirements on Feb. 20, 2026 and is now studying for his CET exam. Congratulations, Tyler!
- Elevator Repair Apprentice Garrett Hunter completed his Level 2 requirements on Oct. 20, 2025 and is now at Level 3. Congratulations, Garrett!
- Certified Elevator Technician (CET-S) Matt Burroughs was promoted to Lead Elevator Technician on March 2, 2026. Congratulations, Matt!
- Certified Elevator Technician (CET-S) Stephen Dockery was promoted to Assistant Manager of Elevator Maintenance on Jan. 12, 2026. Congratulations, Stephen!

## TEAM OF THE QUARTER COLEMAN ATHLETICS MAINTENANCE

### Congratulations to our Team of the Quarter!

From January 1 through Spring Break, Coleman Athletics Maintenance displayed exceptional professionalism during the most demanding operational window of their year. The team successfully managed 22 high-profile events, including nine men's basketball games, eight women's basketball games, and five gymnastics meets. Their technical expertise was most evident during five "triple-turnover" weekends, where they converted the arena floor between gymnastics and basketball in under 24 hours while maintaining a premier environment for student-athletes and fans.

Beyond these transitions, the team drove significant operational improvements by optimizing staffing levels to reduce costs and implementing a rotation system that sustained high team morale. They also successfully integrated a football-model communication system into basketball operations, enabling real-time staff dispatching and faster response times. For their tireless work ethic and commitment to excellence, Coleman Athletics Maintenance is highly deserving of the Facilities & Grounds Team of the Quarter award.



## BROWN-DUFFY SCHOLARSHIP FUND RECIPIENTS

### CONGRATULATIONS PIPER HATHORNE & KATELYN PATE!

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.



Brown-Duffy Scholarship recipient for 2026, Piper Hathorne (right), pictured with her mother Tia Hathorne (left). Tia is a member of the Custodial Services department.



Brown-Duffy Scholarship recipient for 2026, Katelyn Pate (left), pictured with her father Kelton Pate (right). Kelton is a member of the Grounds department.



## GROWING OUR F&O FAMILY

Congratulations to the Ecker family on their new addition!

Nick (Coleman Colesium) and Avery welcomed their son, **Briggs Lane Ecker**, on Jan. 27, 2026, weighing 6 lbs., 6 oz.

Welcome to the World!

## QUAD MULCH DAY 2026

On Quad Mulch Day 2026, a total of 540 yards of mulch were used across the Quad and surrounding buildings. The success of this operation was attributed to effective staging and preparation efforts, which allowed the team to complete the project efficiently and to a high standard.



## New Hires & Promotions

### Landscape & Grounds

#### New Hires

- Beau Barnett, Executive Director

### Grounds

#### New Hires

##### Grounds Keepers

- Brandon Milan
- Corey Prude
- Ty Lee
- Pete Mack
- Jose Garcia
- Tommy Self
- Ryan Dierks

### Mechanic

- Matt McCool

### HVAC

#### New Hires

##### HVAC Mechanics I

- Logan Aplin
- Wesley Graff
- Robert Ray
- Turner Barksdale

## SPRING ENERGY TIPS



From Donnie Grill, Energy Engineer:

- Use natural light when possible.
- Unplug electronics when not in use.
- Change your air filter to keep your air conditioning unit running efficiently.
- Plant shade trees on the east and west side of your home. Deciduous trees such as oaks and maples are best.
- Use ceiling or personal fans to make you feel cooler without turning down your thermostat.

