

Facilities & Grounds Quarterly

SUMMER 2026 | ISSUE 6

SAFETY FIRST. INTEGRITY ALWAYS. SERVICE EXCELLENCE. TEAMWORK.



Facilities & Grounds Associate Vice President Greg McKelvey connects with University President Dr. Peter Mohler at Summer Commencement 2026.

CAMPUS NEWS & UPDATES



[President's Mansion improvements](#) preserve UA landmark.



[Summer Highlights](#): UA news you might have missed



[Building Bama](#): What's new for fall 2026

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA

Division of
Finance and Operations
Facilities and Grounds

FROM THE AVP'S
DESK

Quality is a Choice We Make Every
Day

In Facilities and Grounds, the quality of our work is visible throughout the University. Every building, landscape, classroom, office, residence hall, and public space we support is influenced by the work we perform. Whether repairing equipment, maintaining building systems, caring for campus grounds, cleaning facilities, moving materials, or responding to service requests, our workmanship directly affects the appearance, reliability, safety, and daily operation of campus.

The quickest way or the easiest way is rarely the right way. The quickest way or the easiest way may save a few minutes today. However, the right way protects our employees, our customers, our facilities, our equipment, and our reputation for years to come. Ultimately, quality workmanship is about professionalism, pride, personal accountability, and the fortitude to always do things the right way.

Quality workmanship means more than completing a work order or finishing an assigned task. Achieving the highest level of quality possible is never accomplished through one major action.

Quality is only achieved through hundreds of daily decisions.

Quality is double checking to ensure the final connection is tightened. Quality is cleaning the overlooked corner. Quality is checking your work one more time to ensure everything is precisely how it should be. Quality means completing all work tasks safely, correctly, professionally, and with the highest level of quality possible. Quality means



identifying and correcting the root cause of a problem rather than simply addressing the symptoms. Quality is refusing to accept “good enough” when we know the work can and should be better.

Achieving quality requires following established procedures, using the proper tools and materials, paying attention to the smallest details, and leaving the work area in better condition than we found it, and is taking the extra time necessary to make certain the job is done to the very best of your ability.

Quality is a decision we make every day. It is built through consistent actions, careful attention to detail, and a commitment to always completing our work tasks the right way.

Every employee contributes to the reputation of the Facilities and Grounds organization. Our customers may not always see the effort behind our work, but they experience the results every day.

Take pride in your work, hold yourself to the highest standards, and always choose to do the job right.

Reliable building systems, well-maintained grounds, clean facilities,

safe work areas, and professional service all demonstrate our commitment to achieving the highest possible level of quality.

- Greg Mckelvey
Associate Vice President
Facilities & Grounds



EXECUTIVE INSIGHTS

The Blueprint of a Winning Team

In the world of higher education facilities management, it is easy to get caught up in the sheer volume of our daily operations—the millions of square feet maintained, the thousands of work orders, and the endless rotation of preventative maintenance. But what truly separates a good facilities organization from a peer-leading, championship-caliber team isn't just the size of our campus or the complexity of our infrastructure.

It is our culture. To be the absolute best among our peers, we must operate less like a standard department and more like a **winning team**.

Championships aren't won by accident, and they aren't won on game day. As Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant famously said:

“It’s not the will to win that matters—everyone has that. It’s the will to prepare to win that matters.”

For our team, preparing to win means executing a specific, daily game plan built on five core elements. When these elements align, we don't just maintain a campus; we dominate our field.

1. Elite Training: Our Offseason Preparation

You win before you ever step onto the field by out-preparing the competition. Investing in continuous, high-level training is how we transform a standard maintenance crew into an elite roster of professionals.

* Excellence at All Levels

True mastery means committing to standardized, industry-leading benchmarks—such as APPA custodial and maintenance levels and Gordian / Sightlines peer review data —so every player knows exactly what a championship performance looks like.

* Operational Agility

Cross-training and advanced technical certifications give our team the specialized knowledge needed to manage cutting-edge infrastructure and high-performance equipment.

When our teams are equipped with industry-leading expertise, they don't just react to problems—they execute the game plan with precision.

2. Uncompromising Safety: Protecting the Roster

A winning team looks out for one another. No task is so urgent, and no project is so critical, that we cannot take the time to do it safely. In a championship culture, safety is an active, living commitment embedded into every single pre-shift briefing and job site evaluation.

* Mutual Accountability

Safety isn't just about personal compliance; it's about looking across the line and ensuring your teammate has their proper personal protective equipment (PPE), recognizes the hazards, and goes home safely at the end of the shift.

* Eliminating Costly Penalties

Just like a turnover or a personal foul can cost a game, a safety lapse disrupts our momentum and hurts our most valuable asset: our people. An incident-free workplace is the direct result of deliberate, daily choices.

3. Technical Proficiency: Mastering the Playbook

As campus environments become increasingly complex, our collective technical capability must evolve ahead of the curve. True technical proficiency means combining seasoned, hands-on mechanical skill with a deep understanding of modern engineering, complex

building automation systems, and data-driven diagnostic tools.
* **Precision Execution:** Moving past guesswork to leverage advanced technology, ensuring we diagnose and fix the root cause of systemic issues the first time.

* Asset Lifecycle Optimization

Applying expert technical knowledge to properly manage sophisticated campus assets—maximizing their performance, efficiency, and longevity. By mastering the technical intricacies of our playbook, we transition from reactive troubleshooting to forward-thinking asset management.

4. Attention to Detail: Trusting “The Process”

To achieve sustained excellence, we have to embrace what Coach Nick Saban famously defined as *The Process*: focusing entirely on the execution of the task at hand, at the highest possible standard, rather than just looking at the scoreboard.

“Don’t think about winning the SEC Championship. Think about what you need to do on this drill, on this play, in this moment. That’s the process: doing things the way they’re supposed to be done.”

In facilities, The Process lives in the details. It's understanding that the difference between average work and peer-leading execution is often invisible to the untrained eye, but critical to the final outcome.

* The Margin of Excellence

It's recognizing that a perfectly maintained space is about the crispness of a paint line, the immaculate polish of a high-traffic floor, and the absolute orderliness of a mechanical room.

(Continued on pg. 4)

** Proactive Correction*

Catching the small anomalies—a minor vibration in a motor, a microscopic seal leak, or a slightly misaligned fixture—before they expand into major system failures. When we sweat the details, we eliminate the mistakes that beat average teams.

5. Customer Service: Playing for the Name on the Front of the Jersey

Technical skills and safe practices create the framework, but our commitment to customer service is how we honor the institution we represent. Every interaction a resident, professor, student, or visitor has with our team is an opportunity to demonstrate our dedication to the University's mission.

** The Pride of the Program*

We don't just repair pieces of equipment, maintain grounds or clean physical spaces; we cultivate environments where education, research, and community thrive.

** Proactive Communication*

Exceptional service means keeping our campus partners informed, setting clear expectations, and following up to ensure complete satisfaction. We treat every campus partner like a valued teammate.

The Ultimate Standard

Being the best among our peers is not a static title we achieve and then forget—it is a daily standard. It requires us to show up every morning ready to sharpen our skills, protect our teammates, execute with technical precision, perfect the details, and deliver a level of service that makes our entire university community proud.

Bear Bryant used to remind his

players of a simple, profound truth:

"If you believe in yourself and have dedication and pride — and never quit— you'll be a winner."

Thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, and your unwavering commitment to this team. Let's keep pushing the standard, trusting the process, and showing our peers what a championship facilities organization looks like.

- **Greg Gettings, CEFP**

Executive Director

Maintenance & Support



New Hires & Promotions

Plumbing

New Hires

- Jason Carrell- Plumber I
- Xavier Davis- Plumber I
- Hunter Smith- Fire Protection Mechanic
- Kyle Smithson- Fire Protection Mechanic

Promotions

- Kade Guyton- Pumber I to Plumber II
- Julio Lopez- Pumber I to Plumber II

Grounds

New Hires

- Patrick Averette- Tree Timmer

Assistant Managers

- Chance Moyer
- Jamie Hodo

Team Leads

- Carra Freeman
- Tommy Self
- Dillon Jacobs

Grounds Keepers

- Stephanie McInerney
- Tom Nelson
- Bertie Knowles
- Claire Christian
- Xyron Giles
- Jamieson Williams
- Tracey Young
- Stephanie McInerney

HVAC

New Hires

- LeDarrius Bowe- HVAC Mechanic I

Logistics

New Hires

- Oronde' Hamilton
- Kerry Shipp
- Samantha Delaney

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

ANTHONY BLUNT
COLEMAN COLISEUM



Anthony Blunt (R) with Associate Vice President Greg McKelvey (L)

Since joining our team more than two years ago, Anthony has consistently stepped up and demonstrated tremendous growth in his role.

Through his hard work, reliability, and positive attitude, he has earned the trust and confidence of both management and his coworkers.

He consistently exceeds expectations in his daily performance and is always eager to learn new skills and take on new responsibilities.

Time and again, Anthony has proven that he can successfully handle any task placed before him, making him a valuable leader and role model for our team.

We are proud to offer him the Team Leader position and look forward to seeing his continued success.

WHERE LEGENDS ARE MADE



Manager's Spotlight

Still the Best Place in Town

All too often, we hear complaints and negativity in the workplace—from customers, coworkers, and even leadership. While some concerns are certainly valid, many of the attitudes we encounter are driven more by personal circumstances than by the work environment itself. Each of us is responsible for the energy we bring to work every day. An upbeat, optimistic outlook can be just as contagious as negativity, and the attitude we choose has a direct impact on those around us.

Recently, just before the Fourth of July holiday, I had an experience that reminded me how fortunate we are to work for the University of Alabama.

I was scheduled to meet a contractor at one of our radio tower sites off Hargrove Road in Cottondale. The contractor called to let me know he would be running late for our 4:00 p.m. meeting. Since I had a few minutes to spare, I stopped at the QT gas station on Buttermilk Road to grab some gum and a bottle of water.

As I approached the entrance, a gentleman walking out looked at my University of Alabama shirt, smiled, and said, "Roll Tide!" I smiled back and replied, "Roll Tide!"

A few steps later, another gentleman exited the store and let the door close behind him. He noticed the logo on my shirt, turned around, grabbed the door, and said, "Roll Tide!" I thanked him and said, "Roll Tide. You didn't have to do that, but I appreciate it." He simply smiled and nodded.

Once inside, I was looking through

the gum selection when a QT employee greeted me with, "Hello! How are you today?" I thanked her and said I was doing well. She then asked if I worked for the University of Alabama. When I told her I did, she shared how proud she was to be a fan of the University. We spent a few minutes talking about campus and sharing stories before I grabbed my items and headed out.

As I pulled away from the QT, I found myself reflecting on how thankful I am for my job, how much pride our community has in the University, and how fortunate we are to work for such a respected institution.

I'm sure many of you have similar stories from your time at the University of Alabama—moments that reminded you of the pride and appreciation people have for what we do. The next time you find yourself becoming discouraged or focusing on the negatives, remember that there are more than 114,000 people in the Tuscaloosa community who take pride in the University's impact on our city. There are many places where someone can find a job, but few that offer the rich history, tradition, sense of purpose, and community pride that come with serving the University of Alabama.

Every day, we have the privilege of caring for a place that means so much to so many. That's something worth appreciating—and something worth bringing a positive attitude to each day.

- **Beau Barnett**

Executive Director

Landscape & Grounds

TEAM OF THE QUARTER

KEYMON SANDERS & THE PURPLE ZONE TEAM

Congratulations to our Team of the Quarter!

This recognition is well deserved and reflects the multiple compliments received from the Systems Office regarding the outstanding service and performance provided throughout the summer.

Keymon and his team are responsible for maintaining all properties east of campus, including **Nursing, UMC, Child Development, Rise, University Boulevard, and Sid McDonald**. This has been an incredibly wet summer, creating additional challenges for landscape maintenance—particularly with weed management. Despite these conditions, the Purple Zone team has not missed a step. Their consistent performance, attention to detail, and commitment to maintaining high standards are evident across every property they serve.

We sincerely appreciate **Keymon and the entire Purple Zone team's dedication, hard work, and commitment to excellence**. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and this recognition is a reflection of the pride you take in your work.

Congratulations on a well-deserved Team of the Quarter honor!

Pictured: Manager - Lynn Winters; Team Leader - Keymon Sanders; Josh Hyde- Groundskeeper; Amauri Jones- Groundskeeper; and Xryon Giles- Groundskeeper



Applause Around Campus

Recognition of Extraordinary Kindness

Facilities & Grounds proudly recognizes Joycelyn Summerville for the extraordinary kindness and compassion she showed to a member of the campus community. Her willingness to stop, help and care for someone in need reflects the very best of The University of Alabama.

Read more about her service below.



Joycelyn Summerville receives a token of appreciation from Facilities & Grounds in recognition of her extraordinary kindness and service to others.

I wanted to take a moment to recognize an extraordinary act of kindness and compassion demonstrated by one of our University of Alabama employees, Joycelyn Summerville from Facilities.

Recently, Joycelyn stopped on McFarland Boulevard to assist a jogger who had been struck by a vehicle whose driver left the scene. The jogger was injured and bleeding. Rather than simply calling for help and moving on, Joycelyn personally stopped, helped him into her vehicle, took the additional step of stopping at a drug store to purchase peroxide to help clean his wounds, and then safely drove him home.

The young man she assisted was my daughter's boyfriend, and our family is deeply grateful for her compassion, calmness, and willingness to help a stranger in a moment of crisis.

In a time when people often hesitate to get involved, Joycelyn demonstrated genuine care for another person and represented the very best qualities of our university community. Her actions reflected empathy, service, leadership, and humanity far beyond what anyone would expect as part of her job duties.

I wanted to make sure her supervisor and the University were aware of the positive impact she made. I also wanted to ask whether the University has an employee spotlight or recognition program that highlights acts of kindness and service like this. I believe Joycelyn's actions are worthy of recognition and reflect positively on The University of Alabama and its employees.

Please extend my sincere appreciation and gratitude to Joycelyn for her kindness and willingness to help someone in need.

Best regards, Lauren Wilson

Lauren A. Wilson JD | Associate Vice President for Research Innovation and Integrity

Chief Research Security Officer

Chief Research Compliance Officer

New Recycling Vehicle Improves Campus Collection Efficiency



The University of Alabama Recycling Department recently purchased the Curbtender TomCat. This vehicle is a highly versatile, manual side loader refuse truck designed for residential and commercial waste or recycling collection. The Recycling Department uses the Curbtender TomCat as part of its daily recycling collection operations. The Curbtender TomCat is a compact automated collection vehicle with a 10 cubic yard capacity, designed to collect materials safely and efficiently throughout campus. This vehicle allows employees to pick up recycling bins using an automated arm system from inside the vehicle, helping reduce manual labor and improve safety. The vehicle also has the ability to lift the rear of the unit to push out collected materials for processing. Its compact design makes it easy to operate all over campus while providing reliable service for collecting and transporting recyclable materials. The TomCat helps employees' complete routes more efficiently, reducing the time needed to complete daily recycling pickups.

ELEVATOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Associate Elevator Technician Tyler Garrison completed all apprenticeship program and testing requirements on July 8, 2026, and is now a Certified Elevator Technician - Supervisor (CET-S). This comes after Tyler's completion of his Level 9 requirements in February 2026. Congratulations Tyler! Your hard work and perseverance have paid off!
- Elevator Repair Apprentice Garrett Hunter completed his Level 4 requirements on April 13, 2026, and is now studying for the Associate Elevator Technician (AET) exam. This comes after completing his Level 2 requirements on Oct. 20, 2025 and moving up to Level 3. Congratulations, Garrett!

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

Applause Around Campus

From: Cynthia Rice <crice@law.ua.edu> **Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2026 6:54 AM **To:** Latisha Callahan <lmansfield@ua.edu> **Subject:** Albritton Lecture Done!

Latisha

Please share this with your team.

You all are amazing! Thank you for doing all the detail work that made the Law School shine for not only the US Supreme Court this week, but for everyone who comes here to speak. I'm grateful. And still in awe that you made the Jury Room look and smell that good! That's some deep magic right there!

Cin

Cynthia wanted to ensure the following were acknowledged and thanked individually for their service excellence: Aundrea McCrary, Felicia Hinton, Rebecca Frye, Latoya Clark. Thank you all!

Dr. Mahler,

My name is Doug Schneider. My daughter is a played on the Southeastern Louisiana softball team which has earned the privilege to play in Regionals at the University of Alabama.

While staying here, I have the opportunity to walk and drive the campus. While I have been to many campuses across the nation from Kansas, Nebraska, Florida State, Texas, Oklahoma and many more, the campus at the University of Alabama is the most beautiful campus I have seen. The buildings, the grounds and everything else is amazing, pictures and television do not do it justice.

Your campus is one of a kind.

In conclusion, I wish I could say Roll Tide, however, since we will hopefully be playing against the Tide, I must say, Lion Up!

Doug

From: Cassandra Thompson <cythompson1@ua.edu> **Sent:** Friday, July 17, 2026 9:43 AM **To:** Dru Dunn <dsdunn@ua.edu> **Subject:** Kudos for Kenyatta Williams

Good Morning Mr. Dunn,

I would like to take a moment to recognize Kenyatta Williams for the outstanding work they consistently perform here at University Medical Center. The Cleanliness and appearance of our facility are a direct reflection of her commitment to excellence. We have had several employees brag on how our bathrooms are clean and smell good. Kenyatta is always smiling and very friendly to everyone. Just wanted to give her Kudos!!

Thanks,

Cassandra Thompson Medical Receptionist University Medical Center The University of Alabama 850 Peter Bryce Blvd Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Phone: 205-348-1295 Cythompson1@ua.edu

Applause Around Campus

Lynn,

Thank you for all the work your guys are doing at all our properties lately, Sid McDonald Hall/Pinehurst/Bryce. They are doing a lot of work, and it all looks GREAT. Wanted you to know and pass along to them we REALLY appreciate all you/they do to keep things looking nice around the properties. Thank you!

Angela Chandler | Director of System Office Facilities Operations & Administration

University of Alabama System

Hey y’all –

I wanted to tell you that our 2 night shift girls are doing such a great, great job! This lobby is sparkling clean. We are appreciative to both of them and to each of you for all the hard work y’all put in.

Lisa Lynn | Administrative Assistant II

Student Health Center
The University of Alabama
Office 2010
Box 870360
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
Phone [205-348-7961](tel:205-348-7961)

Dear Ellis,

CCHS maintains a Kudos & Suggestion Box where faculty and staff can provide input to the Dean's Office. We recently received the wonderful report below on your work in the building, submitted by Jennifer Twitty:

"Ellis Coats from housekeeping came to the lab/x-ray department one day last week. He was so nice and contagiously in a good mood. He came so quickly when we called about a spill in the waiting room. He quickly resolved the problem and made sure someone could keep watch for patients while he went to get the wet floor sign to put out. He was so kind that even though it was a seemingly mundane task, it stuck with all of us at the front desk. Thank you Mr. Coats."

We greatly appreciate your work helping maintain an excellent environment for our patients, staff, providers and trainees at the University Medical Center, and doing so with a positive, uplifting attitude. Your work is instrumental to our mission!

CCHS Dean's Office

Caroline Boxmeyer, Ph.D.
Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Faculty Affairs
Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine
College of Community Health Sciences
[The University of Alabama](#)

Applause Around Campus

Logistics Team:

1. Hey Jeremy,
Just wanted to let you know the team that came today was a pleasure to work with and they did a great job.

Thank you!
Alyssa

2. Hello Claudia,
I just wanted to follow up to say thank you for all of your help as we’ve worked through this process. Your knowledge and kindness both have been very noticeable and appreciated. 😊

All the Best,
Bailey

3. Hi,
Not sure who I needed to email, but I membered both of you from the walk through and I just wanted to make sure y'all knew how amazing the crew helping us move was. They have been extremely helpful and cheerful and just made this move so smooth. They are amazing and I wanted y'all to know how much we appreciated you all.

Thanks,
Elizabeth

4. Hi Tyreece,

It was great seeing you yesterday.

I wanted to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for your Logistics and Support Services team. Throughout the year, we submit a number of work orders—especially during the summer months when we need assistance transporting pallets of merchandise from our Student Center location to our Corner location—and your team consistently delivers outstanding support.

Your team members are always a pleasure to work with, demonstrating exceptional customer service, professionalism, and a willingness to help whenever needed. Their dedication and positive attitude make a significant difference, and we truly value the partnership and support they provide.

Please extend our gratitude to everyone involved—we greatly appreciate all that they do.

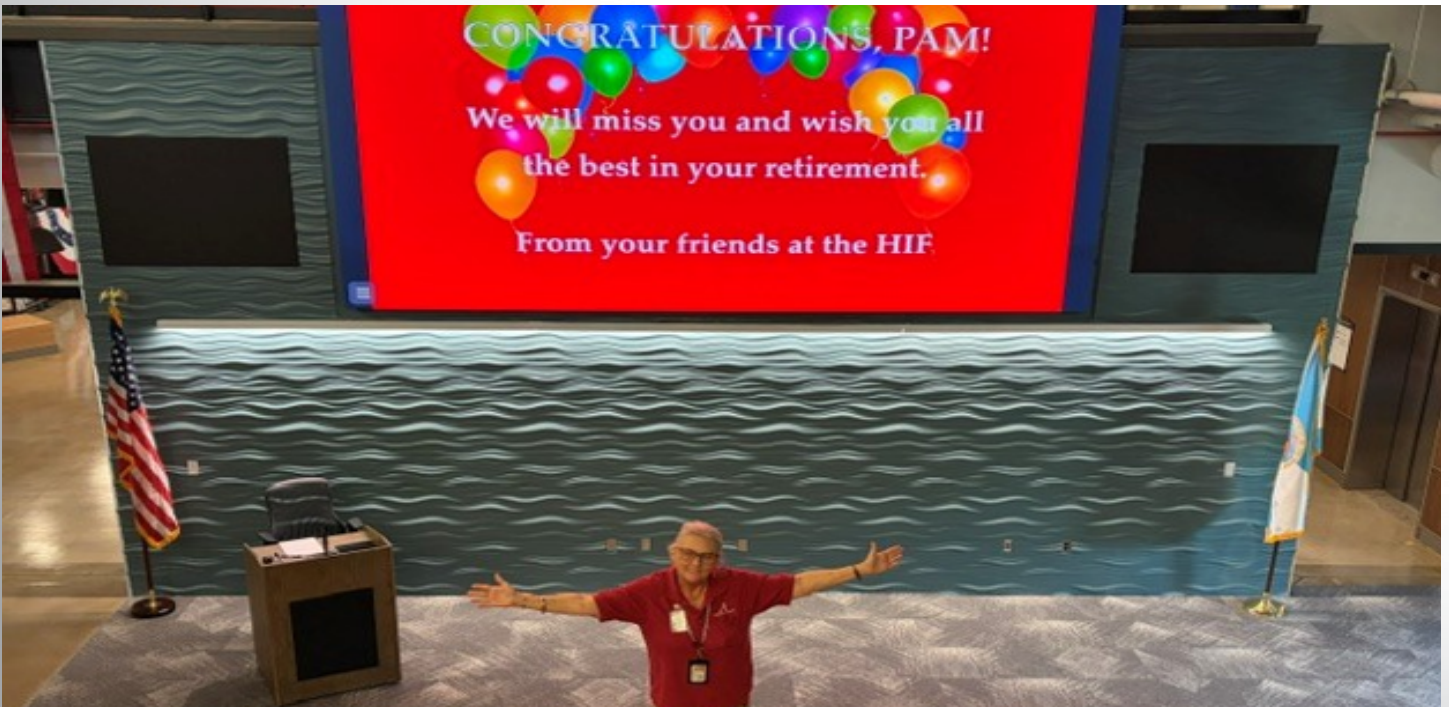
Hope you have a great weekend!

Thank you,
Bernadette

RETIREMENTS



Congratulations to Mike Kornegay (pictured above with team) on his retirement July 1, 2026 after 25 years of service to the University as a Plumber III. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Mike! Enjoy your retirement.



Congratulations to Pam Widener (pictured above) on her retirement June 30, 2026 after 15 years of service to the University as a custodian working in the USGS Building. Thank you for your hard work and dedication, Pam! Enjoy your retirement.