

## A little bird rescued by Facilities team with big hearts

It was a cold, cloudy, grey February afternoon when a bright yellow and green bird was fortunate enough to cross the paths of Landscaping's Kevin Courtwright and Classroom Management's Richard Caldwell.

The bird first flew past Kevin as he was driving a Bobcat behind Building 3. Just a short flight away, Richard was about to drive in front of the Automotive Services gas pumps when the small, feathered animal flew in front of his service vehicle.

"A bright yellow bird flew in front of me, and I thought, 'I am not sure what kind of bird that is, but something doesn't seem right,'" Caldwell said.

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Alexander Hoffman, a graduate student in biological sciences, uses Susan Miller, Client Relations, scarf to safely remove a parakeet from Richard Caldwell's service vehicle.

## Congratulations Facilities on "jobs" well done

Each time a work order is closed, Facilities' clients are asked to complete a brief survey rating their experience.

Mia Rebula of Facilities Communications combed through all the positive survey documents that Anne Wilbourne of Operations produces each week.

Mia pulled all the positive feedback from October 2021 to December 2021 and created a word cloud. The larger the word, such as "Perfection" the more it was used in survey results. The cloud to the right speaks to the great work Facilities is doing across campus each day.

"The overwhelmingly positive feedback that we receive from our customer surveys speaks to the professionalism and dedication exhibited by the Facilities team on a daily basis. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to be a part of this team that makes such a positive impact on the campus community," said Dan Whatley, assistant vice president of Facilities Operations.

Way to go team!



# Employee Communications *from the Office of Employee Engagement*

## General Announcements

Auburn University is participating in **Campus Race To Zero Waste**, a friendly competition for colleges and universities to promote waste reduction and recycling to their campus communities, running through March 26. During the eight-week tournament, schools report the amount of recycling and waste collected, then the total amounts are ranked into different categories, like who collects the largest number of recyclables per capita or who has the highest recycling rate.



Use the recycling bins to help Auburn University win! With recycling bins located across campus, both in buildings and along university walkways, the opportunities are always available. Plastic bottles, aluminum cans, steel cans, paper and cardboard can be recycled in hundreds of different bins.

Reduce waste and reduce the university's environmental footprint. Cutting down on the amount of waste being introduced at the university can be simple and lessen the environmental impact over all of campus. A simple thing everyone can do is reduce their paper waste. Say no to printing and communicate electronically when you can. If you do have to print, print double-sided.

Using a refillable bottle instead of a single-use plastic bottle also can eliminate waste, as well as refusing other single-use items like plastic straws or bags.

We participate in the Campus Race To Zero Waste to demonstrate our commitment to environmental stewardship. The competition serves as a great way to encourage university students, faculty and staff to waste less and recycle more.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the following Facilities employees who received a cash award for January 2022:

- Coy Bass
- John Berry
- Terry Carter
- Amber Dickey
- Ladarius Ezell
- DeAndre Gilmore
- Anthony Green
- Jecorius Johnson
- David Knowles
- Anthony Lewis
- Nora Macon
- Julie Mann
- Joe Moody
- Chris Potts
- Oscar Preston
- Jacob Riehl
- Arlin Spraggins
- Margrit Tate
- Airiyanna Taylor
- Anthony Walker
- Ray Willett
- Jason Yeomans

## New Employees/Welcome

**Samuel Caldwell** – Carpenter I – Zone 3 – Feb. 2

**Kevin Courtwright** – Supv, Landscape – Landscape Services – Jan. 31

**Aaron Grimmet** – Groundskeeper II – Landscape Services – Jan. 31

**Jeffrey (Vance) Holmes** – Tech II, HVACR – Zone 1 – Jan. 16

**Miller Jensen** – Groundskeeper I – Landscape Services – Jan. 31

**James Knox** – Tech I, HVACR – PM Shop – Feb. 6

**Brady Morgan** – Groundskeeper II – Landscape Services – Jan. 31

**Chad Thomas** – Painter I – Zone 2 – Jan. 24

**Rob Wilson** – Inventory Control Clerk – Materials Management – Jan. 31

## Retirements/Resignations

**Lincoln Glenn** – Electrician I, In-House Construction – resigned Feb. 4.

Congratulations to **David Howell** – Supv, Plant Operations for Utility Plant Operations – who retires March 1.

Congratulations to **Wayne Hughes** – Tech II, HVACR – Zone 4 – who retires March 1.

Congratulations to **Richard Pitts** – Asst Supv, In-House Construction – who retires March 1.

## Employment Opportunities

For positions currently posted, please scan the QR code below:



The close date for a posted position occasionally is extended. Check the dates at [auemployment.com](http://auemployment.com).

For more information about, or to apply for the jobs listed above, visit the Auburn University online employment site at [auemployment.com](http://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](mailto:geercyn@auburn.edu).**

# Facilities Employee Highlight: HR's Christy Kimbrough



*Christy Kimbrough was recently named Facilities employee engagement manager.*

Christy Kimbrough graduated from Auburn University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration majoring in Business Management and in 2017 with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a concentration in Human Resources.

She originally began working at Auburn as a student employee and joined the Facilities Human Resources Department in October 2018.

She initially came on board as a human resource generalist I, and was quickly promoted to a human resource generalist II, and subsequently to HR generalist III. Most recently, Christy was named Facilities first employee engagement manager.

## **What encouraged you to pursue a career in HR?**

As I began business school at Auburn, I quickly became fascinated with the people

operations side of organizations. Employees are the greatest asset of any business, and it's important organizations understand that it makes good business sense to take care of their people. To me, pursuing a career in Human Resources presented a unique opportunity where I could serve people every day while also benefiting the organization.

## **Tell me about your experience working in HR with Auburn University.**

My Auburn University HR career started when I worked as a student employee at University HR in the Employee Records department. When I graduated, I was offered an opportunity to serve in a TES role with their Compensation unit and definitely jumped at the chance to continue working at the university.

While in Compensation, I had the opportunity to work with several members of the Facilities team and quickly realized that it would be a great place to work.

When a full-time position was posted in the Facilities Human Resources department, I immediately applied, and thankfully, I was offered the job.

## **What is your favorite thing about working with the Facilities team?**

I've enjoyed learning about all of the things that take place behind the scenes to keep the campus running. There's so much that goes on that most people don't even realize!

## **What are some goals that you have aligned for your new position as employee engagement manager?**

As employee engagement manager, I will retain many of my same job duties while also working to develop and implement an overarching employee engagement strategy that aligns with Facilities' long-term strategic plan.

As a part of this, my team and I will be developing and implementing programs to increase employees' opportunities to give feedback, to create and sustain a positive work environment, and to improve employee engagement and welfare.

## **What is your favorite thing to do outside of work?**

Outside of work, I'm generally with my fiancé, John, and my dog, Sampson. We enjoy spending time with family and attending various AU sporting events. I also can't pass up the opportunity for a good nap!

*Photo and highlight by Natalie Anderson*

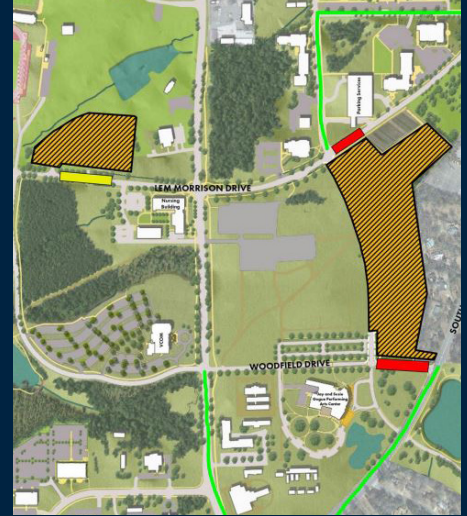
# February News Briefs



On Feb. 14, Facilities HR delivered “heart-healthy” snacks to the breakrooms and kitchens for all Facilities employees to enjoy in honor of Valentine’s Day and American Hearth Month



Congratulations to Campus Services Vanessa Jerido of Custodial Services who was given an AU Spirit of Excellence Award in the service/maintenance category for February.



A section of Lem Morrison Drive and Woodfield Drive will be closed during spring break to extend utilities to the Duncan Drive Extension and Infrastructure project site.

## Parakeet rescue continued



Richard Guether, Planning, assists Alexander as he gently places the parakeet in a clean cage stocked with food and water.

After stopping to identify the bird, they both quickly realized it was a parakeet.

“We knew the parakeet had to be someone’s pet that had escaped and would not make it very long outdoors,” Caldwell said.

The two decided to catch the bird. While doing so, it flew into Richard’s truck. He quickly shut the door knowing the bird would be safe in his service vehicle until they could decide exactly what to do with their new feathered friend.

Meanwhile, Campus Planning’s Richard Guether heard the news and started making calls.

“The aviary research laboratory is just across the street from the Facilities complex,” Guether said.

“I thought there had to be someone there who could find out where the bird belongs.”

Alexander Hoffman, a graduate student in biological sciences, promptly arrived carrying a cage with food and water. He took the parakeet back to the lab to care for the bird until he could find out where it belongs or find it a permanent home.

Either way, he promised he would take good care of Facilities’ feathered friend.

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