



# THE FACILITIES TIMES

## FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

March 2018

### Grounds society holds monthly meeting at Auburn

It was a cold, wet, rainy day on Tuesday, March 6, when members of the Georgia branch of the Professional Grounds Management Society (PGMS) arrived at Auburn University. Luckily, their daily jobs have made them fairly use to the conditions.

The PGMS' Georgia branch held its March meeting on the university's grounds, allowing members of Facilities' Landscape team to show grounds managers from across the southeast what they do every day.

"I preach to these guys that we are the first and last impression for people who step on this campus," said Justin Sutton, superintendent for Landscape Services. "If something's out of place, it's ... the crew's responsibility."

From planting trees, perennials and shrubbery to laying sod and general upkeep, Landscape Services creates and maintains areas that are inviting to visitors while remaining functional for the campus as a whole.

The campus is split into separate zones, Sutton explained to the group, each with its own supervisor and dedicated workers. It is their job to split



Members of the Georgia branch of the Professional Grounds Management Society pose with Aubie inside Jordan-Hare Stadium during their visit to Auburn.

up the day-to-day work, from pruning bushes to mowing to plant installation.

"It's on us now," Sutton said. "We've pretty much taken ownership of these."

University Arborist Alex Hedgepath has a small crew who work on tree pruning and branch clearing, taking work that would have been contracted out under their own umbrella of services.

The members of PGMS later saw

the efforts put in by workers through a campus tour, leading to the group gaining an inner look at what it takes to maintain Jordan-Hare and Samford stadiums with Athletic Turfgrass Manager Eric Kleypas.

"There's a lot of hard work that goes into keeping the campus grounds looking the way they do," Sutton said. "We have an all-star lineup."

### Design Services' Roberson receives COSAM scholarship



Victoria Roberson, a student worker in Design Services, recently was awarded one of only two scholarships from the 2017 College of Sciences and Mathematics' Dean's Scholarship Golf Classic.

The event was held at the Robert Trent Jones Grand National in Opelika in September. The award covers her out-of-state tuition and fees.

Roberson is a student in the Honors College majoring in chemical engineering with a focus in biological sciences.

She anticipates graduating in the spring of 2018 and plans to continue school to earn her Doctor of Medicine.

## March News Briefs



Landscape Service's Michael Moore was given the AU Spirit of Excellence Award for March, which recognizes employees for their service.



Facilities Management  
2017 Repair and Renovation  
Funding Annual Report

**THIS IS AUBURN.**

The 2017 Repair and Renovation Funding Annual Report has been released and can be viewed online at [aub.ie/repair](http://aub.ie/repair).



Sonora Russell celebrated her 25th anniversary at Auburn University on March 7. Congratulations, Sonora!



Shawn Harrelson, assistant supervisor for electrical, was recently interviewed by WTVM's Brandon Etheredge about springing the Samford Hall clock tower forward.



From left, Tommy Parten is presented a Certificate of Appreciation by James Lyons for Safety.

### Editorial and Writing Staff

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AUBURN UNIVERSITY  
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Submit Feedback to Trey Wood at [woodcas@auburn.edu](mailto:woodcas@auburn.edu)

# COGNITIONS



Far left and right, Wesley Miller and Glenn Rodgers present Tiger Tickets to, from left, center, Jerry Dowdell, William Goggans and Forrest Hall for Teamwork.



Far right, Justin Sutton presents a Tiger Ticket to Laurie Hanson, second from left, for Support Excellence and Certificates of Appreciation to, from left, Jatavious Porter, Dalton Sconyers and Robert Overstreet for Teamwork.



Landscape Services Anthony Smith receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Alex Hedgepath for Safety.



Far left and right, Bruce Arnold and Joel Hunter were awarded Tiger Tickets, and, center Eric Moore was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation, all for Leadership Excellence.



At left, Walker Davis and, right, Shanda Foster award a Tiger Ticket to Rocio Evans for Customer Service.



Receiving Certificates of Appreciation and Tiger Tickets from Noelle Wills, center, were, from left, Gina Mann, certificate, for Teamwork; Lori Surfield, ticket, for Teamwork; Wills, Anne Wilbourne, ticket, for Teamwork, and Lewando McGruder, certificate, for Support Excellence.



At left and right, Eric Kennedy and Marcus Moore receive Certificates of Appreciation from Michael Hood for Customer Service.



From left, Dan King presents a Tiger Ticket to Noelle Wills for Customer Service.



Receiving Certificates of Appreciation from Noelle Wills, center, were, from left, Laurie Hanson and Margaret Smith for Support Excellence.



From left, Michael Cobb receives a Certificate of Appreciation from Michael Hood.



Receiving Certificates of Appreciation from Landscape Services were, front, from left, Deandre Gilmore, Cedric Ligon, Jecorius Johnson, Eric Moon and Neil Lawson; and back, from left, are John Berry, James Thomas, Jerry Dowdell, David Morgan, Christopher Pruitt, Bruce Reid, Oshia Cason, Forrest Hall and Lewis Thomas, all for Customer Service.

# Auburn Landscape Services to plant 100 trees in 2018

Each tree that occupies Auburn University's canopy has a story of its own. From freezing winters to scorching summers, the more than 8,500 trees in the university's core area, plus those outside it, comprising more than 120 species, contribute to making the campus' 600 acres some of the loveliest in the southeast.

Between now and the end of March, University Arborist Alex Hedgepath and the team at Facilities Management's Landscape Services Department will plant more than 100 trees and transplant five to new spots on the campus to better align with the university's Landscape Master Plan and to continue increasing Auburn's forest canopy.

"Growing Auburn's canopy coverage percentage is extremely important in terms of aesthetics, sustainability and user-comfort," Hedgepath said. "More canopy spread means more shade and more carbon storage."

Hedgepath was named Auburn's first university arborist in 2015. It is his job to maintain the health of Auburn's trees, while maintaining the safety and beauty of the campus.

"Since 2015, Landscape Services has averaged planting over 100 large, field-grown trees. Over 100 containerized trees were planted in 2016 and nearly 1,000 pine seedlings have been planted between 2016 and 2017," Hedgepath said. "These numbers only represent what Landscape Services is responsible for. Projects associated with Facilities Management are recorded separately. For 2017, 83 trees were planted in association with a capital project."

There are times trees must be removed from campus and this takes place for a variety of reasons, from safety or general declination to construction. As Auburn University continues to grow, space will continue to come at a premium.

Each tree removed by Landscape Services is signed off on by the Tree Preservation Committee, which helps sustain and manage the continued growth of Auburn's trees.

"Expansion of our canopy is an ongoing challenge, mostly due to the large amount of development that continues to take place on campus," Campus Planning Director Richard



From left, Landscape Service's Anthony Smith and Neil Lawson remove a collection of trees to be planted from the back of a trailer. These trees are already destined for specific places across campus.

Guether said. "While we work diligently to preserve our canopy, sometimes we need to remove trees and replace them, first, before we can expand."

Rest assured, every tree that is removed is replaced by a new tree or transferred somewhere else on campus to allow growth to continue unimpeded, both natural and manmade.

Hedgepath and Landscape Services also plays a large role in Auburn continuing to receive the Arbor Day Foundation's Tree Campus USA designation.

"The Tree Campus USA designation is foundational in achieving Landscape Services' goal of making Auburn University one of the best urban forest collections in the country," Hedgepath said.

Along with the Tree Preservation

Committee, Auburn must maintain a tree care plan and a tree program with dedicated expenditures, as well as hold an annual Arbor Day observance and a service project to remain within the requirements of the program.

***Auburn received the designation again on Feb. 1, 2018, marking the ninth consecutive year the university has been recognized for its urban forest management. It is one of only 344 campuses across the nation that qualified to be part of the program.***



"The Tree Campus USA designation is one we're proud of here at Auburn," Guether said. "Facilities Management will continue to work closely with the Office of Sustainability and the Tree Preservation Committee to maintain this honor."

Auburn's dedication to its trees is unquestionable. With Hedgepath making consistent strides toward keeping the campus canopy diversified, beautiful and growing, Auburn's trees will continue to give more and more toward the campus' future landscape and hardscape endeavors.