

In-House Construction project takes flight



In-House Construction built this base structure for the university's first RFID research fuselage.



Insulation panels act as the skin of the fuselage. Next step—installing airplane seats.

If you walk into the Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) lab inside the West Glenn Complex, you might think you are walking into a department store. But tucked away in a corner is a full-size section of an aircraft made possible by the Facilities In-House Construction group.

“As far as I know, this is the only full-scale mock-up of an orbital module focused on RF (Radio Frequency) performance in the world,” said Justin Patton, director of the RFID Laboratory.

The RFID researchers are using the model to find out how to use RFID systems on the current and upcoming space stations

(International Space Station and Lunar Gateway), and ways to transfer technology to commercial aviation for tracking luggage and safety equipment.

The model can simulate three different aircrafts—a cargo plane, large commercial plane or an orbital module meant to act as a section of a space station.

“An airplane is almost the same shape as an orbital module. The structure the In-House team built allows us to simulate both and to quickly change back and forth between the two types of systems (space or commercial aircraft),” Justin said.

Finding an outside contractor to build a one-off project to support an aircraft fuselage was going to be a challenge—that is when In-House Construction was assigned the project.

“They asked us to build a fuselage that could be set up to mock a commercial passenger airplane, a cargo plane and a section of the space station, which all happen to be the same size,” said Hank Moreman, manager of In-House Construction. “Wrapping our brains around this thing was truly enjoyable. It is not often that you are assigned a project that makes your brain swirl, but this was one of them.

“I wasn’t a hands-on

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General Announcements

Welcome New Employees

Elijah Jenkins – Tech I, Construction
– Heavy Construction – Oct. 10

Napoleon Persons – Assistant
Supervisor, Custodian – Custodial
Services – Oct. 17

Richard Meinert – Campus
Architect VI – PD&C – Oct. 17

Webb Veronese – Student Worker-
Construction Admin – Construction
Administration – Oct. 17

Dagney DeBardleben – Student
Worker-Information Technology –
Facilities IT – Oct. 24

Dawn Hutchinson – Assistant
Supervisor, Access Control – Access
Control – Oct. 24

Andrew James – Inventory Control
Clerk II – Materials Management –
Oct. 31

Cary Mathis – Estimator III – Project
Support – Nov. 7

John Bumpers – Coordinator III,
Design & Construction – PD&C –
Nov. 7

Haiden Boyles – Coordinator II,
Design & Construction – PD&C –
Nov. 14

Mark McManus – Student Support-
Client Relations – Client Relations
– Nov. 27

Retirements/Resignations

Arturo Ingram – TES Trades – Waste
Reduction and Recycling – resigned
effective Oct. 3

Cailan Brooks – TES Trades – Mail
Service – resigned effective Oct. 18

Joseph Potts – Tech II, HVACR –
Maintenance Zone 3 – resigned
effective Oct. 21

Miller Jensen – Groundskeeper I
– Landscape Services – resigned
effective Oct. 29

Dan Dix – Manager IV, Facilities
Project – In-House Construction –
retiring effective Jan. 1

Malcolm Dailey – Assistant Director,
Utilities & Energy – Utilities & Energy
– retiring effective Jan. 1

Ricky Birchfield – Tech II, HVACR
– Fac Maintenance Zone 2 – retiring
effective Feb. 1

Tracy Mask – Supv, Facilities Zone
Maintenance – Zone 3 – retiring
effective Jan. 1

Cynthia Baccus – Coord, Employee
Engagement – Facilities Human
Resources – retiring effective Jan. 1

Cherry Buckhannon – Custodian
II – Custodial Services – retiring
effective Feb. 1

Congratulations to

Andrew Spurlin - who was selected
as the new Assistant Director
of Construction Management,
beginning Dec. 5. Andrew joined
Facilities Management in July 2019
as a Construction Project Manager,
successfully completing several
challenging and complex projects.
His experience and professionalism
will be a great asset to Construction
Management, PD&C and AUFM
leadership.

**Waste Reduction and Recycling
Department** on hosting a successful
Shred Day. On Nov. 8, the university-
wide event held at Facilities
Management Building 8
resulted in the shredding and
recycling of more than 5,100 pounds
of confidential paper documents.

General

America Recycles Day was held
on Nov. 15. This is a nationally
recognized day dedicated to
promoting and celebrating recycling
in the United States. Here's your
reminder to recycle more and recycle
right.



**Congratulations to the
following FM employees
who received a cash
award for October 2022:**

- Caleb Bentley
- Stephen Bryant
- Curtis Burdette
- Lawrence Estes
- Nate Evans
- Chuck Gilbert
- Grant McDonald
- Nick Nowlin
- Dustyn Rougier
- Kenny Sullins
- Shelby Thompson
- Nolan Torbert
- Burke Wagoner
- James Welch

Employment Opportunities

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



These announcements are gathered by the
Facilities Management Office of Employee
Engagement. Submit announcements via email
to Christy Bumpers at
clk0022@auburn.edu.

Facilities Holiday Luncheon is a delectable success

Congrats to our door prize winners:

Gogue Tickets

Hattie Pierson, David Baker
and Mark Pierce - Smokey
Robinson

Walter Brooks - Hairspray

Patricia Cole - Chicago

Benjamin Galik - Winnie the
Pooh

Seana Allen - Momix

Nathan Wohleb -
Contemporary Ballet

Matt Sanders - Crystal Gayle
and Lee Greenwood

Basketball

Eric Moon
Peter Taddeo
Tyler Hand
Reed McPherson

Flight*

Jesse Teel

Poinsettia

James Lyons
Alex Hedgepath
Doug Kennedy
Reid Goodman
Travis Davis
Nikki Preston
James Knox
Trent Bingham
Dustyn Rougier

**Winner of the Discovery Flight experience gets to, in coordination with the airport, fly over Auburn, campus and surrounding areas.*



Landscaping's Eric Moon shows off his door prizes, a Christmas ornament and a basketball experience ticket. The experience includes a tour of the basketball facilities in Neville Arena, attending a practice and meeting Coach Bruce Pearl.



FM Human Resources' Cynthia Baccus collects Grant Kirby of Plant Operations door prize ticket.



Thank you to Event Support's Michael Hood and William Dempster who kindly let us interrupt their meal to pose for a photo.



The Facilities team enjoys a variety of dining options during the Holiday Luncheon at the Central Dining Commons.

Landscape Services wins national award



Congratulations to the Landscape Services' team who recently received national recognition for its excellence in grounds management. The award, given by the Professional Grounds Management Society, is the highest honor given in the large universities category. Above photo: the Facilities Landscaping team pictured in front of Samford Hall with Auburn University President Chris Roberts. Photo by Trey Wood.

In-House Construction cont.

carpenter on this project, but just to be a part of the conversation was fun for me and, I think, a lot more fun for the team.”

The team Hank referred to included Darrin Moody, In-House supervisor; James Welch, lead carpenter, and team members Stephen Bryant and Caleb Bentley.

“We are carpenters, that is what we do,” Darrin said. “But you know, this project was just different.”

And to add to the challenge, it had to be adjustable. So how did they do it?

With a set of preliminary drawings and Darrin’s research, Darrin and James sat down and began to

visualize and plan, reviewing the preliminary plans, building the structure in their heads, and drawing out ideas and steps on a whiteboard.

“That is how we do it,” Darrin said. “We build several times in our minds before we ever step into a room. I also started researching passenger planes to see how they are set up.”

Within four weeks the team completed the structure.

“We have, through the build, given (RFID researchers) everything except for the aluminum skin. We built the frame of the airplane, and they are going to put the clothes on it,” Hank said.

Since the team completed the support structure this summer, RFID received the skin and is now conducting research within the craft.

In-House received a glowing review for their work.

“Overall, they were excellent to work with. They were friendly, and any time we had questions or changes, they were happy to accommodate,” Justin said. “They were curious and asked a lot of questions and seemed to be genuinely interested in what we were working on.

“I miss having them around the lab, but I don’t miss the sound of the saws!”

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