

FACILITIES FOCUS

ASSET • Central Plant • Client Support Services • Energy & Engineering
Environmental & Resource Services • FS Administration • Maintenance Services

MAY 2024

STAFF SPOTLIGHT: TIM GUTZWILLER

Farm mechanic repairs everything, including his repair shop

When a large trash truck, tractor, or street sweeper breaks down, imagine trying to fix it. Tim Gutzwiller, Facilities Service's senior farm mechanic, can, and quite easily.

Two years ago, UCR would have to seek out specialized vendors for the mechanical assistance. This prolonged bringing equipment into commission and landscape staff's ability to use it.

Gutzwiller just needs eyes on the equipment, and he instinctively envisions taking it apart and determining the solution in his mind. He is a diagnostician of engines.

He obtained his first job at age 14, at Al Kerrs Bike Shop in South Gate, CA, but by then he had been mechanically working on things since he was even younger.

Growing up, his parents owned a set of apartment buildings. Whenever something broke on the property, his father let him attempt to repair it. The rule was he could disassemble something under the condition that he would put it back together. Through this, he gained hands-on experience with plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and honed a photographic memory.

He started with repairing lawn mowers, then bicycles, followed by cars in high school auto shop. Straight out of high school he went to work for Lindt Wilson Ford in South Gate. They sent him to Ford Motor Company's job entry program for new mechanics, paid for by the dealership. He also attended the Paul-Munroe school of hydraulics in Whittier and took classes at Cummins Cal Pacific in Irvine, also paid by his employers.

"I have received way more green lights in my life than running into red lights," Gutzwiller said when describing his career. "A lot of my



Robert Martinez, Assistant Farm Mechanic on left, and Tim Gutzwiller, Farm Mechanic on right, fix departmental equipment in their repair shop.
(UCR/Erin Chapman)

ability comes from my training... I've just been given opportunities to go to classes since I was a very young mechanic," he said.

He wishes more companies would continue to invest in employee training today like they did in the past, as he sees it for the common good. He believes education is one of the things that levels the playing field. He commended UCR for being top in the nation for social mobility. "Being No. 1 or No. 2 in anything, especially when you look at the country with so many people, takes effort," he said.

When Gutzwiller started at UCR in August of 2022, he quickly organized the Landscape Services repair shop and instituted new processes. He and Robert Martinez, assistant farm mechanic, cleared the shop floor. He organized the oil room. He restored the shop's non-working generator. He retrofitted the vice and bench grinder. He welded new tables.

Gutzwiller sees the importance of keeping the campus looking clean and orderly using the vehicles he oversees. "Most people don't think about trash, but guess what, there is a lot of trash generated that we have to pick up on a

day-to-day basis. Or, having all the landscape maintained," he said.

Tos Ishida, assistant director of Landscape Services and Gutzwiller's supervisor, recognizes Gutzwiller not only as a good mechanic and welder, but as well-connected. "He's been able to find us parts. He has good contacts with other people," he said.

Hassan Ghamlouch, director of Environmental & Resource Services, said Gutzwiller keeps the department in good-working condition. "All of our equipment is aging and old. He has saved us in dividends with his knowledge and expertise," Ghamlouch said.

When he is off the clock, Gutzwiller enjoys working on his motorcycles and bicycles. He loves metal fabrication and creating things.

He participates in a monthly, electric light parade held in downtown Riverside, which was started a few years ago. It is a family-friendly event where people can bring their bikes. The group meets approximately two hours before sunset and begins their ride when the daylight disappears.

STAFF MILESTONES

15 YEARS

Marco Lemus, Lead Plant Operator

10 YEARS

Brandan Figueroa, Painter

5 YEARS

Wendy Martinez, Sr. Custodian

Vanessa Orozco, Sr. Custodian

Alan Siero, Interim Director,
Client Support Services

Norma Uriarte, Sr. Custodian

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FACILITIES SERVICES

RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

Thursday, June 6, 2024

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Alumni & Visitors Center
Dining Room

EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

Rosemary Adame, Sr. Custodian
Jacob Hernandez, Groundskeeper
Jerome Lagonera, Plant Operator
Steven Martinez, Groundskeeper
Arnold Mendoza, Sr. Custodian
Victoria Orquiz, Sr. Custodian
Salvador Rivera, Sr. Custodian
Mario Saldana, Sr. Custodian
Rosaura Vega, Sr. Custodian
Joseph Whatley, Groundskeeper



A WELCOMING ENTRANCE

(UCR/John Starling)

Landscape Services staff planted over 800 flowers across campus in preparation for the end of the spring quarter. The planter bed at the intersection of University Ave. and West Campus Dr. is one of the main locations students take graduation photos. The staff chose to plant

yellow marigolds and blue lobelia to match the UCR colors.

With a little bit of water and care these areas will be blooming all summer long. From left to right: **Jock Thomas, Jose Sicairos, Martin Urrutia, Marcos Velasquez, Jose Lopez and Guadalupe Landeros.**

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

CELEBRATING NEW STAFF!



BRYAN GARZA
BUSINESS INT. SPEC.
STARTED APR. 15



HORTENCIA MARTINEZ
SR. CUSTODIAN
STARTED APR. 29

FACULTY & STAFF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH 24/7 SUPPORT

Call: (866) 615-3047
TTY: (800) 697-0353
Online: guidanceresources.com
App: GuidanceNowSM
Web ID: UCRFSAP

UCR's [Faculty & Staff Assistance Program](#) offers someone to talk to and resources to consult whenever and wherever you need them. This support is free and includes:

- Confidential Emotional Support
- Work-Life Solutions
- Legal Guidance
- Financial Resources
- Online Support

View the [ComPsych flyer](#) for more information about these benefits.