

Inside Facilities

January - March 2016



Spring is a'Buzz!

Mother Nature has begun her annual springtime painting across Georgia Tech's landscape, and as always, multiple Facilities Management departments are playing a key role in the annual renewal.

Many new employees are starting out, while old friends are leaving. We have earned new, innovative certifications and awards, while reinforcing our leadership positions through recertifications. And of course, our beautiful landscape is sparkling with fresh color.

Recently, a fellow GT staff member recognized the amazing work that our planners, landscape architects, project managers and landscape specialists put in to refresh our campus.

"My hometown, Mobile, Alabama, is known as 'The Azalea City'. I'm writing you to tell you that, to me, the azaleas here at Tech rival any that I have seen throughout my life!" Doug Neal, COA.

LEADERSHIP RECOGNIZED

The Building Services Zone 1 team independently planned an appreciation event for Custodial Supervisor Mandele Mitchell, in celebration of his positive leadership style. What a wonderful honor!

"To see all of the team members come together, on their own accord, shows how genuine and impactful his leadership is," said Assoc. Director Tommy Little.



CAMPUS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

This semester was full of facilities access requests from all over campus. The Facilities Management teams were more than happy to oblige. From overseeing robots in electrical vaults to inspiring a super-efficient roof renovation in the name of carbon savings, academic engagement with our built environment is omnipresent. Thanks to everyone for your extra efforts to support our students' success.

- The Energy Conservation team has supported a class of 25 undergraduate students in developing projects for a Carbon Reduction Challenge. One cool-roof project will become a reality thanks to our revolving Green Fund.
- Holland Plant tours continue to support many campus initiatives. Thanks to Philip Schroeder for providing his expertise in the Daily Digest "Hidden Georgia Tech" photo feature and to Wesley Harding for supporting a district energy tour for a graduate class, *Environmental Planning*.
- GT Fire Marshall Larry Labbe provided expertise about the emergency egress robot experiment on campus in emergency management magazine, *Nautical*.
- D&C Director Scott Jones is co-teaching a GT course on building information modeling certification.
- Energy Manager Ben Mason supported an undergraduate statistics team in analyzing energy generated by solar panels on the CULC.

► COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Shining a Light on Green Cleaning Innovations

In late 2015, the Building Services Department was asked to respond to a potential staph infection at the CRC Building. The custodial team came prepared with some of the latest renewable green cleaning technology, a “mister” that used engineered water to sanitize and disinfect large open areas without the need for direct contact.

“This is just another tool that we use to protect health without harming the environment,” stated Tommy Little, Assoc. Director of the Facilities Management-Building Services department. It provides an extra level of comfort for our customers, as illustrated by Rod Bolton, Operations Manager in the CRC Building.

“I want to say thanks for your immediate response to the situation to ensure positive results. While we cannot prevent these occurrences from happening, there is a sense of relief that YOUR team will respond in a swift, knowledgeable way! Outstanding job!” said Rod Bolden.

On the heels of this great outcome, the Building Services green cleaning methods were officially recognized by the Green Seal Certification, a third-party certification that provides stringent standards on green cleaning.

Green Seal certification verifies that that Georgia Tech’s Green Cleaning Program has gone through comprehensive performance testing and on-site inspections to prove cleaning efficacy, while supporting the well-being of people and reducing impact to the environment. A special shout out goes to Program Coordinator Wendy Welker for walking the Green Seal inspectors through our program to assure certification. Great job everyone!



Lead Custodian Anita Ferguson displays one of many workhorses from the Green Cleaning arsenal.

Facilities Supports Building Manager’s Symposium

The Office of Emergency Preparedness’ annual educational event for Building Managers held on Tuesday, March 22 was a great success.

- EHS Director Nazia Zakir introduced all of her managers and their responsibilities.
- Locksmith Supervisor Sonny Cody presented on master key responsibilities.
- Assistant Vice President Mark Demyanek shared O&M service and safety reminders.
- Jerel Harris provided overall construction safety reminders.



Locksmithing expert Sonny Cody presenting.

► AWARDS

Applause for Innovation



Since 2009, Georgia Tech has been named a Tree Campus USA University and we are proud to announce 2016’s recertification. The program promotes healthy urban forest management and engaging students in environmentalism.



ASE Blue Seal of Excellence was earned by our Fleet Services Department, verifying that a minimum of 75% of the shops technicians are ASE certified.



MaRC building’s exterior stairs were awarded first place in the hardscape category by the Georgia Chapter of the American Concrete Institute.

► OUR CHANGING TEAM

Fond Farewells

Our long-term employees become a part of the campus fabric through their experience and lasting friendships. Their absence leaves big shoes to fill, as we grow and adjust. We are always sad to say goodbye, but happy for our friends to enjoy retirement.

- Donna Chronic retired at the end of January after 31 years of service as a horticulturist. Donna helped to launch the very first Tech Beautification Day event on campus.
- George Roberts retired from Landscape Services. George was our construction foreperson and a valuable asset to the Landscape team.
- Noel Busell retired in March after ten years of service as a plumber in our Utilities Maintenance team. He was a great professional who will be sorely missed.
- Architect David Bowman retired from the Design and Construction Department. The D&C team presented him with a signed photo collage of all of the projects he has impacted on campus through the years.
- Not pictured is Sharron Harrah who retired from her position in the Facilities accounting team after 30+ years of dedicated service.



New Hires

New team members bring with them new ideas to infuse the GT community. Please help to welcome the following professionals to our team!

Not pictured below is Lynn Bentley, the new Admin. Support Professional for the Building Services team. We also have two new accountants: Shauna York and Teresa McDonald.



Lance Johnson rejoins us as a Utilities Engineer in Energy Conservation.



Left to Right: D&C Construction Managers Maria Del Mar Ceballos, Nick Palfrey and Allison Gerstung.



Abshin Jama, (A.J.), Utilities Analyst in the Energy Conservation Department.

► EVENTS

2016 Chili Cookoff

This year's event was a sizzling success. The "Chili From Outerspace" theme was taken up with great enthusiasm.

Congratulations to Building Services Zone 5 for winning first place in the cook off! Maintenance Area II came in 2nd place and Maintenance Area II was a close 3rd.



Top: The Building Services guys show off their basketball skills.
Lower: Don Brookshire and Robbie Rice spicing their chili just right.



Clockwise from left: Our Facilities VP borrowed Nazia Zakir's 'jefe' hardhat. Members of EHS' Rocket Fueled team swap stories with IT Pro Doug Sims. Kevin Marks from Area 3 is dishing out the goods for his coworkers. Energy Conservation Engineer Federico Del Risco is all smiles, enjoying winner's chili.



The EHS Department went all out, displaying thier Rocket Fuel pride.

Close Encounters

Everyone enjoyed getting down with this year's theme. Creative space hats, "beam me up" photo booths and the ever-popular dance line all created big smiles.



► RAISING THE BAR

Praise and Appreciation

Peer recognition is the highest form of flattery in the work environment. This quarter, many, many staff members shared kudos and kind words for their colleagues.

- “Thanks Pat Ficenec, Sr. IT Support Professional for moving my workstation so quickly and smoothly without any complications. You made something that could have been horrific, a non-issue. You guys are awesome. I’m grateful for all of the timely, professional and competent support you provide.” – Nicolas Palfrey, Architect and Construction Manager, D&C
- “Thank you, Meagan Fitzpatrick and Laura Scholer-Bland for your support on the Dixon Lab inspection. Everything was done perfectly... We really appreciate your work and time.” – Zhanna Nepiyushchikh MD, Research Scientists II, Mechanical Engineering
- “Thanks for getting the room done on the third floor. Melvin Jones and the guys you borrowed from Area 4, Philip Walls and Don Brookshire, did a really nice job on that floor tile. Robert Neal also did a nice job on the sheetrock repairs and paint.” – Brent Minter, Facilities Electronics Operations Manager
- “I want to make you aware of great service that Jacob Bryson, Maintenance Worker II in Area 2, provided for IBB yesterday afternoon... I contacted Jacob and he was able to come right away and assist me with repairing the door latch that secures IBB after hours. IBB appreciates the service that Jacob provides on a daily basis.” – Allen Echols, Facilities Manager II
- “Sharing a big shout out to Area 1 for letting us use their carpenter, Bubba. He has always been ready and willing to help us out. He did a great job as always.” – Terry Williams, Area III Manager
- “Thank you very much for sending Willie Thomas, Area 3 plumber, over this afternoon to repair the sink. The repair turned into a more difficult job than expected due to the old, crumbling drain pipes. Willie did a great job.” – Brent Minter, Facilities Manager
- “Mandele Mitchell is a great leader. He treats us all with respect and he’s so nice when he gives us feedback.” – April Lee, Custodian I
- “Cheryl Kelley’s and Juan Hunt’s diligence and dedication demonstrated great enthusiasm in training our team on the TEMS program. We will implement the training and hope that will help us maintain the excellent documentation needed. I sincerely appreciate the outstanding work. Thank you again, for taking the time to get the staff trained. –Jeff Bridges, A/C Mechanic II, Maintenance Area 5
- To Juan Hunt for EBB Tour: “Just wanted to thank you for taking the time to walk our managerial team through EBB this morning. You did a great job explaining the systems and points of interest in this new GT showcase facility. Thanks also Bill, for the donuts and coffee.” – Mark Demyanek, Assistant Vice President, O&M



Juan Hunt giving EBB tour to O&M management.

The Herb McAuley Aquatic Center was recently ranked the best collegiate competition swimming pool in the nation by College Ranker. - “Thank you and the many individuals in the D&C and O&M Departments. Providing clear, smooth water, 150 foot candles of light at water surface, quality air inside the facility, as well as responding to issues quickly and efficiently provides athletes conditions to have peak performances.”

- Michael Edwards, Director of Campus Recreation

► EVENTS

Tech Beautification Day

Tech Beautification Day, (TBD), is an annual on-campus service project that attracts hundreds of student volunteers. Since the event inception, Facilities Management has been supporting TBD by providing landscape supplies such as planting and mulch medium, shrubs, trees and landscaping expertise.

The event is planned entirely by the students who are members of the Student Government Association. The students must work together to obtain tools, coordinate volunteers and team leaders and work on specific jobs provided by Facilities Landscape Services. This year was a great success with over 870 students joining in on a beautiful March morning. In total, 20 trees and 261 ornamentals were planted.

"This event is a terrific opportunity for our students to leave a lasting impression on the campus. Many students comment on how excited they are to plant a tree that they can see prosper for years to come," exclaimed Hyacinth Ide, Associate Director of Landscape Services.

New inclusions in this year's planning helped to make the projects more permanent and effective. In addition to Facilities Management providing funding for landscape and hardscape material, the Housing Department and the Georgia Tech Research Institute both helped to fund additional projects.

Special thanks to landscape team members Rob Paltz, Dylan Gilbert, Neil Fuller and Ricky Nowell.



Clockwise from top: Students planting azaleas in the transit hub behind the Student Center. A student group plants two trees at West Campus Housing. Groundskeeper Robert Kincade assists students in spreading pine straw near the challenge course.

► BUZZ WORTHY

Security, Safety and Suds

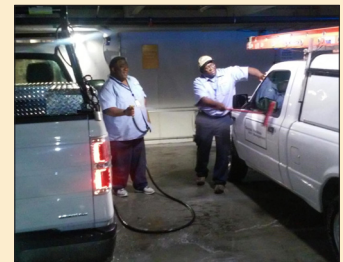
These team members were spotted doing commendable work in the field. Keep it up everyone!



Miles Hoffman and Alan Newton have all of the appropriate detour signage in place while repairing a sidewalk.



Dawud Saleem holds a ladder for Garfield Reynolds, assuring team safety in the field.



Jeff Bridges & Johnny Stewart of Maint. Area 5 give their assigned Facilities vehicles a good scrubbing.