

# Inside Facilities

July-October 2016



## Football History Makes a Comeback in Wardlaw

Georgia Tech's built environment challenges us every day. Quite often, as a Facilities staff member, you have to take initiative and figure out how to solve problems on the fly. Taking initiative is exactly what Area Maintenance Manager David Tate did when he realized that many members of our campus leadership team would be temporarily relocated to the third floor of the William C. Wardlaw Jr. Center.

Inspired by the windows from the President's Conference Room in the basement of the Andrew Carnegie Building, Tate designed a solution that gave the windows overlooking a flat roof top an upgrade.

"The main hallway where the president and his staff would walk every day had windows overlooking an unattractive flat roof. I knew that this wasn't putting our best foot forward. No one wants to stare at a rooftop full of rocks," explained David. So he contacted the campus archives staff to help him find historic photos of our beloved Bobby Dodd Stadium.

Completed this summer, each window panel shows a view of the stadium that's either no longer visible or that has since been demolished. The combined imagery shares the historical evolution of the stadium, starting east and working up in history as the panels head west. Pictures were printed on film plastic and installed onto windows.

We have received many compliments on the lovely, visual history that is now shared for many years to come. Great job David!

## ► LIVING-LEARNING LABORATORY (L3)

To build a higher ed Facilities Management organization of the 21st Century, we partner with tomorrow's leaders on campus to create operational efficiencies that, in turn, help them develop real-world experiences. Thanks to the following staff for supporting our L3 initiative!

- Marvelous Bonner, Mark Hill and Rodney Callaway from Landscape Services teamed with GTPD and the student Greek housing to clean up the landscape in the Greek sector.
- Architect Maria Ceballos reviewed studio projects for 8 architect undergraduate students.
- Our Lab & Chemical Safety Officer Ryan Lisk and his team did a great job giving a rotation of 4 hands-on trainings and lab safety demonstrations to first-year, incoming CHEM graduate students.
- Architect Maria Ceballos and Communications Officer Jessica Rose gave a Freshman GT1000 class a tour of green buildings and performance landscape throughout Clough, Caddell, Klaus and the EBB buildings.



## ► STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# Ivan Gyonev

Author: Kenneth Ogletree, AVP Horticulturist Assistant

Tech's students and faculty represent many geographical regions of our world. Having this diversity continually adds to the Institute's strengths when working to solve complex challenges. The same can be said of its staff. Specifically, Facilities Management represents staff members from over twelve different countries and a broad array of cultures.

Meet Ivan Gyonev -- a Bulgarian employee in the Landscape Services Department who takes great care of the grounds from the Bio Quad to Van Leer on the east side of Atlantic Drive. With his thick accent, some may tease that he sounds like a vampire. One day, when asked by a co-worker if he was from Transylvania, Ivan laughed and said that he was from Bulgaria. "Transylvania is not in my country, but in Romania."

Ivan has now started his ninth year at Tech. Both of his daughters graduated from Georgia Tech and his wife works for another department on the west side of campus.

Ivan is very proud of what he does and he is always quick to point out team accomplishments. If he sees something that can be improved upon, he is never shy to suggest it.

"Ivan is like a machine; he just takes care of his business. When given a task, he does it immediately and the results are always good. He rarely misses work, and he is always on time," explained Ivan's supervisor, Joe Laneve.

Sounds like a winning team member! Be sure to say "hello" if you see Ivan around campus.



Ivan Gyonev is a Groundskeeper who works around the Bio Quad and down to the Van Leer Building in central campus.

Facilities Management represents staff members from over twelve different countries and a broad array of cultures. Our diversity is one of our many strengths!

## ► TECH TRANSFORMATIONS

# Campus Progress Updates

Atlantic Drive's steamline replacement is under construction to support a more efficient campus infrastructure. Phase I will complete in December 2016. Harrison Square in the Historic Hill District underwent a significant landscape makeover during the months of March through July. The updated area provides additional benches and a study area. Tech Green has been upgraded to include better drainage systems and more resilient grass. Thank you to everyone in Facilities Management who worked to make these projects a success.



Atlantic Drive



Harrison Square



Tech Green

## ► RAISING THE BAR

# Praise and Appreciation

Nothing demonstrates a job well done better than a personal thank you note from your customer or a colleague.

- “Thank you to **Facilities Management** for donating your time to our annual Buzzin’ Back to School event this year. We wouldn’t have been able to pull this off without you! With your help, we were able to stuff 559 backpacks with supplies that went to 255 Georgia Tech families! Thank you for going above and beyond your regular duties.” - Candice Bovian, Human Resources
- “They renovated the classrooms in Architecture East, and now they look SO MUCH better! Great job **D&C, (Nic Palfry and Jennifer Disotell)!**” - Enviro. Policy Graduate Students
- “**Donald Jordan**, Landscape Services Groundskeeper, is truly an exceptional employee. He exemplifies several of the Georgia Tech values, as outlined in the Institute’s strategic vision: integrity, excellence, impact and community. It’s clear that he takes great pride in caring for the grounds around the Tech Tower. He takes a moment to say good morning or good afternoon to me, always with a good natured smile. Having people like Mr. Jordan on our campus makes Georgia Tech a great place to work!”  
- Monique Tavares, Associate VP, Research Admin.
- “**Cheryl Taylor**, (O&M Admin. Supervisor), thank you so much for all of your support with the Spina Bifida Walk-N-Roll. I do appreciate how kind you have been to our organization. We appreciate all that you do for us. This weekend’s event was a huge success.”  
- Kristen DiCarlo, Spina Bifida Association of Georgia
- “**Mr. Ide**, (Associate Dir. of Landscape Services), your leadership is apparent and appreciated.” - Jeffrey Austin, Facility Manager
- “Thank you **Larry Labbe**, (Fire Marshall), for your help resolving the significant permitting issues that we had on the West Campus Dining Commons project. Your ability to communicate the code saved the day... money saved, building aesthetics and project schedule maintained- hooray!” - Kimberly Wilson, Auxiliary Services, AVP Capital Projects Director
- “**Dylan Gilbert** and **Robert Paltz** are doing a terrific job communicating with us to assure that the landscape irrigation around Tech Square is repaired and working well.” - Andy Sheffield, Area 5 Building Maintenance Manager
- “**Robert Paltz’ team** (Landscape Services), has many layers of qualified people willing to assist at any time. We truly appreciate their tireless support.” - Jeffrey Austin, Facility Manager
- “**The Scheller College Building Services staff** did excellent work in preparation for and during the Aspen event. The building was very clean and it was great to have on-site support during the event for unexpected needs.” - Maryam Alavi, Dean and Professor, Scheller College of Business
- “Congrats **David Kidd** for being recognized by the Georgia Department of Administrative Services with a Good Driving Certificate. It’s not often that we get calls to the *How’s My Driving* number which compliment our drivers!” - The Team in the Office of Fleet Management



“Gordan Gray from Landscape Services, also known as G-man, has gone above his duties. As I watched him pressure washing outside of the Klaus building, I witnessed him offering fist bumps to students, staff and guests. With that simple gesture, I’ve seen the individuals just light up. Considering all the negativity in the world right now, it is heartwarming to see someone spreading love.” - Chris Malbrue, Education Support Manager

►EVENTS

# Campus Safety Day

Hosted by GTPD on September 6 on Tech Walkway, members of the Environmental Health & Safety, (EHS), department informed students about incident response to lab and general safety issues. Mannequins were used to demonstrate CPR/AED training by the Fire Safety Office. Participants enjoyed practicing how to locate a radioactive source with Radiological Safety's Geiger meter. The team also provided a poster indicating the correct steps to take during a hazardous material exposure incident.

In fiscal year 2016, EHS responded to 58 campus incidents. Events like this help spread the word about the resources available to keep our community safe. Congratulations on another successful event!



Above: Radiation Safety Officer Steven Grimm and Safety Specialist Osasere Idahosa ready to share tips.



Middle Left: Lab & Chemical Safety Specialist Shanell Riley.  
Bottom Left: Radiation Safety Officer Steven Grimm.  
Above: Safety Specialist Osasere Idahosa demonstrates a defibrillator to Custodial Supervisor Chalette Mitchell.

►NEW HIRES & RETIREES

## Warm Welcomes

If you see these new faces around campus, be sure to offer a friendly "hello".



**William Brown**  
Assistant Foreperson,  
Material Management



**Christian Sanders**  
Sr. Construction  
Project Manager



**Jamie Ready**  
Construction  
Engineer II

## Fond Farewells

Area 1 Maintenance Worker Sam Wilform retired after 10 years of service to Facilities Management. We send him many warm wishes for whatever his future holds!



► ON THE SCENE

# O&M Shining Brightly

Field work is what we do and we are proud that we do it well! All day, every day you will find hundreds of Facilities staff members scrubbing, fixing, delivering, designing and managing construction all over our beautiful campus.

This quarter we were able to capture shots of many hardworking Operations & Maintenance team members. If you have a picture to share, please send them in to [newsletter@facilities.gatech.edu](mailto:newsletter@facilities.gatech.edu) for inclusion. Let's share with each other the many tasks that come together to keep Georgia Tech humming.



Above: Eddie Richardson, Lead Custodian for Zone 6, delivering equipment to the O'Keefe Building in Shift 2.



Left: Zone 1 Custodian Tammy Coleman working hard and delivering lots of smiles during a recent A&F Speaks event in the Global Learning Center.



Right: Douglas Moore, A/C Technician III from Maintenance Area 3 wore full protective equipment as he helped drain caustic material from the ductwork after the scrubber malfunctioned at the Nanotech Building.



Members of Maintenance Area 3 attending new building systems training for Bogs.



Above: Floyd Mitchell, Zone 6 Lead Custodian working in Architecture East.



Groundskeepers Sebastien Camiul and Norman Steinkraus working in the summer heat. Stay hydrated guys!



John Mays and Derrick Jones from the Staging Department are working hard to support campus events.

## ► PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

### Development

- Lab & Chemical Safety Officer Ryan Lisk and Sr. Health Physicist Christina Tabor attended and presented at the Campus Safety Health and Environmental Management Association annual conference in Austin, Texas at the end of July
  - Calling all Green Champions! A Pilot Takes Flight (Ryan Lisk)
  - Effective Communication with your EHS Customers (Christina Tabor)
  - Partnering to Create a Breakthrough Safety Culture (Ryan Lisk with Anita McLean from Kimberly-Clark)
- Sr. Engineer Tony Gonzalez attended the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Conference in Alexandria, VA to enhance our understanding of IAQ policies, standards and best practices and Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) sensors for demand control ventilation.
- Interior Designer Polly Patton attended the International Living Future Institute (ILFI) Living Product Expo in Pittsburgh to learn about innovations in product design that will have a practical application in the Living Building at Georgia Tech.
- Interior Designers Reagan Donley and Polly Patton attended the Association of University Interior Designers (AUID) annual conference in Auburn, AL to gather information and resources for the effective management of interior design work at higher education institutions.

### Industry

- Environmental Program Manager Dave Marder and D&C Director Scott Jones presented at the GASFA conference.

## ► SERVICE EXCELLENCE

Strong customer service skills are very important to supporting our strategic goal of institutional effectiveness. Ten Facilities team members attended a session that dove deeply into the art of service excellence. Congratulations to all for growing your skill sets. A special thank you to our HR Business Partner Jeffrey Maynard for setting the class up for us.



Back Row: Registered Architect III Ngugi Mathu, HR Business Partner Jeffrey Maynard, Construction Project Manager II Daniel Powell, Safety Specialist Osasere Idahosa, Stock Clerk II Stanley Tolbert, Multi-Craft Foreperson Tony Blalock  
Front Row: Maintenance Worker I Leonard Major, Production Control Asst Kayla Barber, Facilitator Yvette Francis, Production Control Asst Christena Hammett and Sr Environmental Programs Manager David Marder.



Students leaving their residential building in a calm and orderly fashion.

## FIRE SAFETY PRACTICING CALM TO AVOID CHAOS

Across one evening in late August forty-eight student housing fire evacuation drills were conducted by our Fire Safety Office. Historically, fire evacuation drills were completed over three different nights. This year, the Housing Department and the Fire Safety Office decided to put all hands on deck to accomplish every drill in one night.

Three groups of housing buildings simultaneously participated in the fire drills. During this ambitious effort a support team was monitoring progress and problem solving to overcome any potential delays.

"It was an amazing night of practice and education," explained Fire Marshal Larry Labbe. "A special thanks to Fire Safety Specialists Preston Moss and Renee Lee-Stachs and Deputy Fire Marshal Cary Redman."

"Forty-eight student housing fire evacuation drills were conducted in one night...a monumental task that went very smoothly thanks to Preston Moss, Renee Lee-Stachs and Cary Redman."

-Fire Marshall Larry Labbe

## ► RAISING THE BAR

# Praise and Appreciation (Cont.)

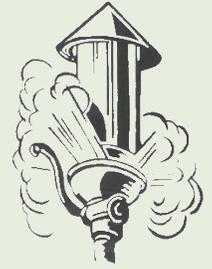
- “Thank you Locksmith I **Salam Ali** for coming over and taking care of a lockout in Van Leer on Monday, right at quitting time. I feel the Lockshop Team provides the best customer service on campus, bar none.” - Harry Beck, Director of Operations, School of Electrical & Computer Engineering
- “**Shanell Riley**, (Lab & Chemical Safety Officer), was helpful with resolving some issues setting up a tissue culture room. A lot of folks would just say “no”. She was proactive and worked with me to find solutions. Really fabulous.” - Dalia Gulick, Biology Lab Manager
- “**The Area 5 Building Maintenance and the Utilities Maintenance team** had great coordination for the latest steam outage. This is the type of communication we want to mimic in the future,” - Mark Demyanek, AVP of O&M
- “**Brandon Ford**, (Staging Supervisor), was a tremendous help this past weekend. We had a crisis ADA compliance issue for a student, and Brandon went above and beyond the call of duty to deliver the height adjustable desk on a SUNDAY. There was a problem getting access to the building through the loading dock, but Brandon found a way in to make the delivery.” - Deborah Green, Asst. Director, CPSM
- “**Cheryl Taylor**, (O&M Admin. Supervisor), thank you for being so approachable and reactive concerning my request with pressure washing the Tech Walkway before highly ranked Georgia political figures visited. You were instrumental in the visits’ success.” - Jeffrey Austin, Facility Manager
- “**David Tate’s Crew**, (Building Maintenance Area 4), did an excellent job on the exhibit! The team worked really well together and then hung the pictures as requested. All were very patient, supportive and professional until we finished. I truly can’t thank you enough for being our heroes.” - Pearl Alexander, Exec. Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement
- “I met **Robert Kirkland** and **Shawn Dunham** from the Recycling Office cleaning the green trash and recycling receptors outside Clough. Robert told me that he developed the cleaning solution to smell good and it certainly smelled pleasant in the area.” - Anna-Marie Soper-O’Rourke, Library Asst. I
- “My wife and I came to campus and she kept commenting how we have the most beautiful flowers and trees. Great job **Landscaping team!**” - Eric Denison, Facilities, Electrician II

## ► UNIT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **STAFF COUNCIL:** This council acts as an advisory group to the Institute’s senior leadership, providing insight on issues that affect the staff. Do you have an idea that you think should be shared with the Staff Council? Members are available to all shifts in CRC 204: MWF 12-3PM, T 6-7AM, TH 4-5PM or by email: [staffcouncil@gatech.edu](mailto:staffcouncil@gatech.edu)
- **OFFICE NAME CHANGE:** The Store Room is undergoing a name change. The new office name of Material Management will be more consistent with what this group does to support our unit.
- **HOLIDAY CHEER:** The annual Facilities Holiday Celebration will be on Tuesday, December 20.
- **INTERNAL PROJECT IMPROVEMENT WORKING GROUP:** In the next 6 months, we will form an internal working group to help develop solutions to the challenges of internal project hand-offs in Facilities. If you are interested in joining the group, or providing feedback on the new processes, please email Jessica Rose at: [JRose@gatech.edu](mailto:JRose@gatech.edu).
- **NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS:** Do you want to nominate a co-worker to be featured in the “Staff Spotlight”? Maybe you are a moonlighting writer who would like to contribute a brief article? Or, perhaps you have just captured a great photograph of you and your teammates working on campus. Please email your ideas and photos to: [newsletter@facilities.gatech.edu](mailto:newsletter@facilities.gatech.edu)



## A Pilot Takes Off



Congratulations to all of the offices and departments who took part in the Work Green Pilot! The pilot, which was developed by a working group in our Facilities Sustainability Committee, allowed staff members to voluntarily lead in promoting sustainable practices in their workplace. Nine Facilities Management teams volunteered and Building Services took first place earning the full Three Whistles of Recognition, followed by Landscape Services with Two Whistles.

Whistles were assigned based on points, and points were earned based on the difficulty of the environmentally friendly efforts that an office agreed to take on. For example, offices that have 75% or more of their staff using public transit, carpooling, biking or walking to work is a difficult task yielding 3 points. Removing space heaters from individual offices to promote energy efficiency yields 2 points, while recycling all electronic waste through Surplus Properties is a slightly easier task that yields 1 point.

A special thank you goes out to all of the “Green Champions” who volunteered to lead their office initiatives. The Work Green Program will be managed by the Office of Campus Sustainability. Feedback from the pilot is being considered as the program undergoes improvements before launching campus-wide next year. The program will allow students, faculty and staff to work together towards campus sustainability goals.



Building Services core “green team” worked hard throughout their department to earn the top spot in the Work Green Pilot. Top Row: Tommy Little and Daniel DeSaussure  
Bottom Row: Willa Chatman, Wendy Welker and Lynne Bentley.

### MORE INFORMATION:

Work Green Program:  
[sustain.gatech.edu/workgreen](https://sustain.gatech.edu/workgreen)

Facilities Sustainability Committee:  
[facilities.gatech.edu/culture](https://facilities.gatech.edu/culture)

## Internal Services Survey Summary

This summer, every staff member in Facilities Management was asked to participate in an online survey to provide input on internal services related to communications and human resources. We had a very good response rate with 23%, equaling 151 out of 570 people. Department Directors are using this feedback to coordinate new solutions throughout the unit. We can't fix what we don't know about, so thank you to all who participated!

Themes identified include:

- More opportunities for professional development
- Increased information available on compensation
- Informing and empowering supervisors to share information with their teams
- Communicating better across departments when projects impact more than one group

