

Inside Facilities

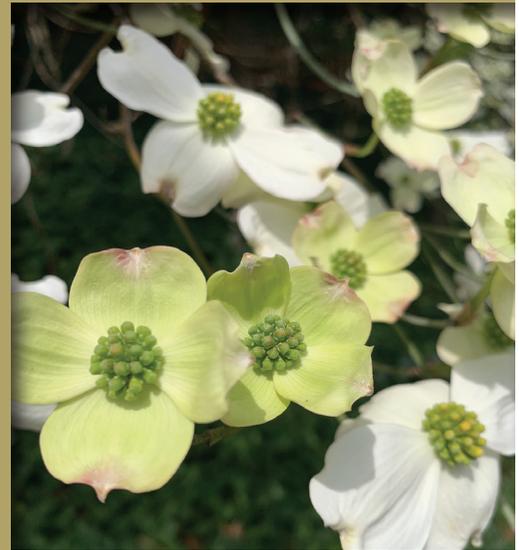
January - March 2021

Our Values

- **Students are our top priority**
- **We strive for excellence**
- **We thrive on diversity**
- **We celebrate collaboration**
- **We champion innovation**
- **We safeguard freedom of inquiry and expression**
- **We nurture the wellbeing of our community**
- **We act ethically**
- **We are responsible stewards**

2021 - Looking Forward Together

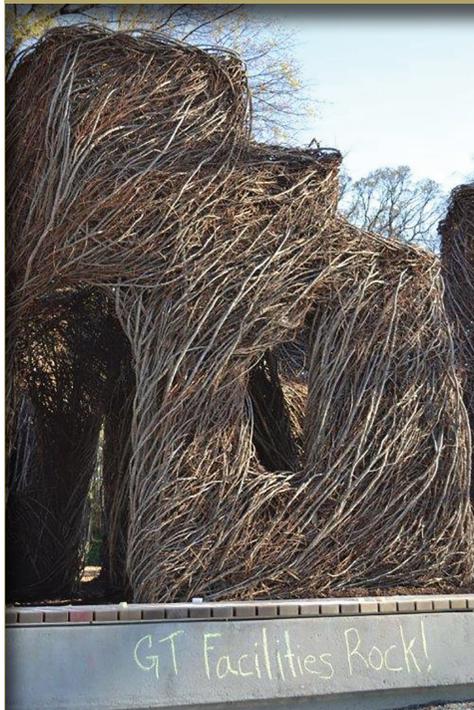
Leaving behind a challenging 2020, we entered spring semester with the inauguration of a new president, new interim leadership in SFS - Nazia Zakir, the return of on-line classes, expanded Covid-19 testing and the availability of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Distribution to the first eligible group of recipients included many employees in Facilities as essential/front-line workers. In early March, the second batch of vaccines were earmarked for educators and staff of Pre-K through 12 and those 16 and above with preexisting health conditions. Finally, on March 25 vaccines became eligible for individuals 16 and above. With the vaccine now widely available, a return to normal seems within reach more and



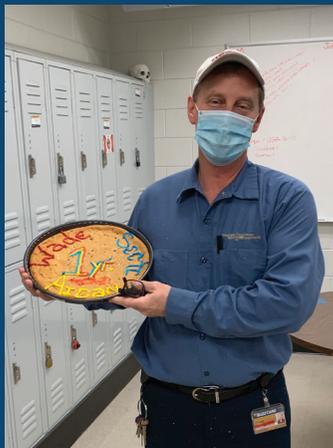
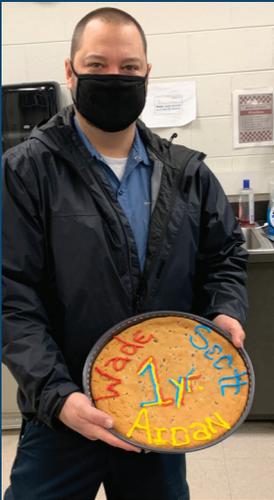
more each day. As President Cabrera announced full campus operations for the fall semester, we recognize that last year tested all of us in many ways, many of the lessons learned will shape our future, and that we're looking forward to fresh, new beginnings.

One of the newest additions to campus- the EcoCommons - quietly debuted in January. An 8-acre greenspace that beckons visitors to sit, picnic, relax in a hammock, study, and enjoy. This new performance landscape will have its grand opening during the week of activities celebrating Earth Day (April 19-22).

Facilities weathered the storm that was 2020 and continues to keep the "City of Georgia Tech" running smoothly. Inside this issue you'll see the hard work that's being done and the people responsible for doing so.



Anniversaries



Three staff members in Area 4 celebrate 1 year of service at Georgia Tech - Scott Hayes, Wade Johnston, and Aidan Taylor. Photo provided by John McElreath (Multicraft Foreperson).

1 year

- Gabriel Anthony
- Sherri Carter - Custodian I
- Scott Hayes - Maintenance Worker I
- Leigh Anne Higbee - Registered Architect II
- Lawrence Johnston - Carpenter I
- Michael McKenna - A/C Mechanic I
- Christine Raddatz - Lab & Chem. Safety Specialist
- Aidan Taylor - Maintenance Worker I
- Bruce Westbrook - Custodian III
- Eric Williams - Maintenance Worker I

5 year

- Kayla Barbor - Admin Pro II
- James Burrows - Chiller Operator
- Kenneth Cook - Plumber I
- Crystal Cox - Custodian I
- Michael Dean - Carpenter II
- Maria Del Mar Ceballos - BIM VDC Mgr., D&C
- Angel Dodson - Custodian II
- Deborah Flagg - Custodian I
- John Horne - Fleet Automotive Mechanic II
- Lance Johnson - Utilities Engineer II
- Bonanza Jones - A/C Mechanic I
- Keino King - A/C Mechanic III
- Daniel Powell - Construction Project Manager II
- Milo Raoof - Groundskeeper II
- Sandra Sheppard - Custodian I
- Stephanie Spann - Custodian I

10 year

- David Brown - Electrician II
- Charles Cooper - A/C Mechanic II
- Nicholas Giles - Campus Recycling Specialist III
- Larry Goodman - Building Coord I
- Shantela Grubbs - Custodian I
- Mark Hill - Groundskeeper III
- David Tate - Area Maintenance Manager
- William White - A/C Mechanic II

Sweet Send-Off

Elvia Lam, Registered Architect II, retired in early January. The Design & Construction department honored her 32 years of service with a celebration and a custom cake. The cake decoration depicted the

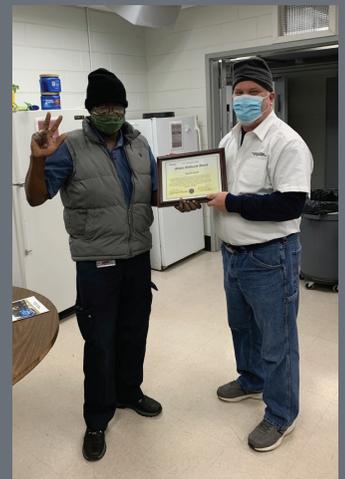


design drawings for the 2010 renovation of the Administration Building's first floor, which Lam shared had been her favorite project at Georgia Tech. We wish you all the best, Elvia!



Awards/Professional Outreach

- Gary Jelin (Interim Asst. Vice President, Design & Construction) took part in a "Navigating Now" panel hosted by the Business and Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association in March. The virtual discussion featured industry leaders in higher education sharing their perspectives on the challenges created by the pandemic.
- Derrick Morris (SFS Human Resource Business Partner) conducted an "Effective Communication, Emotional Intelligence & Leadership Training Seminar " for Landscape Services Supervisors in the Kendeda Building Auditorium.
- Greg Spiro (Mechanical Engineer Senior) has remotely presented at the following since beginning COVID protocols:
 - Arkansas Association of Energy Engineers: Kendeda Site Tour and presentation – June 2020 with Shan Arora, Director of The Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design
 - AABC Commissioning Group Webinar: How Monitoring Based Commissioning Changes the Cx Business - September 2020 with Philip Johnston & the Epsten Group
 - Georgia Energy Services Coalition: Guaranteed Energy Savings Performance Contract Webinar - November 2020 with Kynthia Gaines (Construction Project Manager II)
- The Dalney Building was named one of the top 10 "Extra Green Buildings" for creative sustainability by the Urban Land Institute in their Winter 2021 issue. The building operates as office space for more than 250 staff members and serves as a rainwater filtration and biological wastewater reclamation facility. The building is projected to consume 65% less energy than the benchmark set by Architecture's 2030 challenge.
- Kpousso Karka,(Area 4 Maintenance Worker II) receives the mobile billboard award presented by his supervisor, John McElreath (Area 4 Multicraft Foreperson). The award is presented to employees for safe driving when an individual calls the number posted on the back of the truck. (photo)



►STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Student R. Cook, requested data for an education and monitoring campaign surrounding electricity and water usage in the Grand Challenges dorms - (Howell and Cloudman) to execute a cost/benefit analysis of the electric/water usage before and after the program in hopes of expanding it to other areas of campus.

Student S.K. Carpenter, Mechanical Engineering, requested data in hopes of designing a waste heat recovery system to heat pool water with the goal of creating a system that can be retrofitted in gyms with pools. The design could decrease the energy consumption and greenhouse gas emission of the Campus Rec Center and similar buildings.

Covid-19 Vaccines at Georgia Tech

Georgia Tech is following the vaccine eligibility guidelines set by the Georgia Department of Public Health.

If you are eligible, you will need to register for a vaccination appointment using [MyTest.gatech.edu](https://mytest.gatech.edu) – the same system currently used for Covid-19 surveillance testing.

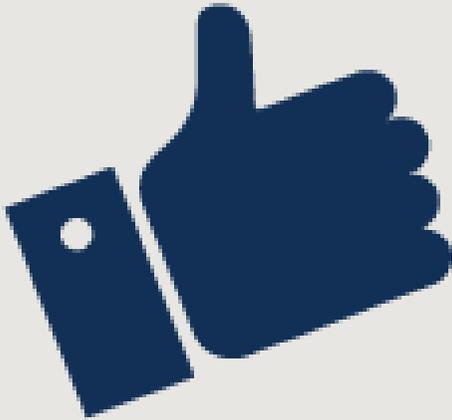
To register for a vaccine appointment, follow these instructions: [How to Schedule a Covid-19 Vaccine Appointment.](#)

We will continue to open appointments as additional vaccine becomes available. To receive notifications when new appointments are available, you may subscribe to updates at mytest.status.gatech.edu.

Please note: While highly encouraged, it is not mandatory for staff, faculty, or students to receive the Covid-19 vaccine.



Praise and Appreciation



"I wanted to share with you my appreciation for the **custodial teams in the Library and Clough**. Not only are they friendly, but they are doing a fantastic job keeping the buildings clean, and they are diligent about wearing their masks. This is especially important as we are trying to enforce mask compliance with the students, and the custodians are shining examples! Please let them know how grateful I am for their support in our efforts to keep everyone safe! We could not do it without them! Thanks so much for everything you and your teams are doing to keep us safe and healthy" - Leslie N. Sharp, PhD, Dean of Libraries

"**Polly Patton** (Senior Interior Designer, Design & Construction) - Thanks for your quick response to resolving the issues to get this space updated and furnished. It highlights your leadership skills." - Gary Jelin, Interim Asst. Vice President, Design & Construction

"**Polly Patton** (Senior Interior Designer, Design & Construction) - Denise, Burns and I did a site visit at the Equity and Compliance Offices in the PRB last Friday and the painting and carpeting looked great. Just wanted to say thank you for giving this appropriate priority and

hopefully the furniture will arrive as planned or better yet, ahead of schedule." - Archie W. Ervin, Ph.D., Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer, Institute Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

"**Jeffrey Bridges** (A/C Mechanic II), **Eric Denison** (Life Safety Equipment Tech II), and **Faroud Sanamihesari** (Electrician II), thank you for coming in on a Saturday to hook up the temporary Generator at 811. Despite the preparation work on Friday you had to find a supplier that was open and go pick up the needed parts. Due to your quick thinking and keeping your cool, the generator was in operation by noon." - Will Varnado, Mechanical Shop Foreperson

"Dear **Fred, Jeff and Eric**, I really appreciate your hard work on getting the generator operational and overcoming some challenges. Thank you so much!" - Nazia Zakir, Interim VP, SFS

"I wanted to reach out to express my thanks for **Jerry Marrison**, (Fire Safety Coordinator, Environmental Health & Safety), for his support on several projects recently I wanted to point out that he has been helpful and a willing partner on projects. Jerry has gone out of his way to be willing to meet and discuss issues that projects have faced in order to seek amicable resolution, while also reaching out to try and head off potential issues. We have had several discussions to smooth the permitting process for GTRI and the Campus Center projects. Jerry has also expressed a willingness to discuss the logistics of move in and tenant fit out to help smooth the transition process – potentially this would require a series of certificates of occupancy and inspections. His willingness to work with the project team has ensured that Howey was ready for classes and has helped keep other projects on track". - Nicolas Palfrey, Capital Project Manager, Design & Construction

"**Brandon Ford**, (Facilities Staging), Thank you so much for helping us make Ramble In a success!! Andrew and I just wanted to let you know how grateful ODK is for your help with providing us the chairs and tables! We were able to give out all the goodie bags and actually ran out of supplies an hour early! We had such a great time that we are hoping to do another Ramble In-type event later in the semester, so we are looking forward to hopefully working with you again!" In White and Gold, Arianna Mastali, President & Andrew McGraw, Treasurer, Omicron Delta Kappa - Alpha Eta Chapter

"I wanted to take this time to recognize the outstanding briefing **Ovida Reeves** (Business Analyst I) delivered during the leadership team meeting. She handled a myriad of questions posed during the meeting in a poised and articulate manner. I am so proud of her and wanted to share my perspective of her exhibited professionalism in your absence." - Derrick Morse, HRBP, Sustainability, Facilities, & Safety

"**Cathy Brim** (Communications Officer I), the Georgia Tech community appreciates the work you have done to keep our campus safe during these difficult times! MOVE Special Projects Committee, a student group on campus, has put together thank you cards directly from the community thanking your work regarding contact tracing that was integral to keeping everyone healthy. Attached, you will find one of these thank you cards from a Georgia Tech student!" - Gabe Gauderman, MOVE Special Projects

"**Carla Barbour** (Construction Project Manager Sr), Congratulations on guiding this project (CEISMC and EXCEL groups occupying 505 10th Street) from concept through occupancy! These are important outreach programs that connect GT to the larger community." - Gary Jelin, Interim Asst. Vice President, Design & Construction

"**Amber Chellis-Omedo** (Architect, Design & Construction), thanks for organizing Elvia Lam's retirement party. I think she really enjoyed it. **Maria Del Mar Ceballos** (BIM Virtual Plan Design & Construction), thanks also for getting the book printed and signed by the staff. I am sure it will be a lifelong remembrance for Elvia of her 32 years at Georgia Tech." - Gary Jelin, Interim AVP, Design & Construction

Vaccine/Testing Pop-Up Event

Each of you either participated and/or offered up staff support to help put on our Facilities Covid Educational Pop-up event today. THANK YOU SO MUCH! This was a last-minute initiative and planning/logistics had to come together quickly. As usual, everyone in Facilities was willing to lend a hand for the greater good. Your efforts helped 15 more people get vaccinated and 21 more people get tested. We also distributed over 100 PPE kits. With our teams being on the front lines, EVERY TEST taken, EVERY MASK worn and EVERY VACCINE sign-up is a win. It's days like today that I'm thankful for the deep commitment that is the Facilities Family. Thank you. – Jessica Rose, Assoc. Director, Analytics & Communications

Thanks everyone for a great team effort on the Testing/Vaccine Pop-Up Event! Special thanks to Jessica Rose (Assoc. Dir. Analytics & Communications) for her coordination and planning! - Nazia Zakir, Interim Vice President, Sustainability, Facilities & Safety

Congrats! Jessica. I know this was a huge lift. Thank you to you and the team. – Tracey Reeves, Assc VP-Research & Acad Comms

I wanted to give a shoutout as I feel the Facilities event yesterday was a huge success! I am confident that we were able to educate and bring awareness to staff on the importance of testing and the benefits of receiving the vaccine. Thanks for coming together for a great cause and let me know if there is anything I can do to further support you. - Joi Alexander, Director| Health Initiatives



(Left to right: Terrell Sykes (Plumber I) and Cathy Martin (Maintenance Worker I) enjoy the event., Rachael Pocklington (Strategic Communications Program Director, Institute Communications) readies her table for the event, Joe Meyer (A/C Mechanic III) receives a PPE kit, and Courtney Stinson (Custodial Supervisor II), Lolita Ringfield (Building Services Inspector) and Andrea Baldwin (Affiliate BP/Contractor) chat at the free Chick-Fil-A sandwich table.

Student Collaboration

Facilities appreciates when students want to help. **Lance Johnson**, (Utilities Engineer II), who collaborated with the students states, "The students did most of the initial legwork. They approached me with a proposal to change the existing fluorescent lamps to LED tubes. I supplied the lighting drawing and fixture schedule and they put the project together. I took the project to my manager, Jamie Ready (Interim Assoc. Dir. O&M) and we discussed options. It was decided that since the ceiling would have to be disturbed, that the best option was fixture replacement. I commend the students for bringing this to my attention."

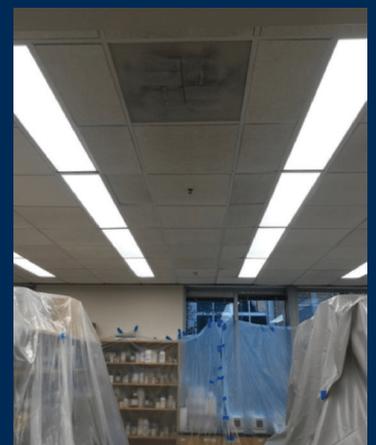
Below is feedback about the collaboration from fellow employees:

"Lance Johnson (Utilities Engineer, II), thank you for working with the students and taking on the challenge with them! I appreciate your efforts and living to our values." - Nazia Zakir, Interim Vice President, Sustainability, Facilities & Safety

"Congratulations Lance! That is a nice article and good promotion for the program. Thank you for a job well done." – Jamie Ready, Interim Associate Director, Facilities - Operations & Maintenance

"Nice job supporting the students to implement their idea Lance!" – Jessica Rose, Assoc. Director Analytics & Communication

Find out more about the project at <https://globalchange.gatech.edu/news/carbon-reduction-challenge-winners-implement-climate-solutions-at-georgia-tech/>.



► STAFF FEATURED IN INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Marlon Ellis, From Vaccine Skeptic to Believer



Marlon Ellis, area maintenance manager for The Kendeda Building For Innovative Sustainable Design, maintains one of the most interesting buildings on Georgia Tech's campus. The Kendeda Building features regenerative heating and cooling systems, compostable toilets, and a rooftop garden — all of which demand a thorough understanding of very complex operating requirements. Ellis says that research and continuing education have become part of the daily routine that allows him to successfully execute his job responsibilities. It's this same quest for knowledge that has helped Ellis understand the benefits of the Covid-19 vaccine. Read more about his journey from vaccine skeptic to believer [here](#).

Seth Osekre, Custodian & Safety Advocate



Seth Nii Ablorh Osekre is a custodian in Facilities Management. He was born and grew up in Accra, Ghana, where he studied electrical construction at Royal Technical College. He worked in the printing industry for 16 years, making notebooks and ledgers, before coming to Georgia Tech in 2007.

"My cousin introduced me to Georgia Tech when I came from Ghana, looking for a new life in America," Osekre said. He joined his mother, three brothers, and three sisters who had already relocated to Atlanta.

In 2020, the coronavirus brought the implementation of new safety precautions for Osekre's work as a custodian on campus.

Read more about Osekre [here](#).

Valerie Edward, Stationary Engineer



In March 2019, Valerie Edward moved from Detroit, Michigan to Atlanta to become a stationary engineer at Georgia Tech's Holland Plant. The plant's steam keeps many buildings heated and cooled, and it provides hot water for certain showers and dining halls. The facility also provides processed steam for specific research labs. A stationary engineer is technically trained to operate, troubleshoot, and oversee the plant's industrial equipment. After two years on the job, Edward works each day to increase her knowledge.

"A variety of components and accessories make up the plant," she said. "Operators must make sure they're knowledgeable on every aspect by tracing out the different lines — water supply, steam, and chill water systems. Tracing the lines is tedious but necessary if I'm going to be the best." Read more about Edward [here](#).

Black History Month - Quinae Ford



Bishop Quincy Lavelle Carswell dedicated his life to the ministry. His commitment to social justice, human rights, and political activism was intertwined with his love of God, community, and people. His first church was located in the heart of Atlanta on Boulevard Avenue in the Old Fourth Ward District. In December 2019, Carswell celebrated his 44th pastoral anniversary during a special service at the Covenant Church in Decatur.

His daughter, Quinae Ford, had the privilege of witnessing and learning that dreams and goals can be realized through perseverance and strength. Ford is an administrative manager with Georgia Tech Facilities Fleet Services and chair of the Staff Council. She credits her father for instilling the importance of hard work and care for others.

"He taught me that everything won't come easy, but through hard work and dedication anything is attainable," Ford says.

Read more about Ford and Bishop Carswell [here](#).

Breaking the Glass Ceiling

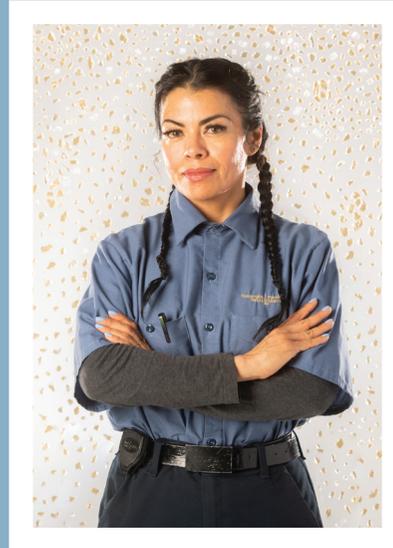
March was Women's History Month and Institute Communications produced a campus feature entitled "Breaking the Glass Ceiling".

At Georgia Tech, we have women who are making new strides in a wide range of male-dominated fields, at all levels. Two women in Sustainability, Facilities and Safety were included in this feature - Nazia Zakir, (Interim VP, SFS) and Maria Idalia Dorantez (Chiller Operator). To read the full article, click [here](#).



How are you breaking the glass ceiling?

I feel like I am definitely breaking the ceiling for Muslim immigrants to be able to advance to some of these higher levels. And I hope people can look and say, hey, if she did it, we can do it. Hopefully it'll be easier for them than it was for me, with fewer obstacles and detours. I've never been more optimistic about Georgia Tech embracing diversity and showing it through action.



How are you breaking the glass ceiling and why aren't more women in your profession?

I am the only woman working in the chiller shop. I see a lot of women who go to school, but they never work in their career field because they are afraid. Or someone says, "You can't do this job. It's too hard for a woman." In my case I am trying to show that it's possible. It's not easy, but it's possible. Women can be any place we wish to be as long as we have the desire and put in the hard work.

Price Gilbert First Public Exhibit

"**David Tate**, (Associate Director for Area Maintenance), I wanted to take a moment and send you and **Wade Johnston** (Carpenter I) a great big "THANK YOU" for the support you provided for Price Gilbert's first public exhibit since the completion of the renovation project. To our pleasant surprise, the German Consulate heard about the exhibit and wanted to tour the gallery. The fabrication performed on the vitrines is exceptional. The vitrines look as if we purchased them in this manner.

The special guests are thoroughly enjoying the tour of the exhibit along with members of Library Leadership. Thank you for supporting us in making this last-minute visit such a success." - Vivian Campbell, Facilities Project Manager, Library/Academic Effectiveness, Clough Commons

"David - Wow, really great job by your team and on such short notice." - Nazia Zakir, Interim Vice President Sustainability, Facilities & Safety



Custodial Leadership Academy

The first Custodial III Leadership Academy training programs launched in March. Two groups of employees attended the sessions which focused on cultivating supervisory skills such as how to be an effective leader, email etiquette, time management, conflict resolution, customer service and how to motivate employees. Participants include:

(Top photo, left to right): Derrick Morse (Instructor/HR Bus. Partner), Tony Harrison, Jeffrey Belle, Richard Harris, Tommy Little (Instructor/Assoc. Dir. Building Svcs), Linsey Duffy, Juanita Slaton, Stanley Smith (Instructor/Fac. Program Support Mgr.)

(Bottom right photo, left to right): Quintavious Bowden, Derrick Morse, Nicholas Watkins, Robert Bombaire, Jacinta Starks, Stanley Smith, Tommy Little, Teresa Smith




GT Earth Week 2021

APRIL 19-23

MAIN EVENTS

Monday, April 19th
Katharine Wilkinson - All We

Can Save Discussion

When: 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Where: Register via BlueJeans

Tuesday, April 20th

Virtual EcoCommons Tour

When: 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Where: Register via BlueJeans

Campus Tree Planting

When: 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Where: Krone Engineered Biosystems Building

Wednesday, April 21st

Unveiling of Former Pickrick

Restaurant Site Marker

When: 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Where: EcoCommons

Wellness Wednesday In the

EcoCommons

When: 11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: EcoCommons near Kendeda

Thursday, April 22nd
International Earth Day

When: 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: The Kendeda Building Patio

WEEKLONG ACTIVITIES

Monday-Thursday, April 19-22

Hard to Recycle Materials Drop-Off

When: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Lower Level of Kendeda

Clothing Swap

When: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Where: Lower Level of Kendeda

Household Hazardous Waste

(Buzzcard Required!)

When: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Where: EHS, 793 Marietta St NW

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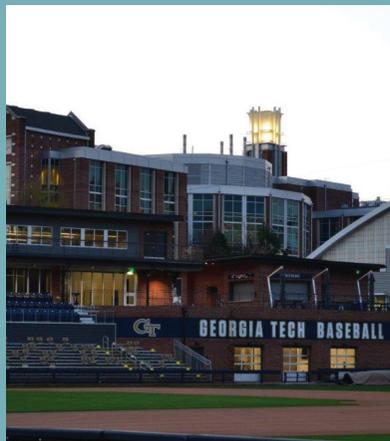
Howey Physics Building

The renovation of the four main lecture halls and hallways, the update and expansion of the existing restrooms and the creation of a gender-inclusive restroom is now complete. Lecture hall 5 has recently been approved for renovation and expected to be complete by December 2022. Construction Project Mgr II - **Nicholas Palfrey**



Russ Chandler Baseball Stadium

The renovations to the Russ Chandler baseball stadium improve the operational functionality for student-athletes, coaches and spectators. Projects include new interior batting cages, a new interior pitching tunnel/performance lab, and premium club/suite area upgrades. Also included were minor renovations to the official's locker room, relocated concessions, restrooms and ticketing. Con. Proj. Manager Sr. - **Lindsay Cottingham**



Additional Projects

The Design & Construction Special Projects Team consistently has a long list of projects underway. Recently, critical infrastructure utility projects have upgraded steam, chilled water, electrical and fiber systems. ADA accessibility projects included entries, restrooms and paths of travel. Research lab upfits, HVAC system replacements/upgrades, and fire alarm system replacements are just a few of the current jobs that keep the Special Projects Team busy.



Facilities in Action



(L-R: Mike McKenna (A/C Mechanic I) chooses supplies for a project. / Cedric Morgan (Stores Clerk II) and Nick Roper (Asst. Foreperson, Materials Management) package spray bottles for use on campus. / Donald Hamilton, (Custodial Supervisor II) maintains the flooring in Clough. / Lawrence Williams (A/C Mechanic I), Bonanza Jones (A/C Mechanic I), Robert Mendoza (A/C Mechanic II) and Richard Davidson (A/C Mechanic II) load a van with supplies. / Pi Mile Participants - Lynn Ellis (O&M Project Coord.), Sam Evans (Fleet and Interim Landscape Services Mgr), Lance Johnson (Utilities Engineer II), Jamie Ready's son, Jamie Ready (Interim Assoc. Dir. O&M) and her dog, Derrick Morse (HR Business Partner), and Cheryl Kelley (Asst. to SFS VP). / Salam Ali (Locksmith I) cuts a key in the lockshop. / Abbey Bluestein (Admin Pro II) manages her deskwork. / Philip Walls (A/C Mechanic II) works on an outdoor unit.

► HR CORNER

The Facilities Cultural Advisory Committee has identified many new and exciting human resource initiatives for the Sustainability, Facilities and Safety Unit. The list below details some of the changes to or new opportunities within your current work environment:

- Continuation and formalization of the Career Pathways Consultations
- Opportunities for career advancement via succession training/job promotion (as budget permits)
- Job descriptions edited to accurately reflect roles
- Concerted efforts to promote inclusive work environments through extensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion training with a focus on first line management
- Ongoing reviews of equitable compensation throughout the SFS unit
- Development of a meaningful Employee Recognition Program for High Performers
- Formulation of the SFS Employee Relations, Moral, and Well-Being Employee Resource Group



For SFS to be successful, individuals must be treated with dignity and respect and given challenges and opportunities that allow growth and advancement. Although we continue to endure a few unavoidable changes and transitions, Human Resources is now poised to move beyond the interim and into the norming phase of our journey. If you have any questions, contact dmorse3@hr.gatech.edu.

Relax. Recharge. Reboot.

March 16 and 24 were Wellness Wednesdays for the entire campus community. Facilities employees enjoyed granola bars and water while taking a break to appreciate the spring weather.



(Left to right: Oscar Shropshire (Custodial Supervisor II), Dawud (David) Saleem (Painter I), Trelis Smith (Custodian I) top photo, Terry McDaniel (Life Safety Equip Tech II) and Judy Rivers (Affiliate/BP Contractor) bottom photo.

People of Facilities: Living Our Values

Welcome to a new section within the Inside Facilities newsletter.

Each issue, this section will recognize a Facilities employee who embodies the values we uphold here at Georgia Tech. These employees strive to live these values both in their work within Facilities as well as their lives beyond the Institute.

Meet Helen Castillo

A native of Guatemala, Castillo began her career at Georgia Tech five years ago as a Senior Administrative Professional within Environmental Health & Safety. After four years, she transitioned to her current role as an Accountant II for the Finance Department. This department oversees the budget and financial processes for all of Facilities, ensuring that state guidelines are followed when making purchases or contracts need to be signed. Helen assists staff members in using WorkDay and p-card transactions. In doing her job, she likes to cultivate a sense of well-being with her colleagues by letting them know she is always there for them, happy to help however she can and that no question will go unanswered.

In her life away from campus, Castillo helps a friend operate Southern Animal Volunteer Effort, or SAVE. Volunteering for non-profit animal rescues for over 11 years, she finds that fostering and caring for animals in need fulfills her own sense of well-being while teaching valuable lessons to her young daughter. "Little did I know that each animal I helped along the way, would be helping me, as well, through life's struggles. Teaching my daughter how to give back to our community while doing something that we love" proves a rewarding experience for both.



At home in Powder Springs, Castillo has three dogs and one cat - permanently. Her favorite rescue story is of "Nick", a great pyrenees, who after receiving much love and care through the foster system is now a therapy dog for police officers who have experienced trauma.

Well-being exists in many forms and in all species and by cultivating it, both professionally and personally, the waves of wellness can travel quite far.

Much thanks to Jeff Wiley, (IT Support Professional I) for providing photography for this issue. If you'd like to contribute ideas for content, please email cathy.brim@facilities.gatech.edu.