



## Infrastructure and Sustainability

# Inside I&S

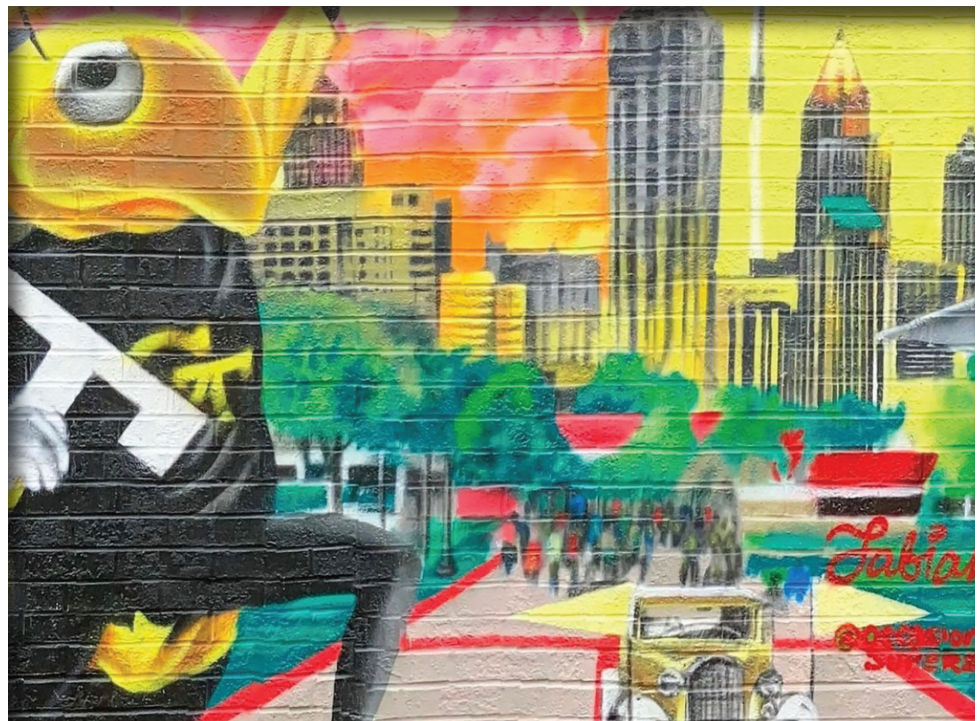
July - September 2021



## 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.**

## SFS (FM+SBO) + CPSM = I&S



On July 14, Kelly Fox, vice president of Administration and Finance, announced the reorganization of Sustainability, Facilities and Safety (SFS) to improve the alignment of Institute resources to accomplish strategic goals and better serve the campus community. Renamed Infrastructure and Sustainability (I&S), the unit welcomes an additional department to complete the reorganization. Capital Planning and Space Management (CPSM) joins the team to advance the goals and programs of Georgia Tech's colleges, schools, and research centers by developing solutions designed to maximize the facilities, infrastructure, and physical assets of the Institute. Sustainability and Building Operations (SBO), established under SFS, will continue to work with campus partners on identifying, prioritizing, and facilitating conversations around sustainable ideas and practices, as well as create a community of practice for building management partners and stakeholders. I&S, together with SBO, and now CPSM, represents a new path forward in the collaborative management of the campus built environment..

# Anniversaries, Promotions & New Hires

## 10 year

Calvin Borders, Custodian III  
Billy Chun, Groundskeeper III  
Delores Douglas, Custodian II  
Samantha Harrison, Custodian I  
Brenda Hubbard, Custodian II  
Gary Jelin, Interim Assistant Vice President, D&C  
Delores Miles, Custodian I  
Astou Seye, Custodian I  
Dennis Sherrel, Custodian II

## 5 year

William Brown, Storeroom Foreperson  
Decarelle Evans, Custodian I  
Peter Jok, Custodian II  
Chris Sanders, Assoc. Director, Construction Services  
De'Angelo Warner, Custodian II

## 1 year

Dorothy Gbadamosi, Custodian I  
Jerry Neal, Custodian I

## Promotions

Kynthia Gaines - Project Manager Senior  
Michael Mayers - Custodian III  
Assegedu Mebrate - Custodian II  
Nicholas Palfrey - Project Manager Senior  
Johnny Rand - Campus Recycling Specialist II  
Lolita Ringfield - Custodial Supervisor II  
Teresa Smith - Custodian III  
Gregory Williams - Custodian III

## New Hires

Farad Conover - Custodian I  
Efrem Gedlu - Custodian I  
Quanisha Jordan - Custodian I  
Dillon Manley - Maintenance Worker II  
Darian Martin - Custodian I  
Dexter Moody - Landscaping, Equipment Operator III  
Shaniqua Odoms - Custodian I  
Wendell Thomas - Custodian II  
Patrina Vickers - Custodian I

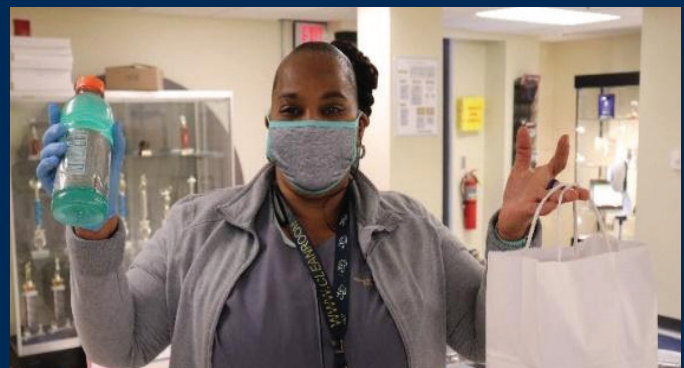
## Retirees

Robbie Rice retired on July 30th after 29 years at Georgia Tech. Robbie started out as a Maintenance Worker I and worked his way to an A/C Mechanic II. Pictured are Robbie Rice (left) and David Tate, Area 4 Manager (right). Robbie was presented with a framed print featuring Area 4 Buildings.



## In Memoriam

Debra King-Pringle, Custodian I, worked in the Building Services Department for six years. She was assigned to the President's office in the Carnegie Building. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends.





## Awards/Certifications

The Georgia Tech Police Department (GTPD) awarded Building Services with the 2020 Community Partner of the Year Award. GTPD hosted a barbeque to thank the Building Services staff for their consistent hard work and dedication to maintaining a clean and healthy campus. (Photo left to right: Stan Smith, Building Services Program Support Manager, Willa Chatman, Building Services Operations Manager, Georgia Tech Police Chief Robert Connolly, Tommy Little, Assoc. Director, Building Services and GTPD Captain Marcus Walton.)



### ► KUDOS

## Praise & Appreciation

**Will Varnado**, Mechanical Shop Foreperson, recapped the events surrounding a gas leak that occurred on campus. He did a great job responding to the situation on-site along with the other Utilities and Engineering (U&E) staff members. We don't have anyone else that would have been able to manage the situational response as well as these guys did. - Ben Mason, Interim Associate Director, U&E

*"At 8:18 a.m. I received a call from E. Echer, the contractor installing the new chilled water service to the Institute of Paper Science and Technology. The caller stated that they had damaged a gas line located in their excavation site and wanted to know who they should call. I told him to call the Georgia Tech Police Department first to get the fire department rolling and then call Atlanta Gas Light (AGL) emergency response. At 8:20 a.m. I called Chris Taylor with housing and Jammie Gaines, Area 1 Manager to inform them of the disruption in service they would experience. At 8:23 a.m. I contacted Billy Baxter, Plumber II and Terrell Sykes, Plumber I and directed them to come to the site so we could begin isolating the damage piping. At this time, I also contacted Sully Settlemires, Steam Equipment Mechanic II to turn the boilers off at Couch and West Campus Dining. At 8:40 a.m., once all the notifications were sent out, I contacted Ben Mason, Interim Associate Director, U&E to let him know of the situation and that I had everything under control and asked if he would send out the email notification while I was on site coordinating the work that needed to happen.*

*I was in constant contact with Station 11 fire response team ensuring the safety of the area and if Georgia Tech needed to assist them. I worked with the AGL team putting together a plan and coordinating the execution of the plan. At 11:00 a.m. Jennifer Disotell, Special Projects Manager, came by the site, I updated her on what had taken place thus far, she then went to talk with E. Echer. At 12:00 p.m. Mitchell Shelton, Construction Project Manager II came by the site, I updated him on what had been done, he then went to talk with E. Echer.*

*At 4:45 p.m. the repair was complete. I sent out verbal notification that the repair was complete. I directed Billy and Terrell to open all the valves that had been closed. I also directed Sully Settlemires and Tom Jesnowski, A/C Mechanic II, to light the boilers at Couch, West Campus Dining, and to assist Housing light their boilers on west campus. The U&E TEAM performed outstanding and jumped in to help where they were needed to restore the service as quickly and as safely as possible.*

*My thanks goes to: Billy Baxter, Plumber II, Terrell Sykes, Plumber I, Sully Settlemires, Steam Equipment Mech. II, and Tom Jesnowski, A/C Mechanic II - Thank you." Will Varnado, Mechanical Shop Foreperson*



## ►EVENTS

# Campus Safety Day

**Osasere Idahosa**, General Safety Manager, (photo left, blue mask) and **Christina Tabor**, Health Physicist Senior, (photo right) share information about the Environmental Health & Safety department during Campus Safety Day in September.



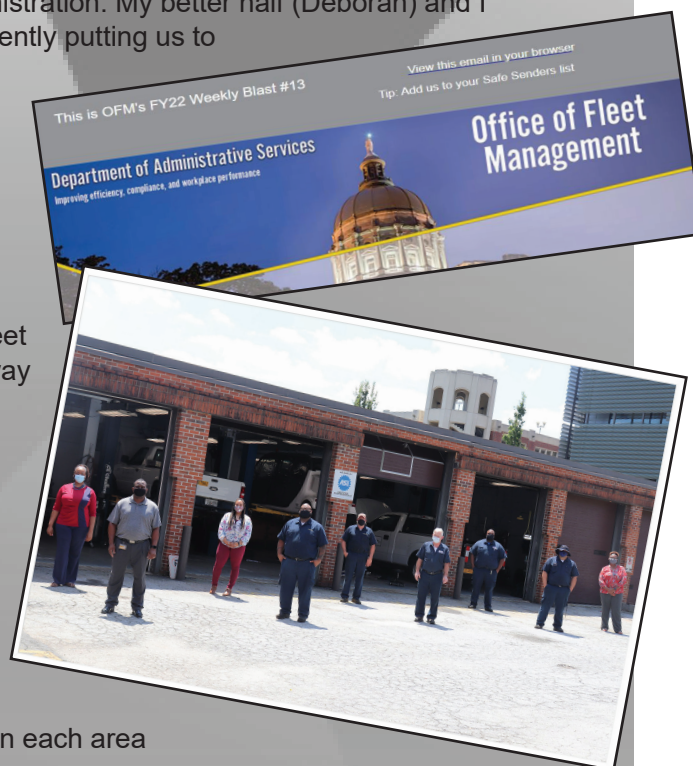
## Sam Evans in the Spotlight

Sam Evans was recently featured in the Department of Administrative Services / Office of Fleet Management newsletter. Sam shared a bit about his life and work for the newsletter. "Berkeley, California is where I was born. I grew up in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Yes, this is rare and makes me a Georgia native. I am in my final semester of pursuing a second degree in Business Administration. My better half (Deborah) and I are the proud parents of three wonderful children who are currently putting us to the test with their digital homework, project assignments, sports, and never-ending why questions. As the oldest begins her first semester at college, I realize time does not wait for anyone. Live in the moment. My hobbies are attending automobile shows and spending time with family and friends.

I am the Interim Associate Director of Fleet Management and Landscape Services at Georgia Tech. I have been with the Institute for eight years. I have 30+ years of automotive and fleet industry experience. I began as a technician and worked my way up to the highest level of accreditation in the fleet industry, the Certified Automotive Fleet Manager (CAFM) designation. As a technician, I retain the Master Automotive Service Excellence Certification (ASE).

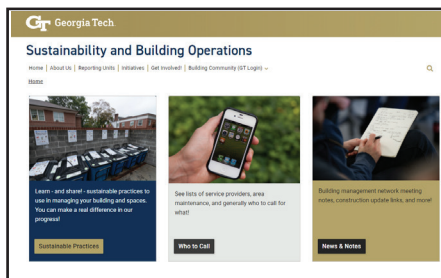
My work family is the greatest. Together we have earned and maintain the Blue Seal of Excellence Recognition as prescribed by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). To be eligible for this recognition, an organization must have 75% of its automotive professionals ASE certified. In addition, there must be a certified technician in each area of service offered.

Sam, we are proud to have you as part of the Infrastructure and Sustainability team!





# Partnering to Build Community



Over the summer, I&S partnered with building managers and facility directors across campus to develop a community of practice in building

management. A working group identified strengths and opportunities across the building management area through interviews and surveys and worked with community members to develop new ideas and solutions.

The Building Management Network meetings are very positive ways to engage and learn about projects that impact our community and buildings. One gap that was highlighted through the surveys was the lack of a single web site to link the information that building managers – particularly those new to the profession or to Georgia Tech – need to know.

Hosted on the Sustainability and Building Operations web site, the new Building Manager site is now live. Topics include: sustainable practices, who to call for services and needs, news on construction projects, Building Management Network meeting notes, training and development resources, and relevant policies and practices. The site is live at [sbo.gatech.edu](https://sbo.gatech.edu). Please send any comments or suggestions to [bmcop@gatech.edu](mailto:bmcop@gatech.edu).

Many thanks to the Building Community Working Group members from I&S including: Donald Applegate, Facilities Manager II; Jarrett Muncy, Campus Facilities Planner Senior; Alex Ortiz, Consultant II, David Tate, Area 4 Manager; and JulieAnne Williamson, Executive Director, Sustainability and Building Operations.

## Praise (cont.)



Hi Area 4 Team, I just wanted to let you know how much I appreciate the group that showed up to move all of our furniture. They were so very helpful, worked very hard and did so much for us. Thank you to them and their supervisor for having such a great team! - Julie Bryant, Director,

Business Operations, Institute Communications

I want to thank **James Harbour**, MultiCraft Foreperson, and **Nigel Auzla**, A/C Mechanic II, for the team work and help last night in the resetting of the HVAC at the CRC. Great job guys, you make our team look good. - Andy Sheffield, Area 5 Manager

Covid-19 is bad, **Idalia Dorantes**, Chiller Operator, is good. Idalia is always looking for ways to help people. This season, she installed a new A/C condenser for someone who was having multiple failures and lots of trouble. She obtained the unit via a donation, saving the customer money. Now everyone is happy having reliable air. Thanks Idalia, you saved the day! - Larry Harris, retired A/C Mechanic

A huge thanks to **Terrell Sykes**, Plumber I, and **Tom Jesnowski**, A/C Mechanic II, for their efforts in retrieving a student's skateboard from a sewer drain on Bobby Dodd Way. By connecting a weighted control wire to an expandable stick and laying flat out in the street, they were able to lasso the submerged skateboard and return it to a very grateful student. Terrell and Tom, thank you for exemplifying that students are our top priority.

Thank you to Jeff Wiley for always taking photos of staff members so that I have great content for our monthly updates and this newsletter. I appreciate it! - Cathy Brim, Communications Officer II

## Leadership Retreat at the Global Learning Center

Hosted by Nazia Zakir, Interim Vice President, I&S, the retreat allowed for direct reports to discuss recent successes and challenges. Ideas were shared on encouraging a collaborative work environment and communicating across diverse teams while supporting the Institute in delivering on its mission and the President's Strategic Goals.



# Get a Boost - Covid Boosters



Georgia Tech continues to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and work with the Georgia Department of Public Health to provide Covid-19 vaccines for the campus community.

The CDC recommends Covid-19 vaccine boosters for a broader group of people based upon age, underlying medical conditions, and risk of exposure due to occupation. These recommendations currently apply only to those who have received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at least six months ago.

To address the groups at highest risk of severe illness from Covid-19, Stamps Health Services will offer booster doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to the following groups:

- People ages 65 years and older.
- People ages 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions.
- People ages 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions.
- People ages 18-64 years who are at increased risk for Covid-19 exposure and transmission due to occupational or institutional setting.

To schedule a vaccination appointment for your booster dose, go to [mytest.gatech.edu](https://mytest.gatech.edu). In order to validate the type of Covid-19 vaccine you previously received, including dates of vaccination, you will need to bring your Covid-19 Vaccination Record Card with you to your appointment.

As a reminder, if you or an eligible family member (spouse, domestic partner, or dependent child age 12 years or older) have not yet received a Covid-19 vaccine and would like to do so, you are encouraged to schedule an appointment. Vaccines are safe and effective against Covid-19, including the delta variant. Visit [health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/vaccine](https://health.gatech.edu/coronavirus/vaccine) for more information about the Covid-19 vaccine.

# \$200 Well-Being Credit for Getting Vaccinated

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine will make you eligible to earn the \$200 well-being credit through December 31, 2021.

If you have already received the \$10 well-being credit for the COVID-19 vaccine in the 2021 credit year, you will receive the additional credit on your rewards page by the end of September. Vaccines received after September 2021 and before December will count towards the 2022 credit year.

Be sure to verify that your vaccination has been documented in the program to ensure your credit is on the way.

Not yet vaccinated or enrolled in the USG Well-being program? There is still time to enroll and start earning. Visit [usg.edu/well-being](https://usg.edu/well-being) for more information.



# Covid-19 Shield Recycling

The Office of Solid Waste & Recycling partnered with the Office of Campus Sustainability, Building Managers, and Area Maintenance teams to recycle 800 pounds of acrylic and pvc piping. Also collected was surplus rolls of acrylic totaling more than 1500 pounds.

Student volunteers from the Office of Minority Education and Development (OMED) aided in the collection of the shields.

The recycling was delivered to a vendor in Austell, who will repurpose the acrylic into new acrylic sheets. The pvc piping recycles back into pipe or into energy efficient window frames.

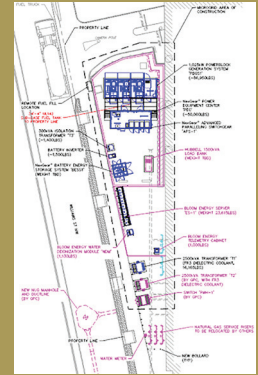




# A Public/Private Collaboration - The Tech Square Microgrid

Georgia Tech and Georgia Power celebrated the opening of a 1.4-megawatt microgrid in Tech Square this year. Microgrids are self-contained power systems, co-located with the facilities they serve, that include power generation resources, storage systems, and energy management systems. The Tech Square Microgrid will help power the larger local grid in Midtown and will also evaluate how a microgrid can effectively integrate into and operate as part of the overall electrical grid.

Tony Gonzalez, Senior Mechanical Engineer, has been involved in the project since plans emerged in 2016. One of the requirements for the microgrid was that it support the CODA Databank, therefore an appropriate location was paramount. The Williams Street property was chosen because of the proximity to CODA and the existing Georgia Power vaults in Spring Street. The property had an existing retention pond for stormwater run-off from the nearby Tech Square Parking Deck. A concrete platform was needed to bridge the retention pond and provide a level equipment pad with grounding for the equipment through the reinforcing steel to the footings. The calculated weight distribution of current and future equipment to be located on the platform was provided by Georgia Power. Georgia Tech was responsible for the structural design and construction of the platform.



This design and construction required adherence to code requirements from the City of Atlanta and State of Georgia building and fire codes. At this time, new code was in the process of being written for this specific type of installation while another code existed for the battery storage. The code regulatory process required twelve months of discussion beginning in 2017 through the first quarter of 2018. Additional complexities of the project included the rerouting of gas lines and the relocation of gas meters for both the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center and the Global Learning Center; the rerouting of Tech Square irrigation lines, maintaining buried street lighting circuits, avoiding water mains, and relocating existing underground lightning protection cable. It took four years to successfully navigate these logistics with the City of Atlanta and the Georgia Power Company.

The platform code required horizontal separation from the adjacent parking deck and the construction over the retention pond required 380 cubic yards of cast-in-place concrete, which equates to 42 concrete mixing transport trucks.

Gonzalez is proud of his involvement with the project and overcoming its inherent challenges. The microgrid will provide clean power to Midtown, but it will also serve as a living laboratory in which Georgia Tech, industry, and government researchers will work collaboratively to create the next generation of clean energy solutions.

## Brand Identity



Infrastructure  
and Sustainability

Following the launch of the 2020-2030 Institute strategic plan, Progress and Service for All, Georgia Tech has refreshed its visual identity system to reflect its new 10-year vision and to meet the evolving needs of communications and brand reputation. Reflecting Georgia Tech's core values focused on students, diversity, and innovation, the new look conveys consistently and authentically that Georgia Tech is a higher education community, absolutely committed to inclusive excellence and innovation, daring every day to imagine and then create solutions for a better future.

In conjunction, Infrastructure and Sustainability has a new logo. We are a group of departments working together to support operational excellence through innovative and efficient physical infrastructure services. We aim for a sustainable, safe, and well-maintained campus environment with students as our top priority.

To read more about the brand refresh, visit [brand.gatech.edu](https://brand.gatech.edu).



## Cleaner Air in the Classroom

More than 200 portable air purifiers were installed in classrooms ahead of the first day of classes August 23rd. The project involved several departments - the Sustainability and Building Operations department (in collaboration with the facility directors and building managers working group) helped to define the distribution process and the communication plan, the Building Engineering and Energy Strategies (BEES) group ordered the units and verified placement. Area Maintenance teams distributed and installed the units in the classrooms. Working together, I&S is committed to the health and safety of the campus community.

### ► PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH

## Georgia Tech on Jekyll Island

Marlon Ellis, Area 6 Manager, attended the Georgia Association of School Facilities Administrators conference in Jekyll Island, Ga. The conference brings together administrators and Georgia Department of Education leadership to highlight new trends and feature the latest advancements related to the maintenance and operation of school facilities across Georgia. Marlon, thanks for your commitment to representing Georgia Tech at this statewide event.



## Staff Appreciation Day



Left to right: David Jones, Maint. Work. I and Donald Jordan, Groundskeeper III; Jason Gregory, Sr. Planner, CPSM; Billy Baxter, Plumber II and Terrell Sykes, Plumber I; David Graham, Painter I; Rockiea Osekre, Custodian I; JulieAnne Williamson, Exec. Dir. SBO; Cathy Brim, Comm. Ofc. II and Jeneen Parker Mosely, Admin. Pro. III; Campus tents set up by Jerry Young, Landscape Proj. Mgr.; Alicia Wood-Jones, Assoc. Lab & Chem. Safety Officer; Cynthia Williams, Custodian I





# Design & Construction



## **LIBRARY RENEWAL WINS AWARD**

Congratulations to the I & S Design & Construction department for winning The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation - Excellence in Sustainable Rehabilitation award for their design of the Price Gilbert Memorial Library. Originally designed by

Paul Malcom Heffernan and completed in 1953, the library represented cutting-edge thinking in both design and educational services for its time.

Following its rehabilitation, the library is once again a state-of-the-art facility, serving an integral role in Georgia Tech's core educational ecosystem. The project preserved and clarified architectural spaces, while providing a high-performance building envelope. See more pictures of the redesign and read more about the award [here](#).



Tricentennial Building is underway. Improvements will be complete by the end of November. Construction Project Manager - **Blake Baklini**.

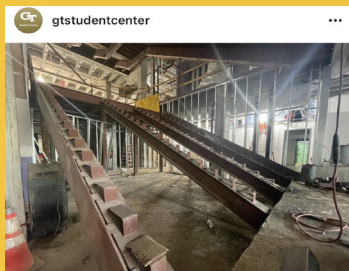
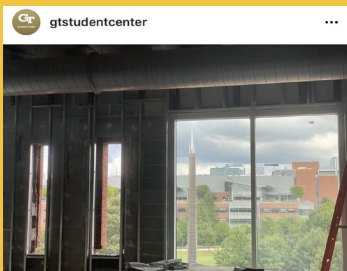
The Love Building Roof Replacement project is planned for November with a completion target of March 2022. Construction Project Manager - **Mitchell Shelton**.

The installation of a new fire suppression system in the Cherry Emerson building coupled with upgrades to the common area and lobby will begin over winter break with plans for completion by July 2022. Construction Project Manager - **Fenella Bryant**.

Paving of the Greek Alley was a huge hit with the folks over at Fraternity and Sorority Life. Chris Usry-Arnold, House Association President for Alpha Gamma Delta happily stands in the freshly paved alley in the photo above.



This picture says it all. Thank you so much for all the work you have done. We love it! - Chris Usry-Arnold



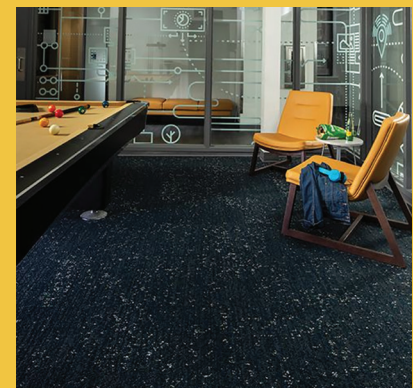
## **CAMPUS CENTER UPDATE**

The Campus Center Renovation project is on schedule and making strides. The Campus Center is dried in with windows largely installed and exterior envelope work nearing completion. Work proceeds with interior fit out with internal partitions framed, gypsum board hung, finished and painted.

Mechanical and electrical work continues with electrical distribution and cabling being installed. Sitework moves forward with hardscape walkways and driveways installed around the building. The project remains on schedule for summer 2022 opening. - Construction Project Manager - **Nic Palfrey**

## **SMITH AND HARRIS RESIDENCE HALLS REFRESH**

Polly Patton, Senior Interior Designer, was featured in a blog on Interface.com for her work on the refresh of these two residence halls. "We knew that it was time for a change in these spaces, and the student body confirmed that something needed to be done," says Patton. Read the full story [here](#).





# Praise and Appreciation (Cont.)

I want to acknowledge and give special thanks for the cooperation of **Renee Lee-Starks**, EH&S Fire Safety Specialist in working with Design & Construction to make final inspections for the occupancy of Auditorium 100 at the College of Business for the start of fall semester. The project was plagued with last minute shipping delays for seating that necessitated an alternate plan which required a temporary CO and multiple visits by Renee to verify the space was complete and ready for students to occupy. Renee went above the call of duty to make the necessary inspections outside of her normal work hours in order to allow students to utilize the renovated auditorium. Renee did not hesitate to step up to help the situation and we can't thank her enough for that partnership extended from the GTFISO! Wonderful example of Georgia Tech personnel putting our students first! - Jennifer Disotell, Design & Construction, Special Projects Manager

The auditorium looks great now with all of the seating! Thanks **Renee** for working hard to help out the students for the start of classes. - Polly Patton, RID, LEED AP, AUID, Senior Interior Designer

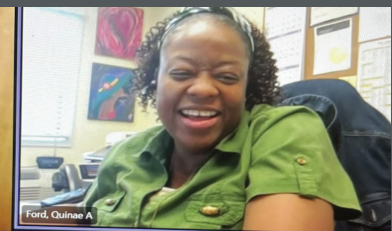
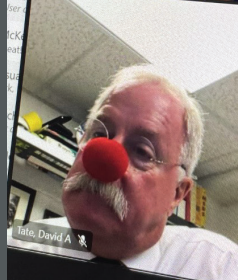
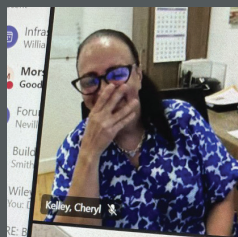
**Renee**, thank you so much for going the extra mile to have the classroom ready for our students! I really appreciate your commitment and your flexibility in working with D&C. - Nazia Zakir, Interim Vice President, Infrastructure and Sustainability

Thank you so much **April Kelley**, Environmental Programs Manager, EH&S. Your timely response and execution helped us immensely and allowed us to host our event in its scheduled location. We appreciate you and your team very much. - Dominique Ennis Sierra, Director of General Operations, Professional Education and Patrice G. Miles, Assistant Dean, Business Operations, Professional Education

**Cheryl Kelley**, Asst. to I&S VP/HR Rep, a very big THANK YOU for highlighting all the ways I&S supports campus! Small things like this can leave a very big impression! (Regarding Week of Welcome event for students) - Nazia Zakir, Interim Vice President, I&S

**Bill Oswell**, Associate Director, Design Services, **Marlon Ellis**, Area 6 Manager, **Emma Brodzik**, Recycling Coordinator, **Neil Fuller**, Operations Manager/Landscape Services, **Osasere Idahosa**, General Safety Manager, EH&S, **Judy Rivers**, Administrative Professional Sr., and **Jermaine Clonts**, Utilities Project Manager - colleague to colleague, you are appreciated! I'd like to say a big Thank You for participating in our first ever Student Welcome Week Workshop. Even with a rainy day, we still had students show up to hear about how we "Manage the City of GA Tech." Your willingness to represent your department in a very professional and informative manner was much appreciated by me and the first year Georgia Tech students that attended. This was a rare opportunity for us to talk with incoming students and give them an insiders perspective on what it takes to manage a campus of this size. Thanks! - Cheryl Kelley, Assistant to

## ► FACILITIES IN ACTION



Photos from left to right: Sonia Depina, Admin. Prof. II; Sully Settlemires, Steam Equip. Mech. II; Dwight Chambers, Painter I, Area 3; Kyara Thompson, Admin. Prof. III; Cheryl Kelley, Asst. to the VP, I&S/HR Rep.; David Tate, Temp. Lead Area Maint.; Dexter Harper, A/C Mech. II and Trellis Smith, Custodian I; Ben Mason, Interim Assoc. Dir. U&E, Anne Rogers, Assoc. Dir. Campus Sustainability, Steve Grimm, Radiation Safety Officer, EH&S; Jeff Wiley, IT Supp. Prof. I, Quinae Ford, Admin. Mgr. I, Sam Evans, Interim Assoc. Dir. Fleet/Landscape Services.



## ► HR CORNER

As a cancer survivor, I recognize and applaud the efforts of the medical and corporate communities that treat and support the fight against cancer.



According to the Comprehensive Center for Women's Medicine, Breast Cancer Awareness Month began in 1985 thanks to The American Academy of Family Physicians, the AstraZeneca Healthcare Foundation, Cancer Care Inc., and a few other sponsors. Breast cancer remains a puzzle to be solved. Although many advances in treatment have been made, the battle to defeat this health menace wages on. For early

detection - learn the risk factors, learn the signs, and get the recommended screenings.



If you would like to participate in the fight against Breast Cancer, consider the following: Donate to reputable organizations such as the American Breast Cancer Foundation or join the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer annual walk on Oct. 23 beginning at Atlantic Station.

According the American Liver Foundation, Liver Cancer Awareness Month educates the public to the risk factors for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, or cirrhosis of the liver. As with breast cancer, this disease affects both men and women. Risk factors include a history of hepatitis, diabetes, excessive alcohol intake, smoking, and obesity. If you would like to participate in the fight against Liver Cancer, consider joining the "Making Strides in

Atlanta Presented by the Independent Insurance Agents For A Cure" event on October 23, 2021.

## Workplace Learning & Professional Development



Georgia Tech  
Professional Education

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- Custom learning experiences for empowered performance

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# People of I&S: Living Our Values



Welcome to the third installment of "People of I&S: Living Our Values" This section aims to recognize I&S employees who embody the values we uphold at Georgia Tech. These employees strive to live these values both in their work on campus as well as their lives beyond the Institute.

Both Maria Del Mar Ceballos and Amber Chellis-Omedo are team members of Design & Construction. Maria is the Building Information Modeling Manager/Virtual Design & Construction and Amber is a Registered Architect II. They each have daughters involved in the Girl Scouts. Maria is currently one of four leaders of Troop 21340, hosted by Haygood Memorial United Methodist Church with members ranging in age from five to ten. The girls, over the years, have participated in two visits to the Georgia Tech campus. Maria worked with the Educational Outreach Managers from the College of Engineering and CEISMC to arrange the tours. The first was a demonstration from the Robot Autonomy and Interactive Learning Lab (RAIL). The demonstration was performed by robotics researchers. The girls were

informed about how the robot design process works and the kinds of challenges that arise when trying to program a robot to do new things. The girls interacted with several different robotic prototypes even giving commands for the robot to dance. Follow up learning included designing a robot of their own.

A more recent visit to campus brought the girls to the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design. The girls learned of the Seven Petals, or performance requirements, that allow for the building to be certified as a Living

Building. Maria focused on the symbolism of the flower petals and charged the group to share the information they learned about the Kendeda Building with others, similar to how a bee spreads nectar. Of course, the girls were fascinated by the composting toilets and the bubbly foam, Maria shares that "the excursion to the campus was like the girls were let in on a secret place where cool college kids live and study." The troop hopes to visit the EcoCommons next.

Maria participated in the girl scouts from age 6 through 18 eventually achieving the Gold Award, which is the equivalent of the Boy Scouts' Eagle Scout Project. Her focus was to "leave a place better than you found it". And she applies this thinking to people as well.

Through this leadership of young girls, both Maria and Amber amplify the impact of Georgia Tech. Through their work on campus, they are privilege to the vast array of innovation happening daily. By sharing this innovation with young scouts, they promote the offerings that Georgia Tech has in the areas of robotics and sustainable building practices. Amber states that "they hope to inspire the girls and make them aware that they too can create and innovate."

