An Interview with Monica Phillips

1. What is your current position with GSU? What other positions have you held? I am currently the Business Manager. My career has been with different branches of Facilities: Maintenance, Renovations, Planning and now Administration.

2. What do you do on a typical day? My primary role is to provide financial management and oversight for construction projects managed by Facilities Renovations and Facilities Design and Construction Services. I also interface with other Business and Purchasing units on and off campus, acting as a liaison for the division.

3. How long have you worked here? 20+ years. I graduated from GSU and never left. (smile)

4. What is your favorite thing about working at GSU? I love the cultural diversity and exposure to various activities. My work environment is more enjoyable because of the great group of ladies I work with. I really appreciate them and the support they provide.

5. What do you like to do on week-ends? Rest and spend time with family. I especially enjoy Sabbaths...Friday is the only day of the week I refuse to work late. (smile) I need that time to wind down.

6. What is your favorite food? I love, love Italian food.

7. What is your dream vacation? Honestly, I don’t have a dream vacation spot. As long as I’m with those I love and I’m able to enjoy the lushness of God’s green earth, I’m good to go!

Message from the editor:

I would like to thank all of the people who have written articles for the newsletter in the last 1 1/2 years since it has been revived. We do so much here and this is our chance to let others know about it. Please consider this an invitation for anyone to write an article and let us know about the work you do to make Georgia State University a safer, cleaner and more interesting place to work and learn. Drop me an email any time with your ideas, articles and compliments to your team members.

-Karen Stark
The Facilitator

LEED—The Green Building Certification by Keith Martin

LEED, which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally recognized green building certification program that is well known among people who work in the field of facilities design and construction. Outside of the design and construction industry, the term may not be as well known, but its importance is far reaching and positively impacts the world we live in. LEED has four certification levels: Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum and five different rating systems. The rating system covers most construction types such as Building Design and Construction and Building Operations and Maintenance, which are the two most applicable to Georgia State University’s facilities. The rating system also includes Interior Design and Construction, Neighborhood Development and Homes.

The LEED rating system serves as a voluntary supplement to building codes. LEED requires the use of green building practices such as the selection of an appropriate building site, the use of environmentally friendly building materials, and minimizing construction waste. The biggest focus of the LEED rating system is on the building’s long-term impact on the environment, including energy efficiency and monitoring, water use reduction, and the use and production of renewable energy. LEED also takes into consideration the quality of the building’s indoor environment with credits for indoor air quality, natural lighting and even quality outdoor views. Getting the different credits requires intensive planning at the beginning of the project to determine which credits the project will try to attain. Continued record keeping and data collection throughout the construction process also ensures that the intent of the different credits is being met. If the system is followed properly, the resulting LEED certified building will be a facility that minimizes its impact on the environment and improves the quality of life for its occupants.

Georgia State University recently completed the renovation of the new Indian Creek Lodge and Recreation Area, which has the distinction of being the first LEED Certified building on campus. We are currently working on two more LEED certified buildings, the new Law School, which is currently being constructed and the Science Park Phase 2, which is currently in design. In the future, when you see the word LEED emblazoned on a plaque at the entrance of a building here on campus or elsewhere in your travels, know that a lot of planning and effort went into earning that plaque and that the building stands above the rest as a leader in the push for a more sustainable future for us all.

New employees, April - July, 2014

Building Services: Kendall Bates, Kendrell Cook, Rickey Evans, Latonya Ferdinand, Michael Garrett

Maintenance & Operations: John Cook, Joshua Dudley, Gregory Unger, Eric Wynter

Renovations: Russell Hearn, Pernell Henry, Chandra Holloman

Design & Construction: Gowri Pillai, Lisa Santschi

Welcome!
Renovations Update by David Blunschi

Once again, the Renovations Unit made it through the FY 14 year end process and as usual it was another hectic year end. Sure seems these year ends are just getting crazier and crazier! Now that we’ve crossed the year end finish line, we can look back on some of the past year’s accomplishments.

In FY 14, the Renovations Unit estimated 317 FMR’s (Facility Modification Requests) for the year and of those estimated: 243 were approved, which gave us an approval rating of 76.6%. This is a modest increase of 1.2% more than FY 13.

Several of the approved projects were capital projects and the renovation of the 4th floor of 100 Auburn was one of the larger capital projects. We renovated the entire floor for Public Relations and Marketing Communications. This job began in early March with just about all hands on deck and was completed on schedule. The project consisted of demo walls & rebuilding, replacing the ceiling tile, installing new doors and hardware, carpet installation, painting, renovating the restrooms with new fixtures, partitions and floor tile, new lighting, mechanical and electrical panels.

We would like to thank the lead people on this project: Russell Wham, Thomas Joseph, Seabron Dock, Steve Dunn, Mark Harper and the rest of the crew for a job well done! We would also like to thank everyone in Renovations, Building Services, Maintenance, Police Operations and DCS. We look forward to the challenges ahead of us for FY 15.

Below are a few pictures of the completed Centennial Hall project:

Coming soon.....
Arial Work Platform Safety and Use—late September/ early October
Asbestos Awareness—late August/ early September
Coaching the Van Driver—September & October
Defensive Driving—September & October
Forklift Safety and Testing—October

Email Kevin at kchappell@gsu.edu for details

Mark Your Calendars!
GSU Fire Safety Carnival
Thursday, September 25
Hurt Park

SAVE THE DATE:
2014 REWARDS & RECOGNITION
October 23, 2 to 4 p.m. (1st shift)
6 to 8 p.m. (2nd shift)
GSU Goes GreenER – Revving up Waste Reduction by Laurene Hamilton and Jennifer Asman

“Sustainability is a key issue in the modern world. It is important that each of us as individuals and the Georgia State University community collectively, take actions to ensure the future of our environment for generations to come.” Provost Risa Palm.

Most organizations view recycling as a practice that is sound policy, economically beneficial, easy to do, and a significant way to help the environment. But to Georgia State University, recycling demonstrates our commitment to sustainable practices aligned with the University’s goals to prepare and develop ethical, environmentally responsible leaders who affect positive social change in a pluralistic world.

This summer, GSU will be receiving new recycling bins designed specifically to foster more awareness about campus recycling efforts. Ninety bins are being awarded as part of a national recycling bin grant made possible by Keep America Beautiful and The Coca-Cola Foundation. It is our hope that the bins will be utilized specifically to expand recycling collection in residence halls and campus housing. This will assist greatly in the attainment of waste diversion benchmarks and recycling goals. With increased enthusiasm and support from students, faculty, staff and administration at GSU, utilization of the Coca-Cola Bin Grant - XL Waste Watcher Bins will be yet another University sustainability initiative towards meeting our recycling goals.

The option for signage and pictures depicting acceptable recyclables on the bins will take the “guesswork” out of recycling; thereby, making recycling paper, plastic and aluminum the clear and obvious choice. Every day the small but hardworking Recycling Services staff collects and empties recycling bins from the 70+ buildings around campus. In the 2013-2014 academic year, GSU recycled 262.35 tons of recyclables. The newly formed Office of Sustainability would like to see the University reach 20% waste diversion by 2017, including traditional recycling collection, recycling electronics, surplus inventory reuse, construction and demolition materials and implementing on campus composting efforts. To reach this goal, it is imperative that every student and employee REDUCE, REUSE, and RECYCLE. For more information about GSU recycling, volunteering, and the waste diversion incentives currently being offered, please visit sustainability.gsu.edu or email sustainability@gsu.edu.

Kudos to our staff:

From: Stephen Rosner, Business Services Officer, College of Education

I wanted to take a moment to share a story about a Custodial Staff Member assigned to the College of Education. A professor left his bag in the College of Education Building, in room 1030, our big conference room. I asked Sunday Shoaga to keep an eye out for the missing bag, and to let me know if he comes across the bag as he services the building. To be honest, since a week had passed since the last sighting of the bag, and I didn’t think it would show up again. To my surprise, Sunday found the bag on Friday, 5/9/14, reported where it was, and we were able to return it to a very relieved and happy owner. I just wanted to take a moment to let you know how much I appreciate working with such a fine group of people here at GSU, and Sunday is another shining example of the good people here on campus.

From: Walter Koch, College of Arts & Sciences

Just wanted to take a minute to thank Randy Rimes for the great job on the lab renovation in NSC 360. Dr. Pierce and his staff are delighted with the space.

From: Clyde John, Enrollment Services, Sparks Hall

I am writing you to advise you of the excellent, above-and beyond quality of work that Carlas Clark has been doing. On a daily basis, Carlas is not only polite and friendly, but extremely dedicated and diligent in her work - I rarely encounter staff of any institution, on any level, with the dedication, professionalism and work ethic exhibited by Carlas. Georgia State University is lucky to have such a person on the payroll, and I hope that her superiors are aware of what an exemplary worker she is, every single day. There is not a day that goes by that she does not bring a positive attitude that brightens my day, and I know that I am not the only one. The caliber of her work is unparalleled.