Goodbye to 2020 and Welcome to 2021

2020 has been an unprecedented year in many ways. It shook up almost every aspect of our lives, how we work, greet, socialize, grieve, and celebrate.

Employees of the Quarter Awards!

Employees of the Quarter award to recognize staff who provide exceptional service by going above and beyond their normal job responsibilities.

Message from Vice President
Ramesh Vakamudi

Celebrating "232 years of Dedicated Service"

Elgie Ogburn
Evelyn Wilcher
Garvin Boyce
James Roman
Jennifer Jones
Keith Harris
LaTonya Harris
Terry Chew

Movers & Shakers!
Administrative Services
Building Services
Design & Construction
Facilities Planning
Maintenance & Operations
Renovations

(Finish Reading on Pg. 7 - 9)
2020 Employees of the Quarter!

John F. Cook

He does overtime on all holidays whenever someone on the 2nd or 3rd shift needs to take off or call out sick. He covers their shift at a moment’s notice! He works so much every Zone Chief knows him and knows he is willing to help at a moment's notice! ★Anonymous★

Deborah Loflin

Alvin Clark - FIS (Techno Titans) function as a TEAM. Each team member is obligated to provide excellent customer service to each person we serve. This is FIS Captain’s gold rule! I’ll like to leave this quote for Debbie Loflin: “Going far beyond the call of duty, doing more than others expect is what excellence is all about. It comes from striving, maintaining the highest standards, looking after the smallest detail, and going the extra mile. Excellence means doing your very best. In everything, in every way.”

Debbie Loflin, Facilities PC Specialist, continues to provide outstanding customer service and availability even during the COVID-19 Pandemic! Debbie does not hesitate to come to the aid of All Facilities employees regardless of their location. She continues to perform extensive site visits to all campuses including Dunwoody, Clarkston, Decatur, LRC, Alpharetta, Downtown Campus, and the Stadium to single-handedly deliver support and PC repair and to ensure the continued productivity of all Facilities employees. Recently, Debbie has taken on support tasks after hours to update staff workstations with necessary security and software updates. This is done to not interrupt user productivity during business hours.

Debbie always arrives with her gloves, mask and a positive attitude, even with the uncertainty that these present times present. Therefore, I am nominating Debbie Loflin of Facilities Information Systems for employee of the Quarter. ★Anonymous★
Goodbye to 2020 and Welcome to 2021!

2020 has been an unprecedented year in many ways. It shook up almost every aspect of our lives, how we work, greet, socialize, grieve, and celebrate. No hugs, no holiday lunches or retirement parties. It threw a lot at us, but made us resilient, stronger, and smarter. Thanks to the dedicated team of Facilities Management, we were able to respond effectively to an ever-changing environment and provided required support to all academic, research and athletic activities on campus. Looking forward to a more normal, safe, fun, and vibrant 2021.

Stay diligent and be safe!

Monday, January 18
MARTÍN LUTHER KING JR. DAY, 2021
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Years of Service</th>
<th>Retirement Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elgie Ogburn</td>
<td>Superintendent</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>Dec. 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Evelyn Wilcher</td>
<td>Project Superintendent Sr.</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Dec. 2020</td>
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**Elgie Ogburn**
Superintendent
Building Services
48 Years of Service
Retired in Dec. 2020

Feb. – 1972 Joined as a Custodial I
July – 1985 Promoted as a Custodial II
July – 1985 Promoted to Custodial Supervisor
July – 2005 Promoted to Custodial Superintendent
April – 2008 Promoted to Superintendent of Building Services

**Thoughts from Kevin Chappell:**
When I started working at Georgia State over twenty years ago, Elgie Ogburn was one of the first people I met. I instantly liked Elgie, AKA “Red,” as he was very welcoming, friendly, and engaging. Over the years, I’ve learned that Elgie is a very kind, honest, and super helpful person. He’s always willing to help when and where needed, and if he tells you he’ll do something, you know it’s going to be done. He never has a bad thing to say about anyone (well, seldom), and if I’ve ever seen him angry, I can’t recall the occasion. He’s always suitable for a positive encounter and lots of laughs, and I will genuinely miss working with him and seeing him in the office. He takes with him a wealth of knowledge and experience. No one can (nor should they try) to replace what Elgie is to us. Georgia State and Facilities have been blessed over the past half-century to have Elgie here, and our loss is tremendous. Thank you, Elgie, for just being you, the kind soul you are. I wish you nothing but the best – and lots of rest. You deserve it.
– Kevin “Captain K” Chappell

**Evelyn Wilcher**
Project Superintendent Sr.
30 Years of Service
Retired in Dec. 2020

June – 1990 Joined Kennesaw State
2005 Promoted to Project Superintendent Renovations
May – 2008 Promoted to Senior Project Superintendent Renovations

**Thoughts from Luvert Holt:**
It is a great pleasure and an honor to write about Mrs. Evelyn Wilcher. Mrs. Wilcher started her career at Kennesaw State in 1990. She came to Georgia State University in 1993 as an Architectural Designer with the Facilities Design and Construction department. In 1997, she became the Facilities Work Center Supervisor. In 2005 Mrs. Wilcher became the Project Superintendent for Facilities Renovation Services. In 2008 Mrs. Wilcher was promoted to Sr. Project Superintendent and served in that role until her retirement in 2020. Her leadership, work excellence, dedication, and customer service positively impacted the outside community, the University, the Facilities Division, and the Renovation department. She was a dedicated team player who earned respect from her customers, peers, and supervisors, doing whatever it takes to perform her duties with a high degree of professionalism. She has always maintained the highest standards of customer service. Georgia State University will be losing a wealth of GSU knowledge, as well as a person who has shown her loyalty and dedication for 30 years. I know she will do great with what is in store for her. Enjoy your retirement and live to the fullest. Again, thank you, Luvert Holt.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Years of Service</th>
<th>Retired</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Feb. – 1993 Joined as a Trades Helper Dekalb Community College</td>
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<td>2016 – Promoted to Equipment Mechanic</td>
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<td><strong>Thoughts from Jeff Day:</strong></td>
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<td>With much sadness that Friday, December the 18th of 2020, will be</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>the last day that we, the employees of Georgia State University at</td>
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<td>the Perimeter Campuses, get the pleasure of working with Garvin A.</td>
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<td>Boyce. Garvin started his career here 29 years ago. At the time, this</td>
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<td>was known as DeKalb Technical College; then it became Georgia</td>
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<td>Perimeter College. It is now known as Georgia State University.</td>
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<td>Garvin oversaw the automotive shop located on the Clarkston</td>
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<td>campus. If a vehicle, tractor, golf cart, or anything with wheels</td>
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<td>needed maintenance or repair, he was our go-to-guy. Garvin’s</td>
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<td>friendship, work ethic, and positive attitude were an asset to the</td>
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<td>University. As stated above, I write this with sadness. He will be</td>
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<td>missed. But it is with much more joy than we celebrate that he is now</td>
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<td>starting the next chapter of his life. Safe travels, Garvin.</td>
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| James Roman     | Mechanical Equipment Inspector  | 18               | Dec. 2020| Retired in Dec. 2020
|                 |                                 |                  |         | Sept. – 2002 Joined Mechanical Equipment Inspector                    |
|                 | **Thoughts from Kipp Yates:**   |                  |         | James Roman has been a great employee for Maintenance Zone Four      |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | and the GSU Atlanta campus. His knowledge and skill kept the campus   |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | going during the evening hours as he worked the second shift. With    |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | James leaving, we are losing an exceptional employee and many        |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | years of experience. James will be missed by many as he has dealt    |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | with more departments than just Facilities. We wish him nothing but   |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | the best in his next phase of life.                                  |
| Jennifer Jones  | Custodian II Building Services  | 23               | Dec. 2020| Retired in Dec. 2020
|                 |                                 |                  |         | Sept. – 1997 Panther Temp                                              |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | Jan. – 2000 Promoted to Custodial I                                   |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | July – 2001 Promoted to Custodial II                                  |
|                 | **Thoughts for Jennifer Jones:**|                  |         | Wishing you much joy and happiness as you begin a new chapter in     |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | your life.                                                             |
| Keith Harris    | Skills Trade Worker             | 30               | Dec. 2020| Retired in Dec. 2020
|                 |                                 |                  |         | Jan. – 1990 Joined as a Trades Helper Dekalb Community College        |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | 2016 Promoted to Skills Trade Worker                                  |
|                 | **Thoughts from Jeff Day:**     |                  |         | Keith is a long-time employee that started with us when we were still |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | at Dekalb Community College; he has been a dedicated, hardworking    |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | employee in the facilities department as a skilled tradesman. He     |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | loves horses and horseback riding, staying busy, and the outdoors.   |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | His last day will be December 31, 2020, and he will be greatly        |
|                 |                                 |                  |         | missed. We wish Keith the best in his future endeavors.              |

Congratulations on your Retirement!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Years of Service</th>
<th>Retirement Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LaTonya Harris</td>
<td>Custodian I</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Dec. 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Chew</td>
<td>Mechanical Equipment Inspector</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Dec. 2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thoughts for LaTonya Harris:**
Wishing you a new journey of success and happiness in the new page of your life. May you be showered with abundant opportunities to do what your heart desires.

**Thoughts from Kipp Yates:**
Terry Chew has been a great employee for the GSU Atlanta campus. He did more than just the duties of a Mechanical Equipment Inspector - he handled any problem that arose overnight on the third shift. The experience he has will be one of the hardest to replace. He has always been dedicated to his position and an exceptional employee. Terry will be missed by many, and we all wish him the best.

After working so hard all these years, you deserve a good long rest. Welcome to retired life.

*Congratulations on your Retirement!*
**Design and Construction**

GSU’s planned Convocation Center will be nestled between Pollard Boulevard, Capitol Avenue, and Fulton Street. The building’s façade will be comprised of brick masonry, stone, metal and glass to create an energy-efficient and aesthetically appealing exterior that masterfully utilizes the site’s existing topography. This multi-level, 132,000 sf state-of-the-art facility has been designed to serve both the University’s and the surrounding community’s event space needs. Serving as a future host for both national and international events, the GSU Convocation Center will not only provide increased focus to the University’s programs but will also offer opportunities to substantially impact the economy and development of the surrounding community. The GSU Convocation Center will house a large, multi-purpose arena with a seating capacity of 8,000, and will host athletic events, eSports, convocations, commencements, conferences, concerts and other major events on a scale reflective of the University’s national and international stature in learning and research. The building will also feature divisible meeting and conference spaces with state-of-the-art technology, lighting, acoustics and building control systems.

The DCS Project Manager is Durham Crout and he is managing both the design and the construction of the facility. Construction of the GSU Convocation Center has begun and is scheduled to be complete by August 2022.”

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**Planning**

Planning staff, Russ and Mary, wish to take this opportunity to wish all a very peaceful and safe Winter Break. Be safe, stay well; take care of yourself! See you in the New and Better Year!

Planning focus will be on documenting university space use amid a pandemic and online instruction. An adjusted view on space use will be necessary to support both in-class and online teaching. Affected will be the number, size, and types of space needed to support the university academic, research, service, and support programs. The hybrid instruction model suggests the need for less classroom space, a new model for scheduling classes, and maybe some very different types of academic support spaces (such as recording and broadcast-type studios). Understanding new and different space needs are essential to anticipate and plan for appropriate development in new buildings/space and repurposing space to meet our changing needs.

Woodruff Park has begun implementing an effective renewal plan on an unrelated subject and included, as suggested in previous GSU master plans, a cross-Park pathway between the new Greenway and Aderhold. This new path will allow a student to flow across the Park in a more direct line between these two destinations. This photograph indicates the proposed pathway.
Renovations

In the Renovations Dept. we had several projects that were top priority because of COVID 19. They were upgrades to the Health Clinic, building custom plexiglass barriers and servicing cameras on all GSU campuses.

The Health Clinic renovation included relocating check-in and check-out service windows (Atlanta campus) and installing temporary tents (Atlanta, Clarkston, and Dunwoody campuses) as the entry points to serve the clients in a safe environment.

The plexiglass barriers were installed all over various campuses where each one was custom made in our cabinet shop. This was a learning process for our cabinet makers and carpenters since plexiglass was a new material for them to use. There were some trials and errors in the beginning, but they became skillful within time. They have designed, constructed, delivered and installed over 90 plexiglass barriers. On Aug. 25, two of our team members picture was featured in the Atlanta Journal & Constitution where they were installing the plexiglass barrier in the Student Center.

The camera project is an ongoing project that we work in conjunction with the GSU Police and GSU IIT departments. We are responsible for maintaining existing cameras and installing new cameras, if necessary. There are roughly 2300 cameras installed throughout the campuses that are monitored by GSU Police dept.

We are doing our part to help keep the university safe during this pandemic!

Maintenance & Operations

GSU Maintenance & Operations has been preserving the campus during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the pandemic, our maintenance staff has been on-campus, responding to issues in buildings, inspecting the facilities, and keeping our built environment in working order. David Falvo proactively identified a roof leak at Sparks Hall, followed-up on its status daily, and aided our DCS team in resolving the issue. Brian Taylor, Kenny Ware, Kenny Hale, Cynthia Gay, Tavarius Rollins, James Cook, and Jason Cochran responded to several water leaks at the Clarkston CD Building. The Aderhold Learning Center, Rialto Theater, and College of Law would have caused more severe damage to the facilities if left unchecked.

Additionally, our maintenance teams have also been working on projects to improve the campus. Greg Unger and Kingsley Chime aided in removing and coordinating new LED light installations at G Deck. Nathan Jordan, Brian Taylor, and Mike Damota have been coordinating HVAC control upgrades at the Natural Science Center and Petit Science Center. These are just a few examples of the hard work our maintenance staff has performed during the pandemic to not only keep our facilities in excellent condition but ensure that the campus is comfortable, efficient, and functional when university operations return to normal. Paul Skelton
Building Services
The Building Services Staff must wear face masks and gloves while working and maintain 6’ social distancing where possible. Based on current staffing and resource levels, the custodial staff has implemented a cleaning and sanitizing schedule to maintain a healthy and safe work environment through June 2021. Which includes main entrances, offices, classrooms, teaching labs, meeting rooms, conference rooms, break and copy rooms, buildings and parking deck elevators, and restrooms. We have a well-trained team that has responded to over 20 contamination cleaning calls from October to the present.

We will continue to follow the required COVID-19 CDC and USG Board of Regents guidelines and cleaning protocols implemented during the summer.

The Grounds Maintenance staff’s objective has been to continue to keep our campus grounds well maintained during these trying times. The team has completed the fall planting on all campuses, removing all fallen leaves, pruning trees and shrubs. The grounds and campus services also helped with having another successful graduation by performing the floral set up and break downs.

The Parking decks, the Lots maintenance staff has played a role in COVID-19 preventions by tasks several times a day in the elevator, lobbies, and stairwells.

The Setup and the Moving crew have been assisting the parking deck maintenance staff with cleaning and clearing dock areas of trash, as well as their setups and moves.

I would like to thank the staff for their steadfast commitment to keeping our campuses appearance looking good, working diligently as well as providing a clean and safe environment for all GSU community.

Their motto is: “Effective Teamwork Makes a Dream Work”

Administrative Services
Title IX Training Ongoing:
Mandatory, online Title IX training is still in progress. Everyone has received email regarding the training and should follow the link in the email to the EverFi system that is hosting the program. The training consists of three parts – a pre-course survey, the course, and a post-course survey. Please note – after you complete the course portion, you will receive a certificate, BUT you have not completed the training. You will receive a post-course survey that you must complete to fulfill the training requirements. Many of us did the first two components but have not completed the second survey and are thus not finished.

Please login to EverFi (using the email link you received) and verify you have no incomplete components remaining. If you need assistance, please contact Kevin Chappell via email or phone – kchappell@gsu.edu, 404-780-9280. The deadline to complete the training is February 28, but please do not wait until the last minute. In the event you encounter problems, we will have time to act and you can finish before the deadline!
UPCOMING EVENTS / TRAINING
Deborah Dunbar
Microsoft Certified Instructor

Having a trained workforce means your employees are learning new skills. That will improve production, cut time spent creating your service, reduce production costs, reduce mistakes, build confidence in your workforce, and create a better working environment.

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Editor: Anna E. Albert
Creative Design: Information Technology: Deborah Dunbar
Committee: Administrative: Kevin Chappell ★ Design & Construction: Nikki Porter ★ Fire Safety: Jennifer McWhorter
Maintenance & Operations: Paul Skelton ★ Planning: Mary Flemister ★ Renovations: Evelyn Wilcher

Safety Tips
(Fire and Safety)

Have you checked your Smoke Detector late?

Every household should have installed a working Smoke Detector on every level of the home. Smoke Detectors saves lives! Smoke Detector should be check out for operation monthly.

1. Check with smoke
2. Press the test button

There are two principle types of Smoke Detectors:

Photoelectric
Electrical / Hard-wired

Ionization
Battery operated