

Campus trees live on in new buildings



Before being refined and fitted as finished boards inside Central Dining Hall, the trees were milled by Steve White Sawmill and Lumber in Buena Vista, GA. Turning cut trees into lumber requires proper milling and drying before use. The trees yielded more than 22,000 board feet of lumber between 8 and 18 feet in length. Leftover boards already have been named for other projects or claimed by other departments for their own use as part of a campus TreeCycle program.

As entrepreneur Seth Godin said, “The art of moving forward lies in understanding what to leave behind.”

Education is rooted in moving forward. From curriculum changes to enhancements in educational practices to new technology replacing older standbys, change in both learning and teaching is constant and measured.

With the coming completion of the Central Dining Hall and the Academic Classroom and Laboratory Complex, Auburn University will receive a serious upgrade in the way we can provide critical services to students and staff. There is always a cost, however.

Before the demolition of Allison Laboratory and the infrastructure

work necessary to complement the two new structures, numerous trees, including some campus Heritage Trees, were removed from the lawn area south of Allison Laboratory and Parker Hall.

“We realized early on that the ACLC and Central Dining buildings were going to require the removal of some large specimen pine trees,” Campus Architect Brad Prater said. “After discussing with the Tree Preservation Committee, we decided that we needed to do something to recognize the impact these projects would have on the campus tree inventory.”

To memorialize the trees, the cut wood was recycled into more than 22,000 board feet of lumber to be utilized around the columns near the front doors on the first and second

floors of Central Dining. They will also be used as wall and ceiling material inside ACLC in the student study areas, faculty offices, and lecture halls, as well as projects and productions within the industrial design and theatre departments.

“The decision to remove the Heritage Trees was not easy for anyone,” University Arborist Alex Hedgepath said. “However, I am thankful that the project was willing and able to repurpose the wood right back in the same space where the trees were previously growing.”

Tree canopy mitigation funds were budgeted for the project to help balance the removal of so many trees from the campus canopy. Included in the project and accepted by the ***Story continues on page 4.***

Employee Communications *from the Office of Employee Engagement*

General Announcements:

Waste and Recycling Workers Week was June 14-18. The Waste Reduction and Recycling team plays a vital role in keeping the campus clean and green, and we thank all waste and recycling workers who work to keep neighborhoods and streets safe and clean, and for the hard work they do all year long. Consider ways to reduce, reuse and recycle things that would otherwise be thrown in the trash.

Congratulations:

Clayton Robinson – promoted from Electrician I to Electrician II.

Matthew Caypless – promoted from Tech I, HVACR to Tech II, HVACR.

Landscape Services employees for their promotions:

- Kevin Jones – Landscape Tech I
- Neil Lawson – Landscape Tech I
- Zack Wright – Landscape Tech I
- Todd Rogers – Landscape Supervisor

Joey Catrett for receiving the Maintenance Value Coin for Safety.

Employees who received a cash award for May 2021:

- Carolyn Brown
- Jaye Dennis

- Marietta Flakes
- Laurie Hanson
- Clay Howard
- David Howell
- Jessica Johnson
- Jeffrey Kemp
- Lucy Kriel
- Staci Taylor
- John Vollar
- Tyler Winchester
- Scooter Wood

New Employees/Welcome

Kyle Cordie | Assistant Supervisor, Maintenance Zone, Zone 4 | May 24

John Burke | Groundskeeper I, Landscape Services | May 24

Chris Sullivan | Groundskeeper II, Landscape Services | May 24

Facilities Training

Contact for training sessions:

Kathleen Jones | ktj0004@auburn.edu | 334-844-9411 | Building 1, Room 1173D

The training calendar can be found at <https://aub.ie/trainingcalendar>.

Employment Opportunities Maintenance

- Tech I/II, HVACR, second Shift, PM Shop (close date of June 23, 2021)

Campus Services

- Custodian II, Custodial Services (close date of June 24, 2021)

Planning, Design and Construction

- Campus Architect III/IV/V (no close date)
- Interior Designer I/II/III (close date of June 30, 2021)

Landscape Services

- Groundskeeper I/II (close date of June 25, 2021)

Facilities IT

- Specialist IV/V/VI, Info Tech (close date of June 22, 2021)

****The close date for a posted position occasionally is extended. Check the dates at auemployment.com.****

For more information about, or to apply for, the jobs listed above, visit the Auburn University online employment site at auemployment.com.

These announcements are gathered by the Facilities Management Office of Employee Engagement. Submit announcements via email to Cynthia Baccus at geercyn@auburn.edu.

Facilities Feature — Lucy Kriel, Automotive Mechanic I



Lucy Kriel

When stepping inside the automotive facilities building, a warm, bubbly and smiling presence will make you feel right at home.

Lucy Kriel is the only female automotive mechanic working for Facilities Management and she describes working with Facilities as wonderful, feeling right at home within the Auburn Family.

"I have a really good boss and co-workers that are very supportive," Kriel said. She began working at Facilities Management in September 2020.

Kriel's interest in becoming an auto mechanic was ignited after her father became sick. Her father was the family mechanic and when he fell ill, Kriel enrolled in automotive classes at Southern Union. Her passion

for problem-solving and fixing things aligned seamlessly with an automotive mechanic career.

"I love to fix things," Kriel said. "Not getting dirty is probably my least favorite part." Kriel explained she takes extra caution when lifting heavy objects to make sure she does not get injured. "I have to be a little more cautious than the other guys, but really that's the only difference," Kriel said.

Her unyielding passion for problem solving and her co-workers are factors that make Kriel happy to come to work every day. "When I come to work it's like coming to a second home or family," she said. "I've got my brothers [co-workers] and I've got my dad-figure, it's really nice and everyone around here is so sweet."

Kriel emphasized her gratitude for working at Facilities Management because of the supportive environment fostered by employees. "I've never been in a work environment that was so friendly and so supportive," she said.

To all little girls who are aspiring to be automotive mechanics, Kriel urges them to go after their dreams.

"Don't let being a girl or being girly stop you from feeling like you can't do things or fix things," Kriel said. "Women are incredibly intelligent creatures and great problem solvers; nothing is out of our reach."

Story and photo by: **Elling Falconer**

Devall retires after 10 years with Facilities



Former Facilities Interior Designer Margaret Devall retired in May after 10 years with Auburn University. She played critical roles in furnishing the inside of new buildings while also upgrading older buildings and rooms across campus to be more pleasant and functional. Devall started at Auburn in September 2010 after working at Innerspace Architectural Interiors of Birmingham. Good luck in your future endeavors, Margaret!

Tree Preservation Committee was the planting of more than 89 new trees on the project site along with installing rainwater harvesting systems for irrigation, the funding of specialized tree maintenance across campus and the installation of green infrastructure for other trees in the vicinity.

Part of the funding already has gone toward tree replacement at the Tiger Transit loop on Heisman Drive in the replacement of six Chinese elms with a Natchez crape myrtle, with the remainder of the elms to be replaced, due to limited soil space and poor health, by eight Laurel oaks with Silva Cell deep root structures.

“In addition to the common practices of diverting construction waste from landfills, utilizing low-VOC materials throughout the buildings, and designing the buildings to maximize the energy use savings, we are also implementing some more unique features,” Prater said, “like a

25,000-gallon cistern underneath the Central Dining lower courtyard that will harvest rainwater and supplement the irrigation needs for the landscape around the ACLC and Central Dining.”

Both buildings are expected to receive a silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification, which requires significant extra planning and careful use of materials during construction to make a more environmentally friendly structure. A LEED certification is received by utilizing a combination of ecologically sound practices like conserving water and electricity, general building ventilation and efficiency, and choosing sustainable sites.

Along with that, finding new and innovative ways to use trees removed from campus will continue to play an important role going forward.

The ACLC and Central Dining buildings will transform campus in new and exciting ways as obvious benefits to campus as a whole. Some sacrifices needed to be made, but the part of the campus’ past should live well into the future through their designs.

“No one wants to see trees removed, especially those of sentimental value,” Hedgepath said, “but when we can find a way to display their unique structural design and aesthetic interest, I think it promotes good stewardship and makes folks aware of tree care in general.

“That’s a win every day in my book.”

Story by: Trey Wood

What’s New, AU?



WHAT'S NEW, AU?

Interior Designer Whitney Brock provides insight into the design of Central Dining Hall's interior. In the episode, two design features are highlighted including the recycled pine wood and the uniquely and cohesively designed food stations. The video will be posted on the media monitors and on social media.

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