

THOLOS

VOLUME 21

FEATURE

Employees Lead
U.S. Botanic Garden
Horticultural Renovations

AGENCY INITIATIVES

Creating Our Legacy

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

The Path to Becoming
an Architect



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PROJECT UPDATES

COVERING THE HOME TEAM

WRITTEN BY JUSTIN KIEFFER

Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuhler



Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuhler

Writers often have trouble figuring out how to start a story. They think about how to grab attention before the reader checks how many pages the story is and decides, instead, to spend those minutes sorting through email or watching videos online.

Stories are often about the deeds done by others and sometimes those deeds are not that interesting — think about baseball sportswriters that must find something to interest readers about the home team, even at game 137 of the season when all the stars have been traded and the Single-A players called up can't get past first base. Finding a hook can be hard and writers rarely know how many people actually read the words they painstakingly put together to hit their word count minimum.

At the Architect of the Capitol (AOC), a writer has the opposite experience. The AOC's team is stacked with all stars that always make the playoffs. The amount of talent needed for all the projects around the Capitol campus is high, and fortunately the AOC boasts a deep bench of employees that can get you up on your feet while the starting lineup is announced.

For this article our leadoff hitter is Jennifer Rheaume, the Senior Project Manager responsible for the Russell Exterior Envelope Project. This project is in its third and final sequence, which has encompassed five phases of work. The scope includes restoration of more than 545 modillions, 973 balusters and 625 windows (some of which are more than 100 years old); mitigation of life-safety



Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuehler

▼
One of the 625 fully restored historic window sashes and frames for the Russell Exterior Envelope Project.

hazards; and improvements to the building's energy efficiency.

“Paramount challenges we overcame on this project were to understand the construction technology behind the historic windows, the limited technical know-how of today’s craftsman, and the associated restoration time line while balancing a fully functional and operational building and staff,” says Rheume. “Our focus has always been on how to reduce our impact on the important day-to-day activities at the Senate.”

The original concept was to build miniature partition walls in the offices to screen off the window restoration work, but the time line and spatial impact was less than desirable for stakeholders. The solution was to install temporary Plexiglas sashes while restoration of the historic sashes was performed off-site. This concept resulted in the significant mitigation of

construction impact on the suite occupants and the Senate community.

The actual window restoration was another challenge as many of them were no longer fully operational or had missing hardware and needed weather sealing. Many of the windows were missing glazing, had rotten wood sills and major deterioration of the frames and muntins (the supporting strips between adjacent panes of glass) from the weather and impacts of time.

Fortunately, COVID-19 impacts have been minimal to date due to the spacing of work shifts, adherence to social distancing and groups of workers “podded” when close contact work was unavoidable.

As the project nears completion it is safe to say the Russell Building squad propelled the AOC team to a game lead, but even when you’re ahead, you still need a full bullpen to win.

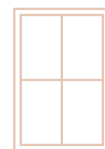
Russell Exterior Envelope Project



545
MODILLIONS



973
BALUSTERS



625
WINDOWS



Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuhler



▼
The ESPC included retrofitting 208 fixtures containing antiquated mercury vapor lamps with a custom LED kit that preserves the aesthetic of the original fixture while providing improved color rendering, color temperature and energy efficiency.

AOC employees lead the agency to a championship year after year.

Fortunately for the AOC, our relievers come in the form of employees in charge of our energy savings performance contracts (ESPC), which are responsible for saving energy across the Capitol campus.

ESPCs, which the AOC previously implemented for the House and Senate office buildings and the U.S. Capitol, are innovative financial mechanisms allowing government agencies to contract for energy efficiency and water improvements. The contractor is reimbursed based on measured and verified energy savings from the capital improvements and energy upgrades during the contracted performance period.

The AOC's latest ESPC was implemented for the Library of Congress (LOC), which is responsible for protecting and maintaining 168 million items, including more than 38 million books, 4 million audio recordings and other rare items and collections in its buildings. It is imperative that all the items' recommended environmental conditions are met. This ESPC will implement energy savings control strategies based on these requirements, to properly preserve every item.

The AOC and LOC are working on improving energy usage across the six LOC facilities (John Adams Building, Thomas Jefferson Building, James

Madison Memorial Building, St. Cecilia's, the Fort Meade Book Storage Modules and the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation). Most of the lighting work — a major element for all buildings — is almost complete, with only the Jefferson Building needing the lighting upgrades. Additional remaining work in the LOC buildings includes installation of new transformers and thermostats, upgrades to the building automation controls, as well as final commissioning.

After completion of the project, which is expected in the summer of 2022, the ESPC will provide significant energy savings (about 22.4 percent reduction) and water savings (about 25 percent reduction), increased equipment efficiency and reliability, and reduction in gas emissions.

That will be a lot “saves” for one team. But as most professionals say in post-game interviews — winning is a team effort.

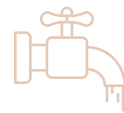
There are many more projects across the Capitol campus and the team members on those efforts work just as hard to deliver wins for the AOC. It is the teamwork of all the employees that get the hits, wins and saves that ultimately bring about a successful year. Even if the writer fails to entice people to read the story, the team still went out there and won.

Library Buildings & Grounds Energy Savings



22.4%

**ENERGY
REDUCTION**



25%

**WATER
SAVINGS**

DOING GOOD

SURVIVING
— TO —
THRIVING

WRITTEN BY ERIN COURTNEY
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SEAN GREENE



“I deliver a positive message of surviving loss to let others know that sharing provides comfort and, hopefully, breaks the stigma of mental health challenges.”

MILTON LEE DENNIS



Milton Lee Dennis smiles as he sits beside his father in what was the family's final photo together. Photo provided by Milton Lee Dennis

Losing one family member is tough. How does anyone deal with multiple losses? Architect of the Capitol employee, Milton Lee Dennis, has survived a lifetime of losses. Everyone experiences loss, but it usually follows a long life or extended illness. When individuals face untimely losses, assumptions about fairness, justice and control are called into question.

When he was a young child, Dennis' parents separated after years of alcohol abuse and violence in the household. Dennis' father, after struggling to care for five children alone, began asking extended family members to care for the siblings. Before Dennis could be placed with another family, he witnessed his father's suicide.

“What happened was never talked about, I never spent a moment in therapy or counseling, I was told that I acted like a normal child so I should be fine.”

In about 10 years' time, the cycle of violence repeated itself. Dennis' stepbrother, whom he loved deeply, died of suicide.

By 2002, Dennis felt that the dark cloud over his family had lifted. He had become a successful entrepreneur and had hired a nephew to work in the family business. The uncle and nephew were close and enjoyed working together. As the autumn leaves began to fall, a darkness again descended on the family. The beloved nephew died of suicide.

The loss of his nephew and recent death of his mother from alcoholism, resulted in Dennis and his older brother growing closer than they had ever been. “We talked many times about our hurt and pain, how we could not understand why there was so much loss in our family,” said Dennis.

That was what made July 20, 2014, so difficult to endure. “I was fishing and got a call to return to the dock. When I arrived, I could see everyone waiting for me. They looked upset,” said Dennis. “I asked what was going on, what happened? The response stunned me. My brother had died of suicide.”

Through loss after loss, Dennis had created a barrier that he believed protected him from pain and helped

him cope with tragedy. It was after the loss of his brother in 2014 that he found this wall was not the answer. Determined to face this loss differently, Dennis sought the aid of the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) to better manage his feelings and to support his personal and professional growth.

“For the first time in my life I said out loud, one by one, to each of my family members, I forgive you — I love you — I miss you. That made the difference in my life,” said Dennis.

Determined to help others who may be experiencing similar trauma, Dennis began working with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Preventing Unnecessary Loss through Suicide Education task force. He shares his story to let others know they are not alone, and to provide hope.

“I deliver a positive message of surviving loss to let others know that sharing provides comfort and, hopefully, breaks the stigma of mental health challenges,” said Dennis. “I also was afraid of what people would think if they knew the

stories of loss that I have experienced. As each loss occurred, I began to speak more and more, the feeling of relief to get that off my chest made the difference in my survival. I speak openly about all four family members who I lost to suicide. Talking about it with EAP and friends has been the best therapy I could have ever given myself.”

Dennis is driven to share his story with others. “It makes a huge difference when someone can relate to you, and you can connect with them. It could save a life.”

Having a purpose, even amid profound grief, often sustains people who have experienced unspeakable losses. Dennis has found such a purpose, and with it hope and a drive to help others struggling with mental health challenges.

“The pain never goes away, but I’ve learned how to cope and channel those feelings into something good,” Dennis said. “I want others to know that they can succeed too.”



A family photo shows Dennis' brother Calvin, who passed in the summer of 2014. Photo provided by Milton Lee Dennis

ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL RESOURCES

Employee Assistance Program

The EAP is a free, voluntary and confidential program that strives to assist AOC employees as they work through stress and personal or professional challenges. The EAP is a valuable resource to help you:

- ▶ **DEFINE** problems you are facing
- ▶ **DEVELOP** a plan of action
- ▶ **LEARN** new or strengthen existing skills
- ▶ **IDENTIFY** sources of help

While EAP services are free of charge to AOC employees, costs associated with outside community resources,

treatment facilities or practitioners are the responsibility of individual employees and their insurance providers.

EAP confidential voicemail system available 24/7: **202.226.2546**

Support Website Espyr

Espyr is a behavioral health website, which provides helpful resources like articles, videos, training, screenings and monthly webinars. To access Espyr:

- 1 Go to **www.espyr.com**
- 2 In the upper-right corner, click "log in"
- 3 Enter password: **aocept**

TalkNow

TalkNow offers immediate, 24/7 telephone access to confidential, counseling support delivered by qualified behavioral health professionals, no appointment necessary. To learn more, call **202.226.2546**.

AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION

If you or someone you know are experiencing a crisis, help is available. Call **800.273.8255** or text **TALK** to **741741**.



Arborist Shaun Abell, who helped install the new, higher fogger system, at the top of the Tropics house.

FEATURE

Employees Lead U.S. Botanic Garden Horticultural Renovations

WRITTEN BY DEVIN DOTSON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS HATZENBUHLER

While the U.S. Botanic Garden (USBG) Conservatory has been closed during the pandemic, many employees have helped offer online programming to engage the public and several employees stepped up to lead improvement projects inside the Conservatory. The Tropics, Primeval Garden and Orchids houses all received additional attention from members of the Horticulture team. The goals underlying each of the three projects were to improve the growing spaces and to showcase more of the USBG's permanent plant collection.

The USBG living plant collection is the foundation of the institution. Maintaining an ordered, documented, labeled collection of plants is essential to the USBG's mission of promoting botanical knowledge. The USBG maintains approximately 12,000 permanent accessions that are used for exhibition, study and exchange with other institutions. The Conservatory houses showcase different groupings of plants. Some are organized by native habitat, like World Deserts and the Tropics, while others are grouped by theme, such as Medicinal Plants and Orchids. Four USBG Horticulture employees made critical contributions to improving growing conditions and plant displays over the past year to better showcase the USBG collection.



▼ This new dark-leaved orchid being planted by Gardener Benjamin Gutman is one of more than 40 new species of plants added into the Tropics house during employee-led renovations.

PRIMEVAL GARDEN

Gardener Santos Carrillo has cared for the Primeval Garden room for most of the past decade. This area showcases plants descended from those that grew during the time of the dinosaurs, particularly in the Jurassic period. Carrillo had noticed that one of the planting bed holding walls had started to decline over the last few years, reducing the width of the pedestrian pathway and providing less-than-optimal growing spaces for plants in that area.

Carrillo developed a plan in consultation with others at the USBG, and began with

gusto, removing all the rocks in the holding wall, cleaning them and then building the wall anew. Carrillo added larger rocks to build a more secure structure that would function as a retaining wall. He used a special binder that would hold the rocks together and allow plants to grow on them. The older wall had been made of smaller rocks that could more easily move over time and was bound together by a material that impeded plant growth.

Carrillo created spaces for approximately 25 additional plants in the new wall and planting areas. He also made the pedestrian pathway wider and more

accessible in the process, making it easier for pedestrians to move through with strollers and wheelchairs, and for visitors to pass each other as they walk through the house. New cycads and ferns from the USBG permanent collection were added to the room, with the cycad *Macrozamia moorei* being Carrillo's favorite new plant, because it currently looks like a pineapple.

"I am very happy to accomplish this project for the agency," said Carrillo. "It was a project that needed to get done, and I was proud to take the lead to get it completed."

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SPACES FOR
ADDITIONAL PLANTS
IN THE NEW WALL AND
PLANTING AREAS



▼ Gardener Santos Carrillo secures a new plant into place in the renovated Primeval Garden retaining wall.

▼
At right, the plants of the Tropics house benefit from increased humidity generated by a newly installed fogger system. Below, Arborist Stephen Jones and Gardener Benjamin Gutman, who led the renovations in the Tropics house.





40+

NEW PLANT SPECIES IN THE TROPICS HOUSE

THE TROPICS

The 93-foot-tall Tropics house features plants from tropical forests around the world and is the largest greenhouse in the Conservatory. Stephen Jones and Dr. Benjamin Gutman, who both care for USBG tropical plants, collaborated on two renovation projects that brought new life to the Tropics house.

In November 2019, the Horticulture team inventoried every plant in the Tropics house, with the goal of better following the USBG collections policy by removing plants that were not part of the permanent, accessioned collection. A number of noncollection plants were identified that had accumulated from previous exhibits and displays. Three beds in the southern part of the house were mostly housing noncollection plants and the soil needed a renovation.

Jones and Gutman removed all the noncollection plants and excavated several feet of the old, depleted soil. They built new soil that will function in the space for many years. When the team discussed what plants to feature there instead, a large torch ginger from the collection was already in the bed and served as an inspiration. Gutman scoured the USBG's tropical plant collection and landed on a display of more than a dozen species from that same ginger family (Zingiberaceae).

"I wanted to display the great diversity of the ginger family," said Gutman. "The new plants show distinct shapes, sizes and colors of leaves plus different flowers and flowering times." The new plants range in size from a ground cover species that is only 6 inches tall to others that will grow to 6 or 7 feet.

For the other plants in the area, the duo prioritized showcasing tropical plants in the USBG collection not already represented in the room. A key consideration was the location of the beds and their small size. They are in a high-traffic area with doors heading to the World Deserts and Medicinal Plants houses on either side of the beds, so they wanted to choose

plants that would have interesting blooms or foliage at eye level.

Gutman said *Nesocodon mauritianus* is a particular favorite among the new plants. The purple bell-shaped flowers have red nectar — an unusual color for nectar. In its native Mauritius, the red color attracts geckos, which serve as pollinators. It grows on rocks and cliffs, so they added rocks into the display to grow this plant, as well as some other tropical orchids and begonias that grow on rocks.

"We're always looking for new ways to display our collection for the public," said Jones. "There are a finite number of places inside the Conservatory to display plants, so it was great to be able to reassess a particular space and find new ways to creatively display more of our collection plants."

The pair also renovated a separate bed with an overgrown tulip tree, which had become a maintenance concern, requiring pruning as often as once a month with lots of intricate climbing work. They decided to cut most of the tree down and use the stump and log as planting spaces for smaller epiphytic plants ranging from spike mosses to a hanging cactus. This replicated a scene from a tropical forest where the tree might have been broken in a storm. In total between both projects, the two installed more than 40 new plant species in the Tropics house.

As a third improvement, Jones collaborated with the Operations team to install a new series of foggers at the very top of the Tropics house, to keep temperature and humidity at higher, more consistent levels. Humidity had previously been dropping when cooling had been needed in summer months. Jones and fellow Arborist Shaun Abell used their specialized climbing expertise to work at the top of the house in coordination with Operations team members working on the high catwalk. The new fogging system is successfully moderating temperatures and humidity.



Orchid Gardener Benjamin Crain pauses for a photo in front of a wall he renovated in the Orchids house.

“Projects like these also give employees a chance to be creative. It’s been great to see them using their knowledge and inspiration...”

**JIM ADAMS
HORTICULTURE MANAGER**

ORCHIDS

USBG Orchid Gardener Dr. Benjamin Crain saw several challenges in the Orchids house that were not supporting optimal orchid collection display. He led renovations to rebuild several stone walls and hardscaping, transform the waterfall that had stopped functioning into a new seeping wall and overhaul the soil.

The project made the house safer, improving stability of the hardscape elements that the employees use for moving through the planting beds. Excess roots from the central ficus tree were removed, and the walls and rocks surrounding the pond and beds were rebuilt to be more solid, while also delineating separate planting areas. Debris was removed and the pockets in the wall were custom shaped to better hold the orchid pots for stability and to keep them raised above the rocks to receive more light.

The new seeping wall now has water flowing down the rock face, which will raise the humidity to the benefit of the orchids. Crain added new permanent ferns and moss as a living, green background for the orchids that will hang in that area of the room.

Crain replaced the deteriorated, debris-filled soil with new, healthy soil; planted multiple species of terrestrial orchids in the new soil; and attached some epiphytic orchids onto the ficus tree.

The Orchids house had never had any orchids permanently planted in the soil in the room. The new permanent plantings feature beautiful foliage in addition to their blooms and were strategically placed to hide functional elements.

“I feel there is now a clean, solid slate for the Orchids house,” said Crain. “It is safe and will better allow us to display the many orchids in the USBG collection.”

TRIPLE WINS

“These employees are experts on the plants they grow in their areas,” said Jim Adams, Horticulture Manager. “Being closed to the public has been hard on the employees who enjoy sharing the plants they care for, but we’ve tried to use this time as an opportunity to safely increase our collections on display and visitor access.

“Projects like these also give employees a chance to be creative. It’s been great to see them using their knowledge and inspiration, while working with others in the Horticulture and Operations teams to map out the best path forward for the Garden.”

These employee-led improvements are a triple win, generating improvements in safety, access and display for USBG visitors and employees while also benefiting the USBG’s plant collection.



3

THESE EMPLOYEE-LED
IMPROVEMENTS ARE
A TRIPLE WIN!

▶ The Orchid house renovations made the house safer as well as improved planting areas for the terrestrial orchids through removal of excess roots from the ficus tree and refurbishment of the ground-level planting area with new, healthy soil.



Photo by Thomas Hatzenbuehler

AGENCY INITIATIVES

Creating our Legacy

WRITTEN BY DR. GANELLA SMITH

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) has spent the last year building the foundation for several key strategic initiatives to facilitate the launch of our organizational transformation. Now that plans for these strategic initiatives have been developed, we are operationalizing these efforts in the agency's new Strategic Plan, which is available on Compass. The Strategic Plan will manage and track progress of the strategic initiatives, which will enable the agency to build a safer, more inclusive and more effective workplace.

This update focuses on the initiatives aimed at increasing efficiency, safety and proactivity at the AOC: Vision 2100/ Capitol Complex Master Plan/Strategic Plan, Enterprise Asset Management (EAM) and Building Official.

1



Photo by AOC Photo Branch

Vision 2100/Capitol Complex Master Plan/Strategic Plan

A clear and synchronized enterprise-level vision is needed to guide leadership decisions at the Capitol complex. This series of initiatives support an enterprise solution to ensure the AOC takes a more proactive, unified approach to maintaining the Capitol complex. They also provide a defined direction and represent a vision that unites the Architect's goal setting and achievement perspectives in service of Congress and the Supreme Court.

This series of initiatives will be complete when we have developed, documented and communicated our three-pronged approach for future planning — the completed Vision 2100, Capitol Complex Master Plan (CCMP) and the AOC Strategic Plan. Vision 2100 will help shape the future of the Capitol complex over the next 50+ years. The CCMP will facilitate the planning necessary to accomplish Vision 2100 in 20-year increments; the Strategic Plan will provide guidance,

prioritization and resourcing with an outlook of five-year increments.

We put together an experienced team of visionaries, futurists, urban planners, organizational development and strategic planners, and other subject matter experts both internal and external to the AOC who have begun mapping out how to approach change for the future of the AOC. Over the next few months, we will be uncovering challenges the AOC faces as we look at maintaining the Capitol complex over the next 50 years and beyond. We will also be taking a deeper look at what does and does not need to change, and if there are any roadblocks that would keep us from making needed changes. These important initiatives will rely on feedback from AOC employees throughout the agency. We all play an important role in taking care of the Capitol complex now and leaving a legacy for the future. Check Compass for any potential opportunities for you to contribute to Vision 2100.

2 Enterprise Asset Management



Photo by AOC Photo Branch

To be good stewards of our facilities at the AOC, we need a strong plan and user-friendly systems for addressing and reducing the maintenance backlog. We also need agencywide methods to improve asset performance, monitor for out-of-date technology, understand asset durability, and recognize the impact of asset use on tasks such as repair and replacement. EAM is a series of systems that help solve these problems by keeping track of assets and monitoring usage through an asset's life cycle. We have been carefully researching EAM programs to find a system that works best for the AOC. Once we find a match, we will test it to ensure that it will indeed work to meet our unique needs.

When fully implemented to industry standards, EAM will set forth unified agency maintenance standards. EAM will also improve the efficiency of AOC asset use and reduce long-term costs and maintenance backlog in a measurable way. EAM will be an excellent tool to support employees; it will ensure the availability of the most up-to-date and useful resources to get the job done well. Greater reliability will mean you face fewer untimely and unforeseen repairs or out-of-service assets.

We have begun evaluating our current assets to better understand how to make the most of EAM systems. We want to understand the condition of our assets and begin to develop a road map for continuous improvement across the agency. We are at the very start, but we have initiated planning for our long-term asset management strategy at the AOC.

As we continue on this journey to modernize how the AOC tracks and maintains assets, we hope that you will look for opportunities to help support this effort. Compass is a great place to check for updates and opportunities to get involved.

3

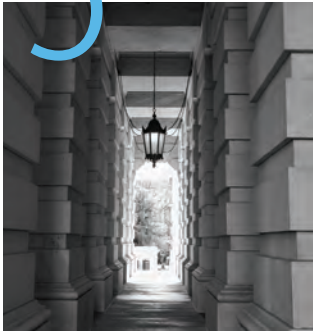


Photo by Luke Waller

Building Official Program

Our facilities and grounds host people from around the world. We intend for the Capitol complex to be a place of safety for our people and our customers. At the AOC, we have multiple internal and external entities responsible for life, health and safety without a unified approach to code compliance. Without consistent standards or a permitting system to guide our projects, we spend valuable time and resources on rework to address code deficiencies.

To mitigate this rework and threat to safety, the AOC has established a Building Official program to improve safety and code compliance oversight that will keep our iconic buildings maintained for future generations.

As part of the fully implemented Building Official program, all facility construction efforts will undergo plan reviews, construction inspections and construction acceptance

testing. The Building Official will also document code compliance based on the new standards with building permits, certificates of completion and certificates of occupancy. These steps will ensure all work performed at AOC-managed facilities and grounds will consistently meet established building codes and enterprise facility standards.

This summer, we designed and implemented a permitting process and started piloting

several projects. We are just beginning, but we have had a tremendous amount of support from many of you. Thank you for your commitment to safety and the AOC mission to serve, preserve and inspire.

Please visit Compass for periodic updates and for more information on the Building Official program.



EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

THE PATH TO BECOMING AN ARCHITECT

WRITTEN BY REBECCA CHILLRUD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY KALEENA DWYER

Arthur Logan was working as an electrician helper in 2005 when a coworker told him, “You’re in the wrong field. You need to be an architect.”

“When I became an electrician helper, I started seeing how buildings were actually going up. And I was playing a part in that,” says Logan. He decided architecture was something he wanted to seriously pursue and made a plan to go to school during the day and work at night to accomplish his goal.

With that plan in mind, Logan started working at the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) as a night custodian in 2010 and began attending Howard University to study architecture in 2011. “I participated in the student loan repayment program that we have here at the Architect of the Capitol, so that helped with my schooling,” he says.

Logan says that his mentors at the AOC were always very supportive of his career ambitions and his education. When he graduated from Howard in 2017 with an architectural degree, he was able to take on a detail position with the AOC’s Energy and Design Services Division. “The whole front office and engineering department took me under their wing, and each one of them gave me different nuggets of encouragement and knowledge,” says Logan. “They helped me proceed to where I’m at now.”

During his detail, Logan successfully applied for an open junior architect position in the Senate Office Buildings.

“Looking at it from a historic standpoint — the beauty of the buildings we have over here at the Senate, and keeping that history alive and maintaining it, I think that’s one of the most beautiful things of my job. And I’m helping to solve problems. That’s what makes this job so exciting.”

“When the opportunity came up over on the Senate side, I jumped on it.”

Logan’s favorite aspect of his current role is preserving history. “Looking at it from a historic standpoint — the beauty of the buildings we have over here at the Senate, and keeping that history alive and maintaining it, I think that’s one of the most beautiful things of my job. And I’m helping to solve problems. That’s what makes this job so exciting.”

He also enjoys being able to work in a collaborative role where he’s always learning. “I’m working with every trade in the building, because mostly every project needs someone’s hand in it. And luckily, we have some of the best men and women here to give insight,” says Logan. “I’m able to manage that project a little better by getting their insight from the beginning.”

Having a strong support system, both at work and at home, has been key for Logan’s career. “I’ve encountered some great individuals all the way through my path. I’m a firm believer that you constantly learn, you never stop learning and you take every bit of information that someone gives you.”

“Toward my last year at Howard, I met my now-wife, and she really pushed me over the hump.” He also values the support of his supervisor, Bonnie Holod. “Bonnie pushes me, she steers me in the right direction, and I can go to her about anything,” he says. “She’s definitely helped me along this journey, and I have to take my hat off to her, because she is the reason why I can continue to do projects and succeed, because of her guidance and mentorship.”

Juggling education and work posed a challenge at times, but Logan says the end result was worth it. “I definitely lost a lot of sleep. On my desk at school, I had a note that I wrote to myself saying that the reward is greater than the struggle. So, whenever I felt like I couldn’t make it, I would always look back at that note,” he says.

“It was a hard journey, but in life to be successful, nothing is easy. And you have to walk that tough path to get where you want to be. It’s not just you, you have to pick up pieces along the way from different mentors, different people that you encounter, to get where you need to be. I think that’s one of the reasons why I’m here at this point today.”



STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

The AOC is committed to developing a well-qualified, high-performing workforce by repaying part or all of qualifying student loan(s). The program can assist employees with payments on student loan debt incurred in support of courses of study already completed. In exchange for a student loan repayment, employees will be subject to an initial three-year service agreement.

To learn more, contact the Human Capital Management Division, Work/Life Programs at **202.226.6595**.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

KUDOS to YOU

The Architect of the Capitol recently recognized the following employees for their exceptional service. Thank you for your commitment to serve, preserve and inspire.

KUDOS

Joseph Abriatis

Jeremy Acton

Reggie Anderson

Charles Apple

Teresa Bailey

Sarah Billington

Gregory Cahill

Sarah Call

Matthew Chester

Michelle Chin

Melissa Coby

Edward Condon

Joe Coratola

Erin Courtney

William Curley

Robert DiMichele

Scott Drummond

Jacob Edwards

Derek Falzoi

Donald Fuqua

Marsha Gantt

Morgan Green

Philip Harvey

Harold Honegger

Martin Jimenez

Brian Kohler

Nicole Kolinski

Dinh Lam

LaVaysha Lewis

Shola Matthews-Aroloye

Arron Maxwell

Udo Mbuko

Lily Najera

Erin Nelson

Erika Northington

Mary Oehrlein

Kammae Owens

Tony Pfeufer

Alan Piercy

KUDOS

Clarence Richardson

Ben Riffe

Omar Rivera

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Capitol Grounds and Arboretum

Legislative and Public Affairs

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Legislative and Public Affairs
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16
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AOC employees worked hard to clear Capitol campus sidewalks and roadways during the recent snowstorm.

