If there was a category for best “wrap artist” at Clemson a trio in the Interior Utilities section would surely all be nominees.

Don Keasler, Kennon Burgess and Larry Kastner make up the Insulation shop and spend their days wrapping, or insulating, systems across the campus. Totaling more than 95 years of experience between them and being second generation tradesmen, these insulators have the skills and the pride to do what it takes to get the job done right.

“I’ve worked with all types of craftsmen for over 30 years and these guys are among the best I’ve ever seen,” said Brad Newman, Interior Utilities Manager. “They complete each task with precision and artistry.”

The insulators job entails building and fabricating the insulation to fit a particular system, according to Kastner. “We insulate mainly pumps, valves, flanges, control valves, tanks and fan coil units,” he added. “All of these are insulated to prevent condensation or heat loss and to maintain proper temperature in the system. The value of the insulation is realized when hot things are kept hot and cold things cold.”

Everyone benefits from quality insulation as it maintains the temperature in the heating and cooling loop around the university. In addition, Keasler, Master Insulator Lead for the shop, says mechanical insulation helps to conserve energy, reduce emissions, improve processes and productivity and provide overall life cycle cost reduction. Longevity like this is important to Keasler. He has personally worked in the insulation trade for nearly 40 years, with 23 of those at Clemson. “It is rewarding to know that the work I do will make a building perform at its best for many years to come,” said Keasler. “If my job is done correctly it could last the life of the building.”

The third in this trio of artists, Burgess says being an insulator is rewarding at both work and at home. “The knowledge and skills I have learned doing insulation enable me to do my hobby—working on old cars, trucks, tractors & lawn mowers. I gained the ability to cut and fit to make patch panels from doing insulation work. I get a lot of satisfaction from doing any job to the best of my ability,” added Burgess.

“This high level of craftsmanship representative of the insulation crew and other facilities personnel ensures our mechanical rooms are safe and functional,” said Newman. “Ultimately, these types of services provide a better quality of life for students, faculty and staff.”

Larry Kastner precisely cuts insulation to wrap the unique system pieces.

Kennon Burgess and Don Keasler fine-tune the wrapping process to maximize energy savings.

Grayson Thomas

Congratulations
Bryson and Ashlee Thomas
On the Birth of Your Son!
Computer News
From Keith Jones

CCIT is changing the underlying technology that provides colleges and departments on campus network storage. Our network storage is commonly referred to as “the H: Drive.” They’re making this change because the current system is very old and not very well supported, so to get ahead of any future difficulties CCIT is moving to a new, more flexible and well-supported method of providing network storage. Doing so requires the migration or copying of all data from the old system to the new. This in itself isn’t a big deal, however the expectations we have as users in regards to who has rights to what files and folders will change. Places you could assume were either visible or editable only to you may become viewable by others, or editable by your entire department instead of yourself. In some cases you may wish to move content that you manage to a location that is not on the H: drive at all, but instead stored in personal storage. One example being the trusty U: drive, to which only you, and you alone can view. This is an ideal place to store sensitive work-related files. In addition to the U: drive, as an employee you also have access to cloud storage. Clemson has agreements with Google, Box.com and Microsoft. For most purposes, we recommend using Microsoft’s Onedrive because it works seamlessly with Microsoft Office.

Facilities IT is actively meeting with stakeholders from each department to discuss these changes and address any concerns with this major shift in how we access our network storage.

Kudos

Bryson Thomas Compliment:
Hello Gentlemen,

I hope all is well. I’m the Executive Director of the Gantt Multicultural Center. Bryson is the Project Manager for our move to Brackett 300. I wanted to take a moment in all the hustle and bustle of our move to let you know how wonderful it has been to work with Bryson. He has been very pleasant, professional, accessible and just wonderful to work with. He tried to meet all of our needs, and any that he hasn’t been able to meet, he let us know why. Bryson made the move pretty seamless for us and we greatly appreciate it. Although we know he has many projects, he made us seem like a priority.

I know that oftentimes emails like this are for something a client doesn’t like, so I wanted to make sure you know how much we appreciate Bryson and everything he’s done to assist us with our move.

I hope you both have a wonderful weekend!

Altheia

Altheia Lesley Richardson
The Harvey and Lucinda Gantt Multicultural Center

Teresa Blanding and Brenda Knighton Compliment:
I recently made a phone call to ask Teresa and Brenda a question. After I hung up the phone I started thinking about how whenever the Facilitator comes out there is always a Kudos to employees. I know it focuses on people who do amazing things. Well, it seems every time you make a phone call to those sweet ladies, they are always so helpful, and they always have such a great attitude. I think sometimes we overlook the people that make things flow and keep us straight!!! Those ladies are the best.

Scott Pugh
Master Plumber
Life Safety Shop

Bryson Thomas Compliment:
Just a note to say thanks for the outstanding job that you have done in all three of our Lightsey Bridge I projects. The quality of your work is outstanding and I just wanted you to know how much Coach Swinney and our staff appreciate your hard work and commitment. Our players moved into their newly renovated apartments this past Sunday and were all excited and so impressed with these new units. Please know that we appreciate the quality of your work in all three of the Lightsey Bridge I projects that you have overseen. The pride that you take in your work is obvious and we are fortunate to have you in charge of these renovations.

Brad Scott
Brad Scott
Director of Player Development
Clemson Football

If you have information, an article, upcoming event or compliment you would like included in future Facilitator issues, please send the information to:
Colleen Caracciolo
colleec@clemson.edu
656-4604
So it isn’t news to anyone that the campus is back in full swing now with students returning for the fall semester. With this time of year comes the many daily challenges that you all know so well. I suspect you have heard “there is no parking, the traffic is terrible, people walk straight out into the street, my classroom is…….(hot, noisy, messy, cold), I needed that project finished yesterday.” I’m sure each of us could add to the list of “polite suggestions” we hear each day in the course of serving our campus. As annoying as it can be (and believe me I’m learning), we need to continually remember that those students, faculty, staff and visitors are the reason Facilities is here and our success comes in doing whatever we can to make this a better environment for all.

Facilities doesn’t often get the wide recognition you deserve for the work you do to make Clemson special. Rather, we have to get our satisfaction from successfully handling one problem at a time to improve the campus experience. You are definitely in the right department if you appreciate the simple pleasure in fixing something broken, making an area more useful, keeping the campus beautiful or turning a complaint into a “thank you.” Sometimes as a service organization that is the best we can hope for in any one day. However, as I’ve said before, these small successes continue to add up in the minds of those in the departments and colleges across campus who recognize how important your efforts are to the Clemson Experience. Thank you for what you bring to University Facilities and I hope you always feel that you can suggest ways to make our days here more safe, more effective and more enjoyable.

Todd