VOLUME 2 SUMMER 2016

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Influences at Work and Play

We are all an assembly of parts, pieces and life experiences, and we bring those experiences to the things we do every day. It's what makes us who we are! I've come to learn that my childhood, education and travels influence my dreams, desires and decisions. My love of history and traditional architecture certainly stems from my studies, experiences and travels.

Photo by Susanne Bledsoe

I often think about what experiences others have had which influence their decisions. This sense of wonder and curiosity struck me this spring as I walked up Capitol Hill from the west. On first sight, the ornate lanterns Frederick Law Olmsted designed and placed along the U.S. Capitol's west perimeter wall are puzzling and slightly out of character. To me, they have an Asian-inspired look. To others, they emulate funeral lanterns used in ancient times.

What inspired Olmsted's decisions? Could it be from his travels, like mine? Before becoming landscape architect of the Capitol Grounds, Frederick Law Olmsted was a surveyor, a seafarer, a farmer, a journalist and a park superintendent. The influences from these chapters of his life certainly manifest themselves somehow in his work.

I wonder, why are these particular lanterns only on that one approach of the Capitol and not the others? Perhaps Olmsted decided to let his hair down a bit on the West Front as we all do in our own backyards. My own front yard is rather formal and plain, but my backyard is quite different, even fanciful. It includes several birdfeeders and my beloved hammock.

I like this seemingly playful side of Olmsted. Personally, I think that he aspired to contrast the Capitol's more formal East Front Plaza and principal entrance with a more playful, peaceful and restful area on the west. I think he envisioned visitors and travelers in need of a restful spot after trekking from the other end of the city on their journey to the Capitol.

As I pass by Olmsted's lanterns, they tell me that I am entering a special place… a place to relax and renew my spirit. The intricate stone carvings slow me down for an extra few seconds to take in their beauty. The detailed and ornate iron fencing does the same as my eyes trace over the gentle curves. It momentarily takes my mind off of the trials and tribulations of the day… I think this is what he wanted.

It's refreshing. ❁

Stephen T. Ayers, FAIA, LEED AP
Architect of the Capitol

John Lamberton, Assistant Supervisor, selects the proper copper pipe size for a job.

The Library's HVAC Aces

WRITTEN BY SARAH BUBLITZ • PHOTOS BY CHUCK BADAL

Just below the main floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress, the cellar level is home to the Architect of the Capitol's Air Conditioning (AC) Shop for Library Buildings and Grounds.

A spectrum of parts and tools — from very small pieces to a 150 horsepower motor that weighs approximately 2,000 pounds — can be found inside the shop. They are used for maintaining the Library of Congress' heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) systems.

Work areas within the buildings include mechanical spaces, kitchens and offices. "We do a little bit of everything," said Richard Wolfe, Supervisor. "In addition to HVAC, our shop also does abatement work, insulation repairs, and electrical and plumbing repairs."

"Dealing with old equipment and tight crawl space areas can sometimes be a challenge," said Jonathan Wilson, Work Leader. Access to the equipment itself, like heating and cooling valves, humidifiers, vacuum systems and exhaust fans, can be found in unique places. For example, the mechanical space for the Coolidge

Randy Shontz, HVAC Equipment Worker, uses a wrench to fabricate a pipe.

Cornell Ford, HVAC Equipment Mechanic, troubleshoots using direct digital controls.

Auditorium is at the top of a tall spiral staircase.

In addition to maintenance and repair, the Library's AC Shop is involved in upgrade projects to replace outdated equipment and keep up with modern technology. "We use direct digital controls and specialized equipment, like X-ray fluorescence analyzers to check paint for any potentially harmful materials," said John Lamberton, Assistant Supervisor.

One tool that this shop's team always has at the ready is the thermometer. "It helps us measure the room conditions when we arrive to a service call and allows us to make adjustments to bring the room back to the proper temperature range," said Wolfe.

While the most frequent calls from building occupants are related to climate, being successful in this line of work is about more than overcoming hot and cold conditions. "Knowledge of the trade is important," said Wolfe. "So is being motivated and willing to learn." Something the shop has mastered to the highest degree.

HVAC employees climb this spiral staircase to access the mechanical space for the Coolidge Auditorium.

Meigs' Miniatures

THE STORY OF THE TINY DOORS IN THE U.S. CAPITOL

WRITTEN BY ERIN NELSON • PHOTOS BY JAMES ROSENTHAL

Throughout the Capitol Building, visitors and staff often pause to imagine what is behind the building's smallest doors. Their guesses are as varied as the architectural details that encompass the Capitol campus.

The correct explanation for their existence begins with a fire on Christmas Eve 1851. At that time the Library of Congress was housed in the Capitol Building. That morning as John Jones, a guard, was walking on the Capitol Grounds he noticed a flicker through the Library windows. Jones had no key to the room, so he was forced to break the door down. Once inside, he discovered a small fire. Water was not readily available in the building, so Jones had to run downstairs to find some. By the time he returned, the fire had spread throughout the two-story Library. Seven fire stations responded to the alarms. Firefighters worked all day and night and into Christmas morning to extinguish the flames.

The fire devastated the Library's collection: thirty-five thousand volumes were destroyed. Approximately two-thirds of the books purchased from Thomas Jefferson were gone. Manuscripts, maps and other artwork had been consumed by the fire, which was later determined to have been caused by a spark from the fireplace in the room below the Library.

During the investigation, Jones testified that the fire could have been easily extinguished had there been water nearby. The fear of future fires motivated Congress to fund a critically needed reliable water supply for Washington, D.C.

Captain Montgomery C. Meigs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was assigned by the War Department to manage the project. Meigs had a remarkable career. He helped build many D.C. landmarks, including Arlington National Cemetery, the Capitol Building extension and the modern Dome of the Capitol Building. Arguably his most significant engineering achievement was the Washington Aqueduct. The elaborate system brought fresh water from the Potomac River at Great Falls into the federal city and into the pipes hidden behind the Capitol's small doors.

These small doors and the water sources they housed,

found in several places in the Capitol Building, were multi-purpose. They stood ready to provide water to prevent any future fire from spreading, but they also ensured the mud tracked in from Washington's dirt streets and footpaths could be easily cleaned from the Capitol's floors. That is why the doors stand only about 30 inches tall: they conceal low, shallow closets where workers filled pails of water to mop the floors.

Over the years Meigs' water system has undergone many upgrades, but it still carries water into the city today. The Capitol, too, has also undergone many renovations over the years, including more accessible water fixtures and modern fire-suppression systems. Although the small doors are no longer necessary for their original purpose, they are still very much a part of the Capitol as visitors stop to admire their tiny size and imagine what could possibly be behind them.

The Library of Congress suffered three fires (1814, 1825 and 1851) before moving out of the Capitol Building. Over the years as technology improved, the Architect of the Capitol (AOC) introduced new life-safety features across the Capitol campus, including the Library buildings. Recently, five AOC plumbers were honored with The Craftsmanship Award from the Washington Building Congress for their work on the Thomas Jefferson Building sprinkler system.

The AOC team including Jeff Benac, John Yeatts, John Burroughs, David Holmes and Carroll Gayle (not pictured) was awarded the prestigious Washington Building Congress Star Award, recognizing special achievement in visual excellence. *Photo courtesy of Roshelle Brooks*

The grandeur of the Jefferson Building in its size, scale, use of materials, level of craftsmanship and detail is considered one of America's greatest architectural achievements. Preserving this building, along with all of the other iconic structures on campus, is at the center of the AOC's mission. Sprinkler systems are paramount to reducing the loss of valuable items and lives in the event of a fire, but installing one in such an architecturally significant space was quite challenging.

The facility welcomes thousands of visitors each day, so AOC plumbers worked at night removing existing conduit and exposed wiring to accommodate new lighting devices, sprinkler piping and associated utilities. To visually conceal the new sprinkler piping, it was marbleized by Library Building and Grounds decorative painters to match the adjacent surfaces.

The work took a coordinated effort between the AOC's Historic Preservation Officer, Project Manager, Fire Marshal, Curator, Construction Division and Library Buildings and Grounds. The collaborative team successfully achieved its goal to provide sprinkler protection with minimum impact to the historic space, and all were honored to serve a role in preserving the majestic building for generations to come.

USBG National Garden Turns 10

WRITTEN BY DEVIN DOTSON

PHOTOS COURTESY OF U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

This fall, the National Garden at the United States Botanic Garden (USBG) turns 10 years old. Opened to the public on October 1, 2006, the National Garden is a key element of the USBG, along with the Conservatory and Bartholdi Park.

TOP: The U.S. Capitol can be seen over the wetlands area of the National Garden.

BOTTOM: The Rose Garden celebrates the national floral emblem. *Photo by Susanne Bledsoe*

TOP: The Rose Garden with the Botanic Garden Conservatory in the background.

BOTTOM: A butterfly sundial in the Butterfly Garden. *Photo by Susanne Bledsoe*

After the rose was declared the national floral emblem in 1986, the supporters of this proclamation began an effort to construct a rose garden near the U.S. Capitol. In 1989, Congress authorized construction of the National Garden to provide visitors a place to experience "the diversity of plants, including the rose, our national flower." The National Garden is the result of a successful collaboration between the U.S. Congress, the Joint Committee on the Library, the National Fund for the U.S. Botanic Garden, the U.S. Botanic Garden and the Architect of the Capitol.

In 1994, a National Garden Gala held on the site garnered national attention when it was attended by the sitting and five former First Ladies – Hillary Clinton, Barbara Bush, Nancy Reagan, Rosalynn Carter, Betty Ford and Lady Bird Johnson. All parts of the National Garden were completed in September 2006 – Rose Garden, Butterfly Garden, Lawn Terrace, Hornbeam Court, Regional Garden (a garden of Mid-Atlantic native plants), Amphitheater (created with salvaged marble steps from the East Front of the Capitol), and the First Ladies Water Garden, which is the only memorial recognizing First Ladies.

From season to season, more than half a million visitors explore the USBG's outdoor gardens. In spring and fall, the Rose Garden draws large crowds to see the bountiful blooms. During summer, many visitors enjoy pollinators and flowers

in the Butterfly Garden, while others love to see the carnivorous sundews and pitcher plants in the Regional Garden's bog. Throughout fall, plants native to the Mid-Atlantic region put on a colorful display. Even in winter, bright berries attract both visitors and hungry birds. Year-round, the National Garden serves as a living classroom where thousands of students and other visitors learn about plants through class fieldtrips and USBG educational programs.

At this 10-year mark, we celebrate the many opportunities the National Garden has given for the USBG to connect people with plants. We invite you to join us this summer and fall as we mark the anniversary with special tours and programs.

Find more details on the history, photos and even a full video of the 1994 gala at **www.USBG.gov/NationalGarden10.**

TOP LEFT: The First Ladies Water Garden honors the contributions of our nation's First Ladies.

MIDDLE LEFT: *Flowers Stink,* a world premiere musical created as a collaboration between the USBG and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. *Photo courtesy of Teresa Wood*

BOTTOM LEFT: A bridge over the wetlands in the Regional Garden leads to the Amphitheater.

TOP RIGHT: Colorful flowers and foliage in the National Garden.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The National Garden serves as a living classroom for children, students and visitors of all ages.

USBG NATIONAL GARDEN **BEFORE & AFTER**

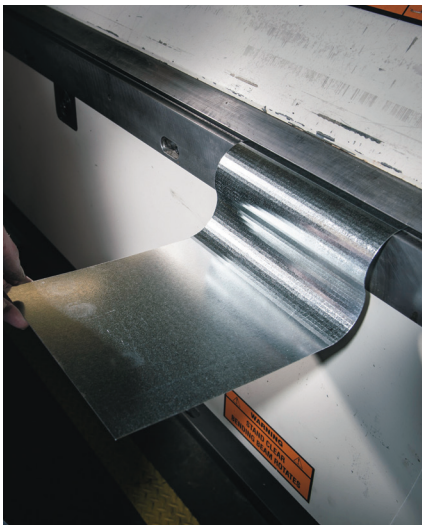
TOP PHOTOS: From simple turf grass to a comprehensive garden, the outdoor space west of the Conservatory changed dramatically with the creation of the National Garden. *Photos by Chuck Badal* BOTTOM PHOTOS: The Rose Garden continues to mature since its original creation (inset photo). *Photo by Susanne Bledsoe, Inset Photo by Steve Payne.*

U.S. CAPITOL BUILDING SHEET METAL SHOP

On the Cutting Edge

WRITTEN BY LISA MALTBIE • PHOTOS BY CHUCK BADAL

Everyone of us, in every job we do, uses tools to serve, preserve and inspire. Many of the tools we use here are unique, historic and essential to our mission — in other words, they are cool tools! We asked employees to submit their coolest tool, and this feature represents out latest find.



Mark Focht, Capitol Building Sheet Metal Shop, shows a section of gutter he created with the auto brake and demonstrates its use.

The Sheet Metal Shop introduced a new auto brake machine which offers an unprecedented capacity to bend metal that is integral to the many renowned projects around the U.S. Capitol.

What is an auto brake? It's a metal folding machine that shapes flat metal into curved pieces and other elegant shapes with precision.

At 9,470 pounds, our auto brake is so large that it had to be dismantled to fit into the Sheet Metal Shop, where it was reassembled. The machine's vast capabilities stems from our employees' expertise. The profiles and dimensions of metal can be stored in the machine using a touch screen computer. This means our mechanics can instantly access an extensive catalog of designs.

Electronically stored diagrams save precious time that was previously spent sorting through hundreds of paper copies and manually recalling historical diagrams.

Equally important, the old manual brake required two people to operate. The automated version can be operated by just one person. A foot pedal provides direct operation of the brake while drastically minimizing the likelihood of hand injuries.

"Thanks to the forward thinking of our staff, we can use new technology to replace the old way of working and do things more accurately," said Capitol Building Deputy Superintendent Kristy Long.

The auto brake helps us reach new levels of productivity and reduces safety hazards and cost. It's no surprise that we think the auto brake is a cool tool. ❄

To see this cool tool in action, visit **www.aoc.gov/cool-tool**.

One Team, One Energy Reduction Mission

WRITTEN BY LAURA CONDELUCI

The green roof in bloom at the Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation, a Library of Congress facility managed by the AOC. *Photo by Chuck Badal*

> "…a substantial amount of recent savings has come from our operators figuring out how to make our buildings operate more efficiently," said Doug Helmann, former Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer.

The Architect of the Capitol (AOC) achieved an extraordinary goal at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 — successfully meeting the mandate to reduce energy consumption more than 30 percent from our 2003 baseline. This 30 percent reduction is a major accomplishment on its own. But it's even more amazing when you consider that the AOC is working with buildings designed without modern technologies in mind and that many of our buildings are used in some form or fashion nearly 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Doug Helmann, former Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer in the AOC Energy, Sustainability and Water Conservation Division and now Assistant Superintendent at Library Buildings and Grounds, described the AOC's formula for success, "Our approach to sustainability and energy on Capitol Hill is built upon three defining elements… buildings, infrastructure and people."

Energy conservation measures have been installed in buildings across campus and are paid for through the energy savings generated. In 10 years, the energy conservation program has produced savings across the Capitol campus equivalent to $94 million.

The enhanced technology components of our infrastructure and building upgrades provided new tools to improve our energy use decision-making and efficiency.

And our people have adopted these new technologies. We use energy data and advanced control systems to solve complex issues and drive efficiency improvements. AOC jurisdictions are critical to the success of the agency's sustainability and energy goals because of their on-the-ground access to stakeholders, staff, processes and building systems.

"We achieved a lot of our early savings through projects, but a substantial amount of recent savings has come from our operators figuring out how to make our buildings operate more efficiently," said Helmann.

Our Energy Savings Performance Contracts (ESPC) projects include converting from pneumatic to direct digital heating; upgrading ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) controls and building automation systems; replacing failing air handling units, steam traps and valves; retrofitting existing light fixtures with high-efficiency lamps, ballasts, controls and reflectors; installing LED lighting in hearing rooms and expanding the lighting control systems. The ESPC construction projects are now complete and the focus has transitioned into training, implementation and performance.

THE NEXT 10 YEARS

We are very proud of this remarkable accomplishment of 30 percent energy reduction, but as stewards of the Capitol campus, we will continue to do our part to improve energy efficiency at the U.S. Capitol.

As we continue to focus on saving energy, practicing sustainability and reducing costs, our next goal is to achieve energy savings of 2 percent per year over the next 10 years.

"It's an ambitious goal, but I know we are up for the challenge," said Terry Watson, Acting Assistant Director for Energy and Sustainability. "When we achieve it, we will be 50 percent below our 2003 baseline."

Buildings

Energy Savings Performance Contracts, which use private funding to accelerate investment in energy conservation measures, enabled the AOC to make significant upgrades to its infrastructure with minimal capital investment. The AOC entered into three ESPCs — in the Capitol, House and Senate jurisdictions — which were an important element in our strategy to reduce energy consumption by 30 percent within 10 years.

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One of the key energy-saving initiatives in the Senate Office Buildings is an emphasis on energy-efficient lighting. Over the past several years, nearly 44,000 lighting fixtures in the Senate buildings have been retrofitted with high-efficiency lamps, ballasts, controls and reflectors — resulting in an estimated annual savings of nearly $750,000. *Photo by Susanne Bledsoe*

^
The Rayburn House Office Building needed a new roof, and in FY 2011, the AOC took the opportunity to make the new roof a cool roof. A cool roofing system helps reduce the amount of cooling needed in the summer because it reflects light instead of absorbing it. This means that less heat is transferred into the building below, which helps keep the interior spaces cooler — and that equates to cost savings. *Photo by Dewitt Roseborough*

< The U.S. Capitol is one of the most familiar sights in the world. It's a symbol of our democracy and it is filled with priceless art. It houses the Congress and has high-volume public access in addition to tight security. Those are just some of the challenges faced when trying to reach 21st century standards of energy and sustainability. Amazingly, the Capitol Building had a 29 percent energy reduction over a 10-year term. Upgrading the HVAC controls, converting the air handling units to direct digital control, switching to energy-efficient lighting and replacing steam traps are some of the major projects that helped us reach our energy reduction goals. *Photo by Susanne Bledsoe*

Infrastructure

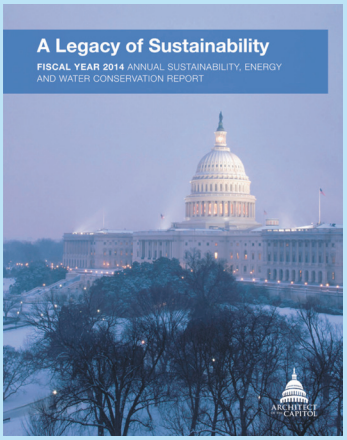
The majority of the energy at the Capitol Power Plant (CPP) is used to create the steam and chilled water that heats and cools the buildings throughout the Capitol campus. A series of tunnels transports some of the steam and chilled water to locations as far out as Union Station and the Government Publishing Office. Small improvements to the production efficiency of steam and chilled water can have great energy conservation impacts.

< The CPP made dramatic performance improvements in the generation and delivery of chilled water and steam throughout our facilities. By revitalizing the refrigeration plant and installing new chillers, the CPP increased chilled water efficiency with new chillers that are 20 percent more efficient. These chillers aren't small — one can use more electricity than the Rayburn House Office Building or Hart Senate Office Building on the busiest day of the year. *Photo by Dewitt Roseborough*

> During the summer of 2012, there was an unexpected increase in steam energy use, which risked the AOC's ability to meet its FY 2012 energy reduction goal. We instituted a steam reduction challenge and jurisdictions came together to meet both the goal and the needs of the building occupants. The AOC's web-control meter reading systems identified unseen issues and ideas and lessons learned were shared across the campus. *Photo by Dewitt Roseborough*

People

AOC staff play a crucial role in utilizing the equipment and system upgrades to maximize energy savings, increasing occupant comfort and discovering additional energy-saving opportunities. The AOC, through its operations teams across the agency, continues to focus on streamlining operating procedures and sustaining energy savings.



< The Sustainability, Energy and Water Conservation Division is responsible for continuing the AOC's sustainability and energy performance initiatives and addressing new challenges. The division produces an annual Sustainability, Energy and Water Conservation report to inform Congress and the American people of the progress on our resource efficiency goals, as well as our sustainable program and initiatives. In addition, they collaborate with jurisdiction teams to determine building and site level commitments to support the agency's overall goals. You can read the report at **www.aoc.gov/energy-report**.

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The AOC maintains the facilities for the Library of Congress. The Library Buildings and Grounds jurisdiction (LBG) was challenged to reduce energy usage, while still allowing the Library of Congress to meet its mission to conserve its varied collections. Over several years, LBG staff implemented energy-savings initiatives that reduced overall energy usage. Using new technology, including the utility metering enterprise system, the operations team was able to implement system changes and receive real-time feedback on overall energy usage. The team implemented the energy reduction plan with minimal impact to clients and collections. *Photo by James Rosenthal*

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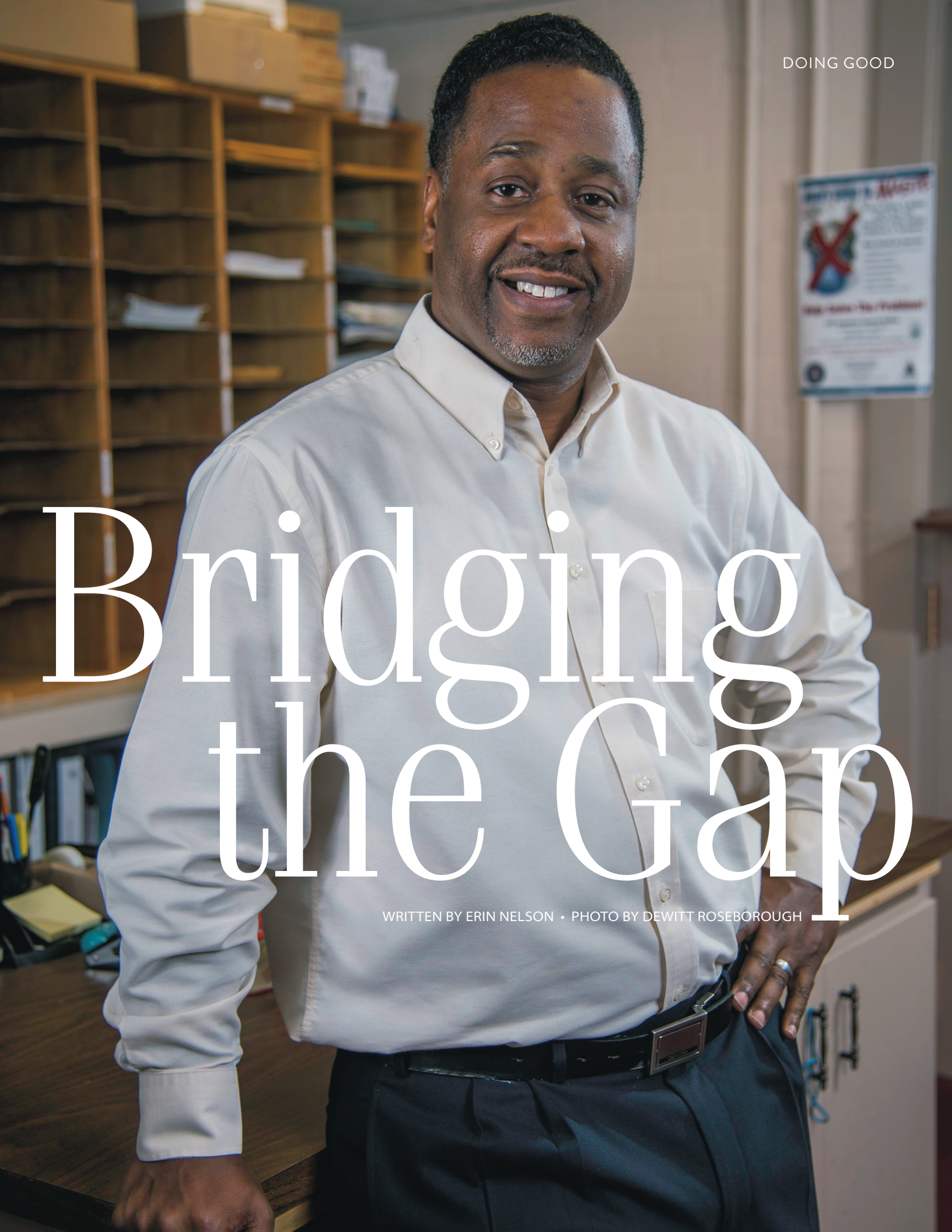
The Supreme Court Building and Grounds jurisdiction continued modernizing its digital building control system to improve energy performance. With remote reporting, trending and scheduling of mechanical equipment, building inefficiencies are identified and teams can proactively react to inadequate mechanical systems through a form of commissioning. Using the building automation system, the team can focus on irregularities and performance problems for numerous building systems. The team fine-tuned its equipment through smart actions on mechanical settings during periods of high energy consumption and by eliminating inefficient operations. The building control system and retro-commissioning process helped the Supreme Court Building and Grounds jurisdiction develop efficient best practices. *Photo courtesy of Joseph Dorsey, Supreme Court Building and Grounds*



Bridging the Gap

WRITTEN BY ERIN NELSON • PHOTO BY DEWITT ROSEBOROUGH

Millions of Americans volunteer every year, but few feel compelled to form their own organization. Greg Smith saw a problem in his community that had no solution, so he created one by starting his own non-profit — Kaizen Life Skills.

Kaizen is a Japanese word that means continuous improvement, and that is exactly what Smith hopes to achieve in the lives of those involved in his program. Kaizen Life Skills, based in Washington, D.C., provides area teenagers with the social and economic skills they need to succeed as adults.

Many of today's youth are not taught basic skills to help them face the challenges of everyday life. A significant number of kids in D.C. grow up in single-parent homes, where the parent works long hours. This leads to severely reduced family socializing time and forces children to acquire their social skills from television or their peers. The lack of proper social skills and self-awareness often manifests itself in poor decision-making, and the impacts can last a lifetime.

Smith, Program Manager of the Architect of the Capitol's Office Services Division, saw those impacts first-hand as he commuted to and from work on the Metro. "I saw a disparity between what today's youth saw in their world and what was actually happening. When I decided to help I knew I couldn't financially afford to help on my own. I felt I could do more by starting a non-profit. I wanted to make a serious impact — something beyond mentoring a kid here and there — that would help our teens transition into life as an adult and set them on a path toward success," he said. Kaizen Life Skills became the bridge to fill that gap between youth and adulthood.

The program helps close the gap by educating youth on topics such as money management and interviewing skills while also instilling in them a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Kaizen Life Skills has assisted more than 100 kids since its inception in 2012. Smith devotes approximately 25 hours a week to his cause. Most of his volunteer work happens on the weekends, but the nature of non-profit work does not lend itself to a 9-5 schedule. Smith spends much of his time talking to parents, mentoring youth from the program and networking with other

Photos courtesy of Greg Smith

organizations during the week. And when he's not doing volunteer work, he's thinking about it. "Everywhere I go, I am constantly reminded of my calling," Smith said. "It always comes back to my volunteer work and how I can help our youth."

Smith was raised by a single mother after his father passed away when he was just 18 months old. She chose not to remarry, giving Smith an instant connection to today's kids that are being raised by single parents. "I made some choices when I was a teenager that were not the best choices to make. I often wonder if I would have made better choices if I'd had a male influence at home," he said.

Smith was fortunate to have a strong foundation to fall back on, one that was rooted in community service. Smith's mother was a teacher, his father a Marine, so service was always a part of his life. "My mother always had me doing things for others. So when I made mistakes, I still had a foundation to return to. I realized that I was created to do more with my life. I believe that is key to developing youth who will become successful adults," he said.

Smith teaches the value of service to kids in his program by providing opportunities for them to volunteer with D.C. organizations. Through its service in 2015, volunteers from Kaizen Life Skills provided more than 7,000 meals to the homeless. The youth also collected socks and coats for the homeless and delivered Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners to families in need.

> "One of my main goals is to instill in them a sense of hope and the belief that they can make a difference."

Smith hopes the community service will help them build a strong foundation for their own lives. "I want our youth to feel like they belong and know that the world is not against them," he said. "One of my main goals is to instill in them a sense of hope and the belief that they can make a difference."

Those goals help drive Smith's vision. Within the next few years he plans to increase the enrollment of program participants to 50 or more each year and coordinate with D.C. public schools to begin after-school programs for middle and high school students. Part of that initiative also includes acquiring a facility to host the after-school programs as well as summer camps.

Smith's long term goal demonstrates the true motivation behind his service, "One day I hope someone is able to say, 'I completed the Kaizen Life Skills program, and it made a difference in my life.' That will make it all worth it."

5 Original Olmsted Trees

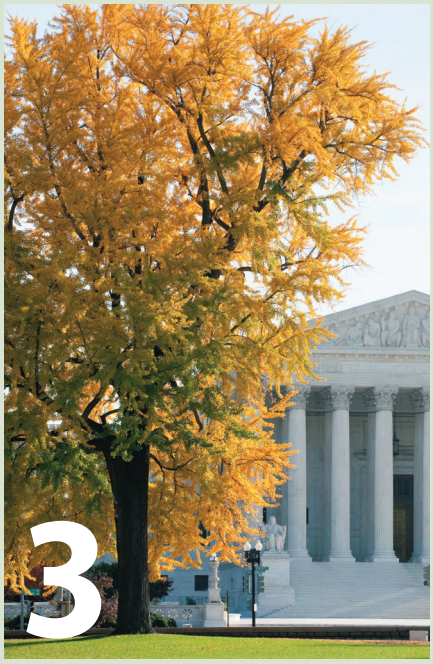
WRITTEN BY ANDREW DENTAMARO • PHOTOS BY SUSANNE BLEDSOE

In June 1874, Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903) presented a plan for the U.S. Capitol Grounds for a sophisticated landscape that highlighted the building it surrounded. In his submission for the Architect of the Capitol's annual report, Olmsted wrote that, "The ground is in design part of the Capitol, but in all respects subsidiary to the central structure."

The expansion and landscaping of the area that was completed from 1874 to 1892 incorporated park-like edging, low walls, lamps, careful placement of trees and simple shrubs, and a series of curved walkways that afforded attractive views of the Capitol. Olmsted later added the brick Summerhouse to his design to provide visitors with a drinking fountain and a cool place to rest.

There are currently about 890 trees surrounding the immediate Capitol Building on Capitol Square and more than 4,300 trees throughout the entire 274-acre Capitol Grounds. Some of the most majestic and unmistakable trees on campus were planted during the Olmsted period.

Pecan *(Carya illinionsis)*
A tree for all uses, the Pecan tree serves as the nation's most important commercial nut producer while its prized wood is also used for furniture and flooring. Our tree doesn't produce fully developed pecans as the regional growing season is not long enough, but it is the tallest tree on campus standing at 115 feet.



Ginkgo *(Ginkgo biloba)*
Known for its fan-shaped leaves that turn from bright green in the summer to bright yellow in the fall, the Ginkgo's earliest leaf fossils date back 270 million years. The Ginkgo drops all of its leaves at the same time leaving a solid yellow carpet under the tree.

Japanese Pagoda *(Styphnolobium japonicum)*
Also called the Chinese scholar tree, the Japanese Pagoda can be identified by its oval leaflets, gray-brown bark and shiny green twigs. Shown here, this Japanese Pagoda has extensive cabling to provide stability.

Pin Oak *(Quercus palustris)*
A classic shade tree, the Pin Oak does not have heavy horizontal branches like most oaks, but instead has many slender branches that arch out. In 1913, this Olmsted original was dedicated to Pennsylvania Congressman Marlin E. Olmsted (no relation).

Willow Oak *(Quercus phellos)*
The Willow Oak is known for its narrow leaves that undergo color shifts throughout the year — light green in the spring, dark green in the summer and yellow bronze-orange, yellow-brown and russet-red in the fall. One of the largest trees on campus, this tree is often photographed with the Capitol Dome in the background or as a backdrop for members of Congress.

Would you like to see these trees in person? To find their locations and information about other trees on Capitol Grounds, visit **www.aoc.gov/trees**.

Communications and Congressional Relations
U.S. Capitol, Room SB-16
Washington, DC 20515

The Architect of the Capitol strives to meet its mission 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to **serve** Congress and the Supreme Court, **preserve** America's Capitol, and **inspire** memorable experiences for all who visit the buildings and grounds.

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Where is this?

Answer: Rayburn House Office Building Foyer

Photo by James Rosenthal