

Facilities Management News

December 2019

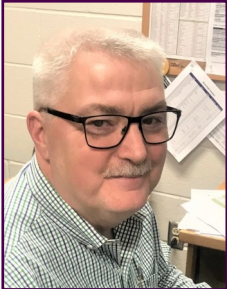
Dec 3—Holiday Bake Sale
 Dec 5—Quad Lighting Event
 Dec 12—FM Appreciation Breakfast
 Dec 19-31—*Winter Holidays Break
 Dec- 21—Hello Winter

How does JMU's Quad lighting in the photo at the left manage to just show up and be so beautiful!? Read more next page...



From the Associate Director

Steve Jobs said, "Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do."



I hope you do believe that you have, that we've all accomplished great work together. And I hope that you can look back over 2019 with the satisfaction of knowing that each of you has made a positive difference at JMU. This past year you've accomplished so much! I hope you have loved what you did as an important part of our 2019 accomplishments.

We've written a lot about training and pursuing education to be ready to step into a leader's role. But I think that when we love what we do in our jobs, that feeling spurs us to constant excellence. Through excellence, we are in truth already leading someone. We just may not realize that the effect of our excellence could be that others who work with us will also strive for excellence. By this way, we can all be someone who leads someone else regardless of our job title. As we close the year - and close a decade for that matter, I want to **thank those who are on call over the break**. And, I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas as well as a safe and Happy New Year! See you in 2020!

Rodney Lam



Does everyone remember the decorations Santa's elves left in the foyer of USB for Christmas last year? Now we know that the elves were really our own Debbie Gordon who started decorating eight years ago, and Melissa Mayhew who joined her last year. They're giving Team FM another gift of their personal time, resources, and energy this Christmas. With their love for Christmas, the two put their heads together to plan a fun display. Melissa says that Debbie is the anchor and the guiding planner for what they do. And Melissa admits, that she's the free spirit who likes to add a unique quality to their displays.

In the weeks before the winter break this year, Team FM and USB visitors will get to enjoy a Christmas display themed **Vintage Cool**. With night temps lately in arctic readings, don't we all know it: this year's decorating will be super cool!

Most FM staff enter USB from the dock or side doors. But when entering USB during December, come in the front door. Linger and enjoy every piece of holiday crafts that these two ladies in Team FM —who also moonlight for Santa—have come up with this year to make USB feel festive and bright! And when you cross their paths... be sure to give our holiday decorators, Debbie and Melissa, your appreciation for what they do for Team FM this Christmas season. *Thanks Debbie and Melissa!*

Don't forget, as the year ends, to stay up to date on your online safety training at [InClassNow!](#)



Team FM congratulates the landscaping leaders and crews for receiving a 2019 Honor Award from the Professional Grounds Management Society. The award gives national recognition to JMU's landscape pros for exceptional grounds management and the high degree of excellence in their work keeping the beautiful appearance of JMU's landscaping.

Let's all give our congratulations to Team FM's landscapers whenever we cross paths on campus, on our Facebook timeline, and wherever we get a chance. Great work! Thanks also to Dale Chestnut for entering JMU's beautiful landscape and the team that cares for it, for this award.



Keep doing what you're doing. You're obviously very good at it.



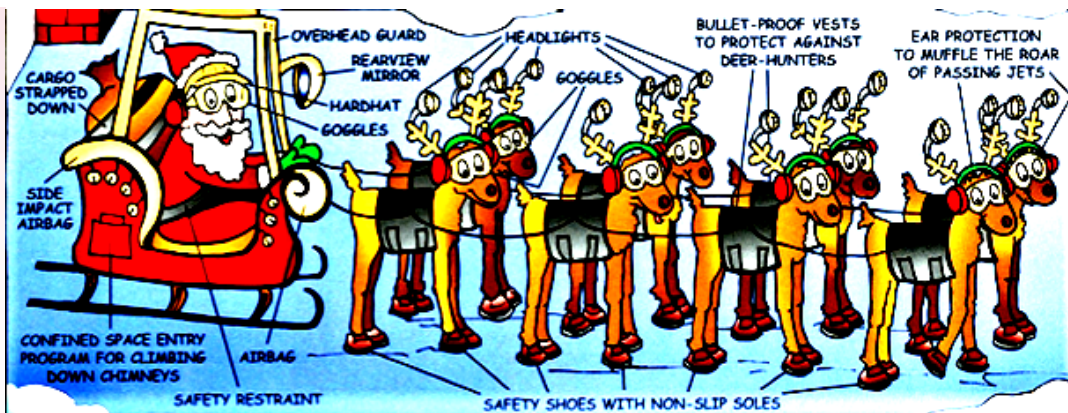
**Your Time Record for the Break is as shown .*

19-Dec	20-Dec	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	1-Jan
Thu	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed
RL	4 RL	8 RL	8 H	8 H	8 H	8 H	8 H	8 H	8



Julie Dove, FM's pro event planner shares how the annual Quad lighting event comes about. The cartoon at right is funny, but Julie and

the team facilitating carefully see to every detail with skill and compliance because they know there's meaning in the message. Even with often last minute timing, Team FM works together and delivers a very special event.



So much to do... So Little time! The Quad Lighting Event, 2019

Listen... Learn... Lead!



Nine Minutes on Monday
Dec 8, 2019, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Learn how to use a simple 9-minute model to keep important leadership tasks on your front burner. Also explore three key questions to connect purpose to paychecks. And more, learn an easy formula to increase staff engagement and performance. This four step formula can help emerging leaders learn how to address subpar performance and increasing employee engagement.

Laser Cut an Ornament
Dec 14 or 15, 2019, 2:00—4:00 .m.

Learn about technology and equipment like laser cutters, vinyl cutters, 3D printers, and more with hands on experience. Cut an ornament and learn what potential uses the equipment in JMU's X-Labs has that might benefit your career or your work team.

More info here: [Talent Development](#).

The year is counting down. Don't forget to stay on top of using leave. To avoid loosing hours that exceed the carry over limit, the excess must be used by January 9. If you don't use it... you lose it!

Most folks don't give much thought about how it is that every year at this time a magical display of festive lights that drape garlands, weave through a giant wreath, and cover a fragrant evergreen tree, all just happen to appear on JMU's Quad. In an era of environmental concerns, OSHA dictates, sustainability goals, limited budgets, specialized trades skills, cultural constructs, religious traditions, agency policies, student organization wishes, it might be that JMU's Quad lighting annual event is actually quite a challenge for all of the pros who work to make it happen. The Quad might look magical all alight, but how it happens is entirely practical. This year, on December 5, one day before the Harrisonburg Holiday Parade, the gigantic light switch built by FM's Carpenter Shop just for this event will be thrown, and the Quad will be bright with cheer and good will.

The Quad lighting is hosted each year by JMU's Student Government Association's (SGA) junior class. This year, the SGA Junior Class President is Nicole Bosurgi who arranged for hot chocolate and tea with cookies to be served to students, faculty, staff, and community guests who attend. A program highlight is the color light show orchestrated to music and cast onto Wilson Hall (*see image left*). Nicole also shared that local families with children appreciate attending this event and enjoy the light show spectacle. Duke Dog and JMU's President mingle for photo ops with students, faculty and staff, and visitors from JMU's surrounding community. Nicole says that this event is a great way "for faculty and students to come together before we head off for winter break."

Julie Dove shares she has to hit the ground running once she gets an official, some -times up to the wire, green light. Her initial efforts center on getting work orders in AIM for every task that will be done by any of the FM shops. She coordinates with John Khamphavong in Geospatial Engineering Services to be sure underground utilities are marked before the Landscape team begins digging. Julie works with lighting and sound system vendors for their set up and tear down. And she rents a lift with a bucket that can reach high enough to hang a wreath and swaged garlands under the portico of Wilson Hall as well as to string lights from the tiptop of the tree (*front page images - Jonathan Gordon in the bucket*). Julie holds pre-event tests to make certain the lighting part of the event will be perfectly uneventful—from a technical standpoint that is — when Dr. Tim Miller this year's speaker, throws the massive light switch. She says that it's hard for folks who just drive past on Main Street or students who come and enjoy the social aspect of the event, or anyone seeing the illuminated Quad, *to imagine all the work that goes into this popular event.*

Frank Lucas, Assistant Director, Environmental Services, shared that he gets "marching orders" and then works with tree pros to choose a tree that is growing somewhere on the JMU campus. His team chooses a tree that they usually hand-dig from its home garden site and then gunny wrap the roots with care. Frank continued saying that after the season concludes, sometimes the tree is replanted in the same place that it came from. Or some years, the landscape team may replant the tree in a new location on campus if they feel the tree had outgrown its original home. Regardless of where the tree is replanted, landscapers attend to soil conditions and water it *as long as it takes* to nurse the tree along until it's reestablished. To their credit, Landscape has an 80% success rate with live-dug and replanted trees. They're saving cost, facilitating tree inventory management, and putting a JMU tree to dual uses.

Julie wraps up her event recap by sharing that the event started as a Christmas event that was begun in the early 80s, and that she has overseen the event for its last 14 years. The event has evolved and—while no longer a Christmas tree lighting—Julie says it is still an event that the FM team facilitates that brings people together in a joyful experience of the wintery season. SGA will share more news on this event with a post on JMU's event website and with JMU bulk email from the SGA soon after the Thanksgiving break.