

Elizabeth 'Janey' Wilcox

Administrative Assistant, Veterinary Medicine & Colony Management,
Yerkes Field Station

Tell us a little about the work you've done at Emory throughout your career.

I worked at Yerkes Main Center from 1986 to 1995 (Director's Office, Vet Department, Reproductive Biology Department, IACUC Primate Subcommittee). From 1995 to 2011 I worked in the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee office. Since 2011, I have worked at Yerkes Field Station in Lawrenceville.



***Janey with her award-winning
Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Heidi***

What are some of your favorite memories of your time at Emory?

I have been privileged to work with some amazing people in my 35 years at Emory. Some moments that come to mind are as follows: 1) As a Yerkes employee, I was able to attend a preview of the gorilla habitat at Zoo Atlanta. 2) I was still at Yerkes Main Center when Willy B fathered his first offspring with one of the Yerkes gorillas. I was working in the Reproductive Biology Department. I answered call for my supervisor from Zoo Atlanta vet. I had to keep the secret of Willy B's possible fatherhood. 3) As a member of the IACUC primate subcommittee, main IACUC office staff, & Admin Assistant at Field Station, I am proud of my small part in the research arm at Emory University.

What are some of the most significant changes you have witnessed over the course of your career?

There are so many milestones in research and technology. The technological advances made it possible for me to continue my Administrative Assistant role at the Field Station while working at home for most of an 18-month time period during the COVID-19 crisis. At least two of the research advancements touched close to home. One was Emory research that played a large part in making possible the heart valve replacement that has allowed my father to still be in my life today at his age of 89 years. A second was the Emory research involved in making a friend's double organ transplant possible.

Is there anything you miss from "back in the day"?

I miss Emory colleagues that have retired or have passed on from their earthly life. Growth is good, but the size of Yerkes and Emory has taken some getting used to.

What do you hope for the future of Emory?

I hope that everyone at Emory, all the way up to the top of the University administration, remembers that Emory would not be where it is today without all those who have been some part of the Emory community. Good communication across the whole University community is going to be key.

Anything else you would like to share?

Making people feel that they are a valued member of their departments is extremely important. I have been blessed to have co-workers that make me feel valued. I feel it in actions and words. I thank my co-workers for that. It is an increasingly rare commodity these days.