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Rather than plant a haphazard assortment of trees regardless of origin, he would prefer to bring in trees not only native to South Carolina, but, specifically, native to the South Carolina Lowcountry.

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Dubosh insists, noting that several campus trees will have dramatically shortened life spans because they were not planted properly. Compounding the challenge is allowing trees to flourish in an urban environment in the midst of buildings, streets and sidewalks. Dubosh proposes the use of a modular cell system designed for urban trees. The system can be pricey, but the return in benefits of a mature tree network, including erosion prevention and soil stability, could be worth the cost.

In addition to the direct benefit to MUSC's campus, this endeavor could position the university as a leader in this area and influence neighboring communities and developments to follow the same path, Dubosh believes.

Most of Dubosh's attention is focused on terra firma, and with MUSC's campus comprising more than 82 acres, there is much ground to cover. But there are other nooks and crannies tucked in among MUSC's 90-plus buildings, including one piece of real estate five stories high. There, on the fifth floor of MUSC's venerable 58-year-old main hospital, is an outdoor terrace overlooking the Horseshoe, long overlooked by virtually everybody.

"Nobody even knew it was there," Dubosh says. "Doctors who had been here for 15 years didn't know it was there." The

family of a patient on the fifth floor brought it to the attention of MUSC officials and made a donation expressly for the purpose of improving the view from patients' rooms.

"There's a lot of research showing that patients who have views of nature scenes recover more quickly and require less powerful pain medicine," he says.

Another project involves the Ronald McDonald House, where trees would screen the asphalt parking lot from visitors'

rooms, adding to the site's aesthetics while providing the previously mentioned unseen benefits, such as reduced stress, cleaner air and soil stability.

As enthusiastic as Dubosh is about MUSC's tree care, he did not come to the university with that as his purpose. He supervised a maintenance crew, and, having some prior experience with pruning trees, volunteered to take that on when needed. When the university began looking for an arborist, he was encouraged to become certified in that field. Now, that enthusiasm is spreading.

"We have a really good crew right now – a lot of people who really care about what we're doing, are constantly learning and pushing themselves to be better," he says. If that effort continues, MUSC's outdoor "classroom" may well outlast the brick ones.