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# THE WHISTLE

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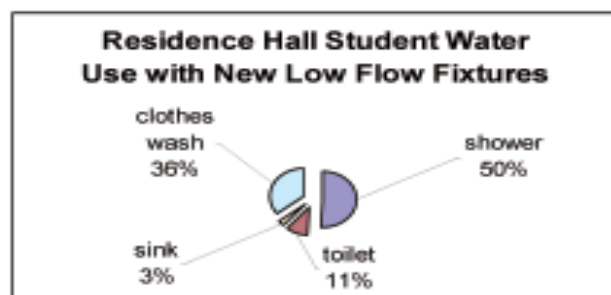
## Task force named for water usage and conservation

President Wayne Clough has appointed the Campus Water Conservation Task Force, which has been charged with addressing what Georgia Tech can do beyond what has already been done through the campus master plan and sustainability program goals to conserve water and respond to the 10 percent water restriction recently announced by the Governor. The task force is comprised of representatives from across campus, including students, faculty, recreation, athletics, Housing, Facilities, GTRI, Student Affairs and others.

A second committee will be announced later that will have a more academic and research orientation to address broader water conservation and sustainability issues as part of Georgia Tech's mission to be the defining technological university of the 21st century, as well as to assist the state with the broader challenges it faces.

The Campus Water Conservation Task Force will report its preliminary recommendations in mid-November, working to comply with Georgia Gov. Sonny Perdue's request to reduce water usage by 10 percent. Marcia Kinstler, in Campus Environmental Stewardship in Finance and Administration, will lead the task force.

"We are giving a more intense focus," Kinstler said. "In the past, we've been involved in water conservation as we have constructed new buildings or carried out renova-



tions and retrofits under our sustainability strategies, Campus Master Plan and Campus Landscape Plan. Because of the water shortage, we are evaluating a wider and a faster implementation schedule."

The task force will have from 15 to 20 core members, and is expected to include additional subcommittees, Kinstler says. Some steps that can be taken right away include reducing water usage, especially in restrooms, being vigilant in looking for water leaks in the system and conducting community outreach. She adds the task force has "typical water-usage charts" showing water usage patterns for residence halls, research laboratories, households and office buildings.

"Most people wonder why the water-saving tips focus so much on the bathrooms, but that is a major usage, whether in a residence hall, apartment or house or in an office or a laboratory," Kinstler said. "Using less water per flush, or even avoiding two to three flushes per person per day, takes us a long way toward the 10 percent reduction in water. The other major restroom strategy is to limit your shower to 5 minutes a day."

*Drought continued, page 2*

## Committees explore curriculum modification

Robert Nesmith  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

During the Office of the Provost's "Task for Excellence" off-site retreat held during the Fall Break, committees assigned by Provost Gary Schuster to evaluate the Institute's core missions met to measure their progress and decide on a direction in which to proceed.

In May, task forces comprised of faculty members were assigned two tasks: Examine the undergraduate curriculum and set an institutional vision and strategy with respect to interdisciplinary programs. At the off-site, the groups charted their progress, and narrowed their focus toward recommendation of action at the end of the spring semester.

"We started in the summer, conducted benchmarking and looked at some of the best practices at other universities," said Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor Laurence Jacobs, who leads the undergraduate curriculum group. "We've contacted every undergraduate curriculum committee, and we've received feedback from 14 out of the 25 or so that exist. From that input, we came up with five questions (presented at the off-site) as a result."

These questions explored varying factors, including promoting rigor and breadth in each major, the common competencies that each Tech graduate should have and ways to boost faculty/student interaction.

To that end, the committee is now exploring a number of recommendations, including modifying the Institute's calendar, offering co-curricular "learning communities" and allowing more flexibility for interdisciplinary study in courses within established academic programs.

The Year of Engagement is one idea presented by the committee that would encompass many of these goals—and would have few barriers

*Curriculum, continued, page 3*

## ILRC tops Tech's legislative agenda

Robert Nesmith  
Institute Communications  
and Public Affairs

Prior to the football game against the University of North Carolina, a group of alumni, faculty and staff will meet to plan ahead for the Georgia General Assembly's new year.

The Tech Alumni Legislative Network's fall briefing, to be held Nov. 17 in the Student Success Center's Clary Theater, will feature Georgia Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle as the guest speaker. The meeting's focus will be to inform the group about Tech-related initiatives coming before the state legislature in January.

Headlining the group's agenda is the proposed Innovative Learning Resource Center (ILRC), the location for all science labs for freshmen and sophomores.

"The foundational science courses will all be housed in the facility, along with training and assistance," says Dene Sheheane, director of Government Relations. "It will help the

*Legislative, continued, page 2*

## Council on Competitiveness honors President Clough

Georgia Tech President Wayne Clough and Samuel Palmisano, the CEO of IBM, were honored at the Council on Competitiveness annual dinner held Oct. 25 for their leadership on the Council's National Innovation Initiative (NII).

Clough and Palmisano's involvement in the National Innovation Initiative—a call to action to bolster U.S. competitiveness and innovation—paved the way for the American COMPETES Act, which President George W. Bush recently signed into law. This statute was called for in the Council's NII report, "Innovate America," and authorizes increased funding for math and science education, supports



increased research budgets and implements a national innovation agenda.

The dinner is held in conjunction with the council's annual meeting. This year's meeting explored five policy goals critical to sustained U.S. competitiveness: challenging

frontiers in science and technology; renewing access to competitive, secure and sustainable energy; achieving creative and cutting-edge talent; transforming risk intelligence into resilience; and engaging in the global economy.

For more information...

**Council on Competitiveness**  
[www.compete.org](http://www.compete.org)

## “QUOTE— UNQUOTE”

“That is the cheapest and easiest way to get hydrogen today, (but) we’d be trading dependence on one form of fossil fuel for another.”

—Tom Fuller, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Professor and a former director of fuel-cell engineering at United Technologies, referring to obtaining hydrogen from natural gas.

## Correction

In the Oct. 22 article “Provost names McLaughlin to International Initiatives,” it was incorrectly stated that Steve McLaughlin would oversee Tech’s satellite campuses. McLaughlin will instead provide leadership and strategic direction to the Office of International Education, which includes education-abroad programs. The Whistle regrets the error.



## THE WHISTLE

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## Drought, cont'd from page 1

“We anticipate identifying how Georgia Tech can reduce its use of city water by the amount we’ve been asked to do,” Kinstler says. “And we are working on outreach programs and volunteer efforts where we can help those who need it the most. We hope the students, faculty and staff will work to reduce water use on three fronts: their own daily lives, their families and friends and also do outreach to others who don’t have the knowledge or other resources to implement low-flow fixtures or otherwise reduce their water usage.”

Georgia Tech began its water conservation efforts as part of the Institute’s sustainability efforts in 1992 and continues to implement and expand them today. Facilities, Housing, Athletics and others have taken several steps to reduce consumption—many before the extreme drought hit the region. Infrastructure changes, such as low-flow fixtures in campus restrooms and residence halls, as well as maintenance improvements to the Institute’s central plant, have helped to staunch significant water usage. Over the last five years, upgrading and repairing the chiller systems has boosted efficiency 25 to 30 percent. Facilities has a Utilities Committee which works with Housing, GTRI, Athletics and others across campus to identify ways to save water and energy.

And with all of this, the Institute has made managing water usage a part of its growth and sustainability strategies. In 2001, nearly 350 million gallons of water served 10 million square feet. For fiscal year 2007, the water usage has remained the same, while the campus has grown an additional 3 million square feet.

More advanced improvements also have come to the fore in the last few years as sustainable buildings, which adhere to federal benchmarks of energy, water and materials usage, contribute to conservation.

Georgia Tech is a respected leader in sustainability, and was enlisted as a partner in 2002 when Atlanta was examining its aging water infrastructure. “This water shortage is part of a long-term situation,” Kinstler said. “The second committee being formed at Georgia Tech will focus beyond our campus and on a longer term solution to the water shortage and other sustainability issues. Policy and Planning aspects of water management and usage will also be fundamental to solving these issues long-term,” she said. “Research and Technology are a key to our planet’s and society’s long-term sustainability. These are Georgia Tech’s strengths.”

For more information...

[www.gatech.edu/conservation/](http://www.gatech.edu/conservation/)

## It’s easy being green



Thanks to the staff of Facilities and Operations, Tech was named the runner-up in the universities category of the Green Cleaning Award, a joint recognition between American School & University magazine, the Green Cleaning Network and the Healthy Schools Campaign to recognize environmentally friendly cleaning practices. Left, Berikisu Osekre makes sure the windows shine. The department will be featured in the magazine’s December issue.



From left are (front row) Taffie Maynard, Marvin Mosley, Stanley Smith, Judith Minniefield and Yolanda Bennett. In the back row are Building Services Manager Tommy Little with supervisors Samuel Stamps, Antonio English, Chalette Mitchell, Waytha Gordon, Annie Jones, Courtney Stinson, Gwen Marks and Daniel De’Saussure. For more information, visit [www.facilities.gatech.edu](http://www.facilities.gatech.edu).

## Legislative, cont'd from page 1

students be more successful, which will make them more likely to return and go on to graduation.”

An \$85 million project, the 230,000-square-foot building will be located near Skiles and the Student Center. The Institute is requesting \$50 million from the General Assembly. The other \$35 million will come from non-state or donor funding.

Legislative network members are charged with contacting their state representatives and senators to lobby personally for those items that directly benefit the Institute. “The message resonates in a stronger way when our network member and his or her legislator have a conversation,” said Betsy Jackson, assistant to the director of Government Relations. “It’s on a more personal level.”

Other items on the network’s agenda for 2008 are support legislation that would allow universities to roll over some funds to the next fiscal year and a request of funds for the university system’s Major Repairs and Rehabilitation program.

“The Board of Regents provides funds for deferred maintenance on all 35 campuses across the state,” Sheheane said. “Like others, we have roofs, elevators and HVAC systems that need tending. We rely on the state to keep those systems up and run-



Georgia Tech mascot Buzz takes to the floor of the General Assembly as Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle presides.

ning.” The University System will request \$70 million, half in cash and half in bonds, to be allocated to the 35 institutions.

The Legislative Network Fall Briefing is open to faculty and staff. To attend, RSVP to Jackson at [betsy.jackson@dev.gatech.edu](mailto:betsy.jackson@dev.gatech.edu). An online newsletter chronicling the legislature’s progress will be available during the 2008 session.

For more information...

**Department of Government Relations newsletter**  
[www.gtln.gatech.edu](http://www.gtln.gatech.edu)



## Signing a 'Contract'

Georgia Tech Center for Conservation Director Terry Maple, right, spoke on A Contract with the Earth, co-written with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, at Barnes & Noble @ Georgia Tech last week. The pair signed copies of the book, which calls for businesses, policymakers and conservationists to form partnerships for preserving the environment.



**Curriculum**, cont'd from page 1

for short-term implementation.

"With this, the faculty would choose a question or topic that the campus tries to answer—energy, for example," Jacobs said. Academic programs across all disciplines would work this common theme into their curricula, fostering "interaction between the schools and the faculty, and between the faculty and the students."

"We could move from just being academic to more intellectual," he said.

Regarding the Institute's academic calendar, Jacobs said there could be room for an intersession—an intensive, shortened course offered between the spring and fall semesters—or even a "mini-mester" course, which would be offered for a few weeks during an existing semester.

Another goal in expanding the curriculum is breaking down established barriers to allow for more modularity and choice in courses.

Students would then more easily be able to select minors or even double majors.

"We'll never be able to 'dictate,' but we can work on providing opportunities," Jacobs said.

"This would help our students to pick minors or allow for some 'mini-minors.' Students could then select different subjects (outside of their major course), and this would allow for more interdisciplinary studies, but less rigid—more à la carte," he said, referring to the Threads program in the College of Computing. "It helps that we're so big—everyone doesn't have to go at once."

"A significant minority of faculty are very well-engaged with these ideas," Jacobs added. "That's what is so great about Georgia Tech. We don't need a majority (to make this work). We

just need a critical mass of the faculty to get moving."

While one goal is to remove rigidity in course programs and subjects, Jacobs insists that is not in the plan for the Institute overall. "We need to come up with a way to keep that Tech rigor, but allow for broadness and flexibility."

Proposed co-curricular learning communities, similar to the International House, would consist of an academic group of faculty and students from different disciplines and programs. They would meet and discuss a topic or subject independent of the Year of Engagement.

"Tech has a rich legacy in interdisciplinary programs, miles ahead of any other technological institute," said Industrial and Systems Engineering Professor Leon McGinnis, who heads up the interdisciplinary committee. "Let's look at the things we do pretty well and see if we can't do them better."

His group also was charged with presenting a range of questions, which he says were broken down into several issues for exploration. As with Jacobs' group, members of the task force spoke with many on campus to see what was and

was not working. "We did a lot of level-setting," McGinnis said. "The main question was 'How do we foster the big ideas?' For a long time, Tech has been very good at the technical issues, but not as much with the overarching issues—political, social and economic. What can we do to make Tech a bigger player in those regards?"

Other challenges facing such a broad program of interdisciplinary study include the governance of these programs, as the faculty handbook does not currently provide for oversight. Accountability and credit also were examined.

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**Civil and Environmental Engineering Professor  
Laurence Jacobs**

## IN BRIEF:

### Auction items sought

The Georgia Tech Women's Forum seeks donations for its annual silent auction, to be held Nov. 28 from 11:30 to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Ballroom. Products requested for auction include gift certificates to restaurants or retailers, tickets for sporting or cultural events, arts, crafts and memorabilia. For more information, visit [www.chemistry.gatech.edu/gtwf](http://www.chemistry.gatech.edu/gtwf).

### Architect Ventulett honored

The American Institute of Architects awarded Thomas W. Ventulett III with the Bernard B. Rothschild Award, which recognizes distinguished service to the profession of architecture in the state of Georgia. His firm, Thompson, Ventulett, Stainback and Associates, assisted in several projects in Washington, D.C., and Chicago, as well as Technology Square in Atlanta. A visiting professor in the College of Architecture, Ventulett and his family also endowed the Thomas W. Ventulett III Distinguished Chair in Architectural Design.

### Wireless partnership planned

Alcatel-Lucent and Georgia Tech are in negotiations to establish on campus the Alcatel-Lucent Center of Excellence, which would provide ultra-high bandwidth to develop jointly "augmented reality" applications and massive multiplayer online games for mobile platforms. The partnership, funded by Alcatel-Lucent, is supported by the Georgia Tech Broadband Institute. For more information, visit [www.broadband.gatech.edu](http://www.broadband.gatech.edu).

### Thomas lends voice to security

AirDefense Inc.'s vice president of product strategy David Thomas joined the advisory board of the Georgia Tech Information Security Center (GTISC) Oct. 15. AirDefense is recognized for its innovation in launching the wireless LAN security market. Thomas is responsible for the company's overall product direction. For more information, visit [www.gtisc.gatech.edu](http://www.gtisc.gatech.edu).

### Budgeting solution honored

Internet Budgeting Solution, developed internally at the Office of Budget Planning and Administration, was chosen as a finalist in the 2007 Southern Association of College and University Business Officers Best Practices competition at its 2007 meeting. Presented to SACUBO by Jim Kirk and Steve Head, the program allows departments to develop and amend their budgets throughout the year. For more information, visit <http://budnet.pbf.gatech.edu>.

## In the spirit



The Library's Collections, Acquisitions and Management department won the annual Halloween decoration contest for their jail-themed workspace. From left are Lynn Fenster, Anna-Marie Soper-O'Rourke, Elizabeth Winter, Cynthia Collins, Jeff Carrico, Angie Juene-mann, Thomas Fisher and Sonya Roy.