

Coda Celebrates Opening Day

ELIZABETH THOMSON
RESEARCH NEWS

The building has been occupied since earlier this spring, but May 23 marked the official ribbon cutting of the newest addition to Tech Square and the Midtown skyline.

Coda, developed by Portman Holdings and Databank, is special in many ways. At 755,000 square feet, Coda is believed to be the largest structure of its kind: a facility built to actively encourage the collaborations between university researchers — including students — and industry

that can lead to new technologies.

Georgia Tech is the anchor tenant of the new building, occupying about 50 percent of the available space. The rest will be leased to companies including thyssenkrupp and Keysight

see **CODA**, page 2

Academic Forgiveness Policy Expands Beyond First-Year Students

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

On April 23, Georgia Tech's Academic Faculty Senate approved changes to the Institute's Grade Substitution policy that were proposed by the Student Regulations Committee.

The previous policy permitted first-time, first-year students to repeat a course in which they received a D or an F grade, and have their new grade substituted for the old grade in the calculation of the academic grade point average (GPA). That policy now extends to all undergraduate students during any year of study.

The policy began as a way to support first-year students in their transition to the college environment, which usually has a different structure of teaching and learning than high school.

"Accompanied by other 'first-time' changes in students' lives, such as being away from home and their families, these 'firsts' can collectively contribute to lower performance in a course that is not a true reflection of the student's ultimate achievements in a program," said Natasha Boland, Fouts Family Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

The policy changes grew out of the work of the Diversity and Inclusion Council of the College of Engineering, of which Boland is a part.

The council began meeting in 2017 with the mission to "identify, raise awareness of, and work on issues related to diversity and inclusion." The group formed at the direction of Steve McLaughlin, Dean and Southern Company Chair of the College of Engineering, with support from Pinar Keskinocak, the William W. George Chair and Professor in the H. Milton Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering and ADVANCE Professor.

In their work, the group noticed differences in retention rates for transfer students. They began to dig deeper to find out why those rates differed

see **GRADES**, page 4

SUMMER IS COMING



Photo by Allison Carter

Rozenn Pineau (left) and Sarah Sundius, graduate students in quantitative biosciences, stroll past *Because of You*, by Josh Garber, outside of the Krone Engineered Biosystems Building on the first day of the summer semester. The sculpture is made of stainless steel screws and hex nuts and based on the white blood cell, the macrophage.

6 Books to Add to Your Summer Reading List

VICTOR ROGERS
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

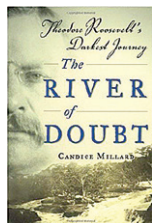
Searching for a good book to read while on vacation (or staycation)? Look no further.

We asked a few avid readers for recommendations, and they delivered. The books range from the telling of Teddy Roosevelt's scientific expedition of an unknown Amazon River tributary to the story of a rebellious teen forced to spend the summer with her father.

The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey

By Candice Millard,
Broadway Books,
Anchor Books (2005)

"I'm happy to recommend a book I thought I wouldn't like but actually had trouble putting down: *River of Doubt*. It's the story of Theodore Roosevelt's scientific expedition to chart what was, at the time, an unknown



tributary of the Amazon — the River of Doubt. What is history reads like fiction, and the development of personalities as well as the actual story behind the almost fatal (to him) exploration of this piece of South America is really fascinating. A great summer read that still feeds the brain and won't have you feeling guilty!"

—Marta Garcia, associate
vice president for International
Development, Office of Development

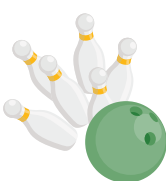
see **READING**, page 4

NEWS BRIEFS



Signups Close Wednesday for Summer Bowling League

Teams of four will play at Tech Rec on Tuesdays in June. Registration is \$60 per team. Learn more and sign up by May 29 at: c.gatech.edu/bowling



Four Tech Students Earn Fulbrights

Three recipients come from the College of Engineering, while the fourth comes from the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. All will pursue international graduate study or international research through the Fulbright program. Read more at:

news.gatech.edu



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EVENTS

ARTS AND CULTURE

May 31

Max Amini brings his *Authentically Absurd Tour* to the Ferst Center for the Arts at 8 p.m.

arts.gatech.edu

Through July 12

The Robert C. Williams Museum of Papermaking hosts two exhibits, *Postage Required* and *Marvelous Marbling*. The museum is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

paper.gatech.edu

SEMINARS AND LECTURES

June 5

Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on *Preventing Identity Theft* from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 117, Smithgall Student Services (Flag) Building.

hr.gatech.edu/bewell

June 9-10

The Women in Data Science Workshop is the kickoff event of the Data Science Forum and will take place in the Klaus Advanced Computing Building. View a full agenda, learn more, and register at: dsf.ideas.gatech.edu/events/WDSW

June 9-12

The Machine Learning in Science and Engineering Conference, also part of the Data Science Forum, will take place at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Learn more and register at: dsf.ideas.gatech.edu/events/mlse

WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING

June 5

Tech Ends Suicide Together hosts a QPR Training session from noon to 2 p.m. in Room 117 of the Smithgall Student Services (Flag) Building. Additional sessions will take place in alternate locations on June 18, July 8, and July 19. Learn more and RSVP at: c.gatech.edu/qpr

June 6

Workday will go live on July 1. Tune in to a webinar from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to learn more about training, support, and important dates as the final transition approaches. Learn more and RSVP at: transformation.gatech.edu

EVENTS continued on page 3



Photos by Christopher Moore


An open plaza welcomes visitors to Coda from West Peachtree Street. Below, Tech employees from Information Technology work in some of the new collaborative spaces. The building's facade is primarily glass, as seen from West Peachtree Street.

CODA, from page 1

Technologies, which are both relocating their innovation centers to Coda, and WeWork, which will be home to several startup companies. Coda is also directly responsible for attracting Anthem Technology to the area. The company aims to move some 1,000 employees to Tech Square.

"Coda is one of the city's most important office projects in decades," wrote J. Scott Trubey in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution earlier this year. In 2016, Invest Atlanta, the City of Atlanta's development authority, estimated that Coda could have an economic impact of \$813.8 million over the next two decades.

"Collaboration among different disciplines, and between academia and industry, will be critical to developing solutions to the complex societal challenges facing us in the years ahead," said Chaouki Abdallah, Georgia Tech's executive vice president for Research. "Coda is intended to facilitate that through a unique design including a collaborative core with a spiral staircase that creates opportunities for unanticipated collisions and constructive interactions among those working in the building."

 Learn more about the building in a feature at c.gatech.edu/coda.



FACULTY AND STAFF ACHIEVEMENTS

Sirocus Barnes, program director in CEISMC, was named a recipient of the 2019 Horizons Leadership Award, which is given to a Horizons executive director or site director who contributes both on a local and national level and embodies the spirit of Horizons, which provides academic, cultural, and recreational programs for students from under-served communities.

The National Academy of Engineering honored **Paul Benkeser**, senior associate chair and professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering; **Joseph Le Doux**, associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering; and **Wendy Newstetter**, director of Learning Sciences Research in the College of Engineering, with the 2019 Bernard M. Gordon Prize medal for innovation in engineering and technology education.

Atlanta Public Schools named **CEISMC** its Outstanding Postsecondary Partner at an awards ceremony earlier this month.

Tushar Krishna, assistant professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering, has been named a recipient of the Google Faculty Research Award. Krishna was also recently chosen as a recipient of Facebook Research’s Faculty Award for AI System Hardware/Software Co-Design. He was one of eight selected from 88 submissions worldwide.

The National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health has chosen **Wilbur Lam**, associate professor in the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, to receive an Emerging Investigator Award. The award is one of only seven awarded this year.

The **Georgia Tech Library’s** “We are Library Next” video, produced with Washington, D.C.-based partner Hillmann and Carr, earned three Association of Research Libraries (ARLy) film awards Thursday, May 9.

Glaucio Paulino, Raymond Allen Jones Chair in the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been elected a fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a recognition of his achievements that’s reserved for fewer than 4% of the society’s members.

John Peponis, professor in the School of Architecture, received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Thessaly, Greece, on May 8. The award was conferred in recognition of distinguished contributions to the discipline of architecture, architectural research, and architectural education in Greece and abroad.

Matthew Realff, Professor and David Wang Sr. Fellow in the School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, was named Person of the Year for 2018 by the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), a nonprofit charged with advancing market-based solutions for carpet recycling and landfill diversion of post-consumer carpet. He was honored at the 17th Annual CARE Conference in Houston, Texas, on May 1.

Bobby Strickland, senior graphic designer in Professional Education, won two bronze Indigo Design Awards for his work on graphics related to Ethics Awareness Week at Georgia Tech.

The American Astronautical Society has announced that **Panagiotis Tsiotras**, David & Andrew Lewis Chair in the Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering, has been elected a Fellow of the Society, the highest-ranking membership offered.

Admission Director to Offer Insight to High School Parents

KRISTEN BAILEY
INSTITUTE COMMUNICATIONS

Rick Clark lives and breathes the college admission process every day and knows how stressful it can be for high schoolers and parents alike. That’s why this summer, the director of Undergraduate Admission will share his expertise with the campus community at a forum for any faculty and staff member who has a high schooler that plans to apply to college.

The Basics of College Admission will provide tips for approaching the process pragmatically as a family, no matter where a student plans to apply. Clark said anyone in the Tech community with a high schooler who is thinking about going to college should attend.

“We want the program to be a benefit for faculty and staff,” he said. “It won’t be about how to get into Georgia Tech, but we’ll talk about good ways to visit schools, how to put together a balanced college list, and how admission decisions are made. There will be something relevant for anyone with a student going into ninth through 12th grade.”

Employees are welcome to bring their high school students but do not have to. Even for those who have already had a student



Rick Clark

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The Basics of College Admission

Thursday, June 13
1:15 to 3:45 p.m.

Clary Theatre, Student Success Center
Register at c.gatech.edu/admission101.
Read the Undergraduate Admission blog at pwp.gatech.edu/admission-blog.

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go through the process, Clark says there are things to be learned.

“We hear from parents who say, ‘I’m gonna do this differently next time,’” he said.

Clark and his staff write a weekly blog about college admission and the holistic process, which offers thoughts on getting ready to apply to and go to college for high schoolers, their parents, and their family members. He also recently co-authored *The Truth about College Admission*, which will be released in September from Johns Hopkins University Press.

The event will take place Thursday, June 13, from 1:15 to 3:45 p.m. in the Clary Theatre of the Bill Moore Student Success Center. Attendees can register online. Those who can’t attend can view a similar presentation Clark gave to Georgia Tech alumni in 2018 at c.gatech.edu/admissionforum.



Photo courtesy of the CRC

The leisure pool at the Campus Recreation Center features swim lanes and a slide.

CRC Offers Swim Lessons to Members, Nonmembers

CHRISTINE LEMASTER
CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER

Swimming is the only sport that could save your life. At one time or another, you are bound to find yourself around water, whether you’re at the beach, on a boat, or lounging by the pool with friends. It is also a skill that you are never too young or too old to acquire.

The Campus Recreation Center (CRC) offers swim programs to fit all levels and needs.

“Water safety and knowing how to swim is important for everyone,” said Stephanie Belcher, aquatics and fitness coordinator at the CRC.

The CRC offers two levels of lessons, in either a group or private environment,

to build confidence and ensure safety in the pool. Instructional swim programs are available for both members and nonmembers, with classes available for anyone aged 5 and up.

Group lessons are offered Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. Small group lessons are limited to six participants in four 30-minute sessions. Private classes are scheduled separately by contacting Stephanie Belcher. Semi-private classes consist of two students per instructor and include two 30-minute lessons. Private lessons are customized to swimmers’ abilities and include two 30-minute lessons.

Group lessons begin the week of June 3 and run through the end of July.

Visit crc.gatech.edu/aquatics/lessons for pricing and registration information.

EVENTS

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June 7
The Library hosts a training session on EndNote X9, a powerful bibliographic management tool that can help with the research process and is free for the Tech community. The training will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Crosland Tower.
library.gatech.edu

June 11
The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts a Safe Space training session from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn more and register at:
lgbtqia.gatech.edu

June 14
The Precision Academics Workgroup will host the Chancellor’s Summit on Precision Academics, a day focused on informing and improving instruction through the use of student learning data, at Georgia State University from 9 to 4:30 p.m. Learn more and register by June 7 at:
c.gatech.edu/summit

June 18
The Library hosts a workshop on Mendeley Reference, a bibliographic management tool that can help with the research process, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Classroom 2130, Crosland Tower.
library.gatech.edu

June 19
The LGBTQIA Resource Center hosts a Trans 101 training session from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Learn more and RSVP at:
lgbtqia.gatech.edu/trans-101

June 20
Human Resources hosts a Be Well session on education tuition assistance programs from noon to 1 p.m. in the Student Center Theater.
hr.gatech.edu/bewell

MISCELLANEOUS

June 11
First-year students participating in the summer iGniTe program will move into campus housing.
summer.gatech.edu

June 17-18
Final exams take place for Early Short Summer semester.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Through July 24
Health Initiatives hosts Mindful Moments on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Juniper Room, Student Center. The events feature short guided mindfulness exercises, techniques, and stress management skills that can be incorporated into a daily routine.
healthinitiatives.gatech.edu

For a more comprehensive listing of events, or to add your own, visit calendar.gatech.edu.

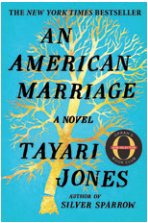
READING, from page 1

An American Marriage

By Tayari Jones, Riverhead Books (2018)

“An American Marriage was a really good read — exciting from start to finish. The story is about a newlywed couple who had it all until one night their world was turned upside down. While visiting family, the husband has a nonsexual encounter with a woman at the hotel where they were staying. Something happens to the woman that very night, and now the husband is being accused. His marriage and entire world are changed forever.”

—Nikkia Walker,
human resources coordinator, College of Design

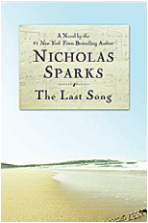


The Last Song

By Nicholas Sparks, Grand Central Publishing (2009)

“The Last Song is a very emotional book. It tells the story of Ronnie, a rebellious teenager who hates her father but is forced to spend the summer with him. It will be a summer full of tests, trials, pain, and joy that will change her life forever. I love the writing style; it’s so real, yet poetic. The book reminded me of what is important in life. Overall, a highly recommended read.”

—Melissa Buchanan, program and operations manager,
Advanced Technology Development Center

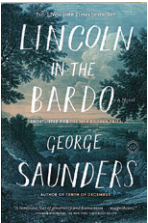


Lincoln in the Bardo

By George Saunders, Random House (2017)

“A story of a father’s love for his son and the depth and power of mourning are woven together through a series of fictional first-person accounts told through the eyes of the living and the dead. This is one of the most outlandish yet somehow believable novels I’ve ever read. You will connect with each and every character as you meet them, and laugh and cry as you hear their stories.”

—Emily Takieddine, director of development,
Parent Giving and Student Life

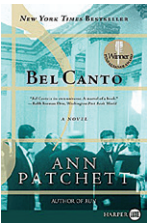


Bel Canto

By Ann Patchett, Perennial, HarperCollins (2001)

“This is Ann Patchett’s masterpiece, in my opinion. In the story, a famous American soprano is taken hostage when she performs for a wealthy industrialist in South America. It’s a heartbreaking story driven by human connection in the face of danger and uncertainty, and it highlights the importance of understanding people’s varying experiences and paths through life. The world around me vanished while I was reading this book a few years ago, and it’s stuck with me ever since.”

—Jessie Brandon, graphic designer, College of Design

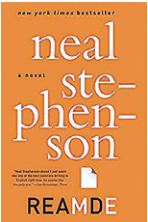


Reamde

By Neal Stephenson, William Morrow, Brilliance Audio (2011)

“Having liked some of Neal Stephenson’s other books, I decided to listen to Reamde on a whim without reading the description. It was 38.5 hours/1,056 pages of nonstop action, drama, and humor with a wonderfully unique cast of characters. It was my favorite book of 2018, and it was over too soon. I encourage you to just dive in, but if you must know: The plot manages to combine a draft-dodger-turned-drug-smuggler’s retirement, a multimillion-dollar Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game (MMORPG), a farm girl from Iowa, Chinese hackers, a terrible boyfriend, Russian mobsters, a British spy-girl, and a Love Actually DVD.”

—Lauren J.R. Lange,
event coordinator,
Advanced Technology Development Center



TOPPING IT OFF



Photo by Allison Carter

Workers continue construction on the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design. Here, on May 13, a worker adds a solar panel to the roof of the structure. The building will open and begin hosting events in September. Follow its construction progress at livingbuilding.gatech.edu.

GRADES, from page 1

from other undergraduates.

Meeting with representatives from the Transfer Student Association, a student group focused on helping transfer students acclimate to Georgia Tech and optimize their path to graduation, informed the council’s work.

“Transfer students, just like first-year students, face challenges in making the transition to Georgia Tech that could impact their grades early in their time here,” said Jessica Reffitt, a transfer student and chemical and biomolecular engineering major. “Unfortunately, there was no forgiveness for them in the previous policy.”

Louis Apraku-Boadi, also a transfer student and chemical and biomolecular engineering major, believes the policy changes are a step forward.

“The new policy will give transfer students the ability to overcome some of the initial missteps that can arise from being in a new environment in general, and at Georgia Tech specifically,” he said.

The policy updates could also have positive implications for students’ employment outcomes, as some

employers only consider job candidates who meet certain GPA thresholds.

“A 0.1 difference in GPA can have significant repercussions in career opportunities for Georgia Tech graduates,” Boland said. “Now, no student need miss such an opportunity due to one bad grade.”

The adjustment acknowledges that one grade in one course does not have to define any undergraduate student’s long-term success.

“This is not only a change to celebrate for transfer students, but also for all students who, at one time or another during their program, experience a difficulty or challenge resulting in an uncharacteristically low grade,” Keskinocak said.

Students should be aware that many graduate and professional schools recalculate grade point averages in the process of considering an applicant for admission to such programs. This recalculation may include restoring the original grades of the repeated classes and their effects on the cumulative grade point average.

Learn more about the revised policy from the April 23 Faculty Senate presentation at facultygovernance.gatech.edu.

CLASSIFIEDS

VEHICLES

2011 Pearl White GMC Acadia. Used for Family Travel. 84K miles. DVD player on back of driver and passenger headrests. Call/Text Renee Gourdine, 678-763-5549, or email agourdine@hotmail.com.

For Sale: 2002 430S Mercedes-Benz, ~260k mi; runs well; photos available. \$3,000 OBO. Contact wggreene116723@bellsouth.net, 404-667-5033.

Owned and loved by a Tech professor, this 1996 Honda Del Sol Si has all service records, fewer than 100k miles, removable hard top. Call/text Jay Farlow, 404-281-6468, or email jay@atlantaonwheels.com.

REAL ESTATE/ ROOMMATES

Tech professor’s personal home since 2014. 5BR/4BA on 1+ acre flat lot. 4-sided brick. Sarah Smith Elementary School. Quality finishes. Conveniently located near Georgia Tech, Chastain Park, Lenox Square and Phipps Plaza, and Path 400. Contact enas@enasbazaraa.com, 404-931-9922. View listing at news.gatech.edu/whistle/classifieds.

Georgia Tech staff member seeking room to rent on weeknights to minimize commuting. Contact Nadeem, 404-291-3153.

3BR/2BA house in the heart of Buckhead for rent. 15-minute drive to Tech. Walk to MARTA station, grocery stores, shopping/dining. Hardwood floors throughout. Fenced backyard. Zoned for award-winning Sarah Smith Elementary. Call 707-948-6778.

Tech professors looking for responsible, non-smoking single person/couple (no pets) to live in independent, elegant, furnished 1BR w/ kitchen in bungalow extension in beautiful Morningside/Virginia-Highland. Walk to Piedmont Park, BeltLine, shops, etc. \$1,560/mo. Contact alkacitrin@yahoo.com.

FSBO: 3/2 house in Kennesaw. 2-car garage, large parking pad. New HVAC, HardiePlank siding, real hardwoods, privacy fence, decks. Beautiful curb appeal. Back lawn ready for garden, greenhouse, pool. Contact 770-855-3803, atljdww@yahoo.com.

3BR/2BA peaceful, furnished waterfront cottage with a view located along the southern Outer Banks near Morehead City, North Carolina. Wi-Fi, A/C, W/D, several hammocks, 400’ dock, boat slip. No smoking or pets. More info: vrbo.com/571844, jud.ready@gatech.edu.

MISCELLANEOUS

Seeking donations of sewing machines, fabric, and notions to benefit the Amani Women Center in Clarkston. Tech staff from the Enterprise Innovation Institute work with the center to teach sewing skills that enable refugee women to earn a living wage. Contact bsn3@gatech.edu.

Seeking scrap unused paper for arts project. All sizes, colors, textures accepted. Old unused notebooks, expired company letterhead, construction paper, copy paper, all paper! Put this old paper to use. Email Edward at garritye1@gmail.com.

Ads run for at least three issues in the order in which they are received. Submit your 35-word-or-less ad to editor@comm.gatech.edu.